—Pierce

Continued from page 1

Board of Internal Inquiry for Haryou Act, an anti - poverty agency. While he criticized the agency's fiscal disarray, he developed reforms for the agency's operations in the 1960s.

After a brief stint as a state judge, he joined the Manhattan law form of Battle, Fowler, Jaffin, Pierce and Kheel. He has been with the firm for 25 years.

In April, he served as one of three members of an mediation panel formed as part of an unsuccessful effort to avoid a strike by 35,000 transit workers in New York City in April. The panel's work was not criticized though it failed to bring the city and its workers to agreement without a strike.

Pierce is a member of the board of directors of Prudential Life Insurance and U.S. Industries and a member of the board of trustees of Cornell University.

He is a graduate of New York University law school and Yale law school.

Pierce is married to Dr. Barbara Wright, and they have a daughter, Victoria, 30.

—Douglass bills

Continued from page 1

the Department of Public Works for Baltimore through the fund was a $120,300 grant for the development of several area parks and playgrounds.

Another possible obstacle to Douglass' bill may be the fact that his legislation would entail using funds generated through bond issues for two departments which previously had been funded through state tax revenues.

But Douglass says that the priorities of the state must be changed on order to meet the needs of its citizens.

"Keeping Marylanders healthy deserves a higher priority than acquiring land," he said. "With hard times coming, we cannot afford the luxury of buying land for parks when we can't even afford to meet the basic health needs of our citizens."

The proposed budget shift to the two agencies would affect city programs such as the House of Ruth, a home for battered spouses; legal aid; residence visitor services for senior citizens; and private charities such as the Associated Catholic Charities and the Family and Children's Society.

—Atlanta murders

Continued from page 1

He added that there was evidence that would indicate that more than one person was responsible for the slayings and that some of the cases were unrelated.

It had been believed that the 11 murders were connected. Slaton also pointed out that there might be "pairs" of murders where in at least two cases, bodies of the children were found together or in the same areas.

However, Slaton stated that there was not enough evidence at this time to indict anyone or make any arrests and despite other reports, he did not think there would be any arrests made by the first of the year.

Police did have a 34-year-old white male suspect whom they believed was involved in several of the murders. But the strong circumstantial case built against the suspect fell apart last Friday when the suspect produced a solid alibi.

"I don't know of any eminent breakthrough in the case," said Slaton. "I am satisfied with the manner in which the cases are being handled and I am very pleased with the way the community is helping."

Police, however, have not had anyone come forward with any information leading to the arrest of a suspect, in answer to a $155,000 reward that has been set up by the city of Atlanta through donations

AFRO Street Interview

The Question: What do you plan to give your mother for Christmas?

(AFRO Photo Feature by Milton Williams)

Here are some of the answers students at Harriet Tubman School made in reply to the AFRO Street Interview on the question:

What do you plan to give your mother for Christmas?

SEDWICK BLACKWELL - "I plan to give my mother a ring because she spent her time and money trying to make a happy Christmas for me."

RONALD BLACKWELL - "I am going to give my mother a ring because I love her."

CHRISTOPHER PLATER - "I want to give her a ring because I love my mother."

TOINETT BRAXTON - "My mother will get a necklace and a ring because she is nice."

CHANTEL STREATER - "My present will be a shopping bag and an eraser because I want my mother to have a nice present."

JAMES JAMISON - "I'll give my mother a ring and a bracelet because I want to. That's all."

TOMYELL PLATER - "I think I'll give my mother a pair of shoes and a ring because I love her and because she cares for me."

MAURICE GILES - "I will give my mother love because I love her and she loves me and she cares about me."

MICHAEL SMALLWOOD - "The best thing to give my Mother is love, love and care the way she gives me love and care."

SEDWICK BLACKWELL

RONALD BLACKWELL

CHRISTOPHER PLATER

TOINETT BRAXTON

CHANTEL STREATER

JAMES JAMISON

TOMYELL PLATER

MICHAEL SMALLWOOD

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Inflation not a deterrent to holiday shoppers

Although the economy of the city has been hard-hit by inflation, area merchants told the AFRO this week that the spending spirit of Baltimore shoppers has not been seriously dampered, and, in some cases, sales are actually up from last year.

"Our sales in toys have increased," said a spokesperson from the Hecht Company in downtown Baltimore. "Electronic toys, especially, are popular, toys like "Simon" and "Star Wars."

Montgomery Wards is also reporting increases in toy sales.

"Toys are doing very well," the spokesperson said. "From cowboys to computers, everything is doing much better than might have been expected."

Toy Town reports a similar increase in toy sales.

But while it appears that younger children, those who can derive some sort of Christmas joy out of a mechanical man or electronic game board, will receive at least as much as they are used to receiving; that part of the population which is more interested in coats, shoes and shirts may be a little disappointed.

"The customers are not buying this year like they did last year," said a spokesperson from Brager-Gutman's, a popular downtown department store.

"They are only buying what they need, and in smaller quantities."

The spokesperson pointed to the dwindling economy as the reason for the decline in sales of such items as clothing, household items and the like, but said that he expects an increase in sales as the shopping season draws to a close.

"We are looking for a larger group of last-minute shoppers this year than we had last year," he said.

The Gutman's representative also reported a slight increase in toy sales.

Meanwhile, Baltimoreans are complaining that there simply is not enough money to shop this year.

One woman, who recently had a baby and had to quit her job, said that "there won't be a Christmas at my house this year."

"I'm serious," she said. "There are not going to be any gifts unless somebody gives some to us. We just don't have the money."

"If somebody gives my child a gift, fine. If not, at least he's too young to know the difference."

Another woman said that not only will she not be buying gifts, but she doesn't even have enough money to buy sugar and other baking items she would need to make gifts to give to her friends and family.

One woman, an employee of Sinai Hospital who was involved in the two-week strike that has just ended, sighed:

"You know, I started saving last Christmas for this Christmas. It's the only way to do it. I have kids and I don't want them to go without presents. It wouldn't be the same."

"But I tell you...with the strike and all...if I hadn't saved this money...nobody would be getting anything."

—Rate hikes

Continued from page 1

"But that is not the case. BG&E is an investor-owned company. Investors put a certain amount of money into the company to help it operate.

"If the investors, after operating revenues have been accounted for, do not receive a suitable rate of return on their investment, they are likely to begin to look for other places to invest their money."

Stokes said that the higher rates are used to help the company function.

"The rates go into things like helping plants to operate, paying the wages of employees, and the other things that are necessary to keep any company operating," she said.

"After all those things are accounted for, we have to make sure our investors are receiving an adequate rate of return," she said.

Customers pay for the abundance or lack of abundance of natural resources within their monthly bills, she said.

"The public should not assume that this price hike or any other is in response to the state of natural resources," she said.

"At the bottom of the monthly fuel bills, there is a part which refers to "fuel cost."

That figure, she said, will fluctuate with the state of natural resources, and will show changes, either higher or lower... regardless of whether or not a general price hike has been effected."

Because of inflation, Stokes said, the operational costs are increasing just as are other items in the general economy. Higher operational costs make it more difficult for the company to assure the investors the money they need to remain in the company.

When asked if there was a potential for the investors to withdraw totally from the company and thus endanger BG&E with extinction, Stokes replied, "Oh yes, definitely." That possibility, she said, was the primary reason the utility asked the PSC to reconsider the original price hike of $132 million requested at the beginning of the year.

What, then, would happen to utilities in Baltimore?

"Oh, somebody else would pick it up," she said, explaining that there was no danger the city would be without gas and electricity, but only that BG&E could lose control of the dissipation of utilities.

Stokes said that officials at BG&E were not happy with the $24.9 million hike granted by the PSC, but she none of them were available for comment at AFRO presstime.

$1000 Reward

The New Union Baptist Church is offering a total of one thousand dollars for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who stabbed the late Samuel Clayton Powell on March 8, 1979

Anyone having such information should please call C.I.D. Homicide Unit 396-2721

Consumer Tips

Tax breaks for senior citizens

By Hobbie

Income tax time is quickly approaching. If you are a senior citizen, you should take special note of certain tax credits which are of direct benefit to older Americans.

For this tax year, 1980, the personal exemption for elderly persons has increased from seven hundred and fifty dollars to one thousand dollars.

That one thousand dollars is in addition to the regular one thousand dollars exemption to which all other taxpayers are entitled.

In essence this means that any individual filing would be allowed a total exemption of two thousand dollars. A couple which files a joint income tax return will be allowed four thousand dollars.

The tax credit for senior citizens can reduce income taxes by as much as three hundred and seventy - five dollars for a single individual and by as much as five hundred and sixty - two dollars for a married couple.

To qualify, you must be a United States Citizen and have some taxable income, for example wages, rental income etc. This taxable income can come from any source. You must fully complete Schedule R or RP and this form is to accompany your 1040 tax return form. You may not use the 1040A tax form to receive the credit.

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