N.C. Mutual—city's largest black business holds open house

NORTH CAROLINA MUTUAL Insurance Company which held its open house Nov. 30 is located in the 400 block Franklin Street near downtown.

N.C. MUTUAL REPS. — Among those representatives on hand were William J. Kennedy III, chairman; Mrs. Bernice Branch; Maceo A. Sloan, executive vice president; H. O. Wilson, former president; Dillard T. Massey, district sales manager; Mrs. Lorene Massey; Milton Branch, associate district sales manager and Marshall Jones, Jones Funeral Home.

AFRO photos by Roman Hankewycz

N.C. MUTUAL Life Insurance Co. open house on Sunday attracted over 400 visitors to the W. Franklin St. new district office. From left, Drs. W. O. Bryson Jr., president of Advance Federal Savings and Loan Association here in Baltimore, who serves on the insurance firm's board of directors; W. J. Kennedy 3rd, chief executive of the nationally-known firm with headquarters in Durham and Dillard T. Massey, Baltimore district sales manager.

RIBBON CUTTING — Participating in the ceremonies were Brian Massey, 7, Bernard Berkowitz, mayor's office; Mrs. Viola Owens, one of the oldest N.C. Mutual policy holders and William Kennedy N.C. Mutual president.

EMPLOYEES at North Carolina Mutual include (L to R) Deborah Davis, sales agent; Doris McCoy, office manager; and Dillard T. Massey, district sales manager.

First black used car dealer

William W. Brown

William W. Brown, 76, eulogized on Nov. 25, at March's was one of the first black licensed used car dealers in Md.

Relatives remember him as "a man of great pride and dignity.

"They include: three daughters, Mary E. Houston, Carolyn B. Reed and Rosalie Harris; sons, William W. Brown, Jr., Charles. O. Brown and Kenneth O. Brown.

And, sixteen grandchildren, two nieces, Jewel Lucas and Inez Byrd, four nephews, Olungbula (Benjamin McMillian), Charles McMillian, W. James McMillian and Leo Roberts.

Local schools downtown

Downtown workers and visitors can come in from the cold during lunchtime and warm up with Holiday Harmonies. The sounds of the season will be presented by choirs and bands from Baltimore area schools in the lobbies of four office buildings beginning December 1 and continuing through December 23. The concerts will be featured during lunch hours Monday through Friday.

The lobbies of the Mercantile Building, the Federal Building, One Charles Center and Charles Center South will host Holiday Harmonies. There will be a special outdoor concert in Hopkins Plaza on Tuesday, December 23.

Schools participating in Dec. 8, Timber Grove Elementary School, Federal Building;

Dec. 9, St. Timothy's School, Charles Center South;

Dec. 10, Owings Mills Elementary School, Federal Building;

NEW MOTEL CO.
Rooms for 2 people. $12.00 and $13.00 per day plus tax. Air conditioned, T.V.
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LOOKING FOR A CLUE — AFRO reporters Portia Badham (L) and Pam Widgeon (C) joined more than 200 searchers Nov. 29 in Atlanta to help find the four missing children or a clue that might help police determine what happened to them.

AFRO photos by Mark Gail

Here they are joined by Donald Waddell, Atlantan who participated in the search with his dog Fred.

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Inside:
High school basketball roundup
(see page 28)

AFRO Mrs. Santa benefit basketball game tonight!
(see page 19)

Baltimore Afro-American
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89th Year No. 36
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DAWN magazine in this issue

State budget cuts blamed

Day-care centers face closing

AFRO photo by Mark Gail

KISS FOR THE JUDGE — Judge William H. Murphy Jr. (R) receives a kiss from his mother, Mrs. Madeline Murphy following his swearing - in ceremony in a courtroom at the Criminal Courts building on Dec. 8. His father, Judge William H. Murphy Sr., looks proudly on.

Low-income mothers stand to lose most

By James M. Abraham and Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writers

Local day care centers operated which are subsidized by the city's Department of Social Services may soon feel the brunt of a proposed $1.2 million cut in the state Department of Human Resources budget.

As a result of the budget cuts, a five percent reduction in the number of children who are currently served by the city day care centers will be necessitated.

The five percent reduction, which comes in the wake of an Oct. 1 freeze on new applicants for DSS-sponsored day care, is expected to hit working single mothers the hardest.

Currently, DSS pays $42 per month to local centers to cover the expense of children whose parents either cannot pay the fee or are being housed at the centers to avoid institutionalization.

But according to Kalman Hettleman, head of the Department of Human Resources, a contingent plan is being developed which would spare children whose parents meet a series of guidelines proposed by DHR.

They include: children from family situations that involve abuse, neglect, the risk of institutionalization, or where an AFDC mother is employed full time, completing high school, college, or vocational training, or in the first month of seeking employment.

Hettleman's office, in a prepared statement, revealed that most of the families affected consist of parents who have unsuccessfully been seeking work for a "significant" period of time.

But according to Herbert Sledge, head of five day care programs operated by the Urban Services Agency, there is plenty of room for children in the USA-sponsored facilities.

"There are vacancies in two of our centers," he said, "and we are now recruiting DSS center children since there has been a freeze on enrollment."

But many families may fall between the cracks, as USA center policy mandates that parents of children applying to the centers must be working, in job training, or school, which are the same criteria which will be used by DHR centers to determine eligibility.

May. William Donald Schaefer flanked by representatives from a host of local charity organizations, blasted the proposed $1.2 million budget cuts proposed by the state Department of Human Resources secretary Kalman Hettleman at a press conference held Wednesday.

The cuts would affect area day care centers and other city social service programs.

"Make no mistake about it," declared Schaefer, "these cuts will affect people, not figures in a ledger."

The mayor said that the proposed cuts may be a hint of further budget - slashing. "If these

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Murphy sworn in as Supreme Bench judge

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

There was standing room only in Criminal Court Room 400 Dec. 8, for the investiture ceremony of Judge William H. Murphy Jr., who became the 106th judge to join the Supreme Bench since it was established by the Maryland Constitution of 1867.

Judge Murphy, 37, won in the Nov. 4 election and will take the seat of Judge M. Albert Figinsky, who lost in the primary election.

Following the oath of office administered by Deputy Clerk Charles Mackey, Judge Murphy was robed by his mother, Mrs. Madeline Murphy and brother, Arthur W. Murphy. He was escorted to the bench by Irving Hamer and Nelson R. Stewart.

Seated beside his father District Court Judge William H. Murphy Sr., who was sitting on the bench with members of the Supreme Bench, Judge Murphy said with a quiver in his voice, "These are dangerous times for all decent loving people, not just black people. Minorities, the poor and other ethnic groups are scapegoated harassed, sent to war and yes, even killed.

"The judiciary is often the first to be pressed into service by the rich and powerful."

The young judge asked everyone to pray for him and said, "Pray with me that I will be the kind of

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Black stereo manufacturer may relocate in Baltimore

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

A minority-owned stereo component firm may be one of the first companies to locate its plant in the proposed Park Circle Employment Center after the beginning of next year.

Sequerra Company, the only minority-owned stereo component manufacturer, which is headed by Fredric E. Barrett, is the first company to submit its name to the city to participate in this project.

Barrett, president of Sequerra, stated that after an article appeared in a trade association magazine this year, he received calls from several cities asking that he consider relocating his New York based firm.

One of those calls came from officials at the Park Heights Development Corporation who Corporation. "They convinced us that Park Heights needed this type of industry," said Barrett, speaking of the meeting.

Barrett, who has been in the electronics field for more than 12 years, started his firm eight years ago. "I've been in this business all my life," he says. "It's the only thing I know how to do."

The new project will be located at the Carlin's Drive-In and surrounding areas in the Park Heights community.

Dave Paulson, Baltimore Economic Devlopment Company stated that the city is now negotiating for 20 acres that are owned by the state near the construction of the mass transit system near the Western Maryland Railroad.

The center is a joint project between the city and City Venture Company which is a subsidiary of Control Data which also owns Commercial Credit. It is expected that Commercial Credit will also have established a facility in the center.

Paulson stated that he would like to have the land acquired by 1981 and expects that construction should begin by the first to mid-year. The project has a five-year completion date.

The jobs created at the new center will go to persons within the community who are mostly black. "These will be community based jobs for community people," said Dwight Taylor who is vice-president of marketing for BEDCO.

Taylor said that depending on the square footage of each company, there should be approximately 12 companies located in the center.

Initially, Sequerra will generate from 20 to 30 jobs and more than 300 jobs during the first three to five-year period.

Only 9 days left to help AFRO Mrs. Santa

Mrs. Santa, "I hate to ask but all I want is for my children to have a Christmas dinner."

Mrs. Santa, "How do I tell a four-year-old there is no Santa Claus?"

What can you do? Write a check now to AFRO's Mrs. Santa for $1. to $1,000. and help this newspaper make sure that all the hundreds of families on her list will be helped in time for Christmas.

The AFRO's Mrs. Santa program is an arm of AFRO Charities operated by the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers. All funds are tax deductible and used to buy food baskets or food coupons for families referred by social service agencies, our readers, Legal Aid and the Police Department. Please help, there are only nine days left to reach our goal of $20,000. If everybody sends a little bit we'll help everyone we can.

This weekend, when you see someone selling lapel flowers for AFRO's Mrs. Santa, stop and help. For more Mrs. Santa, see inside.

March Funeral Home is the top contributor to the AFRO's Mrs. Santa Fund sponsored by AFRO Charities to provide food for hungry families at Christmas. At the presentation this past Wednesday were from (L) Erich March, manager; William C. March, president; Mrs. Santa, Ida Peters; Mrs. J. Roberta March, directress and secretary and Victor Marsh, comptroller - treasurer.

Mfume proposes amendments to rent control measure

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

City Councilman Kweisi Mfume, in an effort to preserve his rent control Bill No. 283, has proposed four compromise ammendments to be attached to the current bill.

The amendments call for a rollback to December 1980 rents as opposed to the original language of the bill, which mandated a rollback to Nov. 1978 levels; set a fixed "fair rate of return" for landlords which would give them a "guaranteed" profit; change the number of units necessary in housing plant to meet exemptions from three to four; and give landlords a first-year rent increase of 5 to 9 percent, as opposed to the original legislation's 4 to 7 percent ceiling.

"The amendments are compromise measures designed to secure votes," said Mfume, who has emerged as the most vocal advocate of rent control in the council.

"We have an option of whether to die with the bill or come up with a compromise measure. If I can get this bill through by working out language acceptable to both sides, then that's what I will do," he said.

"In general, our position is still one of being opposed to rent control," said Ira Cooke, a landlord lawyer. "The creation of a tenant - landlord commission and the attendant bureaucracy that it would involve would be extremely burdensome and unnecessary."

"We are still opposed at this time to any form of mandatory rent control," he added.

Cooke has worked closely with those opposing the bill in the past, and probably gave the most persuasive argument on behalf of the Property Owner's Association at the recent rent control hearings.

Bobby Cheeks, head of the Welfare Rights Organization, says that he is against any form of compromise.

"If he, (Mfume), gets a bill through City Council with the illusion of protection, than that could be even worse than no bill at all," he said. "People will think that they are being protected by

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Union president cites honesty

Hospital strike continues; longest in city's history

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

As the hospital strike enters its 13th day today, thus becoming the longest hospital strike in the history of the city, no break has come in the negotiation impasse between Union Local 1199E and the hospitals involved.

Employees from both Hopkins and Sinai hospitals continue their lonely vigils on the picket lines, determined, they say, that their benefits not be taken away.

Over 2,000 hospital employees, many of them from the housekeeping and dietary departments of the hospitals, are being affected by the strike. The average weekly salary of the predominantly black female employee group on the picket lines is about $214.

Hospital management and union officials are still at odds this week over the real issue of the strike. Union officials insist that the hospitals want to do nothing but destroy the union, but hospital management disagrees, saying that they only want to pay less into the National Health and Welfare Benefit Fund of the union.

Ronald Hollie, president of Local 1199E, scoffed at Sinai vice-president Leonard Marcus' accusations that the issue is the fund.

"The issue is not the fund, they want to break up the union," Hollie said. He said that the hospitals would save millions of dollars if the fund were abolished and the benefits paid by the hospitals themselves.

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