—Balto. seems

Continued from page 1

Since the trip last week he says that he is now convinced that "they're not of a mind to steal a company from Baltimore" and "nor is it our mind to do that."

Hash and the city's economic development agency, which is responsible for devising ways to attract business and industry to Baltimore and keeping them here, feel they have a real estate and financing package that might interest Haysbert.

"We do understand that Haysbert is actively pursuing a project in Philadelphia. We would also like him to consider staying here in Baltimore.

"We have told him that when he is ready to sit down and actively discuss real estate and financing alternatives we have some that would be very attractive," he explained.

Hash refused to elaborate any details of the real estate locations and the sums that would be attached to a financing package.

There are at least two matters that BEDCO does want to put before Parks officials. Would Haysbert consider remaining in the Camden industrial Park at least until a final decision on whether the stadium will be built there is made.

Not likely, since Haysbert has already told the AFRO that expansion plans have been on the "drawing board" since last December.

"All my planning has to await this particular decision (and) you know how the city is, it could take two years," the company's chief officer commented on Dec. 9.

Secondly, BEDCO officials would like to communicate to Haysbert that if he is anxious to undertake immediate expansion plans, it will find a suitable new location for the company to be able to do just that.

"The ball is in our court," explained Hash on Tuesday. "Given the circumstances of the project its up to us, the city, to lay out to him the options as we see them."

If BEDCO and the city really believe that the next move is up to the city to make, why isn't Parks Sausage getting the message?

According to Haysbert, he has not heard from BEDCO officials since before Dec. 16.

"Bernard Berkowitz (BEDCO's president) said they would get back to me on Dec. 16 to find a new site location. Evidently its a sign to me that they have other priorities," Haysbert said Monday.

Hash disagrees with the suggestions that BEDCO has been unresponsive where Parks Sausage is concerned and he said, "The programs that we could make available to Parks could be available today or next year.

"BEDCO is developing industrial parks with sufficient size parcels for a manufacturing plant such as the one Mr. Haysbert runs," he said.

Haysbert will return to Philadelphia during the first of January to meet once again with Mayor Wilson Goode and officials with that city's economic development agency.

"They showed me some buildings (now) we're going back up on the first of January (and) financing will be discussed," Haysbert said.

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—One acquitted

Continued from page 1

Fitz's acquittal, the alleged victim gave testimony that differed from initial statements to police.

Attorney David Sloan told the AFRO, "She lost a lot of credibility when her stories began to conflict with one another. Also doctors who examined the alleged victim said that she had no signs that indicated rape."

Sloan said that the tables turned in Fitz's favor when the jury became convinced that the alleged victim was not raped, but instead consented to the acts.

Sloan said that the State's Attorney indicated that he would render a decision as to whether or not prosecution will continue against the four next week.

"It was the evidence, or lack of it, that proved critical in Fitz's trial. But the fact that 12 people can look at the evidence of a trial such as this one and honestly decide that this man was not guilty, shows the progress of the social fabric in this small conservative town," Sloan told the AFRO.

However because charges against the four young men are still pending, their attorneys have advised them not to talk to the press.

—ART BRIEFS—

WORLD OF JAZZ

Famed vocalist, Joe Williams, the Legendary jazz singer, Ethel Ennis, jazz musicians Gerry Mulligan, Phil Woods, the Ray Brown-Milt Jackson Quartet and Toots Thielmans bring in the New Year live and direct from Ethel's Place, Baltimore's newest intimate jazz club, beginning at 11 p.m. New Year's Eve on WHMM-TV Channel 32.

Hosted by COMEDY TONIGHT'S host/producer Bill Boggs, this history making two hour jazz extravaganza will bring together for the first time on television these jazz innovators, performing unprecedented production numbers as well as exciting individual musical sets.

—2,150 flunk

Continued from page 1

Oglesfelder noted that recent figures citing the number of failures in the schools were misleading.

She said there were three categories of students who took the test; those who took it as ninth graders and failed, those who were absent on the day the test was given, and those who are new to the school system.

It had been reported that 4,400 of the 5,600 11th graders in the city had taken the test and failed resulting in a failure rate of roughly 80 percent.

Oglesfelder said the figure was incorrect. According to her figures, 2,150 actually failed or 46 percent.

She added that the figure did not include those students enrolled in the Division of Exceptional Children (those students in special education classes.)

Such students do not have to take the test in order to receive their high school diploma. Oglesfelder said these students would receive a diploma, but it "would not be a state diploma."

Some 858 students did not take the test and 2,507 or 54 percent actually passed. "A student's response on the test depends on how well one reads," Oglesfelder said.

When asked how city school kids fared in their reading skills, she replied, "Our kids are doing very well in functional reading."

Oglesfelder also said that the format of the test may be changed. She explained that many of the tests given are very structured in format, only looking for specific responses.

"This test rewards on elaboration, and we're finding that it's a whole new lesson we're having to teach."

AUDITIONS FOR HOWARD ORCHESTRA

Auditions for all positions in the Howard University Civic Orchestra will be held in Room 3001 of the College of Fine Arts., Howard University, at 7 p.m. on Jan. 9 and 10.

The orchestra, under the direction of William J. Penn, will begin rehearsals on Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Band Room.

For further information, call 636-7053, or 723-8773 evenings and weekends.

—NAACP fund

Continued from page 1

tion was enthusiastic about the move to Baltimore and talked about initially creating 100 jobs in this "Baltimore-Washington corridor."

Also present were Mrs. Enolia McMillan, president of national and local NAACP, George Buntin, executive director locally, and Mrs. Irene H. Smith, NAACP New Jersey State Conference president.

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THREE OTHERS IN STATE

Bethel site is among Family Support Centers launched

DHR Secretary Ruth Massinga has announced an innovative public - private partnership to launch the state's first four Family Support Centers.

The announcement was made at a press conference at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 18 at Bethel A.M.E. Church at 1300 Druid Hill Ave.

The demonstration project will serve over 400 teenaged and young parents and help to prevent teen pregnancies in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel County, and Prince George's County.

According to Secretary Massinga, the $397,000 funding for the programs is comprised of $297,000 in state funds and a $50,000 donation from the Morris Goldseker Foundation, and $50,000 from the Aaron and Lillie Straus Foundation.

The centers will operate as drop - in facilities for young parents. Services will include family workshops and counseling, health care for parents and children, fathers' groups, grandparent groups, child care, education, job preparation and referrals to existing services. Young parents between the ages of 13 and 22 with children under the age of 3 will use the centers which are based on a model program successfully operated in Chicago.

There will be four Family Support Center sites beginning early next year. The sites include:

— Bethel AME Church at 1300 Druid Hill Ave., Baltimore

— The Greenmount Development Corporation at 901 Montpelier St.

— The Anne Arundel County Community Action Committee at Eastport Terrace Recreation Center, President and Monroe Streets, Annapolis.

— Associated Catholic Charities in Prince George's Co. at 3219 Rhode Island Ave., Mt. Rainier, MD.

Bethel AME Church and the Greenmount Center will each receive $84,000; the Anne Arundel County Community Action Committee will receive $84,000; and Association Catholic Charities will receive $90,000.

"The main thrust is to teach young parents how to accept the responsibilities of supporting and developing their children — and to help them move back into school and think about jobs when that is appropriate," said Secretary Massinga.

"One of the most exciting aspects of this program is that it is truly a joint effort between the public and private sectors," said Jan Rivitz, executive director of the Straus Foundation. "Helping young parents and preventing teen pregnancy must be the task of the whole community," she added.

Changes in WIC program make it more available to clients

ANNAPOLIS — Gov. Harry Hughes has approved a major change in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutritional program to make it more accessible to needy clients. Included in the plan is a bi-monthly distribution of food vouchers, beginning in February, in home delivery jurisdictions.

"These changes," Hughes said, "should address many of the problems that clients experienced during the recent transition to the federally - mandated voucher system."

He also announced a ten - point plan, developed in coordination with Maryland Health Secretary Adele Wilzack, to provide immediate assistance to some WIC clients.

The plan includes operation of a WIC hardship hotline, development of an outreach team to assist WIC clients, use of a mobile WIC unit to provide services, and special technical assistance for some jurisdictions.

"The WIC program is extremely important to thousands of women and children in our State, the governor said, "and it is essential that we work to reduce or eliminate any barriers that inhibit participation."

In advising local health officers of the plan, Secretary Wilzack said she will decide whether to make the bi - monthly system permanent after she receives a re - evaluation of certain WIC programs. The re - evaluation will include Baltimore City and several counties.

She also said that during the next six months, the State will develop a new computer system, put into effect statewide standards for handling evaluations in selected jurisdictions.

"Our goal is to establish the best method of operation under which the local jurisdictions can provide the most service," Ms. Wilzack said, "since our federal dollars are limited."

The ten - point plan announced by the governor is designed to assist clients who are experiencing difficulty in obtaining vouchers which are required to receive food. It includes:

— a waiver of the automatic termination requirement for failure to pick up vouchers for two successive months;

— an outreach team to assist participants in obtaining vouchers;

— development of regulations to allow local agencies to mail vouchers to certain handicapped or ill individuals who are unable to pick up their vouchers;

— a hardship hotline for clients with questions on how or where to receive vouchers. The toll - free number is 1-800-492-0618;

— a WIC mobile unit to provide services to people with special hardships;

— special technical assistance for Baltimore City and several counties;

— efforts to increase public awareness of the program through health care providers, churches and civic organizations;

— DHMH volunteers at pick - up centers to assist clients and their children;

— requesting churches and civic organizations to provide special services to WIC participants, including the identification of proxies, transportation pools and child care;

— and a survey to determine why some participants have not picked up their vouchers to determine if corrective action is needed.

Hughes urged organizations and community groups involved in the delivery of WIC services to work with the State to implement this plan.

"Given the importance of this program to many needy families, we must work together to ensure its success," he said.

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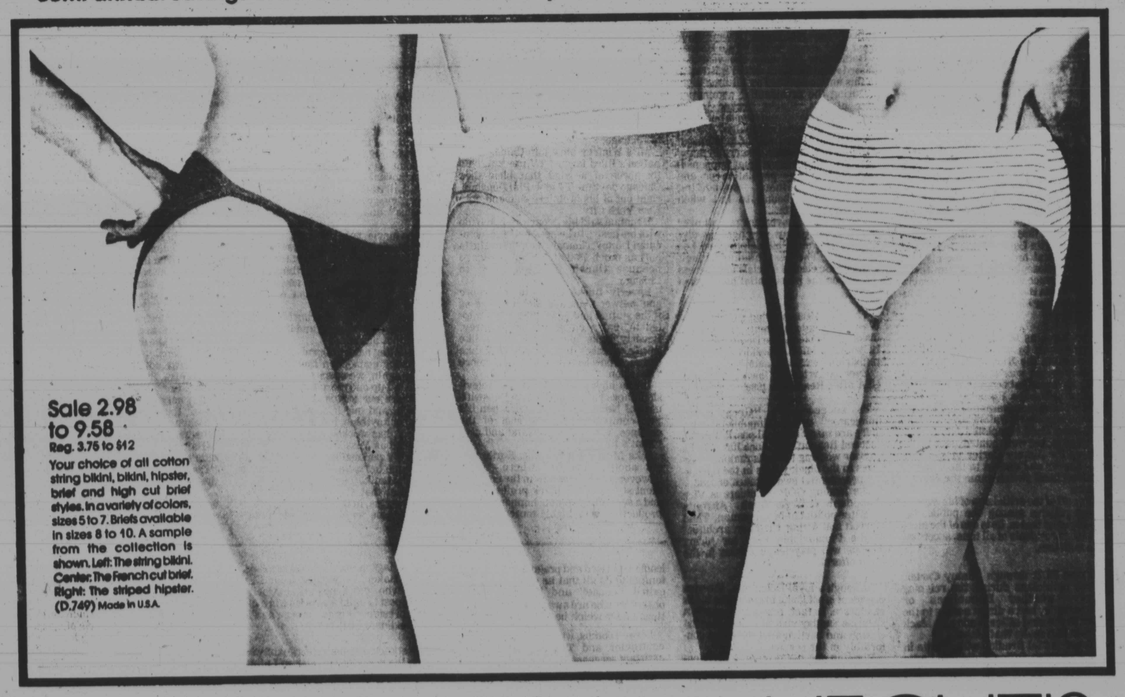

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