Annual city teacher awards are Friday

By Rosalyn M. Hamlett
AFRO Staff Writer

The Third Annual Teacher of the Year ceremony will take place Friday at the Hyatt Regency Hotel from 6:30-10 p.m. The award is sponsored by the Baltimore City Council of PTAs, which in recent years has brought recognition to the many teachers in the city school system.

Alfred Nance, who is chairman of the "Teacher of the Year" committee stated, "The salute to teachers and the 'Teacher of the Year' award is an opportunity for all of us to honor the many dedicated and committed teachers in the Baltimore City school system. Our teachers give endless hours to our children, stimulating young minds to reach their potential, often beyond their wildest dreams. We are pleased to announce that the nominations revealed one thing: There are many fine teachers who love teaching, still teaching.

Mrs. Jacquelyn Hardy, director of public relations for city schools, said, "We applaud the Baltimore City Council of PTAs for providing the opportunity to pay tribute to all outstanding teachers, not just the nominated ones. Teachers are in a profession where there is not always an opportunity for congratulations on a job well done. We thank the

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Mrs. Cynthia Cook

Mrs. Joan Tate Hammonds

Mrs. Hazel Hopewell

Mrs. Marian Quickly-Johnson

Drug bust nets cocaine, suspects, $30,000 in Monday raid on house

By Brion M. Tyson
AFRO Staff Writer

A six-month police investigation led to the seizure Monday of over two pounds of high purity cocaine, $30,000 in cash, and the arrest of four suspects who police believe were "close to the source," police spokesperson Arlene Jenkins said Wednesday.

According to Jenkins, a citizen complaint triggered police surveillance of a house in the unit block of South Paca Street.

"After we received the call, we used surveillance and other information gathering techniques," Jenkins told the AFRO.

Jenkins said that members of the Drug Enforcement Unit seized one kilo, which equals 2.2 lbs., of high grade cocaine with a street value of up to $3 million, and the money as they converged upon the suspected house at 5:30 Monday evening.

Jenkins said that authorities also seized various narcotics paraphernalia and jewelry during the bust and that the cocaine was between 85 to 90 percent pure.

"We consider this a substantial seizure because of the amount and purity of the cocaine. Once cut and packaged in $20 and $50 capsules, it would equal $3

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Jeffrey Levitt stays in jail; he may enter guilty plea Monday

By Myriam Marquez

(UPI) — Jeffrey Levitt, the ousted owner of Old Court Savings and Loan, sits in his jail cell in Jessup and waits for his upcoming criminal trial that will undoubtedly decide when the deposed multi-millionaire will see freedom again.

One year after the state removed Levitt from control of Old Court — an act that ignited a run on deposits at the Baltimore thrift May 9, 1985, and prompted the collapse of the state's privately insured thrift industry — Levitt is reportedly working on a book about his rise and fall.

Levitt and his wife, Karol, were found in contempt of court for spending more than $200,000 over their court-ordered $1,000 weekly spending limit imposed Sept. 18 by Baltimore Circuit Judge Joseph Kaplan. After losing their appeal to the state's highest court, the couple began serving prison sentences in January.

"He is being treated just as any other prisoner," said Beverly Marable, a spokeswoman for the State Department of Correction.

The 43-year-old son of Abraham and Netti Levitt from Brooklyn, N.Y., was raised by his middle-class parents in Baltimore and went on to marry Karol Lapides, a pudgy girl whose father amassed considerable wealth as a high-interest lender.

Jeffrey Levitt received his law degree from the University of Baltimore in 1967, but he concentrated his business dealings in real estate ventures, taking over his parents' rental property business that included about 100 houses. His law license was later suspended.

Levitt was not a stranger to Judge Kaplan before the thrift crisis. Kaplan had presided over numerous court hearings that stemmed from housing code violations at the Levitt-owned properties.

"He was generally known as a former slum landlord, who notoriously violated the housing codes," said a report compiled by Wilbur Preston, the special counsel who investigated the causes of the state's thrift debacle.

Jeffrey and Karol Levitt built a fortune around real estate, but the state claims Levitts' unwise investments and insider loans at Old Court brought on the demise of the thrift, which is now under going liquidation and has 34,000 depositors waiting for their funds.

On Jan. 30, Jeffrey Levitt began his 18-month sentence and was transferred to a one-person cell at the Maryland Correctional Institution, a medium-security facility in Jessup just south of BWI airport. His wife, who was sentenced to 15 consecutive weekends in jail, began her sentence Jan. 31, but was released after 12 weekends for good behavior.

Levitt, through his attorney Paul Mark Sandler, has refused to be interviewed.

Aside from a pending $200 million civil suit filed by the state against the Levitts and other Old Court officers, Jeffrey Levitt faces criminal charges for allegedly stealing $14.6 million from Old Court to line his own pockets. The criminal case is set for a hearing in June.

The Internal Revenue Service has seized about a dozen luxury

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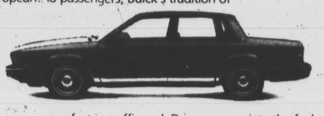

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FROM CHERNOBYL

Radioactivity found in state

(UPI) — State health officials said they have detected small amounts of radioactive material from the Chernobyl nuclear fire in air samples taken at seven monitoring sites across Maryland.

But officials said the levels are low and pose no health risk or health threat to state residents, but levels could increase if it rains.

Ray Feldmann, state health Environmental Programs spokesman, said "We were a little surprised. We had expected not to see anything from Chernobyl. The levels are low, but could get higher if it rains so we'll keep a close eye on it."

Feldmann said the levels found from samples collected last week and analyzed Monday evening showed the amount of radioactive material in the air is .4 percent higher than the Maximum Permissible Concentration for particulates in the air.

Small concentrations of iodine 131, cerium, cesium, barium, and ruthenium were found in the air but no radioactive materials has been found in milk, officials said.

Feldmann said the situation will be monitored daily and in the meantime people should not worry about "drinking water or swimming in swimming pools."

William Eichbaum, assistant secretary for state Environmental Programs, said, "We are confident that the very low levels we have recorded are well within established safety standards. No special precautions should be taken at this time."

Further milk analyses will continue.

Dr. Robert H. Chambers, president of Western Maryland College, (1), joins Peter Brooks, an honor graduate and recipient of the Student Government Leadership Award (who will be attending New York University in cinematography). Next is Mrs. Alice G. Pinderhughes, Baltimore City superintendent of public instruction, who received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree, with Dwain Woodley, an honor student and recipient of the Waghelstein Award in Athletics, who will attend the University of Maryland School of Law. Scene was recent Honors Convocation at the college.

WAGES LOW

Over half of police 'moonlight'

(UPI) — More than 50 percent of the city's 3,097 police officers hold other jobs in their off-duty hours to augment annual incomes that begin at $16,563, officials say.

Police spokesman Dennis Hill said 95 percent of those officers are patrolmen and women, who earn minimum salary.

Hill said the 2,400 officers face the highest violent crime rate in Maryland, but again earn less than their colleagues in other jurisdictions.

The department would rather officers do not moonlight, but understands why they do, the spokesman said.

"We'd prefer they didn't have to ... (but) we acknowledge the fact that they need more money," Hill said.

Officers must receive permission to hold an outside job or work extra hours for the city. Officers are limited to 20 additional hours a week.

A spokesman for Mayor Schaefer said the city does not have the money to provide salaries officials would like to pay police.

Salaries are "in direct line with what we can afford to pay. The city is very strapped for money," said Pat Bernstein, Schaefer's press secretary.

City police officers' counterparts in Baltimore County start at $19,480. The beginning salary for police officers in Prince George's County is $19,702 and $20,865 in Montgomery County.

At top of scale, patrol officers in Baltimore can earn no more than $25,827 after 25 years, Hill said.

After 20 years in Baltimore County, a patrol-rank officer earns $27,965. In Prince George's County, the salary is $28,496 after 18 years, and Montgomery County officers earn $33,593 after 13 years.

Hill said almost all requests for outside work are granted because "we feared we would start losing them (officers) to other jurisdictions or other industries."

Officers, however, cannot work for detective agencies or where liquor is sold.

One of the most popular ways of making extra money is working overtime for the city guarding public buildings for $9 an hour.

AMBASSADOR TO VISIT AFRO

Recruit more blacks, top diplomat says

By Rosalyn M. Hamlett
AFRO Staff Writer

Terence Todman, United States Ambassador to Denmark, will speak at Morgan State University's commencement exercises on Sunday, May 18, 1 p.m. at the Civic Center. Currently, he is the only black career Foreign Service officer assigned to a European country.

The only black diplomat to have headed five ambassadorial posts — Chad, Guinea, Costa Rica, Spain and now Denmark — Ambassador Todman is very critical of the fact that there are so few women and minorities, especially blacks, in the Foreign Service.

"The recruitment of blacks has not been a priority up to this point. In order to locate and then recruit qualified minorities into the Foreign Service, the process has to be pursued in a vigorous fashion. There are few women and minorities largely through neglect," he said.

In addition to Ambassador Todman, there are only five other blacks serving as ambassadors and only 254 blacks among the 4,014 Foreign Service officers serving in the U.S. and abroad. He acknowledges that efforts are being made to improve the low numbers, but maintains that increasing minority participation in the Foreign Services just "doesn't seem to be a priority with the State Department."

Ambassador Terence Todman

Ambassador Todman believes that the key to his work is communication and suggests to those blacks considering a career with the Foreign Service to hone their communication skills and get as much experience abroad as possible.

"There is a keen sense of 'dealing' with others. Being able to listen intently and hear what they are saying is essential to establishing relations with another country. Relaying that information to the U.S. accurately or communicating the policies of the U.S. to the foreign country in a persuasive manner are the skills of a diplomat," the ambassador said.

When asked what his greatest career challenge has been, he told the AFRO, "Challenges come up repeatedly. To be able to assist a country in gaining its independence, and establish a relationship based on trust is a challenge. An example would be Chad in 1966. President Sekou Toure was building a Soviet communist state. I moved into that situation of great tension and managed to establish communication and trust with Sekou Toure."

At presstime, Ambassador Todman was scheduled to visit the AFRO on Friday to meet with Publisher John H. Murphy, III, editors Robert W. Matthews and Paul Evans, and this reporter. He was to discuss key issues with which he is currently involved and be given a tour of the Baltimore home office of the 94-year-old newspaper company.

URBAN BARGAIN

Baltimore is 'hot' housing market

(UPI) — The nation's hottest residential markets are Dallas, Denver and Baltimore, that from a survey released by the nation's largest residential brokerage network.

The survey notes that in those three cities the prices of single-family homes are appreciating at an annual rate of 28 to 35 percent.

In Baltimore the RELO National Housing Report indicates, the cost of the average home rose 28 percent from $83,000 to $109,000. Washington boasts the fourth highest home prices in the nation with houses averaging close to $144,000.

Hospitality Job Fair

The Associated Placement and Guidance Service, in cooperation with the "Free State" Student Branch of the International Food Service Executives Association will be holding a Hospitality Job Fair/Products Seminar, Friday May 30, 1986 from 12 noon until 5 p.m. at Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn.

Over fifty employers and purveyors from the Hospitality Industry will have representatives available to discuss career opportunities and product information that relate to the Hotel and Restaurant Industries.

For further information, please contact Ed Sherwin, Essex Community College, Baltimore, Maryland 21237 (301) 522-1456 or Steve Landsman, Ecommics Laboratory, (301) 823-7122.

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