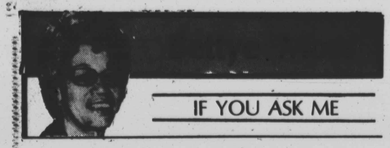

IF YOU ASK ME

Smile

Smile-in-your voice salute to Charles Wells, president of Wells Printers on Fremont Ave. in west Baltimore.

Reader J. H. Lewis writes, "No matter the weather, the problem, you can depend on Charley Wells to have a cheerful voice and a pleasant smile." Mr. Lewis is so right. Many who visit the Wells shop will confirm this.

— —

And smile salute to 22-year-old Terry Floyd. He's the unusually pleasant supervisor of dining room personnel at Duff's, the popular smorgasbord spot in Westview.

Those who have ob served him at work admire the professional manner in which he pitches in to make sure things are tidy and helps his staff do the same.

Young Mr. Floyd is a 1984 grad of Douglass High. He lives on Grantley Ave., with his wife, Jo Ann, and their 1-month-old daughter, Latony.

— —

Equally pleasant in manner as she greets people is Mrs. Vivian Wright, resident manager of the Greater New Hope Towers, the west Baltimore apartment complex for senior citizens which opened this week.

The same is true of the complex receptionist, Miss Debbie Brown. See more about this modern new home for senior citizens in this column.

— —

Note to readers: Please send along your nominations for a salute in this column's new smile department. Let us know the names of persons you observe who have sunshine in their voices when they answer the phone or greet people at work or play. Smile . . . smile . . . smile. . .

Sick list

Continue prayers, please, for Mrs. Leon Bell (Lillian), the retired city school principal, who is confined to Sinai Hospital. Her cousin, former Baltimore medic, Dr. William (Billy) Hall, flew home from El Paso, Tex., to cheer her over the weekend.

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Much improved at North Charles General is Mrs. Mabel (Pinchie) Denkins, the retired teacher. She suffered a heart attack on Monday.

— —

On the mend: Mrs. John Earl Stokes (Merita), who has been confined to University Hospital for the past two weeks. She is due home this weekend.

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Also improving, Mrs. Wilfred Seaborne, (Gwen), who had hip surgery at Baltimore County General Hospital.

— —

John J. (Jakie) Oliver, Jr., the AFRO's board chair, is on the mend after surgery at University Hospital on Monday.

New lawyers

Mr. Oliver, mentioned above, was among 668 lawyers who passed the Maryland bar exam in May. They were sworn in at the Court of Appeals in Annapolis last month.

Among other Baltimoreans on the list of new lawyers are: Colton W. Brown, Yvette M. Bryant, Elizabeth J. Case, Kathy Chavis, Kevin J. Davidson, Julie A. Drake, Gardner M. Duvall;

Also Charles C. Hall, Jr., Michael L. Jennings, Melvin J. Jones, Sarah C. King, Pamela D. Marks, Mary H. McNealm, Lydia A. Mayo, Scott S. Oakley, Elizabeth N. Porter, Hilda F. Rogers, Jennifer A. Smith, Richard B. Stanley, Tina M. Waddell and Brenda J. Wilson.

New homes

The Rev. Leonard E. Hicks, pastor, and members of Greater New Hope Baptist Church, saw a dream come true on Sunday.

Ribbon cutting ceremony officially marked the opening of New Hope Towers, the church's seven-story, 80-unit apartment complex for senior citizens. It is located in the 2700 block Walbrook Ave., in the rear of the church in the 2700 block of W. North Ave.

Mayor-to-be Clarence Du Burns was present to congratulate the church.

So was Dr. Silas B. Holmes, pastor of St. John Baptist Church, who came from Kilmarnock, Va., with his combined choirs.

Also, joining in the celebration were local ministers, Revs. Charles White, John Crummedy, Sid Emmers of the construction firm, Ms. Zelma Brown, vice president of Advance Federal Savings and Loan, which processed the $3.6 million federal funds used to build the homes, and Stanley L. Nickens, president of Elderly Housing, which manages the development.

Mrs. Maureen Holbrook presided at the ceremony.

By the time of the celebration on Sunday, 32 of the 80 apartments were occupied. Rev. Hicks expects all residents in before the end of the month.

Cuff note: The gleaming white walls, spanking new facilities are a joy to see. Occupants are of all races.

Resident manager, whom we mentioned at the beginning of this column, is Mrs. Vivian Wright. She is a former Family and Children's Society staffer.

Cuff note: New Hope Towers holds open house soon. For info, call 225-0004.

About people

St. James Episcopal Church was packed on Sunday morning (some even sat in the balcony). Occasion was the retirement celebration for Father Donald O. Wilson.

He has been rector of the church for 23 years. Today, he and his wife, Theda, the retired city school exec, are in their new home in Florida.

Representatives of city and civic organizations on which Father Wilson served, joined church members in saluting him for his devoted service. He was presented numerous plaques and citations. He and Mrs. Wilson gifted the church with his portrait.

— —

Va. Union University's handsome new president, Dr. E. Dallas Simmons, was in our city this weekend.

On Sunday, Va. Union trustee, Harlow Fullwood and Mrs. Fullwood (Elnora), hosted reception for him. There he met members of the local Miles W. Connor Alumni chapter and other Baltimore residents.

On Monday, Dr. Simmons and Va. Union trustee Osborne Payne visited four city high schools — Western, Lake Clifton-Eastern, City College and Walbrook, and awarded some $100,000 in scholarships to students at these four schools.

Accompanying Dr. Simmons was VU vice president for academic services, Walter H. Miller.

Cuff notes: Va. Union Baltimore's Connor Alumni Association head is Edward P. Jackson.

Handsome is the Va. Union U. Today, which highlights activities and accomplishments of the Richmond, institution which was founded in 1865.

— —

More cuff: In the mail this week, a very attractive brochure from Baltimore's Morgan State University announcing the exhibit of "Exile" a collection of images by South African artists in exile — now on display in the Carl Murphy Gallery through Jan. 28.

MLK events

Monday, January 19, the official Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, will see many city schools holding observances since the city observed the birthday on Thursday.

Dickey Hill Elementary School pupils will journey to nearby Hillsdale-Chatworth Methodist Church for a 1 p.m. celebration, Church is at Forest Park and Hillsdale.

Principal Joan Stevenson and the pastor, Rev. Victor E. Swager, hope the public will join them. Speaker will be city educator, Dr. Rosetta Stith.

— —

Martin Luther King programs at the Association for Study of Afro-American Life at Lower Park Heights Center, and at Broadmead, the Quaker community where he lives, had Dr. G. James Fleming as speaker this week.

Dr. Fleming is the Morgan U. emeritus professor, whose column appears in this newspaper.

— —

The 12th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast at Martin's West on Thursday was sold out months in advance as usual. This is the event sponsored annually by the YMCA and the King's Landing Women's Service Club, which was initiated by former Y execs, A. Paul Moss and Richard Kelly.

Greatly missed at this year's breakfast was the late Mrs. Mildred Nelson. She was the King's Landing treasurer who worked tirelessly to arrange tables on a first come-first served basis, and who was always present early on the morning of the breakfast to greet guests. Mrs. Mrs. Nelson died on Oct. 17, 1986.

P. J. says

Some 1500 persons attended the YM-KLW Martin Luther King 12th annual breakfast at Martin's West. Most were in their seats when the 7:30 a.m. program began.

Among state and city leaders there, Mayor and Gov.-elect Donald Schaefer, mayor-designate Clarence Du Burns, Senators Paul Sarbanes and Barbara Mikulski, Congressman Kweisi Mfume, State's Attorney Kurt Schmoke, NAACP head, Mrs. Enolia P. McMillan, Urban League head, Dr. Benjamin Whitten.

Keynote speaker, retiring Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, received standing ovation when he was introduced. His 20-minute address was interrupted by frequent applause.

He told the attentive audience that he had seen gains during his tenure in Congress, and pointed particularly to his role in securing minority set aside legislation.

"When I first went to Congress, they said don't pass any laws, give us time to show good faith I . . . there is only one good faith I believe in and that is Jesus Christ my Lord . . ."

Mitchell detailed how the set aside regulations had been challenged in courts and noted that thanks to volunteer black lawyers and black businessmen who contributed to his legal defense fund, court rulings have favored the minority set asides.

He called those professionals who contributed nothing but benefited from the legislation cause for "shame and anger."

The 3 M's

Mitchell said too many people "succumb to the leisure of the 3 M's . . . me, myself and mine. "We must embrace, we, us, and ours . . ."

He added:—

"You will see efforts in the new Congress to destroy the program for minority business, a whole assault against entrepreneural development . . . we will win because you are there Paul (Sarbanes), Barbara (Mikulski), and Kweisi (Mfume). You've helped before . . .

"What happens in terms of minority business is a part of the mossaic of racism against us and anyone who thinks he can stand apart from it is either dumb-founded or found dumb.

"We cannot stand apart as individuals and institutions while we watch systematic attacks against other institutions and individuals, and other categories.

"Each time a black hospital closes, black people are diminished . . . a black business, a black college, black people are diminished.

On Fact

"If our brothers and sisters in South Africa can continue the struggle where there is no law, can we not continue the struggle where there is a law, the Constitution of the United States?

". . . men and women in slavery were our mothers and fathers and their fathers and their fathers and their fathers, but they never lost faith. . . .

". . . "during the post Reconstruction era, they never lost faith . . . these men and women in the civil rights struggle who were jailed, beaten, died and lynched, were our fathers and their fathers and their fathers.

"In 1987, we stand before you as their sons and daughters. We must hold fast to the faith that bound them together . . ."

Music for the breakfast was by the Daniel Ridout Great Hymns Choir, directed by Murray Schmoke.

NEW HOMES OPEN — Shown at Sunday ribbon-cutting ceremony for New Hope Towers, the 80-unit complex for senior citizens and, mayor-designate Clarence Du Burns, Rev. Leonard E. Hicks, pastor of Greater New Hope Baptist, which owns the complex, and Ms. Zelma Brown, Advance Federal Savings and Loan vice president.

George H. Tunstall was Macedonia member

Remember

GEORGE HENRY TUNSTALL, 86, for 69 years an active member of Macedonia Baptist Church, died on January 6. Funeral services were at the church on Saturday (Jan. 10), with the Rev. Leander Brown officiating.

Mt. Tunstall joined Macedonia in 1917 and soon afterwards, the church choir. He studied music under the late A. Jack Thomas, and for over 50 years directed Macedonia's Choir No. 2.

MR. TUNSTALL

Mr. Tunstall's wife, Mrs. Helen Estella Tunstall, died in August, 1986. Survivors: four daughters, Mrs. Thelma Jones, Mrs. Dorothy Bevans, Mrs. Charlotte Turner; and Mrs. Anette Farmer; son, Samuel Tunstall; brother, Seldon Tunstall; sister, Mrs. Martha Presley. Five grandchildren, also survive.

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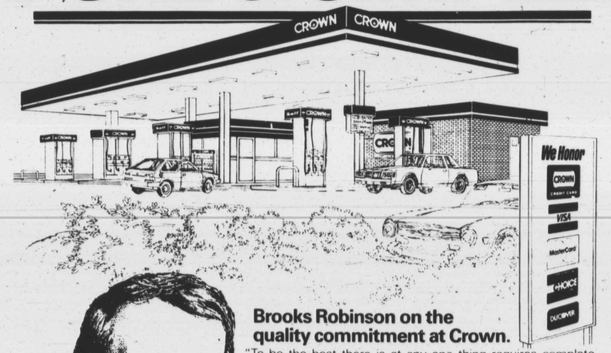

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State panel shies from tax windfall for one-time programs

By Myriam Marquez

ANNAPOLIS (UPI) — A legislative panel recommended Monday the state return to taxpayers the bulk of an estimated $167 million windfall from federal income tax reform and not target the money for programs to help the needy.

The Joint Committee on Income Tax Reform did not endorse any particular method of returning the money to Maryland's 2 million taxpayers.

Instead, the panel gave several options for lawmakers to consider returning from $63 million to $100 million to individuals in tax year 1987. For corporations, the panel recommended returning $10 million.

Gov.-elect William Schaefer has said he would like to use at least two-thirds of the windfall to fund one-time programs for low- and middle-income taxpayers and keep the rest of the money in state coffers until the impact of the new federal law is realized.

But Sen. Laurence Levitan, D-Montgomery and co-chairman of the joint tax committee, predicted Monday Schaefer's proposal would not fly with the legislature.

"I don't think that satisfies taxpayers," Levitan said of Schaefer's proposal. "Taxpayers must want the money back in the form of tax relief."

Levitan said Schaefer's proposal would place state spending above the cap set by the Spending Affordability Committee for fiscal 1988.

"This borad-based concept is one the legislature is going to run with." Levitan said of the committee recommendations.

Among the recommendations, the panel endorsed increasing the $800 personal exemption by $200 and as high as $350 per taxpayer. Each $100 increase in the personal exemption would cost the state $18.8 million annually.

"Raising the personal exemption is the most progressive way to return the money because it affects every taxpayer," said Sen. Julian Lapides, D-Baltimore.

The panel also said the standard deduction used by taxpayers itemizing returns could be set at a minimum of $1,000 per taxpayer and up to $2,000, costing the state between $20 million and $47 million annually. Maryland currently allows up to 13 percent of the reported income to be deducted with a miximum deduction of $1,500 per individual.

State Comptroller Louis Goldstein has proposed a five percent credit to Maryland taxpayers across the board, but committee members said a lump sum — not a percentage — should be used to benefit low-income taxpayers.

Maryland's tax structure mirrors the federal rule on deductions and personal exemptions. The new federal law, with less deductions and simpler tax brackets, would put most of the state's middle- and high-income taxpayers in higher income reporting brackets, giving the state the so-called windfall money.

While the legislature considers whether to change Maryland's income tax law to keep in step with the new federal law, lawmakers must grapple with how much money should be returned for 1987, if any.

"We do not intend to come out today and say "X" amount of dollars will be used in this way and this way only," Levitan said.

The state expects $167 million from federal tax reform in fiscal 1988, which begins July 1. For the 1987 tax year, the state expects to get $139 million more from individuals and corporations under the new federal guidelines for earned income, Levitan said.

Levitan predicted the Senate would endorse returning about $80 million to Maryland taxpayers, while the House would go for the more conservative $60 million.

"We're attempting to return dollars in a way to make the system more progressive," Levitan said.

Maryland once again will participate in teacher contest

(UPI) — Maryland is resuming participation in a national Teacher-of-the-Year contest after a 10-year hiatus, officials announced Tuesday.

State School Superintendent David Hornbeck said each local school system has been invited to name its own Teacher of the Year by May 1.

Maryland's Teacher of the Year will be named in October, and will receive $1,000 and be the state's nominee for the national award.

"This program focuses public attention on good teachers. We need to use every available option to win public esteem for our thousands of fine teachers," Hornbeck said in a prepared statement.

Entrants will be judged by letters of support from colleagues, students and community leaders. Other aspects of judging including their written responses on a number of subjects, including philosophy of teaching, professional development and civic activities.

Application forms are available from participating local boards of education. Most have established a deadline of April 1 for submission of completed applications.

School systems taking part in the 1987 contest include Baltimore city and Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline and Carroll counties. Also talking part are Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard and Kent countles, as well as Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Washington and Wicomico counties.

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Hughes asks state workers pay raises

ANNAPOLIS — Gov. Hughes has announced that he is recommending that more than $25 million be included in the new budget to fund special pay raises for nearly 17,400 state employees.

"These increases, averaging seven to eight percent, will complete our three-year program to help return state salaries to a level competitive with private industry," Hughes said.

The governor said that 6,700 skilled trades workers, laborers and institutional health aides will benefit from the raises. Also receiving increases will be 1,900 nurses and 2,000 social workers and employees in the related fields.

"Fewer than one percent of the increases will go to state executives and managers earning in excess of $50,000," the Governor said.

Gov. Hughes said the special increases under the Annual Salary Review (ASR) will be in addition to an across the board raise for all state employees in the new budget. The amount of the across the board pay hike has not yet been determined.

During the late 1970's and erly 1980's, high inflation and unemployment increased demands on state government. As a result, state pay levels began to fall behind those in the private sector.

For example, from 1978 to 1982, the cost of living index rose from 201.9 to 287, an increase of 42 percent. Private sector salaries also rose 42 percent, but state government salaries only increased by 34 percent during that period.

In 1982 an independent consultant to a gubernatorial salary commission estimated that state pay rates had fallen from ten to 18 percent below a level deemed competitive with other governments and private industry.

The three-year program, implemented by state Personnel Secretary John F.X. O'Brien, was designed to restore salaries to a level that will enable state government to recruit and retain qualified employees.

Hughes noted that most of those who have benefitted from the program have been at the lower end of the pay scale. In 1985, more than 10,000 secretaries and clerks were included in an ASR that benefited more than 17,000 state workers. In 1986, 6,600 law enforcement and correctional officers and 5,700 social service workers were among the more than 18,000 in the ASR.

If the General Assembly approves the 1987 recommendations, about 80 percent of the state work force -- nearly 46,000 employees -- will have received special increases during the three years in which the program was carried out.

BOOK RECEPTION FOR AUTHOR—Shown from left to right are Dr. Loretta Richardson, dean of the School of Nursing at Coppin State College; Mrs. Rose Hynes, basileus, Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Gamma Chapter; the author, Dr. Elizabeth Carnegie; and Mrs. Peggy Thweat, assistant professor of nursing at Coppin State. All were in attendance at the recent reception honoring Dr. Carnegie.

Author lauded at book reception

A reception was held in the Tawes Center at Coppin State College recently in honor of Dr. M. Elizabeth Carnegie whose book on black nursing history was recently published. The book, "The Path We Tread," tells the largely unwritten role played by outstanding black nurses from the 19th century battlefields to the present.

The reception was hosted by the Coppin State College Division of Nursing, Gamma Chapter, Chi Eta Phi Sorority and the Provident - Helene Fuld Alumni Association. Over 200 nurses from the Baltimore area attended the reception. Copies of the book were on sale. Dr. Carnegie presented an overview of the book and used slides to augment her remarks.

She received her education at Lincoln Hospital School for Nurses (New York), West Virginia University, University of Toronto, Canada, Syracuse University and New York University. Dr. Carnegie is editor emeritus of the noted journal, "Nursing Research," and has held leadership positions on the editorial staff of the American Journal of Nursing, Hampton University and Florida A & M University. She has received numerous awards and citations, and since retirement, has held two visiting distinguished professorships.

Howard County child abuse trials set

Howard County Circuit Court Judge Raymond Kane has ruled in favor of alleged child abuser Sandra A. Craig and has agreed to separate trials for each of her 11 indictments for reported child abuse, perverted practices, sexual offenses, assault and battery.

According to the Howard County prosecutor's office, the first trial date is set for Feb. 17, and others will follow separately every four weeks.

Cases will be tried in Howard County Circuit Court.

Mrs. Craig's lawyer, Fred Kolodner, said he preferred that the cases not be tried in Howard County because of possible bias, but wouldn't risk chances of being placed in a more hostile area, such as the Eastern Shore.

Mrs. Craig is being charged with 11 counts of child abuse, third degree sexual offenses, perverted practices, assault and battery of 11 of her pre-schoolers who attended her facility, Craig's Country Pre-School in Clarksville, MD.

The state will attempt to prove its case through the use of video testimony, whereby a taping of the questions of the children, the alleged victims, will be provided.

This will be the first time video testimony will be used in the state of Maryland.

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*The Honorable Parren J. Mitchell,
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Other Speakers Representing
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