—Levitt gets

Continued from Page 1

ding to center staffers, his unofficial job title is "sanitation man" which means his duty is to carry around a squeegee bottle and rag to clean.

When asked why this unusual situation exists, Mrs. Beverly Marble, spokesperson for the Division of Corrections, explained that division Commissioner Arnold Hopkins decided to move Levitt.

"He will be there temporarily, but indefinitely," she said. "Most people don't realize this move was a major difference in housing because Jessup was a medium security prison while the Diagnostic Center is maximum security—Levitt's movement is more restricted."

But according to one guard, Levitt is most assuredly treated well. "We were told to leave him alone because he has friends in high places," he said.

But staff members agreed that Levitt has preferential treatment over the other prisoners. He has a 19-inch color TV in his cell, is allowed unlimited visits, and is afforded privacy during those visits. He is also allowed unlimited use of the phone and can wear a variety of colors other than the usual prison gray.

According to a member of the staff, Kevin Higgins, who is an inmate, asked to use the phone, but was denied because the inmates are only allowed two twenty minute phone calls during the month and only eight one-hour visits monthly. Higgins had used up all of his phone time previously.

Now Higgins is refusing to eat, charging that Levitt can use the phone anytime he pleases, said a guard who would not give his name.

According to one guard who said he saw a document with Levitt's name on it and picked it up and read it, Levitt is to receive fresh fruit and salads with his meals, which the guard stated was "unheard of in this facility."

Under ordinary circumstances, the Diagnostic Center is where the prisoner is initially processed after receiving a sentence. All the paperwork is completed on the inmate and from there he is sent to one of the various institutions around the state to begin serving his sentence.

According to Marble, everyone at the center is transient except the cadre workers.

Many believe such favoritism stems from the fact that Commissioner Hopkins and the warden, Mary Coplin are personal friends and Coplin is Representative-elect Ben Cardin's (D.-3), niece. Cardin's cousin, Jerome, was also indicted in the Old Court scandal and is currently standing trial.

As one guard put it, "It is a shame that everyone is scared to take a stand against the administration."

But Warden Coplin denied being related to the Cardins in any way and said, "That is an interesting rumor, but it is absolutely not true. The fact is that he's being treated like any other institutional worker."

—Caucus and Schaefer

Continued from Page 1

Assistant Majority Whip or chairman of one of the legislative review committees.

Any of these positions would be a large step backward for Young after being chairman of a major standing committee. Sen. Trotter was authorized by the Caucus to bring back the best package possible and soures indicate that between 15 and 18 of the Caucus members are staunch in their belief that the group should maintain as much political leverage as possible. The caucus will meet Dec. 8 to vote on a deal brought back by the chairman.

Earlier this month the Caucus threatened to wage guerilla war against the Schaefer Administration over the loss of Young's Chairmanship. The group threatened to vote against Schaefer's choice for speaker, Del. Clayton Mitchell and also threatened to sabotage bills that the new administration plans to push through the General Assembly.

The reasons the administration give for wanting Young removed are that he supported the Sachs/Mitchell ticket in the primary elections, as a committee chairman he was too aggressive a fundraiser and he advocates, a regulated health care system whereas the probusiness Schaefer favors a competitive health care system.

When asked about the reasons given for his removal Young acknowledged that the first reason is the most important reason. "It's a purely political decision. They brought up the smear about aggressive fundraising to cover their political moves. They raised $3.3 million for the governor's race."

Young continued, "No one discusses my record as chairman and whether or not I did a good job. With this pro-business administration coming in it is likely that they want a chairman of the committee who believes in the competitive health care system. I have yet to hear a convincing argument stating that blacks and other minorities will have access to quality medical care under the competitive system.

"Under the regulated system the safety net would only allow about 10 percent of the population to have unmet health care needs. Under a competitive system that percentage could reach 25-30 percent."

Young pointed out that Maryland is one of four states left with a regulated system." Because hospitals have to justify the need for expansion or new equipment in this state there is less costly duplication and unneeded expansion that translates into higher hospital bills. I'm proud that I was able to help regulate costs and save consumers money on their health care needs."

Despite Young being a nationally recognized expert on health care, he is still slated for removal from his committee chairmanship.

—City Council vacancies

Continued from Page 1

speculation about the seats, he said.

Kweisi Mfume recently was elected to the 7th Congressional District. He takes office on Jan. 3. Michael B. Mitchell won a trip to Annapolis as the state senator for the 39th Legislative District. He does not take his oath until mid-January.

Loleas said until Mitchell and Mfume assume their new offices or unless they resign they are still city councilmen.

Those traditionally - minded will seek out Mrs. Welch. Those who opt for a non - traditional move will approach any council person and ask that they be nominated to fill the expected city council vacancies in the Fourth District.—P. A. TATUM.

Oil dealers won't be forced to give poor low rates

(UPI) - Plans to force the city's oil dealers to offer a 10 percent discount to some people have been canceled.

Social services officials scrapped the plans after protests from oil dealers. The state had planned to require the discount for some 23,000 Marylanders who heat with oil and have part of their bills paid for by the Energy Assistance Program.

State officials said they believed that since they were purchasing eight million gallons of oil for poor people, a discount was in order.

But the oil dealers complained loudly, saying the state was punishing them by soliciting discounts from utilities that supply gas and electric heat.

According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates, the job classification with the most openings likely between now and 1990 is that of computer service technician.

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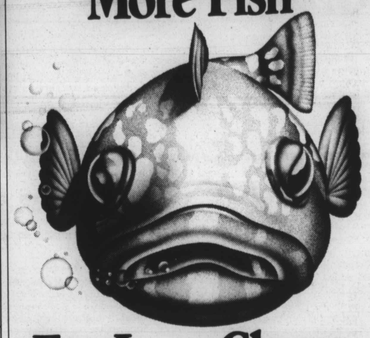

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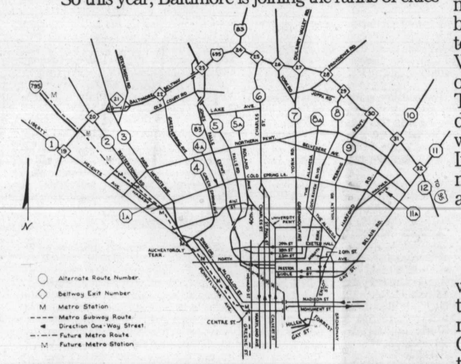
If you take the JFX into Baltimore, you know the truth better than anyone. Old I-83 is a mess. Decades of traffic, salt and chemicals have pitted the roadway. Ramps and bridges need work. And demands for new shoulders and improved lighting have grown as traffic on the JFX has increased to 95,000 cars a day.

So this year, Baltimore is joining the ranks of cities like Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia in upgrading its expressway. Over the next several years, we're going to resurface 5.6 miles of the JFX from Eager St. to the North city line. We'll rebuild 51 bridges (and build a new one at North Avenue). Construct new inside and outside shoulders. Lengthen the entrance and exit ramps at all interchanges. And install new signs and lighting.



Is this going to hurt?

There will be days when you'll hate us. When traffic crawls. And your old, faithful ramp off the JFX shuts down...maybe for months. At times like these, you probably won't care how wonderful the JFX will be in three years. You'll want to know: "What are you doing to help me *now*?"

What we're doing to help you now.

To avoid the expressway horror shows that have plagued other cities, we have designed a comprehensive Alternate Route System involving 15 arteries into Baltimore. These alternate routes will be clearly marked. Just look for the little guy pictured here. He'll be standing at key intersections, pointing the way into town. And remember, the JFX will not be closed. We're going to do our best to keep two lanes open during rush hours in each direction. The bottom line is this. There will be delays and frustrations...but we're not talking about hours. If you allow yourself a few extra minutes driving time, you should arrive on schedule.

Some tips, ideas and suggestions.

In the beginning, you'll probably want to "go with the flow." Try an alternate route or two. Then try the JFX and compare your times. You may even want to plot an alternate route of your own. Or, if you've been thinking of trying Metro or the MTA, this is the perfect time to get started. And remember, car and van pooling is a practical way to ease the traffic burden.

Meanwhile we'll do our best to keep you informed with messages like this in newspapers and on radio. Your local radio and TV stations will also carry JFX traffic bulletins at key times. And, if you work downtown, we will be updating your employer on all major changes and developments so they can pass the news on to you. Remember too, that you can always reach us with your questions by simply dialing JFX-INFO.

We will do our level best to keep you posted and keep you moving. And when our best isn't good enough, yell at us!

JFX-ess!

Driving you crazy for awhile, but it'll be worth it!

Housing conference going on here is sponsored by Enterprise Foundation

The Enterprise Foundation will hold its Fifth Annual Network Conference on Nov. 21-23 at the Marriott Hotel downtown.

Representatives of the Enterprise Foundation's national network of 65 non-profit groups from 25 cities will gather to share information and attend workshops focused on the development of housing for low-income people.

This year's conference emphasizes the new approaches to an old problem: how to make housing affordable to people with poverty level incomes.

The workshops cover a variety of topics which include construction management, property management, low-cost housing development and financing, and new programs and public policy issues.

The Enterprise Foundation is a non-rprofit, publicly supported charitable foundation launched in 1982. Its mission is to help very poor people help themselves into decent, livable housing, and out of poverty into self-sufficiency.

Enterprise is building, from the bottom up, a national network of non-profit neighborhood groups to achieve its goals. It helps these neighborhood groups enlarge their capacity to reduce housing costs, obtain low-rate financing, find local business support, establish job placement agencies and provide other social services.

Enterprise, along with other local and national organizations, is seeking to provide models and to develop workable systems that are the basis for a national movement to provide poor people with decent, affordable housing and to stimulate federal, state, and local initiatives that will provide essential support.

The Enterprise Foundation's Network includes 65 neighborhood and city-wide groups in 25 cities:

Baltimore, Boston, Chattanooga, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Flint, MI; Houston, Lima, OH; Lynchburg, VA; Miami, Newark, New Orleans, New York, Norfolk, VA; Oakland, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Toledo, Washington D.C.; Wilmington, DE; York, Pa.

Grant to city schools should be helpful in lowering dropout rate

The public school system will receive a $25,000 grant to help combat a dropout rate that has reached its highest level in 12 years, city school officials say.

New figures show Baltimore's high school dropout rate reached 12.9 percent in the 1985-86 school year, the fourth straight year the rate increased.

In 11 previous years, the dropout rate averaged 10.3 percent, school officials said.

The latest figures show that of the city's 52,700 junior, middle and high school students, about 6,800 dropped out and did not transfer to other school systems.

Officials estimate that 40 percent of the school system's students drop out between the ninth and 12th grades.

Superintendent Alice Pinderhughes said the grant money from the Ford Foundation will help city school officials develop a comprehensive strategy aimed at slowing the dropout rate.

Baltimore will compete with 17 other school districts — who also have dropout problems with the winners receiving potential funding in the six-figure range, Mrs. Pinderhughes said.

The school superintendent said an advisory board of city business leaders, community representatives and city agency officials must decide whether to address the problem with preventive measures at the elementary level, or with remedial efforts for secondary schools.

"Our problems are just too complex, too deeply entrenched for us to expect quick, simple solutions," Pinderhughes said.

She said officials have been working on several ideas that could be implemented at no cost to the school system. Mrs. Pinderhughes said school officials have approached leaders of about a dozen fraternities and sororities, asking them to volunteer as mentors to elementary school students.

Mrs. Pinderhughes said the response has been positive.

Felony suspect escapes guards

(UPI) — A felony suspect escaped from authorities at the Clarence Mitchell Jr. Courthouse Tuesday, city police said.

Police spokesman Dennis Hill said Charles Medley, who was handcuffed, was walking up several flights of stairs in front of jail guards about 9:30 a.m. when he disappeared around a turn in the stairs. Medley was scheduled to appear at a hearing on the fourth floor.

"He could have slipped the cuffs. He wasn't handcuffed to anybody," said Hill, adding he did not know how many guards were supervising Medley.

Officers, including canine units, went area by area in the courthouse in their search. Hill said some parts of the building were evacuated as officers searched for the missing suspect, but police now believe he fled the building.

The spokesman said the search and evacuation were orderly and no incidents were reported.

After spokesman said the search and evacuation were orderly and no incidents were reported.

After a two-hour search, police and sheriff's deputies suspended the search for Medley.

Medley is described as between 30 and 35 years old, 5-feet, 7-inches and 140 pounds. He has a scar on his left cheek and some facial hair. Medley was wearing a skull cap, a red plaid shirt and blue jeans.

Police said they do not believe the suspect was armed. Hill said Medley was awaiting trial on drug and burglary charges.

Easton settles voting rights suit

EASTON, MD (UPI) — The county seat of Talbot County has agreed to redistrict its four wards and eliminate an at-large voting system that civil rights activists alleged discriminated against blacks seeking public office.

The agreement, which was announced Monday by lawyers from both sides of the issue, puts in effect district voting in Easton and eliminates the at-large voting system that effectively disenfranchised blacks, even though black residents make up 27.5 percent of the town's population.

Carl Snowden, an Annapolis alderman who has been active in civil rights cases, said, "Easton has demonstrated a real interest in reaching political parity. This will give blacks an equal opportunity."

The new district voting system gives blacks a majority in Ward Four. That district formerly had a black population of 1,021 and a white population of 1,183.

Now, blacks will outnumber whites in the ward by 1,763 to 1,021, officials said.

Easton town officials also agreed to eliminate a dual registration system that allegedly discriminated against blacks. Easton residents had to register for county elections and town elections separately.

The town will hold a one-time canvass of voters to give them a chance to register for Easton elections. The town will also pay about $5,000 in legal fees.

The changes came as a result of a voting rights suit filed in June, 1985 in U.S. District Court by the Public Justice Center, a civil rights law group, on behalf of Easton resident Vanessa Caldwell.

"Blacks will now be involved in the decision-making process," said lawyer Christopher Brown, who heads the Public Justice Center.

Easton has not had a black town council member or mayor since at least the turn of the century, said Christopher Kehoe, the lawyer for Easton.

Kehoe said a black has never run for mayor and that only one black — in the 1940s — has been a candidate for the five-member council.

Residents may have tax refund checks coming

The Internal Revenue Service and the Maryland State Comptroller's Office are trying to locate some area residents who are due a tax refund from their 1985 federal and state income tax returns. This is the first time the federal and state tax agencies have combined their efforts to locate taxpayers who are due refunds.

According to Teddy R. Kern, IRS District Director for Maryland and the District of Columbia, approximately 2,300 refund checks totaling over $1,063,580 and ranging from as low as $1 to as high as $28,403 were returned by the Postal Service as undeliverable in this area. Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein said 608 state refund checks totaling $56,181 and ranging up to $2,565 were returned.

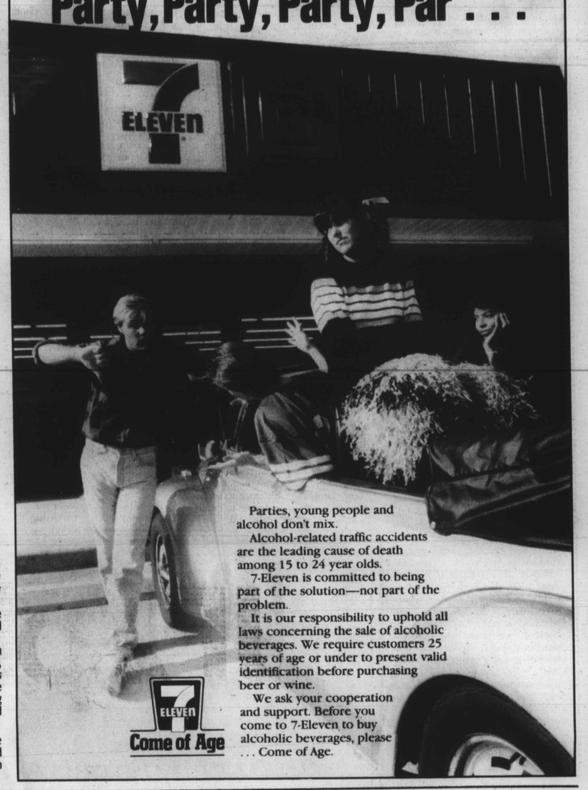
Kern said the taxpayers may have moved or changed their last names during the year and did not notify the IRS, or the address on the tax returns may simply have been illegible.

Comptroller Goldstein noted that the joint effort to locate taxpayers is part of the state's Project Fair Share, an ongoing tax collection effort, and said that the taxing agencies want to collect the taxes due but also want to return legitimate refunds to the taxpayer.

When a refund is returned by the Postal Service, the two agencies attempt to find the taxpayer and deliver the checks, but there are always some who cannot be found. Anyone who is expecting a 1985 or a previous year's refund, has moved or changed their name during the year, and has not already contacted the IRS, should call 962-2590 in Baltimore, 488-3100 in Washington, D.C., Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, or 1-800-424-1040 in all other Maryland areas.

Taxpayers should call 269-3701 to inquire about a Maryland refund check.

"Party, Party, Party, Par . . ."



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