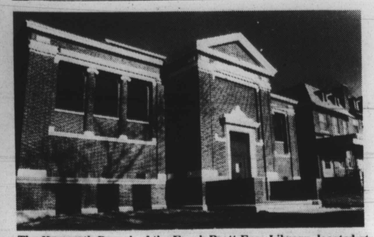

The Keyworth Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, located at 2610 Keyworth Ave. in northwest Baltimore, is currently being closed by Pratt library system but being taken over by The Park Heights Street Academy.

—Public libraries

Continued from page 1

With intent to create excellence in service, Pratt officials over a two year period plan to merge the collections, staff and other resources of the five branches scheduled for closing with those of the remaining 26 neighborhood libraries.

In addition, Mrs. Curry is deligently seeking pay raises for her employes aimed at attracting and keeping Pratt's professional staff, a few of whom, over the past several months left for better paying jobs in other library systems.

Some remaining employees have been forced to move from branch to branch because of the numbers of resignations and the unsettling terms of the library system.

According to Mrs. Curry, raises are essential to boost library staff morale and to maintain adequate services in a system that has about 50 current vacancies.

Pay raises are expected to cost the city about $1 million next year, if approved by the Board of Estimates.

The city council has organized a committee to investigate the scheduled branch closings and to try and allocate funds to save some of them.

Councilwoman, Iris G. Reeves, a member of the committee, said salary does not represent the total picture of the library's problems and her committee intends to look at the library system and come up with alternative measures for saving the five scheduled branch closings, in particular.

The five-member committee, which includes as chairman, City Councilman, Frank Gallagher, has not met yet.

Reeves there should be a scheduled meeting sometime next week.

—Anatomy of a bust

Continued from page 1

Such information is essential to the work of the squad and the raids are carried out in accordance with this information, provided it has been confirmed as accurate.

Earlier this summer, members of STOP served a search and seizure warrant at 2046 Harlem Ave. Force was used to gain entry because the informant said that the New York Boys were using the premise as a stash-house, therefore the residence was heavily armed.

Recovered: 374 bags of heroin, $5,444 in cash, 3 handguns and two voice activated walkie-talkies.

"It may take six months or six years, but we'll get them," says one veteran detective, "because when you sell dope, you've got to deal with people. They don't know who they will be talking to and sooner or later, we'll get them."

On another day, an unmarked car slowly cruises through Cherry Hill, but the word police may as well have been emblazoned in screaming red letters on the vehicle.

Small groups of neighborhood youths disband quickly . . . they know who the police are. To the trained eye, it's easy to discern who the drug dealers are, their body language speaks louder than words. A nervous flinch, a hand drops down to throw a small package away, an abrupt turn in another direction. Even the most seasoned dealer displays these telling characteristics.

An undercover detective must make these observations on a daily basis because a dealer could be selling in one house today and another the next. Some go as far as changing their clothes three of four times a day to escape identification, while others wear a uniform which identifies them to a specific organization, thus adding to their prestige.

For many young men, their sense of status is irrevocably tied to the small area where their drugs are peddled. The neighborhood is the only place where these nameless youth achieve a measure of pride, elsewhere they are nothing . . . nobodys. This pride will not allow them to flip hamburgers in a fastfood restaurant uptown.

Once a raid is executed, friends and neighbors draw up ringside seats to watch for their neighbor's embarrassment as he or she is lead out in handcuffs.

Inside the residence, the detectives must meticulously sift through every cupboard and closet in the house, while a seemingly innocent mother nervously sits on the livingroom couch, staring blindly at a game-show on television. The detectives are polite to her, but they have a difficult job to do.

The STOP squad is more interested in cracking down on large organizations as evidenced by a recent raid on the Underground, last Sunday, the last day in November.

The West Baltimore nightclub is allegedly owned by convicted drug kingpin, Melvin D. "Little Melvin" Williams, who is currently serving a 34-year sentence for a narcotics conviction and parole violation in the federal penitentiary at Lewisburg, PA.

Twenty-one arrests were made and a large quantity of user-sized packages of narcotics and marijuana were seized in the raid. In addition, Little Melvin's nephew, Barry Henderson was also arrested at his home. Henderson was identified as the manager of the nightclub.

The raid on the Underground were the culmination of a four-month investigation that was initiated by information received from contracts, who claimed to have seen narcotics openly displayed and used.

Oftentimes, information that comes to the squad is filed away until the right time when the tip can be best used, a point that the public does not always understand. Many callers expect immediate results, but in the longterm interests of cracking down on the traffickers, it is not always smart to make the smaller busts until it is determined how they fit into the larger picture.

But the STOP squad is appreciative of the help they receive from the public it seeks to protect.

The STOP squad gained a forced entry through the front doors of the club where a disco party was in progress.

—Young

Continued from page 1

the Baltimore City delegation.

Young said the election will occur late Thursday night, past AFRO deadline. He seemed eager for the position. He said he knew of no other candidates in the race.

"If I get this, I do feel I have rebounded in this process," Young said.

—Sheriff's mother

Continued from page 1

five to seven minutes when she began having the attack. Dr. Uthman Ray immediately came over to give her medical attention."

Conway said Mrs. Stewart had problems walking in the past. He said he assumed Mrs. Stewart lost her breath walking from the elevator to the courtroom.

It was a cold afternoon which had begun as a ceremony of triumph. It quickly disintegrated into shocked and saddened silence as the swearing-in ceremony was abruptly cancelled.

About 100 people crowded into the courtroom. An array of influential black officials were present to witness Shelton Stewart's history-making swearing-in.

Dr. Uthman Ray was master of ceremony. The Rev. Dr. Theodore Jackson, of Gillis Memorial Church, led the prayer; community leader Leslie Howard, Del. Larry Young, the Rev. John Bryant, of Bethel AME Church and Congressman Parren Mitchell were speakers.

Each man spoke glowing and brief words about the occasion and Stewart. The ceremony's pace was smooth, swift and uneventful until the middle of Mitchell's comments.

A sheriff's deputy approached Dr. Ray who was sitting with back turned to the crowd as were the rest of the speakers at the room's front. Ray quickly left his seat, and Mitchell continued.

A few moments later, someone whispered into Shelton Stewart's ear. He leaped to his feet and rushed the short distance to his mother's side.

She sat in a heavy wooden chair at the end of the first row.

By now, the crowd had noticed something was amiss. Those close to Mrs. Stewart began to rise from their seats and move toward her.

Mitchell, still at the podium, asked everyone to remain seated. Please, give her some room; let her breathe, he said. Finally, sheriff's deputies carried a gasping Mrs. Stewart from the room. She was still seated in that heavy wooden chair.

Outside of the room, the deputies administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Paramedics were at the scene in minutes. Unable to revive her, they did get her stable enough to be taken to the hospital, Conway said.

The ceremony had halted. People sat in their seats stunned. Mitchell acted as a traffic cop for the crowd. He apologized if it seemed he was taking over. He received a murmur of support from the audience.

Mitchell asked the crowd to please leave the room using the exit farthest from where Mrs. Stewart was being attended.

Shelton Stewart eventually returned to the room. He was persuaded to be sworn in. It occurred privately in an adjacent room of the courtroom.

Saundra Banks, Clerk of the Courts, administered the oath of office in front of Stewart; Mitchell, Del. Young, Conway, Robert Watts, and judges Solomon Baylor, Joseph Kaplan, Robert Bell, Robert Hammerman and Edgar Silvers.

Others in the crowd who left quietly were State's Attorney Kurt Schmoke, Register of Wills Mary Conaway, fashion whiz, Travis Winkey; Delegates Mary B. Adams, Ruth Kirk, John Douglass, Tony Fulton and Sen. Nathan Irby.

Conway said services for Mrs. Christianna S. Stewart will be Saturday, Dec. 6, at the First United Church of Jesus Christ, 5150 Baltimore National Pike. Wake will be at 10 a.m. The funeral begins at 10:30 a.m.

Mrs. Stewart was born Aug. 17, 1916 in Baltimore. She was the daughter of John and Cora Smallwood. She attended city public schools.

On Nov. 30, 1940, she married the late Rev. Shelton Stewart Sr. The couple had five children, one of whom is deceased, Shirley M. Stewart.

A housewife, Mr. Stewart was active in her church until her illness forced her to curtail her activities.

She is survived by her children, Shelton Stewart Jr., Delores S. Lansey, John S. Stewart and Charles Stewart; a sister, Roberta Desmond, of Denver; an aunt, Virginia Harris of Baltimore; 14 grandchildren and a great-grandson.

PHOTO CAPTION CORRECTION — This is a correction of a caption under a picture that appeared on the front page of the Nov. 23rd AFRO. The identification of several individuals, as given to the AFRO, was incorrect. Herewith the correct names are supplied. The AFRO regrets the error.

Mayoral candidate Kurt Schmoke is off and running after raising $9,000 at a recent fundraiser at the home of Edward and Jean Hitchcock, shown at left. At the right are Philip and Trena Brown, who were cohosts of the Nov. 24 evening event.

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$1.5 million earmarked for poor, pregnant women

(UPI) — The state will use $1.5 million to help 1,500 young pregnant women whose incomes are below the poverty level in an attempt to reduce high infant mortality and low birth weight, Gov. Harry Hughes said Tuesday.

Hughes said the prenatal assistance program will provide insurance for an estimated 1,500 pregnant women under the age of 21 who are currently ineligible for free medical assistance even though their incomes are below the poverty level.

The program will cover prenatal care, doctor's delivery fees, all pregnancy-related lab tests, prescriptions and two preventative health visits for infants up to three months of age.

At a news conference at Saint Agnes Hospital, Hughes said the program is aimed at solving three major health problems in Maryland — high infant mortality, low birth weight and lack of early prenatal care.

Citing statistics showing Maryland needs to improve the care of infants born to poverty-ridden families, Hughes said that for every dollar spent on prenatal care, the state could save up to $7 in avoided health care costs.

"In 1983 Maryland has the 12th highest infant mortality rate in the nation," Hughes said. "The black infant mortality rate is double the rate for white infants, and Baltimore City has the highest incidence of teenage pregnancy of any large city in the United States."

"We must place emphasis and resources on preventative measures to reduce these statistics," Hughes said.

Hughes said low birth weight babies often end up in hospital intensive care units and cost Maryland Medicaid $15.7 million last year alone.

The $1.5 million was included in this year's fiscal 1987 budget, Hughes said.

The program will be administered by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene through local health offices statewide. Television station WJZ-TV has volunteered to take part in an educational outreach campaign to get women enrolled in the program, Hughes added.

Mrs. Cynthia Simms, a downtown secretary, was chosen over the air on WCBM radio recently to receive a free G. Briggs classic Woman at Work fall wardrobe. During a Grand Opening ceremony on Oct. 15, in honor of the opening of Briggs's new downtown store, Ms. Simms picked out, coordinated, and added accessories to her wardrobe with the help of a Briggs cosultant. Mrs. Simms is shown above with Skip Briggs, the store owner, and others during the opening ceremonies. Mrs. Simms is the mother of two and secretary for the Baltimore Chapter of the Retinitas Pigmentosa Foundation on Mount Royal Avenue.

Balto. County police tell holiday safety plans

Baltimore County Police will be increasing manpower commitments this holiday season in an effort to provide additional protection for shoppers and to improve highway safety in a season marked by high speed and alcohol-related accidents.

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve, shopping centers, business corridors, and parking lots that customers frequent will be targeted for extra protection in an attempt to prevent purse snatchings, robberies, thefts from autos, and larceny.

"Officers will not be confined to patrol cars, and increased foot patrol, Stop, Walk, and Talk, will be evident in parking lots and in congested shopping and commercial areas where crime analysis data reflect a potential increase in the frequency of such street crime," according to Police Chief Cornelius J. Behan.

Thirty-five additional officers will be assigned to the holiday deployment plan. They will cover 35 posts throughout the holiday period, during the peak periods. Manpower will be provided through rescheduling assignments and overtime pay. Both marked and unmarked police vehicles will be used, and the officers will be in uniform for maximum crime prevention effectiveness.

Detectives will be incorporated into each precinct's deployment plan also. Members of the Police Auxiliary, the volunteer arm of the department, will participate in assignments involving crowd control at special events, and other details.

In the highway safety phase of the accelerated police activity, the Holiday Enforcement Lifesaving Program (Operation H.E.L.P.) will concentrate police patrols on targeted "high accident roadways" in the County. Traffic officers will intensify efforts "to identify and enforce hazardous moving violations in order to prevent loss of life or personal injury and property damage" in areas known for inordinate automobile accident rates.

"Shoppers and travelers can help the police make this a safe holiday season by using extra care when driving, walking and shopping," Chief Behan said. "Park in lighted areas. Lock your car, both while driving and when parked. Don't leave packages in view in your car. Watch your purse or wallet when your hands are full of packages. And, most important, don't drink and drive," he urged.

State could get windfall from federal tax reform

By Myriam Marquez

ANNAPOLIS (UPI) — If the state's tax law is modeled after the new federal tax law, 1.4 million Marylander's would pay less taxes initially, but might be hit with a higher tax liability in the future, state officials say.

State Comptroller Louis Goldstein presented an interim report recently on the impact of the new tax reform law on Maryland to the General Assembly's Joint Committee on Federal Tax Reform.

The legislature eventually must decide whether to change Maryland's tax law to mirror the federal law. In the past, Maryland has tied its tax structure to the federal model.

Goldstein also told legislators that Maryland would get $166.7 million more from individual and corporate income taxes in fiscal 1988 if it does not change its tax law to reflect the new federal tax law.

"Maybe the best thing is to study this for a full year before doing anything," Goldstein said, adding he would issue his recommendations Dec. 22 when he presents his final report.

Sen. Laurence Levitan, D-Montgomery and co-chairman of the joint panel, echoed Goldstein's concerns. "Certainly most members of the legislature don't intend to completely do away with our ties to the federal system," Levitan said.

Goldstein said he supported retaining the federal definitions of income and deductions because those provisions would make it easier for taxpayers to complete their returns and make enforcement much more efficient.

"Maryland's personal exemption and standard deduction are examples of items that can be changed to provide tax relief without causing taxpayer confusion or losing important federal cooperation," the comptroller said.

For example, if the state were to increase the $800 personal exemption now afforded each taxpayer by $100, it would cost Maryland $20 million, Goldstein said.

At 1989 income levels, Goldstein said, 1.4 million taxpayers would be liable for more state taxes, while 173,000 Marylanders—90 percent of those who do not itemize—would pay less if the state does not follow the federal model.

"Those claiming itemized deductions would account for the vast majority of taxpayers with higher tax liabilities because they would have fewer deductions," Goldstein said, adding that 88 percent of taxpayers earning $50,000 to $100,000 would experience a tax increase.

Maryland's anticipated revenues in fiscal 1988, which begins July 1 from the so-called federal windfall, "are rather modest, amounting to $37 for every man, woman and child" of the state's 4.5 million population, Goldstein said.

The state comptroller's spokesman Marvin Bond acknowledged the $37 figure was misleading because it included two million Marylanders who do not pay taxes. There are 2½ million individual taxpayers in Maryland and about 80,000 taxpaying corporations, Bond said.

For Maryland businesses, the impact of retaining the state's current tax structure would be "felt by almost all industry classes," Goldstein said.

Goldstein said the largest dollar increase in liabilities would occur in the services, manufacturing and trade sectors that account for 77 percent of the total nongovernmental employment in the state. Those businesses would absorb 80 percent of the total increase in state tax liability.

Only the finance and insurance industries would experiene a slight reduction in state tax liability, Goldstein added.

How much the state's 23 counties and Baltimore City stand to lose from piggyback income tax revenues if the state follows the federal model remains unanswered, Goldstein said. "That will come later," he said, adding the Board of Public Works must approve a contract to study the issue.

Drunk suspects may use own test

By Myriam Marquez

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (UPI) — Drunken driving suspects may take a breathalyzer test administered by their lawyer before deciding whether to submit to a sobriety test given by police, Maryland's highest court recently ruled.

While the Court of Appeals said drivers have a constitutional right to the privately administered tests, the court also held the private tests could "not substantially interfere with the timely and effacious administration of the state testing process."

The court noted there is a "statutorily imposed two-hour post-apprehension time limit" when sobriety tests must be taken for accurate results.

"We take pains to note the narrowness of our holding," wrote Chief Judge Robert Murphy in the 16-page opinion. "It is limited to drunk driving cases where the singular decision whether to submit to the state or face conviction based on other evidence.

"For drunk driving suspects who would pass the state's test, therefore, the pre-election administration of a private breathalyzer would likely encourage them to submit to the test and thereby avoid the automatic licenses suspension and possibly criminal prosecution as well," the court said.

The case stems from a constitutional challenge by lawyer Gil Cochran, who was not allowed to administer his own breathalyzer test to a former client, Thomas Strange.

State police procedures formerly allowed a suspected drunken driver to call his lawyer, but not to meet face-to-face with counsel until a sobriety test is performed.

Cochran claimed the procedure prohibited his right to freely communicate with his client "for the purpose of providing adequate legal counsel."

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