Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Gestapo tactics at UMBC

After careful consideration of the events we conclude that the campus security police at the University of Maryland Baltimore County consciously, deliberately and with malice aforethought, tried to prevent an AFRO - AMERICAN Newspaper reporter from carrying out his journalistic responsibilities.

We further conclude that said security officers used undue force in their attempt to prevent our correspondent from reporting on the student demonstrations at UMBC earlier this week.

And we finally conclude that the actions of these campus guards were specifically directed toward our reporter for the very reason that he was a representative of the black press.

A black television reporter was admitted to the administrative offices by these security officers as was a white photographer who incidentally also happened to be an employee of the AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers. No identification was requested of either person.

Under the circumstances we will expect an apology from John Dorsey, chancellor of the UMBC campus, and as such the man ultimately responsible for the behavior of all employees of this facility.

We will not condone bullying, racially selective tactics on the part of any law enforcement body whether it be directed at black, white or other news workers.

The trouble at UMBC

The protest demonstrations of recent days by black students at the University of Maryland Baltimore County did not just happen in a vacuum.

We sense that these young people are brimming over with frustration at a university system they feel is antagonistic toward and unsupportive of their needs and ambitions.

If these young black people had not exploded about the issue of dormitory space allotments our feeling is, they would have exploded on another issue before long, that critical is the racial situation at UMBC.

Black students at UMBC are rallying behind their confrontation with the UMBC administration this week in no way seem unreasonable to us given our accumulative experience with the University of Maryland system's endemic racism.

Black students are asking that the proposed housing lottery plan be abolished, that the Office of Minority Affairs be reconstituted and made operable again, and that a comprehensive affirmative action plan program be launched which would see an increase in black faculty and black administrators, particularly in the financial aid office.

Students should have not had to protest to have these concerns as a part of the operating premise governing UMBC; these conditions should have already been on - going.

Much is amiss at the University of Maryland as regards its black student body and we urge Chancellor Dorsey get immediately about the business of getting his house in order.

Praise God—how loudly?

On the eve of Easter, highest holy day for Christians, a news story comes along that holds all sorts of challenges for most of us.

A northwest Baltimore church congregation has been charged with worshipping too noisily.

Their praise of God rattles windows, keeps people awake into the small hours and generally creates a commotion, many nearby residents find intolerable.

The matter will soon be resolved in court.

We intend to watch these proceedings with interest.

First of all the U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, assembly and religious preference.

In trying to silence worshippers, an immediate question arises — are their rights being violated?

There are zoning regulations to be considered. Municipal laws are clear on how many people can gather in one edifice at a time. And there are public nuisance and disturbance laws applicable in this situation as well.

The wisdom of Solomon will be needed to adjudicate this dispute so as the rights of all parties are honored.

We anxiously await the court's decision.

Keep libraries open

Why is it that whenever there is a money crunch, it is always the educational, cultural and humanistic programs which are dropped? Or, which are dropped first?

In a nearby county, it is almost a certainty that some public schools will soon be closed; largely for declines in population, it is said. In some other places, tree band concerts in the parks, are being abandoned. In still others, schools are cutting their dramatics and music classes. And so it goes.

Latest in Baltimore City is the threatened closing of four branch libraries out of a total of 34. On the one hand, the city just cannot find the money to support fully our modern - day, people - serving, multi - faceted library system, so the Board of Estimates holds.

On the other hand, there are reports that the people in some neighborhoods are simply not utilizing their libraries. This is especially true, it is noted, in some "changing" neighborhoods.

Closing four neighborhood libraries is not important in itself. Such closing, however, is an omen of more to come. There may be several more closings — not only as to libraries but as to other uplift programs.

Black Baltimoreans must be especially concerned. Closing libraries follows a patter blacks know too well. They know what it is to see ornamental trees cut down when blacks move into a neighborhood, or green center - strips turned into new lanes for speeding autoists. They know how formerly "white" school buildings are under-maintained once a neighborhood becomes predominantly black. The list could go on.

We cannot leave it all to the City Fathers, however, or even to the board members of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. Neighborhoods must demonstrate that they need their libraries by using them; parents and teachers must show their children why reading is most important; and library staff must approach their work with enthusiasm.

There is another challenge. Libraries must not wait for their respective neighborhoods to come to them. They must go out on the highways and byways and invite and bait their patrons. They must be taught, encouraged, courted, "public - related". They must be shown the many ways in which a library can be useful to them and why it is essential for quality living.

Baltimore would be a dreary place without the Enoch Pratt network. With city, neighborhoods and philanthropists working together, we should have an end to closings.

PARREN MITCHELL

Money, recessions, depressions

This is the second in a three - part series on domestic monetary policy. As I pointed out in the first article, Dr. Robert Weintraub, staff director of the Sub - Committee on Domestic Monetary Policy, and I worked together on this effort.

Nathaniel Thomas, who is also on the Sub - Committee staff, is at work exploring the relationships between the many problems we as black people confront and monetary policy.

In this article we shall review the consequences of bad monetary policies.

Fifty years ago, on the eve of the "Great Depression," a famous economist said that our economy was on "a plateau of prosperity." It wasn't.

By 1933, just four years later, our economy had collapsed. The Gross National Product (GNP) had been chopped in half. Unemployment increased from only 1½ million in 1929 to 13 million in 1933.

The labor force was much smaller 50 years ago than it is today. One (out of every four persons looking for work was unemployed, and though we didn't keep statistics by race in those days you can be certain that black unemployment, then as now, was higher than the average.

A growing economy needs a growing money supply.

Incredibly, from 1929 to 1933, the Federal Reserve didn't allow any money growth at all. In fact our money supply fell by one - third, from $26 billion in June 1929 to just $19 billion four years later.

"The Federal Reserve is not going to botch the job again as badly as it did 50 years ago. For one thing, Congress wouldn't let it do so.

The Federal Reserve is a creature of Congress and we can and would stop it from orchestrating another monetary collapse.

However, Congress hasn't been as vigilant in overseeing how the Federal Reserve manages our money supply as I believe it should be.

Since 1964, we have had a roller coaster money growth. From 1964 to 1975, the money supply roller coaster turned three full cycles.

Measured over 12 month periods, the first cycle was from 3½ percent in mid 1964 to 6 percent in mid 1966 and then back down to 2 percent early in 1967.

In the second cycle money growth peaked at 8 percent at the end of 1968 and hit bottom at 3 percent a year later.

The third cycle was the longest and most severe. Money growth soared from the 3 percent rate for 1969 to more than 9 percent for 1972, remained around 9 percent for another six months and then plunged to less than 4 percent in the twelve months ending in February 1975. And during the last six months of this period it was close to zero.

Roller coaster money growth helps to explain why we also have had a roller coaster economy; why we have suffered repeating cycles of inflation and recession with the cycles recurring so rapidly that economists have coined the word "stagflation" to cover episodes of recession on top of inflation on top of recession, with no letup.

Where are we now? From late 1976 until late 1978, money growth ballooned upward. It averaged nearly 8 percent a year during that period, far above the economy's long run 3 percent expansion potential. This fueled inflation — increases in prices for everyone but especially tragic for the poor and blacks.

Inflation hurts savers, consumers and renters. It benefits borrowers, those who stockpile inventories, and property owners. The poor and blacks (by and large) are savers not borrowers, buyers not stockpilers, and renters not property owners.

Now, to fight inflation, the Federal Reserve has tightened the monetary spigot. Since last October, we have had virtually no increase in our money supply. If this tightwad monetary policy is continued much longer it is certain to cause another recession by year end or even earlier, and the poor and blacks will bear the brunt of the rise in joblessness that accompanies the economic downturn.

Hopefully exposure and discussion will put an end to the roller coaster money supply policies that have characterized recent years, and I urge pursue policies that will provide consistent moderate money growth. That will wring out inflation from our economy without triggering another recession.

More on the specifics of this in our final column.

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

MADELINE MURPHY

Dr. Strangeloves all around!

When the "China Syndrome" hit local movie houses, I refused to go with the remark, "I live in that atmosphere—Calvert Cliffs. No thanks!"

Such an unfortunate remark seemed prophetic given the Three Mile Island situation in Harrisburg at the end of March.

Ever since that bold irreversible move made by President Harry Truman at the end of World War II, when he dropped atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the world has fallen in love with nuclear power.

Limited nuclear war (whatever that means was threatened in — or in the '50s; Vietnam in the '60s, '70s and who knows, maybe the '80s given China's vindictive mentality.

And the demonstrations by environmentalists against nuclear energy plants have been portested by the pro-energy forces who have characterized the demonstrators as freaks. Who're the freaks now?

Claims have also been made that their actions are escapist, even racist.

While there have been innumerable incidents, accidents and spillages dating back to the early '50s, few Americans have concerned ourselves with the body of evidence that leaves a great void in our ability to deal with failures in this highly sophisticated technology.

We have, in the meantime, been threatened, blackmailed and cajoled by utility monopolies with loss of energy, blackouts, brownouts, if we don't accept the inevitable.

Nuclear plants have been Ok'd by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission where blue prints have not been completed nor checked and rechecked for safety, before they have been commissioned and become operational. In fact, even now, safety checks of most nuclear plants by the NRC are piled up in a huge backlog.

We look the other way when we are warned that the warm, slightly radio-active waste water draining into the Chesapeake might contaminate fish and vegetation. No one can guess the long term affect for how much radiation lingers on for years and centuries.

But as usual the power of money wins out over humanity.

Without wars, where do these companies that build machinery of this highly dangerous nature make profits?

They have a battallion of salemen crisscrossing the country, here and abroad, to hawk the sale of untested catastrophic monsters, to gullible greedy utility companies, to crrupt politicians, to greedy landowners, that they swear to be fail safe.

Gov. Jerry Brown of California closed down the Sacramento plant, similar to Three Mile Island, four days after the Harrisburg catastrophe, until it is examined for potential leakage.

This, after the utility company voted three to two against closing!

I hold no brief for Jerry, but under these circumstances, he showed a great deal of concern for the good and welfare of California citizens, as against monopoly interests.

Perhaps, it is time, in this state, for Gov. Harry Hughes to institute the same measures, since Calvert Cliffs has had one leakage already. (That we know of).

Greed is really at the root of these problems, and it seems that most of us have become pawns in the nuclear games played by all these Dr. Strangeloves.

In light of conflicting statements made by the company, by the Governor of Pennsylvania, the President, the scientists inside the plant, and those with general atomic knowledge outside the plant!

In light of the slow evacuation; poor civil defense procedures; the dangerous wait and see attitudes of those in charge (for fear of losing money—the stock market showed a decline in companies selling nuclear equipment); the controlled contrived gasoline shortage on Sundays; unpredictable weather conditions;

All of which impact upon the danger to the people, I say close down all the plants until everyone of the — examined, or better still, until they learn what to do, how to do it, to ward against any possibility in the future of accidents of this kind.

If you believe this too, why don't you demand that Gov. Hughes follow Jerry Brown's lead.

Otherwise we risk having active clouds fall upon the just as well as the unjust — and that's small comfort indeed!

Mrs. Murphy is a commentator on Impact News on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. on WEAA-FM.

LETTERS

Support Dennis Holly

Dear AFRO:

There may be no win at all for WMAR - TV news anchorman Dennis Holly unless he gets top black support from all around Baltimore in his $1 million slander suit against WFBR radio announcer Johnny Walker.

Dennis Holly needs support from black taxpayers, businesses, schools and the black church. He is one of the top news anchormen here in Baltimore and one that is enjoyable to listen to . . .

WFBR is going to support Johnny Walker to the end . . . A lot of Walker's white listeners are going to help support him and so Dennis Holly is going to be trying to fight and win his lawsuit with only his attorney on his side. That is, if no black support rallies strongly to his side.

So support Dennis Holly and show blackcity by in this so - called Charm City because he is going to need it . .

KARL SCOTT CROSBY

Tickets—unnecessary?

Dear AFRO:

I went to the bank the other day and parked on a downtown street that has limited, if not non - existent, parking.

I had to be back to work and didn't have time to search for a metered space. And for three minutes, I was not about to park in a garage.

I was in the bank for just about three hot minutes and when I walked out the door, one of Baltimore's Finest Men in Blue had just slapped a ticket under my windshield wiper.

But that isn't the best part — it was for $27!!!

I don't know about anybody else but I certainly cannot afford to give up $27 of my cash. There are a lot of fun things I could do with that much money which I can't because there are so many necessities that must come first.

And I do not consider a parking ticket a necessity and it certainly is not FUN.

Everybody is always griping about not enough cops, not enough foot patrolmen, not enough protection.

Well, we all know where our servants of law and order are — filling in little pieces of paper that cost working folks money.

I was wrong to park where I did. In that respect I am guilty.

But if there is no space for me to park, then what am I supposed to do?

Put the cops in areas with high crime and let them get the dope pushers off the streets.

That is more important than giving parking tickets to solid citizens in an area where parking spaces are at a solid gold premium.

L. EDWARDS.

Lauding the AFRO

Dear AFRO:

As a regular reader of the AFRO, I am extremely pleased to note that you are beginning to cover the city of Annapolis, and its Afro-American population.

I have been pleasantly surprised to pick up the AFRO and find stories concerning Annapolis.

Please keep covering Annapolis, it makes the AFRO even more worthwhile in reading.

Keep on keeping on the good work.

MICHAEL T. BROWN

Idea to help people

Dear AFRO:

I feel that many people who receive a general subsistence every month from a helping agency could be used as a service help to many people who work.

Such things as washing clothes, ironing, child care and general household duties, etc. could on a neighborhood basis be developed and enacted for people who need this type of help.

Though I have not totally thought out the idea, I feel this type of community activity could help many grassroots people who are trying to help themselves.

RICHARD L. CUNNINGHAM

AFRO welcomes letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication.

'Johnson should be freed...'

Terrence Johnson found himself in the basement of the Hyattsville police station last June 26, at 1:30 a.m. He should not have been there —he had committed no crime. The police did not call his parents, despite the fact that he was only 15 and it was past midnight (breaking rule No. 1). Claggett should not have had a gun in the fingerprinting room (breaking rule No. 2). The cops admit that there was a "scuffle." Of course, they were only trying to calm him down the boy (sic).

But did Terrence have to kill these two men? The answer to that is twofold. First, Terrence knew two black youth who had been shot dead by the P.G. cops. Second, a man named Thomas Peet, who had filed police brutality charges against Claggett a few years ago, didn't live to see those charges come to court.

Although he was a lifeguard, he drowned in three feet of water in the Little Patuxent River while trying to escape a minor traffic violation, or so the Howard County police say. In my opinion, Peet's death was a set-up! Thomas Peet, who complained through the proper channels, who relied on this racist, oppressive system, is dead; Terrence Johnson is still alive.

The fact that Terrence Johnson is only facing 3-25 years, is a partial victory, a victory for the people of P.G. County. But for me it still did not receive justice. Truth and justice demand that Terrence be set free. Self-defense against racist P.G. Co. police brutality is a right we should exercise.

The last straw is the response of the P.G. cops, who now are threatening the people of P.G. County, saying that they will be using their guns more. Not only is this an outrageous attack on all of us, but Terrence's story (which, incidentally, held up perfectly under intense cross-examination).

Terrence Johnson deserves to be freed, and in the process we've got to put the blamge on the P.G. police force, their racism, their brutality and the people who stand behind them pulling their strings.

PATRICK McCANN

G. JAMES FLEMING

For better neighborhoods—Part I

Act of 1968 and the U.S. Supreme Court upheld an 1866 Civil Rights Act."

The latter act reads: "All citizens of the United States shall have the same right, in every state and territory, as is enjoyed by white citizens thereof to inherit, purchase, lease, sell, hold, and convey real and personal property."

Through monitoring the real estate market, BNI has been able to uncover those real estate companies and operators that discriminate (or used to) against minority applicants.

By sending out teams of test applicants, some black, some white —to the same renters or sellers— the organization has been able to verify violation of the law, and those discriminated against, thereby, have the evidence for bringing action.

BNI knows exactly what neighborhoods are still excluding (or trying to exclude) blacks. It also knows that many black househunters tend to avoid some so-called white neighborhoods.

Furthermore, it has found that there are apartment houses and housing developments which, while admitting blacks, assign them to "black clusters."

On the plus side, BNI has seen integrated housing and integrated communities increase, year after year.

By and large, white real estate operators do not anymore view BNI as unmitigated enemy. Many apply to the organization for help in making or keeping certain neighborhoods integrated and stable.

Seven practising lawyers volunteer regularly (part of their time) to BNI; several VISTA enrollees help to conduct surveys and serve as monitors; and a number of housewives, of both races, assists in seemingly countless other duties.

Some of the printed matter produced by BNI are a report on "Apartment Discrimination in Baltimore County and City, 1977-78" (a follow up to a 1972 apartment audit, "Guide to Laws Covering Tenant-Landlord Relations in the City and State," and "The Baltimore Plan for Affirmative Marketing in Real Estate," (a joint venture with the Real Estate Brokers of Baltimore Inc. and the Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors).

There are also many short pieces of information and guides and periodic news-bulletins.

Last year, BNI processed 3,400 telephone calls from both tenants and landlords, seeking advice. Some led to more formal involvement.

George B. Laurent, executive director of BNI, introduced the fact that many black real estate dealers are fearful that open housing will jeopardize their own business. This problem, whether real or not, is a continuous concern of BNI, according to Lurent.

He believe, however, that the best-run black enterprises can withstand competition and may even benefit from it as, increasingly, the entire city is open to them.

BNI recognizes, also, that some black politicians do not wish to see potential voting districts "diluted," even in the name of "better" neighborhoods or "better" housing.

Laurent, whose headquarters is at 319 N. 25th St., is a former Presbyterian minister. He was born in New Jersey and trained at Rutgers University and Union Theological Seminary.

He has been active for fair housing since 1954 and came to Baltimore from the Greater Kansas City Council on Religion and Race, a project sponsored by Cathholics, Jews and Protestants.

Next week Part II in this two-part series.

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

For All We Know

By Elizabeth M. Oliver, City Editor

GOLD as of this week is described as the world's most precious item and it rose in value Tuesday, April 10 to the highest price in the earth's history, according to reports.

THEREFORE, we are extending GOLD AWARDS to three persons we know personally "who can hardly be excelled:"

DR. LEON SULLIVAN, chairman of OIC of America.

DR. NATHAN CARTER, director of the Morgan State University Choir.

HOPE QUACKENBUSH, director of the Morris Mechanic Theatre in Baltimore.

1 MILLION JOBS

DR. SULLIVAN, a Philadelphia Baptist minister, has carried on the OIC Youth Program many years but we cite him here for originating the "Help Our Youth" program to find jobs for 1 million unemployed young people. Imagine that!

The campaign extends 100 days and is in progress now.

SULLIVAN has received OK and support from the following after "Help Our Youth" rallies in 100 cities:

The National Council of Catholic Bishops representing all 50 states, and leading bishops of the African, Christian and Methodist Episcopal Churches and heads of Baptist Conventions.

The heads of the Business Roundtable, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Alliance of Businessmen, National Council of Black Mayors and the leaders of the League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors including the mayors of Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Birmingham, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Montgomery, Alabama, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Milwaukee, Los Angeles, Portland, Omaha, St. Louis, San Francisco, Kansas City, Indianapolis and Providence.

HOPE QUACKENBUSH has brought to the Mechanic Theatre the best of dramas, multi - racial and inter - ethnic, to make the Baltimore 78-79 season No. 1 in the United States.

For example, take James Earl Jones in "Hobeson" and Eubie Blake in "Eubie."

You could go a lifetime and never see such plays unless you go to New York.

In fact, when have you ever heard of Baltimore going to the top in the theatre? Not since the old days when Pearl Bailey, Lena Horne, Duke Ellington, etc. used to come to the Royal on Pennsylvania Ave!

DR. NATHAN CARTER who has brought the Morgan State University Choir to world fame, a distinction only topped by the Fisk Jubilee Singers in the past 100 years.

There is hardly any way to reveal the acclaim Dr. Carter and the MSU Choir have received. The list is endless.

John Guinn of the Detroit Free Press says, "It's the finest choir I have ever heard."

YOU WILL SAY SO too after you attend the MSU Choir Lyric Theatre Concert, Sunday, May 6, 8:15 p.m.

Really, everyone should be able to say that once in his life he heard the famed group. Here's the information for Sunday, May 6:

The MSU Choir under direction of Dr. Nathan Carter returns to the Lyric May 6 at 8:15 p.m.

The program of music chiefly written by black composers, represents almost the same material the group performed on its recent southern tour "Along the King's Highway."

Singing in Selma, Ala., Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta and travelling through Montgomery and Birmingham, the group dedicated the tour to the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the 10th anniversary year of his death. Mrs. Coretta King, Dr. King Sr. and many members of the King family were there to greet the choir on its final stop in Atlanta on March 22. President and Mrs. Andrew Billingsley also joined 1,000 plus in attendance to give the choir a standing ovation.

The President's Committee for the MSU Choir and Iota Phi Lambda Sorority Inc. are jointly sponsoring the "King Concert" at the Lyric.

Tickets are $20 for Box Seats, $8 for Orchestra and Front-Center Balcony Seats and $6 & $3 for Balcony Seats and may be secured from:

The President's Committee for "The Morgan State University Choir" Box 117, Morgan State University, Baltimore, Md. 21239.

OR

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., Att: Ms. Fannie Poulson, Forest Park High School, 4300 Chatham Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207.

Persons may also support this concert by signing up as patrons for $2 or as sponsors for $10. Proceeds from the concert will be used for the Choir Scholarship Fund and ongoing activities of the group.

For information call 444-3284 and 444-3168.

THE CHOIR

The Morgan Choir represents combined forces of choral ensembles at the University which include a 50 voice Concert Choir, the Morgan Singers composed of 30 voices, a Chapel Choir and a newly formed Civic Chorus composed of graduates and selected voices from the community.

The total group numbers in excess of 100 voices.

This season, the choir assisted the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in its opening concert performing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

The choir sang for the inauguration of Gov. Harry Hughes.

Later in February, 100 members of the group travelled to Detroit to fill an engagement with the Detroit Symphony under the baton of Paul Freeman in the Concert Version of Porgy and Bess by George Gershwin.

Following this tour, the singers premiered with the Baltimore Symphony under Maestro Sergiu Commissiona, George Walker's Mass for soprano, alto, tenor, bass soloists, orchestra and chorus.

The year will culminate with the return engagement at the Lyric May 6.

DR. CARTER

Dr. Carter's success as a Choral Conductor recently culminated in a European tour of his Morgan U choir and recordings with the London Symphony Orchestra and the Helsinki Philharmonic.

Additional recordings have been made from live concerts at Music Educators National Conference Conventions and the American Choral Directors' Convention in St. Louis, 1975.

His choral has appeared with the Baltimore Symphony on numerous occasions and in September of last year made a stunning debut with the New York Philharmonic.

In his consc[illegible] duties, Dr. Carter has served as chairman of the Music Department at Morgan.

He is currently president of the Maryland chapter of the American Choral Directors' Association, and frequently serves throughout the U.S. as guest conductor, lecturer, adjudicator, and clinician for high school, college, and university choruses.

LESLIE KING HAMMOND

High energy for April shows

Morgan gallery

The Murphy Fine Arts Center Gallery I of Morgan State University has mounted a show of "Seven Artists of the Maryland Commission on Afro - American History and Culture Workshop." Since the summer of 1977 the Afro - American Study Center located at 12 W. Madison St. has allowed its huge facilities to be used by local artists for workshop and display space.

The artists in the Morgan show are primarily sculptors. They have a wide range of skills and experience which they seek to share with each other in a common work space.

The artists now showing work include Tony Lisby, E. Clark Mester Jr., Jo - Ann Henry, Ildiko T. Ludes, Janice P. Comwell, Herbert Lee and Dr. Randall J. Craig, sculptor - in - residence of the Fine Arts Workshop. The Morgan Gallery hours are daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Photography

The Kromah Gallery, 1203 Druid Hill Ave., continues to present significant shows to the Baltimore black community.

"The Kromahs have hung their "First Annual Photography Exhibition" of local black photographs. The present show includes the works of 16 artists which indicates the amount of serious photographic activity in this community.

The space prohibits a more extensive exploration into the visual statements of these 16 individuals but the images on view whet our appetites for more.

Exhibiting artists include Robert O. Torrence, Clifton Smith, Henry Holmes, John H. Snyder, Carey Beth Cryar, Darrell L. Taylor, Thornton Daniels, Jo - Ann P. Henry, Ernest M. Kromah, Helen Baskerville, Latchman Persaud, Steve Cuffie, John Clark Mayden, Marvin Brown, Wilcis Y. Dungee and Kinya Kenyatta Kiongoi.

The Kromah Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. This exhibit runs through April 30.

UMBC library

Probably the most exciting and significant show this season is a one man exhibition of 150 works by the artist - photographer Roland J. Freeman, "A Baltimore Portfolio 1968 - 1979" is handsomely and elegantly hung in the library of the University of Maryland Baltimore County. The exhibition is subtitled "A black photographer looks at his hometown" and as this title indicates the now resident of Washington, D.C. is a native Baltimorean.

So often one of the major problems of an art critic or reviewer is to convey the human or warm elements of works of art. The opening reception of Freeman's work was a rare and unique experience for all those persons who attended.

Clusters of people would gather around pictures of people they know or even pictures of themselves. The sense of recognition, identification, remembrances of times past and present reaffirmed the living reality of these images.

This is the first time a major show of the works of a single black artist have been hung at UMBC.

Roland L. Freeman has a long and impressive record of credits to his experience. His visual contributions rank with the best of the photographic artist and reinforce the legitimacy of the documation of black life style and culture as a serious art form.

The UMBC Library is located at 5401 Wilkens Ave. The Library hours are daily. All these shows will be on exhibition throughout the month of April.

Dr. Hammond is dean of graduate studies at Maryland Institute College of Art.

April's first rush of spring not only gives us fresh blossoms, lots of rain and milder weather with bluer skies but a burst of exhibitions and shows around town.

It is quite apparent that the harsh winter of 1979 did afford some individuals the opportunity to concentrate their creative energies to productive ends.

The work of Eugene Coles is more familiar to many of you than you might realize. Coles is responsible for the giant wall mural of a colorful tropical parrot located at the corner of Madison and North aves. The mural was executed while Coles was a resident artist with the Mayor's Mural Project two years ago. The study for this mural is not part of a one man show on exhibition at The Gallery 409 located at 409 Charles St.

The exhibition includes photographs, drawings and paintings which date from 1976 - 1979. Strongest among these works are Coles' drawings which are usually created in panels of threes and fours closely mounted together giving the effect of one unified composition.

These pencil drawings are detailed studies with textural tones and symbolic images which give the present exhibition it substance. The paintings and photographs, however remain unresolved compositions of colorful configurations. The gallery is open noon to 6 p.m. daily.

Money Matters

New law helps cut college costs

A new law is helping middle - class families cope with soaring college costs by making student loans with "interest - free" benefits available, regardless of family income size, according to the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants.

It is now possible for almost any student enrolled in a qualified school to get a government - guaranteed loan that is, in effect, free of interest until nine months after graduation.

But the new law, the Middle Income Student Assistance Act, received little publicity when it took effect last year, and many families are unaware of it.

Previously, "interest - free" benefits on guaranteed loans generally were denied students of families with adjusted gross incomes of $25,000 or more. Lawmakers seem to understand now that $25,000 is no longer lavish income for a typical family with a house to maintain and children to educate, according to the CPA group.

Unfortunately, students who obtained guaranteed loans before the new law was enacted and were not eligible for the "interest - free" provision then, cannot change the terms of their current loans.

The CPA Association says parents who are planning ahead for the financial burdens of college should give careful consideration to the student loan program. Severe financial sacrifice for the sake of the children's education may be unnecessary. The opportunity to carry thousands of dollars of debt without interest for several years can represent one of the best ways to finance a higher education.

The fact that banks currently are charging their best commercial customers 11½ to 12 percent interest underscores the value of the student loans.

The loans — up to $2,500 a year for undergraduates, more for graduate students — are available under the Guaranteed Student Loan Program. The money can be applied to vocational, technical and hospital nursing schools, as well as to colleges.

For students planning to enter school in the fall semester, now is a good time to apply for a guaranteed loan. Allow plenty of time for processing in any case.

Applications usually are available from commercial and savings banks and other lending institutions. A student must send the application to his or her school for certification of enrollment and other additional information. Then it goes to the potential lender, who must get approval from the agency that is guaranteeing the loan.

The interest rate on guaranteed student loans is 7 percent. But the interest is subsidized by the federal government while the student is in school and for at least nine months after graduation, when repayment of the principal usually is scheduled to begin.

The loans are "guaranteed" in the sense that the federal government, or in some cases, the state government, or a non - profit agency, will repay the loan if the student defaults and then try to recover the funds from the student.

Information for taxpayers

Child care tax credit for working families

As the make-up of American society has changed over the past several years to include more and more working mothers and single-parent families, the amount of money spent on professional child care has increased to a significant portion of many a family budget.

What was once the domain of the grandmotherly babysitter has evolved into a new growth industry in which scores of franchised day-care centers are springing up overnight.

One reflection of this phenomenon is the income tax credit available on federal tax returns for parents who pay someone to watch their children so the parents can work.

The credit allows working parents to reduce their incomes taxes by as much as $400 if they have one child and up to $800 when there are two or more youngsters.

20 percent

Figuring the child care credit is relatively simple: it's 20 percent of the first $2,000 spent during the year for having one child cared for, or 20 percent of the first $4,000 for two or more.

Since this is a credit rather than a deduction, the amounts remain fixed regardless of the parents' tax bracket. Also, it is not necessary to itemize deductions to qualify.

The credit is ordinarily called the child care credit and the average claimant is the parent of a small child.

However, the full name is the Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses, and as the name implies, the credit also is available for amounts paid toward the care of a disabled spouse or other dependent while the taxpayer works.

Not complicated

Qualifying for the child care credit is not a complicated process. Generally you must:

— have maintained a household that included at least one child under 15 or a disabled dependent of any age

— have paid the expenses to enable you to be gainfully employed or actively seeking employment during the period in which the expenses were incurred;

— file a joint return, if married; and

— have made the payments to persons other than your dependent relatives.

You may also qualify for the credit if you paid someone to care for your child or disabled dependent so you could work part-time or go to school full-time.

The only condition placed on this rule is that you must have a spouse who was gainfully employed during this time.

Form 2441

Even payments made to relatives for child care can qualify if the relative is not your dependent and the services qualify as employment subject to Social Security tax.

The child care credit is claimed on Form 2441, "Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses," and filed with Form 1040.

You cannot receive the credit by filing Form 1040A, but remember, you do not have to itemize to qualify.

For an example of how the credit is figured, let's take a working husband and wife who spent $3,000 in 1978 to keep their two children in a commercial day-care center.

Their credit—20 percent of $3,000—works out to $600. This computation is done on the Form 2441 and the result—$600—is then transferred to the proper line on Form 1040.

Assuming the couple's income tax liability would otherwise be at least $600, they subtract that amount directly from taxes they owe. Bear in mind, however, that the credit is not refundable, which means that it cannot be more than your tax liability.

Figuring the credit for disabled dependents care is done in the same way. If, while you work, a neighbor cares for your disabled mother at a rate of $100 a week, your tab for the year would be $5,200. At 20 percent of the first $2,000, the credit in this case would be the maximum of $400.

Most conceivable types of child care expenses will qualify for the credit, but not all. One example not allowed is the cost of transportation of your child between your home and the place where care is provided.

Nursery school

Some parents pay a nursery school or other child care facility a flat fee which includes the cost of transporting the child to and from school. In cases like this, the portion of the charge covering transportation will have to be computed and subtracted from their expenses before figuring the credit.

School tuition beyond the kindergarten level, also is not considered a child care expense for the purposes of the credit.

This does not mean that post-kindgarten child care cannot qualify—just that a division must be made between tuition for regular schooling and actual child care expenses.

A second-grader, for example, might attend a private elementary school which offers academic instruction between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

If the school also provides care for the child before or after the regular school hours, the portion of your expenses related to the extended care will still qualify for the credit, assuming the other conditions are met.

Information

Detailed information on the child care credit can be obtained by writing or visiting Internal Revenue Service offices. Ask for a free copy of IRS Publication 503, "Child Care and Disabled Dependent Care," or use the handy order blank in your tax package. If you're a working parent it will probably be well worth your time.

Connecticut approves D.C. amendment

HARTFORD, Conn. (UPI) — The Connecticut legislature has approved a proposed constitutional amendment allowing the District the right to vote in Congress.

The Connecticut Senate, after more than 90 minutes of debate April 11, voted 21-14 in favor of the proposal giving the District two senators and a second representative in the U.S. House.

The Democrats control the Senate 26-10. The Democrat - controlled House earlier approved the resolution 86-54.

Connecticut became the sixth state to approve the proposal, while ten other states have rejected it. Three-fourths of the states must ratify the resolution before an amendment to the U.S. Constitution can be made.