Ivan Van Sertima lectures at Morgan

Many (paperback) publishers turned "They Came Before Columbus" down because they felt that the New York Times Review had demolished the book. When Pro. Ivan Van Sertima published his scholarly work- "The Came Before Columbus: The African Presence in Ancient America" in 1977, he immediately became the target of archaelogical hit men, determined to discredit his thesis.

Pro. Ivan Van Sertima will be lecturing for two days at Morgan State University's Little Theatre on July 25 and will be joined by the Political Historian, Dr. Acklyn Lynch on July 26, both events are scheduled from 6 to 10:30 p.m.

Pro. Sertima's theory is that Africans made contact on at least half a dozen occasions, two of which were culturaly significant for Americans. He is not saying that Africans "discovered" America. His thesis came under attack by the New York Times' Glyn Daniel, Disney professor of archeology of the University of Cambridge, England, Harvard's Barry Fell, editor of Antiquity and of the Ancient People and Places, are just a few critics who he had to put in their place.

Despite the fact that these critics were determined to damage Dr. Van Sertima tremendously; the book was not demolished. In fact, it won the 1981 Clarence L. Holte Prize, which carried with it a citation and an award. The Holte Prize, named after a retired advertising executive who is thought to have the largest private collection of books and literature on Africa, was begun in 1979. It is awarded every two years "for a work of excellence in literature and the humanities relating to the cultural heritage of Africa and the African diaspora".

The noted historian, Chancellor Williams, won the first Holte Prize for his book 'The Destruction of Black Civilization: Great Issues of a Race from 4500 B.C. to A.D. 2000".

Upon winning the prize, the New York Times had to swallow its attack and wrote the following: "Published in 1976 by Random House, the book presents evidence that Africans sailed west to the Americas for trade and exploration 2,200 years before Columbus arrived". Mr. Van Sertima is the compiler of the Swahili Dictionary of legal terms, author of the "Caribbean Writer", and editor of the Journal of African Civilizations, is a graduate of London University's School of Oriental and African Studies, and Rutgers Graduate School. His contention is that a contempt for the African per se is the cause of the opposition to his book.

Mr. Van Sertima, who holds degrees in African Studies, linguistics and anthropology, kept "They Came Before Columbus" alive by doing what scholars who revolt against the establishment have to do. He sold the book himself. He went to many Universities, spoke to about a hundred universities and colleges across the United States promoting his work that he has kept alive over these years. Van Sertima believes that had he not continued lecturing about "They Came Before Columbus" it would have died. Why? Because the New York Times Review deals the kind of blow that has killed a lot of revolutionary work.

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TV Watching

By Vanessa Johnson
Friday

John Davidson: Guests include child actress Kim Fields from "Facts of Life". 4:30-5:00 p.m.-Ch. 13.

Evening Magazine: Segments on a gambling junket to Atlantic City. 7:30-8:00 p.m.-Ch. 13.

Benson: Clayton winds up on a mob's hit list after blowing the whistle on a corporate fraud that tried to buy his influence with the Governor. Starring Robert Guillaume. 8:00-8:30 p.m.-Ch. 13.

Blue Jean Network: Featured include Smokey Robinson. 9:30-10:30 p.m.-Ch. 11.

Sneak Previews: Reviews of the Walt Disney animated film "The Fox and the Hound" and others. 9:00-9:30 p.m.-Ch. 22 & 67.

Rona Barrett: Rona talks with "today's super rich", including Ebony publisher John Johnson. 10:00-11:00 p.m.-Ch. 13.

Saturday

Pat Albert: Care and protection of animals are emphasized in this talk. Hosted by Bill Cosby. 12:00-12:30 p.m.-Ch. 2.

Tony Brown's Journal: Guests examine the implications resulting from the discovery that the Washington Post's 1981 Pulitzer Prize-winning report on an 8-year-old drug addict was bogus. 12:00-12:30 p.m.-Ch. 11.

Soul Train: Performances by Carrie Lucas and The Whispers. 12:30-1:30 p.m.-Ch. 11.

National Sports Festival: Over 3,400 U.S. amateur athletes in 33 different sports descend on Syracuse, N.Y., for the National Sports Festival. 3:00-4:30 p.m.-Ch. 13.

Enos: A notoriously trickly fugitive, using mastery of disguise and a pretty accomplice, leads Enos and Turk on a merry chase as they try to extradite him from Nevada. Starring Samuel E. Wright. 8:00-9:00 p.m.-Ch. 2.

Roots of Rock'n' Roll: A six-part miniseries tracing the development of rock and roll from 1955 to the present. In the opener, the years 1955 to 1959 are chronicled, revealing rock's development from indigenous "black" music to widespread acceptance via Elvis. 11:00-12:00 a.m.-Ch. 5.

Flip Wilson: Guests include Sugar Ray Robinson. 11:30-12:30 a.m.-Ch. 2.

Saturday Night Live: Singer Joan Armatrading performs "Down to Zero". 11:30-1:00 a.m.-Ch. 11.

Sunday

Lift Every Voice: A half-hour of spiritual music and inspirational message. Rev. James J. Pelter, New Hope Baptist Church. 8:00-8:30 a.m.-Ch. 2.

Tony Brown's Journal: A discussion of the economic status of blacks. A poll of television viewers is also featured. 1:00-1:30 p.m.-Ch. 4.

Solid Gold: Co-hosts Gladys Knight & the Pips, join hostess Dionne Warwick and sing "Love Was Made for Two". 1:00-2:00 p.m.-Ch. 45.

ABC News Special: "Social Security: Myths and Realities" surveys funding problems facing the retirement system that provides benefit checks for an estimated 36 million Americans. 8:00-9:00 p.m.-Ch. 13.

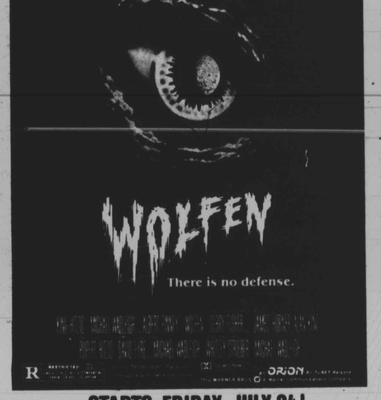
Evening At Pops: British singer Clare Laine, backed by her husband John Denkworth and his quintet as well as the Boston Pops Orchestra, performs "Turkish Delight" and many others. 8:00-9:00 p.m.-Ch. 22 & 67.

The Jeffersons: Louise makes a sentimental journey to the house she grew up in after learning that it's scheduled for demolition. Starring Isabel Sanford and Sherman Hemsley. 9:30-10:00 p.m.-Ch. 2.

Trapper John, M.D.: The teacher of the hospital's new day-care center shoulders the guilt when one of her charges has a serious accident. Starring Gregory Harrison and Madge Sinclair. 10:00-11:00 p.m. - Ch. 2.

Louise (Isabel Sanford) pays a poignant late night visit to her old home in Harlem on "The Jeffersons", Sunday, July 26.

They can hear a cloud pass overhead,
the rhythm of your blood.
They can track you by yesterday's shadow.
They can tear the scream from your throat.



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8:00 P.M.
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• NANCY WILSON • PIECES OF A DREAM
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James Booker's N.Y.

New York- The music was groovy last week at radio station WBLS-FM as the word came out that the Black-owned and controlled station had the number one spot as New York's most listened to station in the arbitron spring survey, capturing 7.4 per cent of the audience, a full percentage point over its nearest rival. Much credit goes to programing director Frankie Crocker.

— —

One of the multi-million dollar contract yet landed by a black business is the one won by Alonzo V. Wallette, President of AVW Electronic Systems, Inc., of Los Angeles. The firm was contracted by the Naval Electronics Systems Command to design and manufacture a radio high frequency communications system to be installed in Navy submarines. The three-year old firm got its start through the financial assistance of Amistad DOT Venture Capital Inc., the New York Based MESBIC headed by former Manhattan Borough President Percy E. Sutton.

— —

The rapidly expanding Studio Museum in Harlem, at 2022 Fifth Avenue, is moving its office staff into its new home at 144 W. 125th Street the end of July while rennovations are continuing in the new headquarters main exhibition floors. Mrs. Mary Campbell, Curator, said the studio will also change its name next January when the remodeling will be complete.

— —

Five members of the Harlem Globetrotters have scored their first in being featured in radio and television commericals for Quintet, a just developed, five piece mini-sound system that snaps together for traveling and delivers high fidelity sounds.

— —

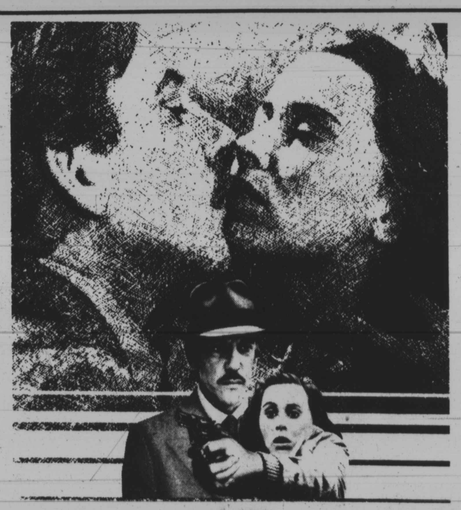
Celebs are planning to flock to the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria on Saturday, August 8, for the finals of Hal Jackson's 1981 Talented Teens International Talent Competition. The Black tie affair is expected to draw top moviemakers and talent scouts.

— —

In that shakeup in the ABC-news department, popular Spencer Christian has been let out from his "Good Morning, America" spot, and returned as the weatherman on "Eyewitness News".

— —

Ben Vereen, still recuperating from his big mouth last winter, doing summer stock in his former hit "Pipin" ... Rock star Ikē Turner can't seem to stay out of trouble, with his new arrest on cocaine found in his briefcase... Diana Ross spends her relaxing hours roller skating around her midtown Manhattan block.



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National Urban League Conference highlights

'DANGER TO BLACKS' — Vernon Jordan, president of the National Urban League, charged in his keynote address that President Reagan's "jelly bean" budget was a "danger to black and poor people."

'THE DOORS ARE OPEN' — Vice President George Bush, in defending the Reagan Administration's policies, declared "the doors of the White House are open, but don't bring an old agenda; we need new ideas."

Jordan 'disappointed' by 'jellybean' replies

National Urban League president Vernon Jordan, Thursday, expressed "deep disappointment" as he assessed the dialogue which took place this week between "the Black community" and the Reagan Administration.

In fact, Jordan declared "We got jelly bean answers to our questions about this jelly bean budget."

He noted that in his speech opening the National Urban League's 71st annual Conference, Sunday night, he had raised a number of issues and questions to which he wanted the Administration to respond. He pointed out that he had asked the Administration "to tell us what poor people and black people are supposed to do until prosperity returns. We did not get an answer.

"I asked how the Administration's program will finally bring equality to black people when we do bad even in good times. We did not get an answer.

"I asked what we of the Urban League movement had to say to our constituents in 116 cities where unemployment, bad health and housing, and other social ills cry out for realistic solutions. Again, we did not get an answer."

He said that the Administration's spokesman only continued to blur the real issues and to repeat the tired slogans they had trotted out before.

"This lack of sensitivity to the sacrifices being forced on poor people, this total lack of compassion for the needy, I find truly frightening."

The conference which opened Sunday at the Sheraton Washington Hotel ended Wednesday. It was attended by some 15,000 Urban Leaguers from across the country and addressed many of the issues of pressing concerns to black people today.

Several members of the Reagan Administration addressed the sessions and Jordan in his assessment Wednesday said he was pleased by the statesmanship the Administration had demonstrated by coming to the conference and entering into dialogue with the League.

Bush challenges NUL to get 'new agenda'

By Gerry Harewood

"What did he say?"

"He did not address any issues at all!"

"It sounded like somebody got up in the middle of the night and tried to write a rebuttal to Vernon Jordan's address."

The above are samples of the reaction by Urban Leaguers attending the National Urban League's 71st annual conference, to a 15-minute address by Vice President George Bush to the plenary session Monday morning.

As predicted by the vice president in his opening remarks, he received a much less than enthusiastic reception from the 4,000 attending the session.

Defending the Reagan administration's policies and what has been described by National Urban League President Vernon Jordan as "the jelly bean budget," Bush declared that there isn't so much a credibility gap between the administration and audiences like the Urban League, as "there is a communications gap." The answer, he said, was to keep talking and keep listening.

Bush said that Jordan's statement that the administration has "no campassion for America, especially for black Americans" was unfair.

He noted that it was charged that American blacks are under seige moving into an area retrenchment of civil rights and individual rights. "And those who suggest or charge that this administration will retreat from America's commitment to civil and individual rights are badly misinformed."

On the social front, said the vice president, "we share a commitment to the principle of equal rights and opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, creed, and sex," and that commitment, according to him, includes protection of the right to vote— from Mississippi to Michigan, from New England to California.

Jordan, on Sunday night, had called on the president to come out in favor of renewal of the Voting Rights Act due to expire next year and to come out in favor of it now. In reference to this, the vice president stated "Our president will do what's right on voting rights and that's not simply talk.

Bush drew applause when he stated that the administration believes that "the white hood of the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazi swastika are symbols of hatred from out of the past and there is no place for those ugly symbols in modern America."

On violence and crime, Vice President Bush expressed the administration's determination to take whatever action is needed to help the communities of the country protect their lives, their safety, and the health of all Americans in the streets, homes and work places.

"Equal opportunity begins in our schools," said Bush, noting that America's traditionally black universities and colleges represent not simply a cultural, but a national resource that must be maintained and fostered for future generations.

Bush said the administration wanted to put Americans to work to provide lives of dignity and hope for those black and minority citizens that have been trapped in what seems to be a remorseless cycle of despair and hopelessness.

"We seek a partnership between corporate American and the black and minority business community, a partnership that will take on the challenge of revitalizing our nation's core city areas, a partnership that will provide long-range, not merely emergency, solutions to the problems of minority youth unemployment," he stated.

Towards the end of his address, the vice president laid down a challenge to the Urban League.

"What America desperately needs, what black and minority Americans need aren't the old ideas," he said. . . . "You are innovators, you are leaders, so don't bring us an old agenda that failed . . . bring us some new, creative ideas."

He advised Jordan and the Urban League that the door to the White House "is open" and the administration wants it open and is going to keep it oepn. "But we also need a new agenda," he emphasized.

One lady delegate from Ohio thought the vice president had made a "hard hitting and good speech" in which he had challenged the Urban League to go to the White House with some new ideas.

She was in a minority. Most of the delegates thought the Bush speech had offered "nothing. Some thought it was "very poor. Robert L. Edwards, executive director of the Springfield, Ohio Urban League said of the address: "I'm glad I'm a Christian man, I don't have to cuse."

D.C. teacher found slain

A local high school teacher was found stabbed to death in his Northwest Washington home earlier this week, and police still were searching for a suspect in the slaying on Wednesday.

Daniel Thomas White Jr., 39, who taught at McKinley High School, was found lying on the floor of his home at 6510 Seventh Pl., N.W., about 5 p.m. Monday, police reported.

Police had no indication of how he received the fatal stab wounds and no suspects were listed in connection with the slaying.

White, a bachelor, reportedly lived alone and neighbors described him as quiet and a good neighbor. He had lived at the residence for five or six years.

Prior to taking the teaching post at McKinley last February, White had taught at Backus Junior High, Lincoln Junior High and Ballou Senior High. He also worked with city youth in the Inner City.

He was a graduate of Howard University and also had earned a graduate degree at the University of the District of Columbia.

INTERNSHIP

Congressman Mickey Leland, D-Houston, has named Richard M. Cole as his L.B.J. Intern for the 97th Congressional session.

The L.B.J. Congressional internship program affords a student at an institution of higher learning the opportunity to work in a congressional office in a paid position while learning the business of the Congress.

Marvin takes jail break

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (UPI) — Former Cong. Marvin Mandel was free on Friday for the first time in prison, said those who saw him "special plans" to go out to visit with his wife and family.

The 61-year-old Mandel was released Saturday from the Eglin Air Force Base Federal Prison in Pensacola, Fla., where he has been serving a three-year sentence for mail fraud and racketeering.

Mandel appeared tanned, but thin and his face a bit drawn. He said he felt fine, and throughout his breakfast meal at Chic and Ruth's Deli, a local delicatessen that is one of his favorite breakfast spots, he received the greetings from several well-wishers who had heard of his return.

Since arriving back in Maryland, Mandel said he has visited an Italian eatery in Baltimore, a rustic seafood restaurant outside Annapolis, and had spent the morning crabbing from a pier with his stepson Paul.

With Paul, his wife, Jeanne, and attorney Bruce Bereano at his side, Mandel ate eggs and a bagel and discussed his immediate plans.

"I really have my own special plans. I'll be spening all my time with my family — all my time," he said.

The former governor said he no longer works in the laundry at the Eglin Air Force Base Prison, but now works in the prison recreation office, issuing equipment.

"I make them sign for it, return it and take care of it," he said.

Mandel said his flight home to Maryland was the longest he has ever taken.

"I once flew from China to Andrews Air Force Base (in Naryland) and that was a much faster flight than from Eglin to [illegible] ship," he said, still calling Baltimore-Washington International Airport by its old name.

Mandel decided to talk specifically about his case and the repeated attempts his attorneys have made to have him paroled before his sentence expires next May, but said he did plan to meet with his attorney's while home "regarding the whole situation."

Mrs. Mandel said she is still working in the consulting firm she and her husband established during the years he was appealing his conviction and expected Mandel to rejoin her upon his release.

When he visited Sabotino's Restaurant in Baltimore's Little Italy over the weekend, diners and the restaurant staff alike stood and applauded when Mandel made his surprise entrance.

Mandel said he was surprised at all the new buildings that have been constructed along Baltimore's waterfront since has been away, and took some of the credit for laying the foundation for the city's downtown renovation.

"You have no idea what a good feeling it is for you to see the things you worked on so long to come into being," he said.

"What impressed me," he said, "was the number of people downtown in Baltimore. That's a good thing for the city."

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