Working as a correctional officer: 'never a dull moment'

New positions for the classification of correctional officer at the Maryland Penitentiary, Maryland House of Correction in Jessup and the Maryland Correctional Institution in Hagerstown, are now available.

Capt. Lawrence Carpenter, 34, who has been working at the Maryland Penitentiary since 1970 says, "There is never a dull moment and there are opportunities for advancement."

Carpenter, who was recently promoted to captain says he would recommend the job to any male or female who is interested in doing a job well.

While working at the penitentiary, he has been able to attend school and is a 1976 graduate of Towson State University and now attending Coppin State College, where he is majoring incriminal justice.

Carpenter says he plans to continue working with the Department of Corrections because there are great opportunities for advancement.

The starting salary for correctional officestep one will be $12,450 effective July 1 and officers are automatically eligible for promotion upon satisfactory completion of one year's service.

Liberal benefits include free uniforms, gratuitous lunches, a special 20 year retirement plan, paid overtime, shift differential for those working between 2 p.m. and 1 a.m. and an excellent career ladder consisting of six grades.

The position offers secure employment and promotional opportunities. Along with other law enforcement personnel, the correctional officer plays a vital role in combating crime and assisting the nation in coping with one of its most serious problems.

Ms. Josette Sykes, started working at the penitentiary as a clerk typist in September 1974 and is now a correctional officer. She says, "I love my job because I like working with people. You really get to see what it is like for a person to be confined behind bars for more than eight hours a day."

As a female correctional officer, Ms. Sykes says at times she finds herself doing a little social work and breaking up fights. She told the AFRO, "I would not recommend this job to a person who is just starting out to work. The job is not always the same every day and you never can tell what to expect."

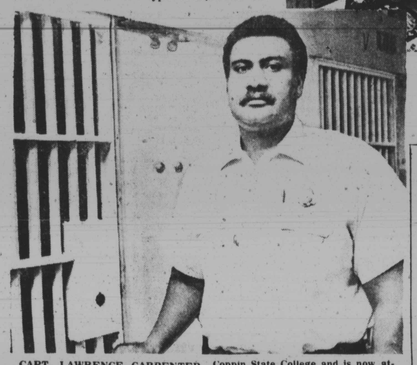
As a correctional officer, you must work together as a family and look out for each other. Ms. Sykes says it can be difficult for a female officer to work with all male officers because a lot of male officers do not like fmales working a the penitentiary because they believe a woma might not respond whe there is trouble.

Most of the femal correctional officers a the penitentiary are known to be strong women who are not afraid of any problem they might run into.

As a female officer Ms. Sykes says you mus be alert at all times, able to move fast and think.

AFRO photos by Roman Hankewycz

SECURITY CAGE — Ms. Josettet Sykes, a 29-year-old correctional officer at Maryland Penitentiary is shown at work in the security cage, where she checks all visitors' identification cards.



CAPT. LAWRENCE CARPENTER has been employed at Maryland Penitentiary since December 1970 and was recently promoted to captain. Carpenter is a graduate of Coppin State College and is now attending Towson State College, where he is majoring in criminal justice for a master's degree.

More city workers face layoffs

Mayor William Donald Schaefer said Wednesday there will be more layoffs of city government workers because of City Council cuts in the fiscal year 1981 budget.

Schaefer announced earlier that more than 100 workers in the public works department will be laid off. He did not say where future layoffs would occur.

Council members said Schaefer is ordering layoffs to retaliate for the council cutting $2.2 million from his proposed $1.3 billion budget earlier this week. The cuts resulted in a two-cent drop in the property tax rate to $5.95 per $100 of assessed value.

"You can't blame any of this layoff plan on us, though it's his game plan to blame the council," Council President Walter Orlinsky said.

The mayor called Orlinsky a "child," and added, "you extend the velvet glove to Wally and you get the iron fist in your mouth."

Schaefer said the public works layoffs were not forced by budget-cuts. He said the city governemnt was forced to cut its payroll long before the budget was approved Tuesday.

The mayor refused to sign the budget Wednesday at a Board of Estimates meeting because of a $2 error.

The mistake was caused by a typographical error, forcing the budget back to the council for correction.

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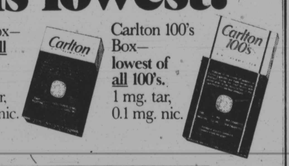

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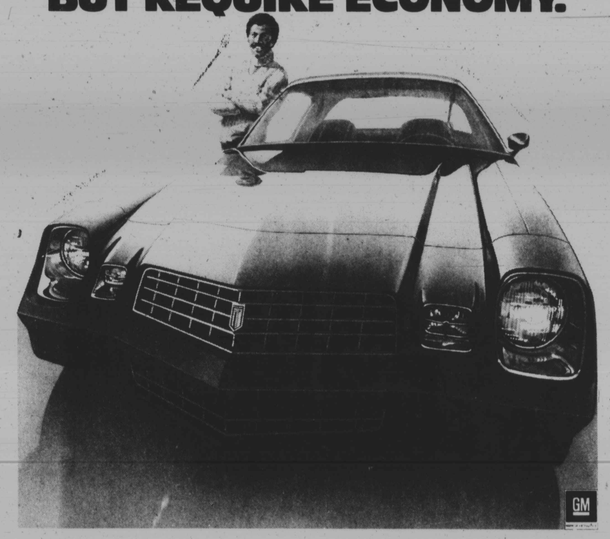

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SHOWTIME

★Theatre
★Art
★Music

"The Lion and the Jewel" Weds African-American Life and History

By Samuel A. Hay, Chairman Dept. of Speech Communication & Theatre

"The Lion and the Jewel" by Wole Solinka; music and lyrics by Billy Taylor; directed by Mical Whitaker; choreography by Hazel J. Bryant; costumes by Myrna Colley - Lee. Hazel J. Bryant, producer. International Performing Arts Festival at Lincoln Center. Moved to the Richard Allen Center for Culture and Art, 36 W. 62nd St. (June 11 - 15).

With: Henry Judd Baker, Aisha Coley, Lonetta Devine, Charles Douglass, Clebert Ford, Donald Green Hll, Mercie Hinton, Hari Dam Kaur Khalsa, Mllege Mosley, Reggie Phoenix, Chiquita Ross, Fran Salisbury, Gayle L. Turner, and Freda T. Vanterpool.

Hazel J. Bryant, founder of the Richard Allen Center for Culture and Art, understands theatre and its unique possibilities.

One brilliantly conceived possibility was the mating of Wole Soyinka's Yoruba play, "The Lion and the Jewel", with African-American rhythm and blues, gospel and disco.

"Lion" is an uproariously funny story of a traditional African chief's outwitting a superficially educated, Western-learning young school teacher.

A thoroughly modern man, this teacher vies for the love of the village maiden (Sidi), who has little time for Lakunle because he refuses to pay her bride price. Also, she hopes to become a national celebrity as a result of a recent photo of her in a magazine.

When the village chief, Baroka, decides that it is time to take a new wife and that Sidi should be the lucky maiden, Sidi faces a real dilemma.

The result shows Soyinka at his best: a witty, articulate, and lively statement about man's responsibilities to understand but not be captured by the past.

Soyinka says: "The African writer needs an urgent release from the fascination of the past. The past clarifies the present and explains the future, but it is not a fleshpot for escapist indulgence, and it is vitally dependent on the sensibility that recalls it."

Soyinka wants the African writer to function not only "as the record of the mrs and experience of his society, "but also as the "voice of vision in his own time."

Hence the Baroka-Lakunle fight over the maiden is Soyinka's dramatization of the above charge to his fellow writers at a 1967 conference in Stockholm.

The brilliance of Soyinka's play is his ability to make his statement through outrageously funny yet subtle situations.

For the most part, American productions of this play treat the subject matter too seriously and rob the play of its wit and humor.

Like the Morgan State award - winning production of "Lion" (directed by Michael Joyce), the Hazel Bryant production accents the humor.

The addition of African-American music enhances the universality of the theme, for Billy Taylor's gospel and rhythm and blues in no way jars our sensibilities. The music belongs — even the disco sequence.

Mical Whitaker's direction is well-conceived, although sometimes too evenly paced.

Loretta Devine as Sidi, the maiden, is a pleasure to watch and even more a pleasure to hear. Her movement from sweet innocence to cunning avenger is smooth and easy.

Mlle Milledge Mosely's Lakunle is at times stiff, his rich singing voice and honesty of characterization more than compensates us.

Iran Salisbury is very convincing as Sadiku, the first wife. She delights us with her tough and experienced ways of African life.

Finally, we must pay a special tribute to producer Hazel Bryant for having the artistic vision to bring us this all-important theatre event. We vigorously applaud her interest in developing "new approaches to the American musical theatre" and in developing new musical works which explore unique usage of African-American history and fold literature."

Events for Children

Read a book, spin a wheel, and move with the Pratt library's children's summer reading program. Entitled "Keep on Moving! Keep on Reading!" the game has begun.

Game boards featuring a spinning color wheel will be on display at all thirty-three branches and centers in the children's room of the central library on Cathedral Street.

Reading a book entitles the child to post his name and spin the wheel, steps which will lead him to a variety of activities and entertainment to enhance the fun of summer reading. The reading game is open to all children during regular library hours.

Among the many other events the library has planned for children this summer will be a visit by Officer Charlie the Magic Cop, who will present his magic show.

A schedule of performances is available at all Pratt Library branches.

UMBC Awards Honorary Doctorate to Lucille Clifton

By Bettye Moss

Lucille S. Clifton, the poet laureate of the State of Maryland, received the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters at the eleventh commencement of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, (UMBC) Thursday evening.

There was a hush in the audience as graduates, and guests listened to the very beautiful citation to Mrs. Clifton by Dr. Patricia K. Meszaros.

In it she called Ms. Clifton the creator of poetry and fiction, champion of family solidarity and artistic spokeswoman for ethnic pride... (whose) literary achievement has been rewarded by a special citation by the Pulitzer Committee, the National Endownment for the Arts, and by the state of Maryland...

Her former students at Morgan, Coppin, Goucher, as well as those who have read her dozen children's books, or her poetry volumes ("Between Woman," for example), can attest to the truth of the citation which further observed, "For You will not write stilted verses for holidays... instead, you will continue to tell us of poerty and dignity... of being black and female and, above all, of the overwhelming value of joy of family life..."

UMBC Chancellor John Dorsey also presented, honorary degrees to Dr. Donald A. Henderson, dean of the Health Service Administration of the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health and Hygiene. He was cited for his leadership in the war against smallpox, both here and abroad, including Ethiopia and Iran.

Commencement speaker, Dr. Ernest L. Boyer was also cited. He is the president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, headquarters in D.C.

And what a delightful commencement speaker he was. He exhibited a sense of humor, mixed with wise words of advice which endeared him to the audience. For example, after congratulating the grads' parents, he said: "I congratulate you for giving encouragement and for giving money...and I share with you the hope that the graduates will go out and get a job..."

He entitled his remarks, "The Final Examination," and invited grads and the audience to participate. The question he asked the audience to consider: 1. Have you committed yourselves to lifelong education? . . . You continue to stay alive long after college if you remain intellectually alert, aesthetically

Lucille Clifton

thirsty and continue to scratch the everlasting itch . . ." He cautioned: "Curiosity can be destroyed by undue business . you can scurry about so fast, get so caught up in the thick of things, that you fail to see or no longer care to see the hysterics about you . . .

"You should continue to learn more about the universe and occasionally take time to wonder and ponder...you can do a good deal of learning by remaining alert and responsive and fascinated by the drama we call life." 2. Are you prepared to think creatively and deeply and to follow convictions of your own? These are times when the opinions of the singlé person are all too often smothered by the group...when the ideas of one person are too often suppressed because they have never passed the aproval of a committee...

"The creative soul is not always the most popular soul . . . the tragedy of life is to die with visions unfulfilled . . . dream imaginatively . . . think courageously . . . plan bravely and wisely, recognize that the world still needs those who live by their own convictions..." 3. Do you clearly understand that people are important? "In our busy world of more talk and less communication, one of our most difficult tasks is finding ways to deal humanely with one another...

"Very often, we are not as open, not as honest as we ought to be... to be well prepared for life, we all must understand that institutions are comprised of people who laugh and love, who have hope and aspirations, and who are lonely in the dark of the night . . . whatever you do in life, keep your sensitivity high and direct your energies toward people..."

To the thunderous applause of the audience, Dr. Boyer offered this parting advice: "In the days ahead, I think it would be very nice if you would cal you mothe at least once a week!"

UMB Class Leader

Seated on the platform with commencement participants was a handsome black youth, Nathan A. Chapman Jr., who earned a B.A. in political science. He was president of UMBC's Student Government Association.

He resides in the Edmondson Village section, says he has already begun work on his maste's degree, and has a job this fall, with a large Baltimore-area accounting firm.

He wore an Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity necklace with his cap and gown (A number of graduates—many with foreign-sounding names decorated their gowns with corsages, signs- one black grad carried a bouquet of flowers).

Note: Chapman won the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's District Region Award as College Man of the Year, plans to attend the Alpha convention later this summer in Chicago.

UMBC Grads

Some 72 black students were among the 740 graduates from UMBC, the largest number we've seen this season at any of the U. of Md's campuses. Receiving a master's degree was Mrs. Mary Ella Graves, retired teacher. Other grads were: Diane C. Allen, Calvin J. Baker, Jay L. Baker, Leslie M. Baker (with honor), Gwendolyn E. Brooks, Kathy S. Brooks, Jocelyn S. Brown, Shery C. Bruce, Steven R. Brown, Joyce A. Bryson, Debrah D. Burns, Verdell B. Butler, Terry Bydume, Anthony T. Byrd, Pamela D. Caple, Annabil Carn, David O. Coad, Diane M. Cooper, Valerie A. Costley, Gayle C. Cox, Patricia A. Davis, Paul D. DeNard, Karen Ellison, Crystal V. Evans, Nancy K. Gibbs, Carnell W. Gilmore;

Also, Tara R. Harvey, Denise S. Hayes, Marcella A. Holland, Michael K. Holliday, Dwight E. Hooper, Ruth A. Hutcherson, David K. Jackson, William E. Jackson, Sheila V. James, Gavin E. Johnson, Rebecca L. Johns (cum laude), Jan M. Jones, Karen Y. Jones, Belinda M. Kane;

And Steven A. Lee, Patricia A. Long, Antoinette Lowry, Anita L. Maddox, Jerry Marshall, Angela C. Mays, Sheila R. McClurkin, Adrienne H. Miller, Joan B. Mitchell, Balinda V. Peace, Lydia N. Pearson, Bonnie L. Pope, Kay M. Rice, Jonnice Robinson, Carolyn Saunders, Reginald Smith, Deborah J. Staggers, Ameenah Tauheed, Stephanie Thompson, Deborah D. Thorpe, Roslyn R. Turner, Albert U. Udoman;

Also, Laura A. Weathers, Renee B. Webster, Jacqueline B. Westmoreland, Rhonda V. White, Jeffrey H. Williams, Ruth E. Williams, Mark A. Williams, Patricia E. Wilson and Shelia D. Windley.

Arena Players Repeat "Livin Fat"

The Arena Players are repeating by popular demand their splendid production of "Livin Fat" at the Arena Playhouse, 801 McCulloh St., tonight (Fri.) June 13 and Sat., June 14. Directed by Robert Russell, "Livin Fat" is a hilarious show about a black family that becomes half-crazed after finding a cache of money.

Portraying Daddy is U.S. Army Sgt. Oliver T. Cooper who has played major roles in the Urban Services Cultural Arts Program's Mod Players' productions of "Purlie Victorious", "The Rain Maker," "The Amen Corner" and "See How They Run."

Bob Russell

Verna Day, Christine Bryan, Shandra Welbourne, Sandra Wooden, Steven Hinnant, Lindzell Patterson, John Nelson, Floyd Gilliam and Millard Streeter complete the cast.

Night Scene Seen

By Bob Matthews

Another new entrant in the live music derby will start programming live music on July 7, when a group calling itself Extended Dimension Ltd., headed by Maurice Chavis, takes over Monday nights at the International out on Park Hgts Ave.

Current plans call for the opening act artist to be none other than Baltimore's own Brenda Alford and her trio. Details are not yet firm as to the costs, or even the price of drinks, but keep the date in mind for the kickoff session.

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Another Baltimore Night Scene tradition is being revived with a bang as the Garrison Lounge plunges into promotion of a complete happy hour. Chatted

Naturally had to sample the fare, so dropped in to find miniature egg rolls, fried chicken drumsticks and other goodies, all kept hot in a warming server, and with Persis Butler, day manager of the club, who smilingly told us that hot hors d'oenvres are available free for patrons during the 5 to 7 p.m. happy hour. downright tasty. Hurrah for the happy hour.

This has to be called the weekend of the piano, for three greats are on tap. McCoy Tyner will be performing at Shriver Hall on the Johns Hopkins Univ. campus, with two concerts scheduled, 8 and 11 p.m., June 14.

Tyner played with the legendary John Coltrane from 1959 to 1965, and made over 20 albums with the tenor sax great. Since the death of Coltrane, McCoy has recorded with most of the known greats of jazz, including Ron Carter, Stanley Clarke, Freddie Hubbard, Lee Morgan, Billy Cobham and others too numerous to mention. The group he will be bringing into JHU is the same one on his latest album "Horizon," and includes Joe Ford, sax; John Blake, violin; Guilherme Franco, percussion; George Johnson, drums and Avery Sharpe, bass. Added attraction for the concert will be "The African Roots of Jazz," led by E. W. Wainwright, who formerly was a drummer with Tyner. Besides musicians, the group has dancers, including stilt dancers who perform 25 feet in the air.

McCoy Tyner
Shriver Hall

Ronnie Mathews
The Bandstand

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In the Peabody Concert Hall, the same date, June 14, pianist Charles Covington Jr., a native Baltimorean will be featured in a benefit concert scheduled to begin at 7:30. Nicknamed Mr. Magic (because of his spectacular ability to create magical illusions) the Peabody faculty member will showcase some of his original material.

Assisted by Bob Wyatt, drums, and Jon Hazdin, bass, Charlie will play also such compositions as "Lover Man," "Hey There," "All The Things You Are," and a raft of other tunes.

— —

The quiet, unassuming genius has performed and recorded with such artists as Milt Jackson, Sonny Stitt, Ron Carter, Charlie Rouse, and myriad others. He has made a guest appearance on the Johnny Carson show with jazz guitarist George Benson.

Since his concert is at 7:30 p.m., it is possible to catch both Charlie and McCoy, since there is an 11 p.m. concert scheduled at JHU.

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The other piano great in town this weekend is Ronnie Mathews (no relation) who will be performing at The Bandstand through Sunday night. With him will be Ray Drummond, bass, and Kenny Washington, drums.

Ronnie has played Baltimore many times, as accompanist with some of his top jazz groups. His last appearance was at the LBJS concert with tenor saxaphonist Johnny Griffin. The Fells Pt. gig will be his first in the area as leader of his own group — this will be a dynamite first for Baltimore.

— —

The Left Bank Jazz Society is presenting one of the most innovative and exciting groups around when drummer Chico Hamilton brings in his septet. Although Chico may not be a generally known as some jazz artists, his West Coast-based group is known to cover the gamut from driving, swinging jazz, to cool esoteric sound.

Will always remember how Chico startled the jazz world back in the early sixties by incorporating a cello into his group. The instrumentation for the LBJS set includes two guitars, sax, bass, tonga drums and vocal. With, of course, Chico on percussion.