Fulton eyes funds from Montrose

By Alicia Benjamin
AFRO Staff Writer

This year's proposed budget calls for the closing of The Montrose School and Del. Tony Fulton, D-40, wants to use the proceeds from the sale for community treatment and counseling programs.

The closing of Montrose, a juvenile detention home, would save the state approximately $7 million, according to Gov. William Donald Schaefer.

Schaefer presented the $9.8 budget to the General Assembly Wednesday.

Fulton proposed the bill, which requests that money from the proceeds of the Montrose School sale be used for community based programs, because he said troubled black children are not given the care they need.

"Many black children are inappropriately placed in juvenile schools when they should be placed in community programs," Fulton stated.

In the juvenile homes, black children do not receive the psychological help they need to make them emotionally healthy, Fulton continued.

"My intent is to find funds for juveniles who are in the care of the state because every time you propose a bill that is not in the governor's budget, it's not passed."

Del. Tony Fulton

In the governor's state-of-the-state address he told the legislators to continue the "Maryland momentum" and Fulton said to him that meant supporting human development as well as economic development. Supporting community based programs means promoting human development for Fulton.

Fulton's bill was introduced before the Appropriations Committee Tuesday.

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Senate bill seeks to curb non-support

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forcement bill is passed parents would be allowed to directly get employment location information from the state employment department.

According to Deborah Ross of the state's Health Department, the number of births out of wedlock in Baltimore increased 1.6 percent from 1984 to 1985.

In 1984, 62.1 percent of all births were to unmarried women and in 1985, 61.5 percent of all births were out of wedlock.

Rev. Theodore Jackson of the Gillis Memorial Community Church favors Coolahan's bill but does not support the bill proposed by Boozer.

"I think all persons who are employed and have a child should support their families whether they are married or not," Jackson said.

"I'm really interested in the bill happening," he continued.

Teh minister said he has preached serveral sermons about teenage parents supporting their own children.

"If a parent has raised their children, I think the police should go to their place of employment and handcuff them and make them pay," the minister said.

Jackson said he does not support Boozer's bill because he thinks teenagers should take the responsibility for supporting their own children, instead of relying on their parents to carry the load.

Rev. Oscar Brown of the Mount Olivet Free Will Baptist Church said he is undecided about Boozer's bill because grandparents may be unfairly punished for something they had no part in creating.

"If a pare;nt has raised their child and done the best they can, that's not to say that the child will follow through," Brown said.

"On the othe rhand, it would be feasible for a parent who has let their child run wild to take the burden off the system," he said.

If he had to, Brown said he would oppose Boozer's bill because separating the two types of grandparents would be difficult.

(AFRO Photo by Paris Gray)

PENMANSHIP—James Wallace writes his way to literary freedom.

Ex-con pens future on his writing skills

By Don Collins
AFRO Staff Writer

James Wallace isn't ashamed to admit that he has spent his last 12 years behind bars.

"Prison is where I found myself," Wallace said. "True, prison is a place where conditions are abnormal and you have to be strong to survive but it is also a place where you can find yourself."

While in prison, Wallace developed a passion for writing.

"It was like a strange force took my soul on a journey flight," James reflected. "The essence or beauty of whatever it was came back to me and tilted my pen sideways and I have been writing ever since."

Writing has been an eye-opener for the Frederick Douglass High graduate who was hampered by a speech impediment as a youngster.

"It (writing) gave me a new perspective of life," Wallace said. "It has been my rebirth."

The Calvert County native has written several screen plays, songs and poems.

Now he is out on parole, and Wallace is on a mission. He is hoping his writing skills will take him to the pinnacle of the entertainment world as a screen writer and director.

"I can offer a futuristic philosophy of making motion pictures," Wallace said. My movies would be appreciated by all races because they would involve people of all races."

James boasted that some of his screen plays are better than those people see on the big screen.

"My plays have universality and reality; that is why they are a degree higher than those being made today," he said. "But all I need is a break."

But Wallace says he has never gotten a break.

As a child, James stuttered uncontrollably. He still remembers the hurt and pain his speech impairment caused.

"I couldn't communicate with other people," Wallace said. "When you are a little different, society lets you know about it in a negative way."

Wallace is adamant that his handicap is what ultimately imprisoned him.

"I went to prison for murder but it was in self-defense, as a result of a confrontation in Baltimore," Wallace said. "The victim had a gun and I had to defend myself. But, I wasn't able to defend myself on the stand because of my speech and it cost me.

Wallace was convicted in 1975.

While in prison James began to write up a storm, producing one literary work after another. He has written 3,000 songs, 40 plays, 180 screen plays and four anthologies containing over 1,400 poems. His sister, Estelle, has gotten his work copyrighted.

"Screen plays have always been a part of me," James said smoothly. "But, the poetry and songs are the expression of my inner-most thoughts."

Wallace has sent some songs off to record companies. So far, he hasn't gotten any response.

Since his release from prison in October, Wallace has been writing and looking for work.

"I have been on 10 or 12 interviews and have passed six tests for the state," James said. "But everybody looks at my resume and sees the big gap between 1975 and 1987 and ask 'What have you done in between that time?'"

"I don't want to hide the fact that I went to prison because that is where I got my rebirth. So, I tell them and then I find out later I have been turned down for the job."

But, James said he is not bitter.

"I'm not out to get revenge because things are not going my way," James said. "I'm just going to keep trying and hopefully something will come through.

My aim is motion pictures and I am going to leave a legacy in that field."

Witness ties Mitchell to bogus loan

Continued from Page 1

in West Baltimore, told the court that Clarence Mitchell told him he wanted Hill to say that he (Hill) had given him $15,000 in cash in order to clean some questions the grand jury had about his financial records.

Hill agreed to prepare the phony documents for Mitchell to present to the grand jury, and told prosecutors in the trial that he never loaned Mitchell the money.

The government charges that Mitchell received at least $50,000 from "Little Melvin" Williams and attempted to conceal that information from the grand jury that was probing Williams' financial holding for possible income tax evasion.

Williams is serving a 30-year sentence for drug trafficking.

Williams' father-in-law, James Rogers testified earlier in the trial that he gave Mitchell $83,000 in consulting fees to help obtain city loans to redevelop a housing complex on Walbrook Avenue.

Williams' firm, Scrapp Investment, was denied the loan and Rogers said Mitchell never returned any of the money. Mitchell told the grand jury he received only $5,000 from Scrapp Investment.

The government was expected to complete closing arguments and defense attorneys would begin their closing arguments on Friday.

Simms to address Northwest police

Northwestern District Police Officers first Council meeting of the year is scheduled to be held Tuesday, Jan. 26, Northwestern District Police Station, 5271 Reisterstown Road.

Guest speaker will be Stuart O. Simms, state's attorney for Baltimore City.

For further information, call Sgt. Goldie Phillips, 396-2466.

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Police probing shooting at Eastside rowhouse

Baltimore Police are investigating a shooting incident at an East Baltimore rowhouse which left two men dead and two others wounded Wednesday night between 10:50 and 11 p.m.

According to police reports, Luke Maurice Porter, 26, of 1726 Cliftview Rd. was pronounced dead at 1026 Luzerne Ave. the scene where he was discovered lying face down with a single gunshot wound in the left back.

Another victim, James Kenneth Vanlandingham, 28, died at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He was found lying on his right side with a single gunshot wound to the chest.

Raymond Eugene Boyd, Jr. 22, of East Baltimore is in Johns Hopkins Hospital, listed in fair condition. He was shot once in the right leg.

Another survivor of the killing spree is Dennis Lionel Davis, 19, of Middle River, who is in Francis Scott Medical Center listed in serious but stable condition suffering from a single shot to the abdomen.

According to Agent Arlene Jenkins of the Baltimore City Police Department, Porter was returning to the house at Luzerne Ave. when he was accosted by the suspect and forced to the rear door. The gunman forced his way into the house and began shooting with a handgun at point-blank range, police said.

According to police, the shooting, which appeared to be drug-related, occurred in a first-floor, rear bedroom where the four victims were watching a basketball game on television.

Police reports indicate the gunman dashed out of the back door and was last seen running toward the 1000 block of N. Milton Ave.

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THE SOCIAL SCENE

Jack and Jill

PROUD COMMITTEE — Catherine McConnell, Riva Lewie, Shirley Hill, Doris Holmes, Ann Emory, Marion Patterson, Dorothy Johnson and Carolyn Willis celebrate at the recent Jack and Jill gala.

STAIRS OF BEAUTY — A bevy of beauties graces the stairs of the B&O Museum as they enjoy the night festivities at the recent Jack and Jill gala.

CANDID CAMERA — Doris Holmes. John Holmes, Catherine Marrie and Charles Howard are stopped by the camera as they socialize.

Inside the historic halls of the Mount Clare B&O museum, history of a different sort was being celebrated last Saturday.

Members of the venerable Jack and Jill organization, a social group of black parents and their children, celebrated more than 50 years of progress.

The organization was founded in 1938 in Philadelphia, and soon spread among coastal cities and Pittsburgh.

Today about 55 mothers coordinate activities for children involved in the organization. Activities range from camping trips, social events, and cultural tours.

Last Saturday, past and present members of the group met at the B&O museum to pay homage to their roots.

The overflow crowd enjoyed fine music, dancing and refreshments while reliving those memories of shared childhood experiences.

Carol Shervington-Wright served as chairperson of the anniversary affair, and did a splendid job coordinating the various generations of Jack and Jill members.

The walk down memory lane many experienced Saturday, Jan. 9 was an inspiring experience, and did much to renew the bonds of friendship which joined the former members in their youth.

The organization provided many with an opportunity to network as children, and in some cases those ties have continued into adulthood. For many who journeyed to predominantly-white colleges, the friendships made during Jack and Jill days transcended the miles that separated them from their families.

Although members are graduated from the organization once they leave high school, the ties that bind, the alliances made as youths in the Jack and Jill organization, still hold many of them.

JACK AND JILLS — Dr. Robert Draper, Wanda Dobson and Trena Brown.

ALL ABOARD! Adrian Powell and Christine Powell laugh it up as they admire a model train station during the Jack and Jill party.

LAUGH IT UP! — Dr. Guy Bragg, Gladys Bragg, Richard Hackney and Cynthia Webb laugh it up during the Jack and Jill affair. Gladys Bragg is president of the Organization.

JAN 1988