—Funeral director

Continued from page 1

the cost of cremating one Medicaid recipient by more than 500 percent and also billed the program for a grave marker for a person that was actually cremated.

When contacted for a statement by the AFRO, Law replied, "No comment."

Law's attorney, Stephen Miles, acknowledged that his client admitted to some of the charges under a binding plea agreement that reduces his penalty to a 30-day work release and a $1,000 fine.

He added, however, that the admission was also made "to avoid any publicity" and that some of the state's allegations are questionable.

"On some of the stuff the state said that he (Law) did, there is absolutely some dispute," Miles contended.

Circuit Judge Edgar Silver set a Jan. 29 sentencing date, which, according to the lawyer, was set in order to give his client time to raise the money to repay the state and pay the fine.

Marshall Jones, proprietor of the Marshall Jones Funeral Parlor in Baltimore, and past president of the Funeral Directors and Morticians Association of Maryland, Inc., commented, "Those things happen and it's really a tragedy. Now, he may lose his license."

Jones added that he hopes the incident does not have negative repercussions for other black morticians.

"I think this is an isolated case and I really hope it will not have an inference to any other black morticians," he stated.

Law is the nephew of the late Charles R. Law, who during the 1960's was the first and only black executive secretary of the state Board of Funeral Directors.

"This situation is particularly hurting to me because I feel Law's uncle (Charles Law) was truly an asset to the (funeral) industry," said Jones.

The president of the state's licensing board, Mrs. Doris McCully, when contacted by the AFRO, said, "I have no comment on the situation because we (the board) don't know any more than what was in the paper. We were very surprised at the whole thing."

—Charles Butler

Continued from page 1

rest and which spurred Butler's 19-month flight from the law.

According to an affidavit signed by U.S. Customs Special Agent Ronald Solesha, Dwar Shaikh, of Pakistan, was arrested by federal agents on May 19, 1985. He told agents he worked with Richeson and his firm bringing in jewelry and narcotics.

Shaikh is reported to have returned to Baltimore from a trip to Pakistan without the four kilos of heroin he said he was supposed to have delivered, according to the affadavit.

Shaikh told federal agents he was afraid to go to the Quazar offices with the drugs.

The affidavit also said on May 16, 1985, Special Agent Joseph Dombroski prepared four kilos of look-alike heroin and a small amount of heroin. He reportedly gave it to Shaikh who was to give it to Richeson.

The exchange occurred at Shaikh's apartment and was videotaped.

After the exchange, Richeson was followed by federal agents. At 3:40 p.m., Richeson met with Charles Butler. Butler took the package and put it in his four-door Mercedes sedan, according to the affidavit.

Apparently, federal agents moved in to make the arrest. Butler escaped following a high speed chase with authorities and a 50-state warrant was issued for his arrest.

Manning said there was a reward posted for Butler, but he does not believe it will be collected. He said during the FBI's 19-month search for Butler, they had been seeking a man who weighed a lot more.

"He's lost a lot of weight," Manning said. "He's not the 270-pound man we've been looking for. He's slimmed down considerably, whether that's from sickness, I can't say." He estimated Butler now weighs about 200.

Manning said the FBI received leads that Butler was outside the country, "but whether he was, we don't know."

Henry, of the DEA, also said it was unclear where Butler has been for the past 19 months.

"So far the investigation doesn't show if he was out of the country during this time. We will pursue that line though," he said.

Looking back at projections for 1987

By Paula J. Wagner
AFRO Staff Writer

The Iranian arms sale by the Reagan administration that was revealed in late November, appears to be for many, the most significant news occurrence in 1986.

Baltimoreans cite as significant, the loss of the 94-year-old Provident Hospital and its merging with the former Lutheran Hospital; wiping away its existence forever, except from in the minds of all the people it served.

1986 saw the explosion of the space shuttle, Apollo 7, killing black astronaut, Ron McNair; the cocaine overdose death of Maryland basketball star, Len Bias;

The election of first-time black Lt. Governor of Virginia, Douglas Wilder; the flight of Baby Doc Duvalier of Haiti; the suspicious death of Mozambique president, Samora Michel.

* * *

According to city councilman, Nathaniel McFadden, the passage of several city bills, namely, the South African Divestment Bill and the Minority Enterprise Bill (which allocates 20 percent of city contracts to minorities) were among the highlights of 1986.

The elevation of City Council president, Clarence Du Burns to the mayoral seat and the installment of Maryland basketball coach, Robert Wade, as the first black coach in the Atlantic Coast Conference, was also significant, according to McFadden.

For 1987 he said, "the pendulum is swinging" in favor of blacks and other minorities. With Reagan's "attitude" toward the third world and minorities, and his failure to address issues such as teenage unemployment, McFadden said Reagan is assisting in the decay of the current power structure. "This is the downfall of the West," McFadden said.

* * *

Northern High School Principal, Mrs. Betty Edmunds, said the Philippines' election, the South African boycott, the perpetuation of hate against blacks and people of color, and the continuation of blacks being elected to political offices are significant to 1986.

"1987 is exciting," she said, "in terms of how we (Americans) will get out of the debt we're in, particularly blacks who suffer most."

* * *

Del. Larry Young-D, 39th Legislative District, said 1986 was the year the black community in Baltimore lost "a bit of political leverage in the State House," referring to his loss as chairman of the Environmental Matters Committee.

The loss of Provident Hospital, the beginning of "Reagan reaping what he sowed" and his current retribution indicated by a recent CBS poll that shows 25 percent of Americans do not believe the president is truthful, are also significant," according to Young.

* * *

Senator Troy Brailey-D, 40th Legislative District, sees the arms sale to Iran and the explosion of Shuttle Challenger as the two most significant occurrences in 1986.

It all means, he said, that "the present administration is using funds for weapons instead of for programs for the poor and the needy . . . Seems the funds are being wasted," he said.

For 1987 Senator Brailey is concerned about President Reagan's recent call for a National Constitution Convention for the balancing of the current budget, that shows a deficit in the billions of dollars.

The senator's concern is that the NCC will do more than balance the budget and may abolish the 14th Amendment, which is the Equal Rights Amendment.

"This is already going forth," Senator Brailey said. In order to ratify the cause for the convention, 38 states must agree. So far, 36 states, including Maryland, have agreed on the need for NCC.

Low-income housing group tour area needing help

By Manotti L. Jenkins
AFRO Staff Writer

The Maryland Low-Income Housing Coalition (MLIHC), along with Delegate Howard "Pete" Rawlings, conducted a tour of several sites served under the new Maryland Housing Initiative programs, earlier this week.

MLIHC activists acknowledged that the tour was conducted to investigate how the state is spending the $36 million alloted to the program by the General Assembly last July.

The leader of the lobbying group said MLIHC is also trying to influence the governor-elect to allot more funds for the program next year.

"We're hoping that the Schaefer administration will see that low-income housing be a priority," said Ron Halbright, president of the group.

"The demonstrated need for these programs has been so strong in the first few months that we are hoping for $60 million this (fiscal) year."

Included on the itinerary for the tour was a group of homes on Winter's Lane in Catonsville. The approximately 19 homes are being sold to St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, which will rehabilitate the homes, after months of court action brought against the landlord by the tenants.

Halbright said the state, in conjunction with the Baltimore County government and Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc., will assist St. Ambrose in the purchase. He added that the homes will be purchased for $7,000 apiece.

Also on the itnerary was the first home served by the state's Home Maintenance and Repair Program for elderly and disabled homeowners.

Halbright said the home, located in South Baltimore, is currently being worked on by the South Baltimore Center Board, a private, non-profit group.

He added that about three other homes are already being worked on under the program.

"In touring these particular homes in South Baltimore, we found that there is truly a large range of needs among these elderly persons, "Halbright commented.

The Housing Initiative went into effect July 1, 1986 after several state lawmakers, including Delegate Rawlings, chairman of the House Appropritions Subcommittee which reviews the housing programs budget, and various housing activist groups, lobbied intensely to get it passed in the General Assembly.

According to reports, nearly half of the $36 million allotted to the program has been committed to various non-profit housing groups around the state.

—E. North Ave.

Continued from page 1

verted from the old Polytechnic Institute at North Avenue and Calvert Street.

Jeff Stern, an underwriter with ABJ Associates, who has been working closely with the city and the developers on the project, said it is hoped the new apartment complex will draw some of its new tenants from the school headquarters and other businesses in the area.

The rowhouses will be sold to the developers as the project progresses, Shurick said. The buildings will be converted into 68 units: 10 efficiences; 14 one-bedrooms; 40 two-bedrooms and 4 three-bedrooms.

Stern said tentative rents, based on estimates of market rates in the next 18 months to two years, have been established. The rents can either increase or decrease based on the appraisal by a person qualified to set rents.

As of today, rents are $345 — efficiency; $406 — one bedroom; $473 — two bedroom and $510 for a three-bedroom unit.

Stern said these tentative rents are geared for a person of moderate income making about $15,000 or more a year.

—AFRO Survey

Rodney McCoy, umemployed, 'The inflated prices for retail goods.'

James Alexander, assembly worker, 60, 'The Len Bias case. It was such a shock to the nation, especially to the sports field.'

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CARICOM conference II: Haiti focus

WASHINGTON — The National Business League is association with the South Florida Business League will sponsor a two-day Caricom Conference II entitled "Economic Development in Haiti." The National Business League is a U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency funded project. The South Florida Business League is receiving CARICOM support from the City of Miami.

The conference will be held on Friday, January 16 and Saturday, January 17, 1987, at the Omni Hotel, Miami, FL. The primary purpose of this conference is to provide a forum and mechanism for American minority entrepreneurs and their Caribbean counterparts to develop trade, commercial and economic relationships which are mutually beneficial.

"We want to assess the current economic conditions in Haiti and analyze the potential for involvement in the economic development of this unique and strategic Caribbean nation," said Arthur E. Teele, Jr., president and chief executive officer of the National Business League.

Invited speakers include: Senator Lawton Chiles, (D-FL); Lesly Delatour, Haiti Minister of Finance; Miller Dawkins, Commissioner, City of Miami; Milton Wilson, Project Officer, U.S. Small Business Administration; Chester Smith, Assistant Director of the Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce; Evelyn Francois, Bank of Nova Scotia, Port Au Prince, Haiti; and L. Reece Moyer, Chief, Officer of Private Enterprise Development, USAID, Haiti.

A pencil equipped with an eraser, the first of its kind, was patented by Hyman L. Lipman of Philadelphia in 1858.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

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Ramp closings set for JFX tonight

The next series of ramp closures on the Jones Falls Expressway (I-83) have been confirmed by Richard H. Trainor, Transportation Commissioner. Trainor said the following ramp closures, openings, and mainline restrictions will occur around January 2, 1987. RAMPS

Eastbound North Avenue to Southbound JFX will be CLOSED.

Northbound JFX to 28th Street/Druid Park Drive will be CLOSED.

Eastbound Druid Park Drive to Northbound JFX will be CLOSED.

Westbound 29th Street to Northbound JFX will be CLOSED.

Eastbound Coldspring Lane to Northbound JFX will be CLOSED.

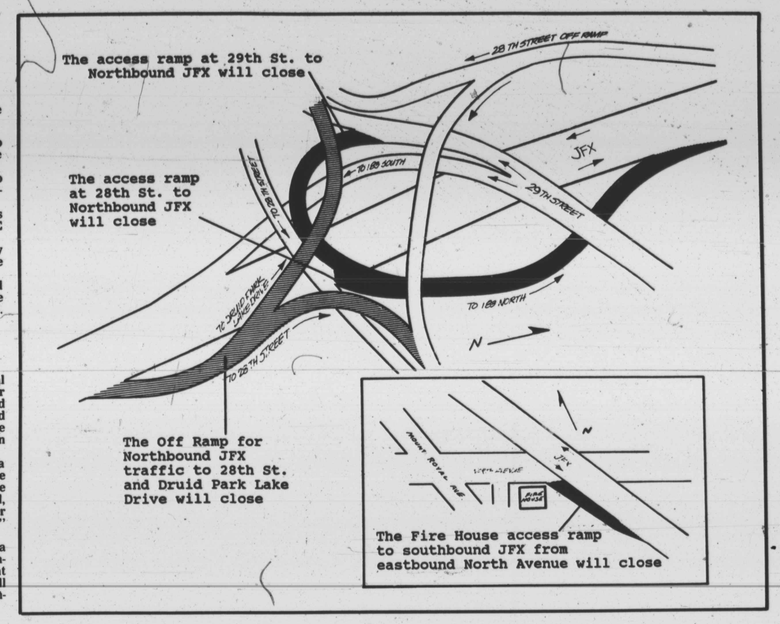
Westbound Coldspring Lane to Northbound JFX will be CLOSED. MAINLINE

Northbound JFX from Charles Street to the City Line - ONE LANE CLOSED.

Southbound JFX from the City Line to the Howard Street Bridge - ONE LANE CLOSED.

The ramp closures and mainline lane restrictions will be in effect until the Summer of 1987.

DIAL JFX-INFO



Type O blood needed

For the first time the critical need for blood is bringing the American Red Cross Chesapeake Region and Washington Region Blood Services together to announce an urgent appeal for all blood types.

According to Dr. Paul M. Ness, Executive Director of Chesapeake Region Blood Services and Director of Johns Hopkins Blood Bank, "During the holidays it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain adequate community blood supplies.

"We need an immediate and sustained response from the public to prevent critical shortages," he added.

"Accidents, holiday travel, business closings and personal commitments keep the need for blood up and availability of blood donors down," notes Dr. Fred Darr, Medical Director for the Red Cross Washington Region Blood Services.

"Donating blood is a humanitarian gesture. Because we use sterile needles that are used once and then discarded, one cannot get AIDS or any other disease through donating blood," added Dr. Ness.

Persons interested in making a blood donation are urged to contact American Red Cross at 467-9905. All new donors will receive a blood donor card indicating their blood type.

Community Calendar

Grandparents Prenatal Class

The Union Memorial Hospital, 201 East University Parkway, will hold a free grandparents prenatal class on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 1987 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. in the hospital's Memorial Auditorium.

The class is for those persons who are going to be grandparents in the next few years. Topics for discussion will include The Grandparents' Role and Benefits to Grandchildren, The Latest Trends in Childbirth, Infant Care in the 1980's and How To Be An Effective Grandparent.

The discussions will be led by Union Memorial physicians and staff, and there will also be a question and answer session.

Free parking will be available at the hospital's parking plaza at 34th and Calvert Streets. Preregistration is required. Call 554-2268 for registration or more information.

Separation and Divorce

The YWCA Woman's Center will offer "Legal Aspects of Separation and Divorce," on Thursday, Jan. 15, 1987, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. A private attorney in Annapolis who is a member of the Woman's Law Center will present information about legal rights and legal procedures for obtaining a separation or a divorce in Maryland and problems which can be encountered.

There is no fee, but pre - registration is encouraged. To register, please call 268-4393. The YWCA Woman's Center is located at 167 Duke of Gloucester Street, in downtown Annapolis.

Economic Symposium

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Howard County Holiday Commission invites you to attend the symposium "The Contemporary Meaning of Dr. King's Philosophy Toward Economic Independence" to be held at Smith Theatre, Howard Community College Saturday, Jan. 17, 1987 from 9;30 a.m. to noon.

A reception will follow with panelists, the Honorable Ronald Dellums, Representative from California; and Robert L. Woodson, Chairman of the Council for a Black Economic Agenda.

The symposium and reception are free to the public.

Film Series at Walters

An escape from winter is promised in "Mediterranean Holiday," the January film series at the Walters Art Gallery. Wednesday matinee and evening films begin Jan. 7, and include "An Affair to Remember," "Roman Holiday" and "Summertime."

Directed by Leo McCarey, "An Affair to Remember," slated for Jan. 7, stars Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr as star - crossed lovers pursuing an affair on the Riviera, across the Atlantic and all over New York. William Wyler's "Roman Holiday," Jan. 14, continues the theme of illicit romance as Audrey Hepburn, as a bored, spoiled princess, enjoys a spree through Rome with Gregory Peck.

On Jan. 21 the series concludes with Katherine Hepburn in David Lean's "Summertime." Hepburn is an aging Ohio spinster on vacation in Venice whose "harmless" flirtations lead to a hilarious affair with Rossano Brazzi.

The Walters has added a special 2 p.m. matinee to the regular 8 p.m. showing for this film series. Admission is $2.50, and a discount series ticket is available. For more information about "Mediterranean Holiday" call the Walters at 547-A.R.T.S.

Storytime in Howard

The Children's Services Department of the Howard County Library is offering Bedtime Storytimes from 7-7:30 p.m. at the Central and Miller Libraries.

No registration is required, and children are invited to come in their pajamas. Storytime at Central (997-800 X254) will be on Tuesday, January 20 and at Miller (461-7980 X15) on Wednesday, January 14. Both storytimes will be held as scheduled unless the library is closed due to inclement weather.

A Salute to Fathers

In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, the Baltimore Urban League will honor outstanding fathers in the community. This salute will take place Thursday, Jan. 15, 1987 at Frederick Douglass Senior High School, 2301 Gwynns Falls Parkway from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

These black men have been selected on the basis of their active, consistent and effective involvement in the physical, emotional, spiritual, cultural and educational development of their children. They will also be saluted for their active support of positive activities in the black community.

Please join the League for an evening of music, speakers and praise of these men for their courage and commitment to their families and communities.

For additional information please contact Marie Givens at 523-8150.

Volunteers Needed

The Joseph Rickey House, a non - profit, seven bed, inpatient hospice is seeking volunteers to assist the staff in providing care to the terminally ill cancer patient. Also needed are volunteers to be hosts or hostesses, as well as clerical, housekeeping, and cooking assistance. A twenty hour volunteer training program is provided. The next training class will begin in late January.

For an application or further information contact the Coordinator of Volunteers: 520 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201 or phone 523-2150.

Parent Support Group

The next meeting of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Parent Support Group will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 1987 at 8:00 p.m. in the Auxiliary Classroom at Union Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Shahid Aziz and Dr. Judith McLaughlin will speak on, "Daily Management and Special Situations." A question and answer period will follow.

The meeting is open to insulin dependent diabetics of all ages, their families and friends. A social hour will follow and refreshments will be served.

For further information, call the JDF office at 653-CARE.

Horticulture Show

House plant growers are encouraged to enter their favorite potted plant at a featured attraction of the Maryland Flower and Garden show at Festival Hall in Baltimore City next March.

Bring your favorite African Violet, Jade Plant, Spider Plant, Cactus, Orchid, or your Grandmother's Aspidistra.

Free tickets will be awarded to a limited number of individuals who pre - register for this event — so do not delay sending for more information to:

Flower Show
P.O. Box 134
Perry Hall, MD 21228
or telephone 529-1283

Business Workshop

The U.S. Small Business Administration and the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) will conduct a one day workshop entitled "How to Start and Manage Your Own Business" on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 1987.

The workshop will begin promptly at 8:45 a.m. and run through 4 p.m. and will be held at the Towson United Methodist Church, Dulaney Valley Road and Hampton Lane (Beltway Exit 27N), Towson, Maryland.

To register and get further details call SCORE: 962-2233.

This workshop is designed for anyone thinking about starting a business or who recently did so.

This workshop will address such topics as organization, business plans, advertising site selection, marketing and others.

Classes at the Oasis

Registration for the Winter Semester of classes and lectures for the Oasis Club will be held on January 5 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

There will be 10 week courses in painting, puppetry, quilting, knitting, exercise, music, and line dancing. Seminars in Financial Planning, a millinery fashion show, and microwave demonstration will also be offered.

Oasis Older Adult Service and Information System is located on the lower level of the Downtown Hechts. Membership is free to anyone 60 years of age or older.

For further information and a free brochure call: 396-4799.

Snowman Time

Snowman Story Time will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 10:30 a.m. at the Woodlawn Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library for children ages 3-5. There will be stories, film, and a craft. Free tickets are available one week in advance, either by calling 265-7766, or by coming to the library located at 1811 Woodlawn Drive.

Changes in effect on state tax forms

Maryland State Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein says a record 1,991,580 state income tax packets are on their way, and when yours arrives, you'll notice some important differences.

Taxpayers should remember, however, that the 1986 income tax returns do not reflect changes from the new federal tax reform law.

"A major difference which should eliminate some confusion affects everyone who itemizes deductions on their Maryland income tax return," the comptroller said.

"All itemizers will be required to send in a copy of their federal Schedule A along with their Maryland long form. The federal Schedule A lists details of itemized deductions claimed on federal and state returns.

"This change will affect the largest group of taxpayers because 46 percent of Marylanders file returns claiming itemized deductions," Mr. Goldstein said.

The 1986 Maryland tax packet also contains worksheets to make calculations easier and cut errors.

Special worksheets have been added this year for calculating the tax on lump sum distributions and apportioning deductions between spouses filing combined separate returns.

The more than 10,000 mailbags of state tax packets were labelled and presorted right down to local postal carrier routes by state income tax employees, saving taxpayers nearly $1.3 million in postage costs. The giant mailing operation takes four days to complete, began December 28th.

"Don't forget, the sooner you file your Maryland income tax return, the quicker you'll receive your refund check," Goldstein said.

All 15 state income tax offices offer free taxpayer assistance. Locations, telephone numbers and extra hours of assistance are all listed in the packet.

By the way...

By Joe Black

A group of famous people in the entertainment world came together and blended their voices in song and said:

"We are the world
We are the children
We are the ones to make a brighter day."

This unselfish act was motivated by the famine and starvation in Ethiopia. It is a classic example of: "Black and White together, we shall overcome."

Today, I want to remind you of a challenge to Black Americans. It is finding a cure for Sickle Cell Trait and Sickle Cell Anemia. Why? Because one of 12 Black Americans has Sickle Cell Trait; one of 500 Black Americans has Sickle Cell Anemia. Sickle Cell Anemia does not affect one's intelligence, but it can cause growth retardation, leg ulcers, pneumonia, strokes, decreased exercise tolerance and sometimes causes pain.

If you are born with this tendency from one parent, you have Sickle Cell Trait. If you are born with this tendency from both parents, you have Sickle Cell Anemia. You will not know whether you have Sickle Cell Trait unless you take a simple blood test. So help combat and support the fight against Sickle Cell Disease by:

1. Having a blood test to learn if you have the Trait.
2. Riding Greyhound, because in 1986 a percentage of each ticket will be donated to the National Association for Sickle Cell Disease.
3. Mailing a contribution to your local Sickle Cell Chapter, or to:

The National Association for Sickle Cell Disease
4221 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90010-3503

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation