CURRENT COMMENT

LESLIE KING HAMMOND ON THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY

Seek and you shall find

By Dr. Leslie King Hammond
Dean Graduate Studies, Maryland Institute of Art

Since the appearance of this column serveral inquiries have surfaced regarding where one can find original works by black artists to purchase.

What follows is a cross section of institutions, schools, community centers and professional art dealers and galleries located in the Baltimore area which offer a wide price range of available works for sale.

Before embarking on your quest for original work, or any art reproduction for that matter, one should understand a few reasons why people collect art. Some collectors buy art simply because they enjoy looking at that piece and would like to live with it in their homes or offices. Other collectors see original art as an investment. These people purchase art works according to their belief, as well as what the market indicates, that the work will increase in value. After a few years the original is sometimes sold for a considerable profit.

Finally, there are those individuals who combine the principals of enjoyment and appreciation with investment interest to form the basis in their selections of paintings, sculptures, prints or crafts. It is very important to note at this point that it is not necessary to "know" anything about art. You are your own best judge. To "like" a particular artifact is sufficient reason to purchase it.

There are several levels at which one may start to seek out the work of black artists. Since this survey will be confined to Baltimore, I will start with community based resources.

The Third World Museum, the Timbuktu Writer and the Model Cities Cultural Arts Program provide Baltimore City with three of the oldest and most continuous centers of community interest and activity.

One need only call and request to be notified about upcoming exhibitions and art related activities. These centers will be only too happy to include you in their programs and encourage you to patronize their local artists.

Next there is the alternative of the young black student-artist. Fortunately, a number of schools exist in the area with long-established degree programs in art. Some of these include Morgan State University, the Community College of Baltimore, Coppin State College, Towson State University and most especially, the Maryland Institute, College of Art.

In many instances each of these schools have their own art galleries. A call to any of the Departments of Fine Arts or directly to the Maryland Institute can make direct contacts for student work which is available for purchase. This is a terribly important and vital approach which not only provides a good source of quality work but is extremely necessary to show full support and encouragement for the young, aspiring black artist.

Next there is the professional art gallery and-or dealer. Baltimore has two such establishments which specialize in the works of African-American artists. Pegasus Art Box and Phase One Studio provide unique opportunities to locate practicing artists in this city. Among the many artists which are exhibited in these galleries one can find the ex-offender, the self-taught as well as the professionally trained individual.

Then there are those galleries and dealers who handle a wide range of art works which include the works of the usually higher priced, more nationally and internationally established black artists. Even if this option is somewhat out of line with your budget it is well worth a visit to these places to see what they might have of interest.

Take a look at the holdings of the Tomlinson Collection, The Baltimore Arts Tower, Ferdinand-Roten Galleries, The Baltimore Museum of Art Sales and Rental Gallery and The Morris Mechanic Gallery. (There is still one week left to see the "Baltimore Black Arts Calendar Retrospect" show at the Mechanic which closes Friday, Dec. 2).

Contrary to most popular beliefs, original art is affordable. Money does not have to be a major deterrent to your personal and cultural development. Most galleries, art dealers and artists themselves now include financial arrangements which will allow you to pay for such works in installments as well as providing the convenience and service of major credit card privileges.

This is but a brief overview of market resources in the visual art scene in Baltimore City. Many more avenues of exploration are waiting to be discovered, much to the delight of the artist as well as yourself. Happy hunting!

CECELIA W. BRYANT

Part I A consideration for black American women

Mrs. Cecelia W. Bryant is a church leader and lecturer.

"It's Nation Time!," was the response to the question asked over and over again, in the late 1960s: "What time is it?"

Amir Baraka (Leroi Jones) asked, Don L. Lee asked, Heywood Henry asked, James Forman asked, Stokely Carmichael asked.

If there is anything conspicuous about the rhetoric, the dialogue, the movement today, it is that we do not seem to know what time it is. This could well be an indication that we are in process and this is good.

However, a sermon I heard preached recently by the Rev. Vernon Dobson, jarred my consciousness and again I found my very soul inquiring as to the TIME. The portion which sounded the alarm said in essence "it is the black woman who determines the kind of manhood that takes form in our community."

Following a conversation with him later on about the matter, I affirmed his assessment of the negative impact of racism on black family structure and functioning.

We explored the implications of those critical formative years of early childhood development and agreed that for such a time as this the black church must fire the impetus of our people for the sustaining and development of a healthful value system inwardly and launching an effective assault against the ubiquity of racial prejudice.

Sojourner Truth asked a question that I must also ask at this time, "Aren't I A Woman?"

What this amounts to in 1977 is not merely an individual concern but a consideration for African-American womanhood.

The address by Forbes Burnham, Prime Minister of Guyana, regarding the State Paper On Equality For Women may be considered to be a thorough exploration of the attitude toward women in a developing society.

Black Americans may legitimately consider themselves a developing people: economically, politically, socially. However, our presence and marginal participation in affluent North America has allowed us to camouflage our identity as such.

The pros and cons of black women participating in the Women's Liberation Movement have exhaustive sources and resources. The Burnham address invites us to focus our attention on collective development rather than individual achievement based upon sex.

Said Burnham: "It is not merely a question, either, of being consistent in semantic terms but a question, as I see it, not only of admitting the intrinsic, human worth of the so-called 'fairer sex,' but also of ensuring the maximum deployment of our resources in the building of our country."

The treasure in this declaration lies in the subtle distinction between freedom "from" and freedom "to." The woman's movement of the larger society has so focused a consciousness based on self-removal that in its residue there is an abundance of individualism, isolationism and permissiveness, each of which is inconsistent with "other-ward" responsibility.

This is in no way to decry the need for a liberation event in the life experience of black women; but rather it is to point out the necessity that it be formed in the reference frame of our heritage and common struggle as a people. Development like liberation is an absolute. As long as we are not each secure, we are all in peril.

"The development of Guyana would be hastened if we were to make full use of the human resources represented by our women. But let me say two things: Some slaves — and they are indeed slaves — have to be liberated, but some slaves cease being slaves intellectually and liberate themselves." Again, Burnham.

And so it is not to ignore the importance of consciousness; but rather to give very real consideration to the content of consciousness that we examine the Burnham address.

Next week, Part II

FOR ALL WE KNOW

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

City Editor

BETHEL AME racks up another record with its Harambee (God working through us) Market Place due a Grand Opening today Friday at the church, Lanvale and Druid Hill, at 6 p.m. and continuing Nov. 26, 27 and Dec. 2 through 24. Don't Miss it.

FANTASTIC hand - made gifts, yule cards, home-cooked goods, everything the flea - market goer dearly loves. Can't wait for the glorious and inspired display of fine, original creations. Now that's what you call a shopping opportunity and better than anything downtown.

OH, GOD — The J. F. Theatres' movie starring George Burns is a show you should not miss. It's great with meaning and reflects the old story about human beings failing to recognize the Savior when He comes.

HENRY CHRISTOPHE, an historic epic based on the rise and reign of Haiti's legendary black king, is being filmed in Port-Au-Prince and we're going soon to see the $3 million production in the picturesque republic in the West Indies.

JOHN AMOS has the title role in the movie which is titled "The Man" and will be completed next year. At this moment, some $4,500,000 is being spent restoring Haiti's monuments.

1978 MOVIES will also include James Earl Jones as the lead in the autobiography of Dick Gregory.

BACKING Little El at the Civic Center last Saturday were pretty Baltimore singers Mary E. Wright, Marilyn Fielder, Marty Springer and Kathleen Garrett, Rochester, N.Y.

The man 'Lil El" is making the topline as he poses as Elvis Presley.

BACKSTAGE we saw pretty Cindy German, Bernice Lee, James Brown, Steu German, Joe Ray and the cutest lil kid, Marilyn Fielder. Also, Mayor Schaefer and a special group in orchestra seats. Filling up the audience were plenty of Glen Burnie, Highlandtown, Dundalk folks complete with old - time ducktail haircuts, sideburns and leather jackets. Handsome couples: Juanita and Earl Williams.

MRS. KENNETH (JEAN) WILSON, picked by President Carter for a White House commission, is a good choice. She's smart as can be, beauteous and possesses a winning personality.

FR. FRANK at the purple temple, Madison and North, did it again with 391 Monday to complete four straight weeks of success "on the nose."

81 ST ANNUAL SESSION, Myra Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star (PHA) last week at the Willard W. Allen Temple, was as regal as ever with Ruth M. Perry and Charlie Smith as grand worthy matron and patron. Samuel T. Daniels, 33 degree Mason, is grand master and James T. Dorsey, deputy.

THANKSGIVING DINNER at Peter Pan Inn, Urbana, Md. was complete with Indian corn pudding.

RAY CHARLES at Ocean City's Fenwick Hotel for the TG weekend and has a record crowd of the elite who like evening glitter after quiet walks along the winter beach.

REV. AND MRS. KELLY JACKSON are at home Dec. 4, 4 to 6 p.m., to honor Rev. John Wesley and Mrs. Coleman.

DEC. 9 is the Baltimore Marketing Association affair at the Hilton for honoree Otis Warren. Harold Young is president, Ed Lynch, chairman.

TG POEM by Dorothy C. Alves, "Just Having A Talk with the Lord About Thanksgiving" says: Lord, I've been listening to them brag about turkey, cranberry sauce, cornbread dressing and sweet potato pie; corn on the cob and, my, oh, my pig tails cooked in sour kraut, collard greens with big pig nuckles.

"They're looking at me out of the corner of their eyes and I try hard not to cry 'cause I'm just setting my table with hot dogs and pork and beans and ain't gonna worry about the turkey and the greens. All by myself anyway. So, to me Thanksgiving is just another day. Oh, but I do thank you Lord, if I may, for just being here."

MICHAEL RASHID BILALIAN PERSPECTIVES:

Enemies of manhood

(Minister Rashid is spiritual leader, World Community of Islam, Baltimore)

As a community, we should give some close attention to the effects of unemployment, or idleness upon our men. "Idleness is the devil's workshop" is an old saying that has much meaning for us today.

What does idleness happen to the physical body when a person just sits around and fail to use his muscles. The muscles deteriorate and the person gets weak.

But how many of us stop to think about the effects of idleness on the real Human body that lives inside the physical body?

Our will power, our moral, spiritual and mental natures, all depend upon activity and work to stay healthy. If we allow the difficulty of finding a job to cause us to stagnate and be idle, then we are really on the way to destruction as human beings.

Some of us allow the tight job market to stagnate us and what is the result? We sit down and are unable to think because of that confusion. Our mental sharpness decreases. Some of us draw unemployment, but what will we do when that runs out? Mental dullness. Welfare for some.

But welfare is not enough for some. Then, what is next? Stealing and cheating, suicide, uppers, downers, crossways, backwards, under, heroin, cocaine, whatever? All of these are anti-human developments that can come in our life from idleness and laziness.

What can you do if you can't find a job to avoid all of this destruction to yourself?

You can make a job for yourself! You can get a bucket and a rag and go from house to house, business to business and offer to wash people's windows, rake their leaves, wash their houses, paint, clean the rug, or any other odd job around the house or business. You would be surprised at how much money can be made doing this type of thing.

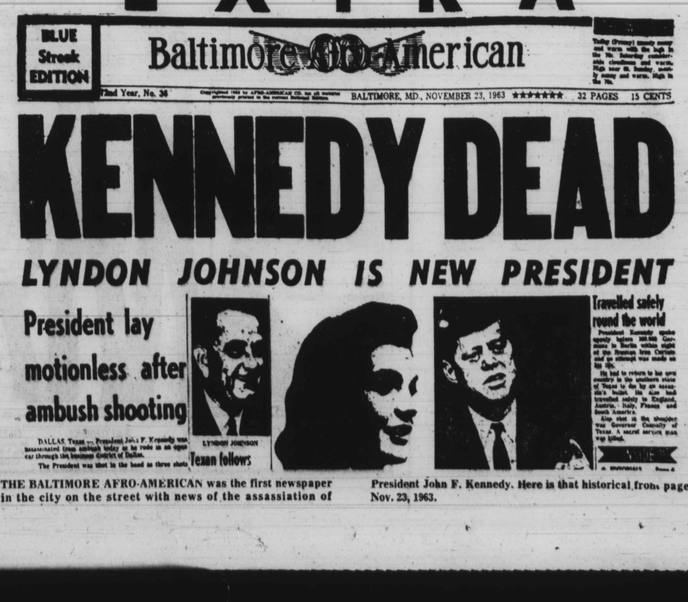
A friend of mine, refusing to be idle, used to go to Pimlico and any place people gathered around town and sell his wife's chicken sandwiches. Today he is the owner of a successful carryout restaurant in the city. Horatio Alger? No. A man refusing to be a boy? Yes'. By all means.

Many of us are too "intelligent" to even think of going around and asking to do people's windows. But if we're so "intelligent" then we should also be too "intelligent" to just sit around, idle and lazy, and wait for someone to help us when we won't help ourselves.

If we are too "proud" to do that, then we should also be too "proud" to let our images as MEN, as providers and maintainers and supporters for our families, be destroyed just because we were layed off, or cannot find a job.

Idleness, stagnation and laziness are the greatest enemies to manhood in our community!

THE AFRO: the way we were, Nov. 23, 1963



EXTRA

BLUE Streak EDITION

Baltimore Afro-American

Final Year, No. 36 — BALTIMORE, MD., NOVEMBER 23, 1963 ★★★★★★★ 32 PAGES 15 CENTS

Today (Friday) mostly sunny and warm with the high in the 70s. Tonight fair and mild. Saturday mostly sunny and warm. High in the upper 70s.

KENNEDY DEAD

LYNDON JOHNSON IS NEW PRESIDENT

President lay motionless after ambush shooting

DALLAS, Texas — President John F. Kennedy was assassinated from ambush today as he rode in an open car through the business district of Dallas.

The President was shot in the head as three shots

LYNDON JOHNSON

Texan follows

Travelled safely round the world

President Kennedy spoke briefly before 40,000 Democrats in Dallas within eight hours of his death. Texas Governor John Connally, who was also shot and is critically ill, was with him.

He had to return to his own country in the aftermath of the assassination of Texas by an assassin's bullet. In now had travelled safely in England, Austria, Italy, France and South America.

Also shot at the banquet was Governor Connally of Texas. A secret service man was killed.

THE BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN was the first newspaper in the city on the street with news of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Here is that historical front page of Nov. 23, 1963.

OPINION

founded August 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. of Baltimore City Inc. Carl Murphy (1889-1967) Editor-publisher (1922-1967).

A Thanksgiving hope for peace

Mid-East Peace-Our View

The Egyptians are rather touchy about being defined as Africans even though they are black and citizens of one of the largest nations in North Africa.

They would prefer to be identified as citizens of Islam, a religious community which transcends national origin.

We prefer at this point in time for our own best political interests to regard the Egyptians as Africans who happen to be Muslims in the main.

And so it is with much hope this Thanksgiving we observe the ongoing talks between Egypt's President Sadat and Israel's Prime Minister Begin.

We wish all parties well and hope negotiations end in a lasting peace in the Middle East.

We understand the agony of the displaced Palestinians, who truly are a people without self-determination, and hope they emerge with honor and are treated justly as Egypt and Israel, the region's two super-powers, move toward settlement.

We understand the thousand-year ordeal of the Jews and see in that history conditions parallel to our continuing status as citizens in this country without complete self-determination. And with that history we are compassionate.

Our particular interest in a Middle East settlement, in candor, apart from wishing an end to bloodshed, is that peace in this region will allow Egypt to think "African" hopefully.

Portions of black Africa, particularly what is called the Union of South Africa, the racist regime controlled by a white minority for nearly a century, are still under the oppressor's heel — some foreign, some native African, all unenlightened.

When Egypt can think with more focus about their fellow Africans to the South, that means one more element of unity is introduced to the combined struggle of black Africa against its remaining oppressors.

With a just peace in the Middle East in the near distance black Africa becomes the next international arena of diplomacy.

Black thinkers in America, from our days of slavery, on have made the point that what happens to Africa is what ultimately happens to those of us of African descent in this nation and vice versa.

A strong black Africa, self-determining, is a major factor in our survival here.

We must watch what Sadat and Begin are able to accomplish from our own unique perspective based on the realities of our own unique position.

Ms. Lena K. Lee

Delegate Lena K. Lee has long been one of our strongest city political leaders and can take much credit for encouraging black women to participate vigorously in all levels of political activity.

But alas, Ms. Lee has angry words for this newspaper, based on what we think is either mutual mis-perception or regrettable past history.

Responding to an AFRO news feature, a new department "Q. and A." Delegate Lee writes:

"Why did the "AFRO-AMERICAN," in its edition of October 22, 1977, 86th year, volume 20, page 8, Q and A, permit unnamed persons to indicate a feud between two well-known black women, namely, Delegate Lena K. Lee and Senator Verda F. Welcome, thereby denigrating them, and inferentially insulting other black women who endure hardships in order to serve the community?"

We do not quite see that the reader's question which asked if the two women politicos disliked each other is the insult to black women Ms. Lee perceives.

AFRO Q. and A. is a readers' forum.

The little man or woman often is fearful of asking any kind of question about anyone in the so-called limelight and so we protect our readers even as we seek to give honest answers to queries they have on their minds.

Delegate Lee goes on to discuss some church politics and differences with persons in no way connected with the editorial policies of this newspaper as had been explained to her in a very cordial meeting with the new AFRO management in the Spring.

But Ms. Lee is on thoughtful ground when she states:

"All women know that I am a "woman's woman." Touch a woman." Touch a woman and I get ready to do battle! That has been my conduct towards Senator Welcome.

"The instances wherein I have cooperated with him are numerous and some are public. She and I split — she is conservative; I am activist. We have never been ill-bred enough to get mad over ideologies.

"We split over the grievous action of the Morgan University Board of Regents. Her loyalty and mine diverged.

Out here facing black people are many sophisticated and devious mechanisms and plans for the genocide of our people. Blacks don't seem able to sense it.

"It, therefore, becomes essential that every inch of space in a great informational and educational channel such as the "AFRO-AMERICAN" be used to go about the business of dealing with our almost insurmountable problems. We are not an informed people and ought not to be cheated by those upon whom we depend.

"Shame, "AFRO." You allowed yourself to be used by birdbrains who had a crow to pick and a powerful weapon to employ surreptitiously."

As we said Delegate Lee has long been one of our strongest leaders, add critic, friend.

It's always refreshing to hear her point of view. However, we must point out to Ms. Lee, that no one uses us. A question about public personalities was asked, we answered and the issue, in our minds, stands resolved.

But as the new editor said to an assemblage of politicians last Spring the AFRO maintains its right to take a close look at all politicians and to deal with politics independently.

We have no enemies list. We are about fairness and from a look at both our editorial staff and contributing writers much of the AFRO's strength derives directly from the skill and productivity of black women.

As if Delegate Lee didn't know that already!

Compassion at Thanksgiving

Some 23 young men with the average age of 23 enrolled in Threshold, a community correction facility, voted this week to take up a collection for the AFRO's Mrs. Santa.

They collected $72 and presented the check to Mrs. Santa this past Tuesday in the hope that some families could be helped in time for Thanksgiving.

At the same time, officers and members of the Skyscraper Emergency Aid Radio and Community Helpers, collected more than $300, bought 20 baskets complete with turkey and all the trimmings for a good Thanksgiving dinner for the needy.

The Skyscrapers, formed two years ago, are dedicated to helping burned out families.

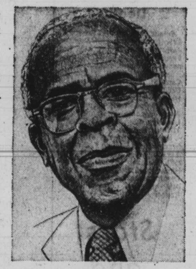
These young men and women have CB radios, good jobs and well-tailored red blazers as a club uniform.

Both of these groups share a compassion for other people. The young men in Threshold have to spend six months to a year at the facility while they find jobs and a place to live.

At this Thanksgiving time we are grateful to these young men and women for sharing and caring. We hope that more of you, after reading Mrs. Santa's cases will also share and care.

G. JAMES FLEMING

NOW AND THEN: Behind one-judge nomination



There is rightful complaint over the fact that the Appellate Judiciary Nominating Commission saw fit to nominate only one black candidate for the State Court of Appeals, out of six blacks who applied. On the other hand, the commission nominated four whites out of just seven white applicants.

Don't blame those who cry "racism." Certainly, someone has established an unofficial quota, and has conspired to have only one black judge on the state's highest court and perhaps, also, on the next highest level, the Court of Special Appeals.

The real core of the matter is not that Harry A. Cole was nominated instead of Joseph Howard (both presently on the circuit court level). The rub is that only one black was nominated, with the conspirational intention referred to above.

This should not be surprising. That is the pattern. Those with power and position do not share them or give them up easily, and they will not give up anymore than they must when sharing cannot be avoided. Those benefited can only expect the minimal.

More blacks registered to vote and voting every election day is a giant step towards getting greater recognition and more "plums." Just as important is organization, political organization organization with capacity to finance itself and its projects.

Until there is change of attitude in the society, attitude as reflected by the most recent judicial nominations, we must make the best of what is in hand. That means throwing notable community support behind the naming of Judge Cole to the Court of Appeals. As this column has pointed out in an earlier issue, he is eminently qualified.

A gain was made last week in the appointment by Acting Gov. Blair Lee III, of Archie D. Williams, veteran Democrat and lawyer, to the Orphans Court of Baltimore City. He has long deserved some recognition in this direction.

Talking of judge-to-be Williams as a Democrat reminds us that several commentators have referred to Judge Harry Cole as being a Republican. This is always said as if such membership should, or might, be a deterrent to his being named to the Court of Appeals.

The truth is that, at best, our courts should represent different political segments of the state just as they should reflect the racial and economic differentiation of its people.

The question, on naming a judge, should be: "Is he or she qualified"? "Does he or she come into court with clean hands"? "Is he or she sensitive to the times"?

To another matter just as important. This column associates itself with Mayor William Donald Schaefer and others who believe in "affirmative action" in reference to the Inner Harbor city-owned marina.

Granting the operational franchise to Kenneth Wilson, Baltimore businessman and advertising vice president of the AFRO, is no favor to a black person, just because he is black. This column has known Wilson as a boatsman for years. He has certainly had to use marinas and so is not unknowledgeable. In addition, he is an all-around businessman, is well-acquainted with the city's other businessmen, and has an A-1 credit rating.

We doubt that the president of General Motors or Ford can actually build an automobile but he can hire men and women to design, build and market cars. He can be president of the company — and later, chairman of the board.

In passing, there is good news out of Louisiana. The people of New Orleans have recently elected a non-white as mayor. He is Ernest Morial, an attorney and a former judge of New Orleans.

Another Louisiana lawyer seems on the way to become a federal district judge in the Mardi Gras city. President Carter has sent to the Senate the name of Magistrate Robert F. Collins, with the endorsement ("blessings") of the two senators from the state, Russell B. Long and J. Bennett Johnston.

Something is happening in Dixie, all due to the fact that blacks now can vote, and do vote, in large numbers. Baltimore could well be a "copy-cat."

WASHINGTON REPORT: PARREN J. MITCHELL

Debt collection practices are law!

(Mr. Mitchell represents Maryland's 7th District in the U.S. House of Representatives.)

Recently there have been a very large number of inquiries to my office about whether or not there exists a law spelling out what debt collectors can and cannot do. The answer is YES! It is the Debt Collection Practices Act, Public Law 95-109, passed by the Congress and signed by President Carter Sept. 20, 1977.

The Congress and the president have moved to put an end to unfair and unethical bill collection activities by passing this law. The Debt Collection Practices Act is aimed at prohibiting abusive and harassing tactics.

In Public Law 95-109, for example:

1) There is a general rule against harassing or intimidating any person followed by specified examples that include:

... use of abusive or profane language;

... use of violence or other criminal means to harm the physical person, reputation, or property of any person and

... making harassing or threatening phone calls or visits to a consumer at home or work.

2) There is a general rule against making any false or misleading representations followed by specified examples that include:

... false representation that a debt collector is acting for or on behalf of the U.S. government or any state government;

... false representation that any individual is an attorney and

... threatening to take any action that cannot legally be taken or that is not intended to be taken.

3) There are strict but fair limits to debt collectors' contacts with a consumer, his spouse, his employer or other third parties.

4) Debt collectors are required to validate a debt if the consumer disputes it in writing.

5) There is criminal liability for willful and knowing violation of the bill (consistent with the Consumer Credit Protection Act).

6) There is a prohibition against certain unfair debt collection practices such as soliciting post-dated checks for the purpose of threatening criminal action.

7) There is a prohibition against any person furnishing certain debt collection related forms if that person has reason to know the forms will probably be used to deceive consumers as to the source of the collection effort.

8) In legal actions, debt collectors are limited as to where they may bring suit, how process may be served and how they may utilize certain public employees in connection with debt collection.

This law is not meant to allow people to avoid paying legitimate debts, nor will it have that result. Debt collection can be done successfully in a reasonable and honest manner.

Probably almost everyone of us can remember at least one time, usually during our childhood, when we had to go to the front door and tell the bill collector, "Mother (or dad) is not home and I don't know what time they will be back." Such a line often provided the saving grace for another week, or possibly another month, depending on the particulars of the "easy payment plan," until ends could be met.

It seemed as if both our parents and the collector knew that as soon as the necessary funds were raised, payment would be made in full and, therefore, further confrontation would be of benefit to no one.

We certainly knew, on the other hand, that our parents were doing the very best that they could under adverse economic circumstances and the bill would be paid at the sacrifice of several good dinners, or a warm coat for school, or some other basic need.

The even greater tragedy is that far too many cases exist of persons being harassed on their jobs, threatened with court action, being disturbed at all hours of the night and being forced to operate under the fear of personal property repossession for debts which are not even legitimate or exist as a result of a "computer error."

A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT: MADELINE MURPHY

Part III: black working women

The new slaves

By Madeline W. Murphy and Howard P. Rawlings

Recently, in an interview with a male and female worker from Bethlehem Steel, one a welder, the other a machinist, they listed the following kinds of harassment: false charges of destruction of company property, insubordination, low production ending in firing and no unemployment compensation. Interrupting this now familiar litany of harassment against black working women, the man said, "Once it used to be the black male, who was treated like a slave, but now women, especially black women, are the 'new n——s.'" And it seems most of these case histories mirror the designation.

"Let's face it," he continued, "down at the plant, they don't even take women seriously. Because they don't want 'em, it's not 'women's work.'"

Threaded throughout the recitals of sexual harassment, propositions, sophisticated cruelty has been this need on the part of fearful males to scapegoat so that women can bear the brunt of male frustration, hate, fear and envy.

Furthermore, with training programs that will release women prisoners directly to jobs at Sparrows Point, an end to complaints will be welcomed. The threat that they will be returned to serve out their sentences will keep them docile, pliable slaves. They will replace women from welfare rolls who have trained to work at the point, because the former will be a lot easier to control and exploit. And the latter will be relegated again to welfare. While the real culprits, company management in concert with labor, can blithely look the other way when while supervisors offer money in exchange for sexual favors that will include lighter work assignments.

And concluding our two case histories this week of young black women, the pattern continues, where competent, assertive, productive black females are radically rewarded with destructive, devisive actions ending in job terminations and negative references.

Take the case of Ms. C, an academic administrator in an urban educational institution who had had nine years related experience. Given free reign to take the initiative and be innovative, she developed a program that was lauded within and outside the institution to such an extent that she was called upon to share her expertise and resources with other agencies. And though she had been included in management meetings, as an asset, there began a shift in attitude about her ideas.

She was targeted for special sexist remarks from her male supervisors. In addition, she was openly propositioned and her rebuff resulted in a chain of memos questioning her actions, her judgement. Verbal abuse and harassment by phone and in person undermined her efforts and even damaged her credibility within and outside the institution. She finally received a letter of reprimand from her immediate supervisor which, though praising her professional accomplishments, made immediate demands for her to like him or lose her job. She appealed to higher authorities in the institution, but her problem was not resolved. Even worse, like a rape victim, the onus of sexual advances was placed upon her rather than upon the offender. The psychological and physical toll upon Ms. C caused her to quit, and she remains unemployed.

In the case of Ms. D, a health professional in a primary care center and director of one of the program components with seven years prior experience, the program she developed increased clientele ten-fold. She wrote grant proposals which resulted in expansion of programs and resources. She was requested to do special assignments for the director of the center. Her hard work and dedication was lauded always from outside the center, but never acknowledged from within.

Perhaps because she refused to mix her social life with her professional life, a pattern of harassment evolved against her. She was required to assume responsibility for more and more special projects because of her recognized efficiency and dependability. When the projects were completed, Ms. D was by-passed for commendation while more favored sociable employees received credit for her work. Eventually, this negative behavior which was initially confined to administrators pervaded the entire professional structure and Ms. D was looked upon as non-cooperative and anti-administration, even by her co-workers.

Within this atmosphere she received a phone call during which she was told to "shut up and stop acting like a child" after she had asked a question of her superior. She refused to accept this kind of verbal abuse and was fired on the spot by phone. On the same day she received a letter of termination from this administrator which was approved by the director of the center.

Ms. D filed an internal grievance within the agency. The outcome of this case and the other cases will be discussed in the next article.

Since this series was begun, scores of women besides those interviewed from all kinds of jobs want their stories told.

They recognize in these case histories the same patterns of abuse and harassment they have experienced. It is hoped that in our final article, when we discuss remedies, that black women will decide to organize across artificial class barriers, so that they will develop the kind of strength needed to sustain the battle, comfort one another and finally put an end to sexist, racist repression.

Letters

Hard line against drugs

Dear AFRO:

I am writing this letter because as a private citizen and a congressional candidate, I am completely appalled by the lack of morality that the American Civil Liberties Union is demonstrating in its defense of county high school students who have been expelled for the possession of illegal drugs.

There is absolutely no question in my mind that pro-pot policies do not enjoy the support of the majority of the population. These drugs are destroying our nation's most vital resource — our youth. Those who peddle these drugs are not the ones who need the law's protection; it is our young people who must be protected. The recent drives to decriminalize marijuana, and the recent vote by the Washington, D.C. City Council to decriminalize, are part of a very dangerous trend and should not be taken lightly.

While I agree with Baltimore County School Superintendent Robert Dubel that a hard line against drugs in our schools must be taken, it must also be clear that this is not the solution to the drug abuse problem. The solution to drug abuse among our youth lies in the creation of the political and social conditions under which full and unlimiinshed creative powers of the individual are made necessary for society as a whole.

DEBRA J. HANANIA