Flair Studio presents annual show, gives salute to women

The seventh annual fall fashion show and luncheon by Willa Bland's Flair Studio on Sunday at Martin's West attracted 500 guests.

Highlighting the affair was a show by Flair Studio models who wore outfits that were contributed by local designers.

The 1975 Flair Studio students who were introduced to the audience wore white dresses and carried white carnations with purple ribbons.

Background music for the show and luncheon was provided by the Don Bowie Emergency with dancing by Now and Company.

Now and Company is a group of nine women between 19 and 29-years-old. Ms. Charlotte B. Stewart, a graduate of Flair, is the choreographer of the group.

Other members of the dance group are Ms. Marlene Gough, Marguerite Curtis, Barbara Hawkins, Yvette Jackson, Dianne Lawton, Hanpy Mitchell, Christine Shanks, Bernadine Taller and Carolyn Wiggins.

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In observance of Women's International Year, Flair director Mrs. Bland salute 18 women community leaders, whom she described as "women who are doers in their homes and community and women who are living the best years of their lives now and challenge and inspire all of us."

Honorees were Beatrice Avery, specialist for the office of Reading in public schools; Dr. Doris Hall, director of Antioch College; Doris H. Reese, dean, Helen Fuld School of Nursing of Coppin State College; Ruth J. Pratt, Senior Educational Officer to the Superintendent of Public Education;

Also, Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell, cited as a lawyer, civil rights activist, political organizer and community advocate.

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Others cited were Pauline Brooks, owner of Pauline Brooks Boutique; Betty Brown, owner of Betty Brown's Beauty Salon; Juki Britton, owner, Industrial Sewing School; Ann Dyett, secretary, Morton and Dyett Funeral Homes.

Also, City Councilwoman Victorine A. Adams, Sen. Verda Welcome, Lutretia Bridgeforth, editor and publisher of Beauty Beat Magazine; Mary Clayburn, program director, Radio Station WWIN; Elizabeth Murphy Moss, the vice-president publisher, AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers;

And, Jody Jabion ,Public Relations director, Mondawmin Corporation; June Thorne, hostess, The Woman's Journal.

Also, Marion Banfield, social worker and family and children's advocate; Kathleen M. Carter, vice chairperson, Maryland Commission on the Status of Women.

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The presentation of certificates to students was made by Ms. Lutretia Bridgeforth, assisted by Mark Burrell, Happy Mitchell, Carolyn Wiggins and Gwendolyn Kellam.

Flair staff honored Mrs. Bland and presented her a bouquet of flowers. She received a standing ovation. A poem dedicated to her was read by Alfonso Artego Shaw.

Flair Studio students are:

Elva Baskins, Vonda Kay Baxter, Sherrlyn Alease Bostic, Rhonda Karen Brooks, Marguerite Carol Curtis, Drinda Ashlyn Dennis, Augustine Gonsalves Dixon, Joseph Carl Hewer, Marsha Holland;

Michelle Holland, Marsha Jeanette Jackson, Yvette Flynody Jackson, Gavin Eugene Johnson, Wanda Michelle Johnson, Dorothy Knight;

Dianne Patricia Postell

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FLAIR STUDIO—Some of the students who were graduated from Flair Studio on Sunday were from L to R: Dorothy Woods, Shawan Patterson, Baffy Mitchell, Augustine Dixon and Artego Shaw. In addition to the annual graduation, Ms. Bland cited several community women in commemoration of International Women's Year.

(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewyez)

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owner, Flair Studio, Inc.

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Rape: The victim

By Georgia Groves
Guest Columnist

(Contrary to the common belief that only pretty, young women are raped, the rapist does not take the time to "pick and choose."

There is no typical rape victim:

— She is an attractive, 18-year-old high school senior on her journey home through the park.

— She is a 28-year-old divorcee, mother of two, in the basement laundry room of her apartment complex, shortly past noon.

— She is a 14-year-old babysitter, who innocently answers the door for a neighbor.

— She is a five-year-old child, who willingly follows a stranger offering to give her candy.

— She is a 60-year-old woman living alone in the downtown area.

— She is a daughter, a mother and sister and a wife.

Almost any female may become a victim of the terrible crime. Factors such as virginity, homeliness, youth and old age, do not eliminate women from the probability of sexual assault.

Victims followed through the SAPP (Sexually Assaulted Persons Program) Clinic at Baltimore City Hospitals have ranged in age from 20 months to 60 years old.

Eventually, the effects of rape can be overcome, but it may be a long and miserable time of recovery.

Unfortunately, no studies have been done on the long-term effects of rape on the victim. However, it is known that rape can be physically and emotionally traumatizing.

There is no set pattern of response to rape, nor is there a set time for victims to recover.

The initial reaction usually strikes as shock, anxiety and agitation. The victim sometimes responds with crying spells and/or hysteria, but more often she is supernaturally calm.

She will probably not be thinking or acting rationally, at a time when it's very important that she recantivate the entire incident to police and physicians at the hospital.

Friends and family close to the victim also have different stress reactions, but it is very important to think clearly and comfort the woman, during a time of great need. However, she should not be forced to talk things over until she feels ready. Recovery takes place only at her own speed, but she needs someone who is supportive and understanding.

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Your questions and comments are welcomed. Send all inquiries to: Georgia Groves, Department of Medical Social Work, Baltimore City Hospitals

Q: What happens to children who are abused sexually?

A: Please read next week's article on the sexually assaulted child. Your question will be addressed thoroughly.

Q: Why are there so many unreported rapes?

A: One of the most common sexual assaults occurs on a date or when a man visits a female friend's home. Under these circumstances, rape is very difficult to prove and probably accounts for the majority of unreported rapes.

A lot of raped women are too humiliated to inform police. An estimated 80 per cent of all rapes are not reported. Some women don't report the rape because they are fearful of their attacker's return.

A lot more do not want to embarrass their family and decide to handle the situation privately, or "forget the whole thing." Until recently there was very little or no encouragement for the incident to police

If you are raped, it is very important that you report the incident to police immediately. Be sure to seek medical attention, somewhere, as soon as possible.

MS. GEORGIA GROVES

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The Rev. Lyndsai Pitts roasted at his retirement luncheon

"Dean Martin, eat your heart out," were the words of Mrs. Josephine Tunstall, Commissioner of the Urban Services Agency (USA).

Mrs. Tunstall was assessing the roasting of the Rev. Dr. Lyndsai Pitts at his retirement luncheon, held Friday at the Central Social Hall on Valley St.

The Rev. Dr. Pitts, director of the Saratoga Street Center, is retiring after 10 years with the agency. He is also pastor of First Mount Calvary Baptist Church.

Alvin Steele, director of the Cherry Hill Center, was roastmaster. He ccorlivated the audience with his make-believe telegrams and letters and introductions of fellow roaster.

Amonz them were, a letter from the Pratt Street center which simply read, "Turkey"; telegram from the Youth Development Department, "Keep on [illegible]"; from Pleasant Plains, "Why not go for broke and kill two birds with one stone?"; from the staff, "Good-bye and good riddance."

• • •

Roasters included the Rev. Dr. Pitts' former supervisor, Mrs. Roberta Ross, chief of the Mayor's stations, and the Multi-purpose Centers.

She read an original poem which alluded to the fact that The Rev. was a lover of chicken.

Jokes and innuendoes kept the audience laughing.

His present supervisor, Reginald Hebb told the joke about a man going to the cemetary to see if a man really was buried. He concluded that the crowd represented there was just to see if Lyndsai really was resigning.

There was more laughter when Mrs. Judy Bennett, director of Wilkins Ave. center read the Rev. Dr. Pitts' "will" in which he bequeathed that the unfortunate soul who followed him would complete the task he never did.

And, when former associate worker, Roland Ganges, now with the Department of Education, quipped, "I hope you are not resigning because you were going to be fired."

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Still more outbursts came when Mrs. Helen Odom, director of North Ave. center, revealed that Dr. Pitts resigned so he could devote his time to writing, but she said, "If you are familiar with his penmanship, learning to write would be more like it."

Assistant director of the Cherry Hill center and former member of the Rev. Dr. Pitts' staff, John Robinson, told a few "facts" about Dr. Pitts' life.

"For example," he joked, "He received his B.D. from Howard University after 7½ years of study and finished 32nd in his class of 33. And, because he likes to use more than five-syllable words, we present him this (well-used) dictionary."

Wendell Wright, chief of neighborhood development, added, "I was never sure if he was Rev. Pitts or Counselor Pitts because his church was nearby. Hopefully we will not replace him with another reverend."

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On the serious side, Mrs. Mae Williams who had worked with Dr. Pitts when the agency started, stated, "He has been an inspiration to many, and a worthy example to us all." She presented the staff gift.

Other well wishes came from Dr. Douglass F. Camper, Sr., who saluted him as a "rat" brother in Phi Beta Sigma and long-time friend; and a former co-worker, Oliver Brown.

Russell Sutton, maintenance man in the center presented him with a gift.

Also, Mrs. Mary Sollers, [illegible] former commissioners, who [illegible] Pitts with a plaque, "for 10 years of dedicated service."

Mrs. Sollers warned Dr. Pitts that he was "going to be a retired person bothered by everybody."

It was hilarious when Mrs. Warren used Bible quotations to describe Dr. Pitts' retirement. For example, "The Devil in Heaven is now come down

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AT ROASTING — Retirement luncheon for the Rev. Lyndsai Pitts Sr., given by Urban Services staff featured presentation of several gifts. Here, Lenwood Ivey, Urban Services Agency exec, left, presents an award.

Catonsville Notes

By Liz Williams

"Get Well" cards to Service Outlaw who is out of the hospital and is recuperating at home.

Sympathy cards to the family of William Talbott, the longtime resident of Druid Hill Ave., who died November 16. Funeral Thursday at Nutter Funeral Home.

He was the father of Lucille (Franklyn) Williams, the retired school principal.

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Several months ago the Senior Choir and Missionary Society of Morning Star Baptist Church paid tribute to Mrs. Mae Green Hall, who has demonstrated to our community the true meaning of — Faith, Trust, Determination, Perseverance and Courage.

Among the community groups saluting her were the Emma Williams Temple, the Catonsville Civic League, Grace AME Church, Mt. Olivet ME Church, the Golden Age Group, Full Gospel Tabernacle, the Jackson

(Continued on Page 44)

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