THREE EXQUISITE GARMENTS are aired at the recent array of fashions by innovative designers at the Downtown Hilton Hotel by (L to R): Anna Lisa, Linden Hinds and Corine King. Far right (L to R) are: Mary Elaine, commentator and choreographer for the extravaganza, Betty Fenner, local winner of Designer Award of Fashion sponsored by the Center for Innovation and Industrial Development and Ophelia DeVore, pioneer fashion developer of New York who helped pull the event together under the leadership of Dr. Mel Butler, head of the center.

Baltimore aids in pioneer development of new fashion talent

Dramatic, exquisite styles by an array of impressive, ambitious, innovative designers made an important and provocative style statement at the Baltimore Hilton Hotel, Sunday, Dec. 6.

Under the leadership of Dr. Mel Butler, the Center For Innovative and Industrial Development sponsored this pioneering thrust of developing creative young black fashion talents who can bring a dynamic, unique dimension to men's and women's wear.

Baltimore, with its current forward perspective, is the first city to support this much needed service.

To bring this idea into fruition, Dr. Butler reached out for someone with proven know-how in this area to assist in making this movement a substantive reality.

His search ended in Fashion City (New York City) at the headquarters of pioneer developer, Ophelia DeVore. Far more than thirty five (35) years, Miss DeVore has been responsible for developing hundreds of primarily non white aspirants in the fashion, modeling, communications and entertainment fields, and she is still going strong.

To display these culturally inspired garments to maximum advantage, at the premier showing of this concept, Ophelia DeVore brought fifteen (15) of her professional models direct from Fashion Avenue in New York City for this unusual assignment.

Some of these mannequins have just returned, statewide, after having completed the fashion showings in France, Italy and Germany.

To say the least, this fashion display was superb, the fashions were diversified, striking and refreshing.

Many of the outfits made statements relevant to prevailing trends while others focused on future "looks," a perspective which is, without a doubt, too advanced to be understood and appreciated by the average consumer.

Models coming from the Grace Del Marco rostrum in New York City were: Anna Lisa, La Valle, Madelyn Murphy, Corinne King, Carmen, Suzanne Gourdine, Saadia DeLions, Dolores Green, Terri Smith, Linden Hinds, Reggie Mayner, Jerry Turner, Curtis Ray, and Mark Branch; local models embellishing the display with local color were: Lisa Valay Winder, Deana Ballard, Jackie Williams, Annie Hudson and Carl Medley.

Designers from New York, Baltimore and Washington, DC were: Alexander Baker, Betty Fenner, Kee Jean, Twaunna Jones, Donna Kirkland, Starzetta (Newsome), Earlene Stokes, Audrey Watson, Kim Wiseman. Since this was the maiden show, only a few select designers were intived to participate.

The fashion talent concept will travel to twenty (20) U.S. cities and will show in Europe in 1982.

This program will present many opportunities for American Black designers who have been, for the most part, either overlooked or exploited by the fashion industry.

To the premier designer in the Baltimore show, sponsorship of travel and all expenses to the twenty (20) other city shows will be awarded by Soul Shack Restaurant of Baltimore, Maryland.

This designer will have a prime opportunity to give visibility to his her creations and create a consumer demand for them.

Additionally, the premier designer will show his her styles at the final show in New York City before departure to Paris, France with the tour. Baltimore Premier Designer is

Dr. Mel Butler, on behalf of the Center For Innovative and Industrial Development, made a special presentation to Ophelia DeVore for her outstanding contributions to the world of fashions.

Awards and Citations were presented to outstanding non performing participants called "Pace Setters." Special recognition was accorded them for their dedication, commitment, and loyalty to the Fashion Talent Concept.

Mary Elaine was imported from New York City to commentate and choreograph this very special event. She is not only an outstanding commentator with broad national experience, she is an exotic, sophisticated lady who causes heads to turn in her direction, in profound admiration.

Dr. Larry Dismond of New York and New Jersey selected appropriate show music, played the piano and guitar, and sang where appropriate opportunities arose. Everyone knows that music can make or break a show so a knowledge of all kinds of music is vital; Dr. Dismond was perfect.

Local Baltimore designer Betty Fenner was the overwhelmed winner of the Designer Award of Fashion sponsored by the Center for Innovation and Industrial Development at the Hilton Hotel event.

Betty is a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Design and Technology in NY. She has designed for major Show Biz figures such as Chuck Jackson and wife Cheryl, writers and producers for Natalie Cole and Bernice Ferguson of "General Hospital" fame.

Betty Fenner has as her signature fable a black net mesh detailed with velvet. She chooses fine fabrics and classic styling for her clothes.

Her designs may be seen in many local boutiques such as Chameleon or Boutique Persisions.

Betty hopes that taking her designs to many far flung cities, as her prize, will introduce folks to Baltimore as a style conscious city.

Her dream is to have a salon in Baltimore which will attract clients from all over the world.

Columbia Capers

Columbia links present program on the disabled

LINKS PRESENT

On Nov 15, 1981 the Columbia, Md. Chapter of Links' Inc. presented: An Afternoon of Enlightenment: 'The International Year of the Disabled Person.'

This event was held at the Wright Building of Ellicot Enterprises, a facility of the Howard County Association for Retarded Citizens, Inc., located on Homewood Rd.

The purpose of the affair was to increase the knowledge, understanding and sensitivity of the community to the strengths and potential as well as needs of the disabled person.

The theme was carried out through the medium of children's art work, film, song and presentation of speaker.

The Art Department of Cedar Lane School of Columbia, Md., Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute and Sharpe Health School of Washington, DC contributed drawings, water colors, ceramics and flower arrangements.

The film "The Different Approach" effectively illustrated that one assumes that one who is disabled is unable to actively participate in society; all of us have handicaps, possibly not to the same degree but we have limiting factors that hinder our maximum productivity.

Dr. Sylvia Walker, Assistant Professor of Special Education at Howard University and Director of the Center for the Study of Handicapped Children and Youth, Howard University, compared the status of the disabled in the United States, Nigeria, and Ghana.

She pointed out that although the status of the disabled person has received attention, there is a great need to effect attitude change toward the disabled in the three countries; this attitude is a major factor, not only in the treatment of and the status of the disabled, but in the effectiveness of programs to integrate them into society as full participants.

A comparison was made to the Civil Rights Movement in the United States and of the continuous struggle in 3 countries of ethnic diversity for equal opportunity for education and socialization of all people.

Miss Michelle Fizer, a student from Oakland Mills closed the program with "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." This young lady reflected a ray of hope through song for all persons of varying abilities; for a handicap is a form of uniqueness.

Present at the affair were: Charles Russell, president of the Howard County Association for Retarded Citizens and Ms Anne Buchanan, vice president of Howard County Association for Retarded Citizens; Thomas Briscoe, former member of the Board of Directors of the Howard County Association for Retarded Citizens and husband of Link Roberta Briscoe; Dr. Martha Sullivan of the Department of Special Education of Howard County Public Schools; Silas Craft, president of the NAACP and other guests from the community at large.

Refreshments of wine, cheese and nuts or punch and cookies were served as the guests arrived in the reception area.

The speaker, Dr. Walker, was able to meet many of the Links and the guests prior to the program.

Members of the program committee were Links Jean Cooper, Maxine Pierce, Iola Smith, Ada Woodland and Sandra Noel Smith, chairman.

Helen Keller was quoted as saying: "Not blindness, but the attitude of the seeing to the blind is the hardest burden to bear." Hopefully, this program helped to improve such attitudes.

Greetings to all of my readers and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year and a very prosperous one.

Woodlawn Highlights

New SSA District Office opens

By Marjorie R. Green

Mayor William Donald Schaefer, Senator Paul Sarbanes and John Svahn, Commissioner of Social Security were among the Federal, State and local officials participating in the formal opening of a Social Security District Office in the newly renovated Candler Building, located at Pratt, Lombard St. and Market Pl last Friday morning.

In 1936, shortly after the enactment of the Social Security Act, the Social Security Administration established its National Headquarters in the Candler building. It remained there until late 1959 when the record keeping operation moved to the Woodlawn complex on Security Boulevard.

Heading up the District Office operation that will service approximately 70,000 households in the area, is Ms. Velma Seabrooks, District Manager who previously headed the office formerly located in the 707 Calvert Street Building.

In his remarks during the ribbon cutting ceremony, Commissioner Svahn stated that "This office is something more than a place for people to come for personal attention to their needs. This office is where much of what we are today began.

"This office, this building, is where the Social Security Administration took root and began to grow into what is the most responsive agency in the Federal Government."

Mayor Schaefer disclosed information concerning future plans to rebuild and renovate the entire waterfront neighborhood.

Other officials attending the event were Ms. Sally Wingo, representing Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski, James Jeffers, SSA; Thomas Shortley, SSA and Paul Simmons, SSA.

Several employees with combined service totaling over 170 years and who formerly worked in the Calvert Street District Office also participated in the ribbon cutting.

Edwina Quaries, Service Representative started in 1947 as a Key Punch Operator. Edna Waggner, also a Service Representative started as a Wage Reports Clerk in 1950.

Anita Lawrence, Claims Representative, Hetty Borek, Data Review Technician and Mary Zappulla, Receptionist, all started their careers with SSA in the Candler Building.

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More than 1,000 children entertained

Police Dept. Xmas party provides food and fun

TOO MANY HAMBURGERS — For 23-month-old Isaac Sampson, who sleeps it off his mother's lap, Mrs. Claudette Sampson.

HI SANTA! — Santa Claus stopped in for the Police Department's party and four-year-old Shante Nelson took a seat on his lap to tell Santa what she wanted for Christmas.

A DANCIN' GOOD TIME — More than 1,000 children feasted on hamburgers and other treats and were entertained by local media personalities and characters such as Yogi the Bear and Scooby-Doo. The party, held Dec. 19 at the downtown Hilton Hotel, was sponsored by the Police Department's Community Relations Division. For the last 10 years, the party had been held at the Winchester Armory.

DANCE PARTNERS — Even the little ones had a chance to dance and have a good time at the Police Department Christmas party, including Kya Johnson, 3 and Darnell Brockington, 3.

SCOOBY-DOO WAS THERE, TOO — Among the special guests at the Police Department's annual children's Christmas party was Scooby-Doo.

YOUR AUTOGRAPH, PLEASE! — Nine-year-old Nikki Tighman waits anxiously to receive an autograph from WJZ-TV 13's Al Sanders, who was on hand as a special guest at the Police Department Community Relations Division's annual Christmas party for inner-city youths.

POLICE DEPARTMENT EXECS — Among the police officials and special guests at the Christmas party were (L to R) Police Commissioner Frank Battaglia, Major Edward Woods, director of Community Relations Division, which sponsored the activity; WJZ-TV newsman Al Sanders and Thomas Seabrum, Community Relations specialist. Not shown is Sgt. Mariam Crawford who organized the event.

PHYLLIS SHELTON, CARE volunteer and public service director for WJZ-TV, makes phone calls to urge support for CARE's Maryland Holiday Campaign. This year, CARE's holiday campaign appeals to Americans to provide food for millions of hungry children and their families overseas, who urgently need help.

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Merry Christmas to all

AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

CHRISTMAS TOUCH — George Taylor, owner of Arts and Flower floral shop, puts the finishing touches on his holiday decorations. Taylor, who is the former owner of Taylor's House of Flowers at Mondawmin Mall, has had his shop in the 100 block Park Ave. for three years. Taylor says flowers are an integral part of the holiday season and that poinsettias are considered the Christmas flower because of its red color, green foliage and star-like design.

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Bumper sticker aid

State police crackdown on drunk drivers

Maryland State Police are enlisting the aid of motorists in their drive to crack down on drunk drivers, a spokesman said this week.

Police are passing out black and white bumper stickers that read, "I report drunk drivers to the Maryland State Police," said spokesman Dan McCarthy. The stickers do not have pictures or a logo, but the word "drunk" is printed in wavy letters.

"Our basic reason for doing this is there are so many drunk drivers on the road," he said. "Many times a person who spots a drunk can report him to the police and possibly save someone's life.

"This augments our trooper force. The police can't be everywhere at once and the bumper stickers encourage people to contact police," McCarthy added.

He said he hoped the stickers will also act as a deterrant.

"If someone who has been drinking sees the sticker on someone else's car, maybe he'll think twice about getting behind the wheel," McCarthy pointed out.

He defended the purpose of the stickers.

"We think this is very positive. It's not a matter of vigilantism," McCarthy explained. "It's a matter of having 20,000 cars on the road where people can spot a drunk and if the police are nearby, they can prevent the driver from going any further."

The police launched a crackdown in 1981 to removed tipsy drivers from the road. More than 11,000 intoxicated drivers were arrested through November, compared to 6,202 for all of 1980.

State police have received "a lot" of telephone calls and citizen band radio reports from other motorists alerting them to intoxicated drivers, McCarthy pointed out. He linked the increase to the publicity surrounding the enforcement effort, but could not directly attribute the rising number to the bumper stickers.

McCarthy added the state police are beefing up their patrols during the holidays. Troopers are working with Baltimore County Police five days a week between 7 p.m. and 3 a.m. on certain roads where alcohol - related accidents are prevalent.

The free bumper stickers became available at barracks across the state a few months ago. McCarthy said the initial printing of 10,000 cost the state between $120,000 and $150,000.

Police might request a second printing if the program proves successful and money is available, he said.