On display at UDC

The 'quietly alarming' art of Delilah Pierce

By Patricia L. Williams

If one were asked to describe a Delilah Pierce, what could one possibly say? Many things one of which being, she is a smashing delight.

Of her work one could also make many proclamations, but to be more explicit, in that grouping should be the terms distinct, strong, solid, and even the phrase, quietly alarming.

In honor of Black History Month, Pierce is exhibiting some of her work at the University of the District of Columbia's Ninth Street Gallery, Gallery 900.

Opening night marked a celebrated evening of appreciation and kinmanship. Ms. Pierce was not just another artist on display. She was an old friend returning home.

She is a graduate of Miner Normal School, a "U.D.C. predecessor institution."

Furthermore the talented artist has degrees from Howard University and Columbia Teacher's College, New York City. And at one point, she served as professor of art and art education at Miner Teacher's College.

Most of her work form the early years depicts Pierce as being a realist. In particular, one painting of two sisters, aptly titled, "Twins" stands out. The portrait is strikingly beautiful; the girls with parted plaits and ribbons peer out at you; so life like are they, that one almost wishes to set them free and release them from the constraints of their framework.

"Lillies," a real still life, is more alive. Thick brushstrokes are apparent in this work while complimented by dynamic shades of green—lush and pleasant it is. A 1983 painting, "Vendors," of two fruit and vegetable salesmen is a subtle delicacy with its tasty reds and rich hues of black. Still a much later work, Pierce's 1979 "Shoreline" hints at her upcoming change in styles. The harbor view here telescopes to a fine point.

The paintings from her latest period (1982-83) all share the same first name, Nebulae. Literally this refers to dust particles as seen from the heavens.

"Nebulae VI" (1982) with its sea blue chrystals converges to a bright microcosmic center. Its icy effect is crisp and tight.

In the 1983 "Neb XI" the chrystal like polygons are fewer, and larger. The sea blue color has now been accompanied by traces of yellow, and blends of pink. The consensus concerning her late period is of the opinion that this period sets itself apart from the rest, being completely abstract in nature.

Pierce however comments, "it's really not that abstract in as much as it represents space. They really are realistic...it's a matter of seeing something that we haven't paid that much attention to...but if (her newer works) has some natural background...you see, it's a matter of composition, arrangement, light, and space."

The Vintage Lady had this to say to upcoming artists, "You have to work hard, get a feeling for what you are doing, be it music, dance, art, drama or whatever it is you're doing, look at the things around you and see its beauty, go to the museums. Riggins (The Washington Redskins) didn't start yesterday. He's 33. He's been running for a long time...and aiming to win."

The opening night event was followed by a reception and was visited by many from the Washington community as well as well-wishers from the U.D.C. family. Among them, were Joe and Grace Drew. Drew stated that as far back as he could remember, Ms. Pierce had always "dabbled" in art. He went on to say that he has known her since he was five years old when they were living out in Foggy Bottom, now known as Potomac.

Another patron of that opening night affair was U.D.C. art instructor Bill Taylor. Ms. Pierce had taught him art when he attended Shaw Junior High.

Pierce recollected that one day when Taylor was in the seventh grade he walked into her classroom and asked her to close her eyes. He placed a gift in her hands, a small carved elephant; Taylor had whittled it himself. Pierce indicated that she still had that treasured gift in her possession today.

(Photo by Patricia L. Williams)

DELILAH PIERCE chats with friends, Joe and Grace Drew. He stated that as far back as he could remember, Pierce had always "dabbled" in art. He has known the artist since he was five years old when they were living out in Foggy Bottom.

(Photo by Patricia L. Williams)

GRAND LADY — UDC art instructor Bill Taylor, pictured here with Delilah Pierce, was taught art by the grand lady way back when he was in the seventh grade at Shaw Junior High.

HILTON COURT PHARMACY INC.

Salutes

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HARLEM PARK ETHICAL PHARMACY, INC.
925 HARLEM AVE.
728-3636

MADISON PARK PROFESSIONAL PHARMACY
920 W. NORTH AVE.
523-0994

GARWYN ETHICAL PHARMACY
2300 GARRISON BLVD.
233-4200

PHARMACY 4200
(VILLAGE MEDICAL CENTER)
4200 EDMONDSON AVE.

Brager Gutman

We Salute

The Great Military Leaders and Heroes of Past and Present

during

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WANTED:
small businesses that want to grow.

A rare opportunity to gain the support services you need to start or expand a small business without investment in capital equipment.

Control Data Corporation is seeking participants to share the resources of an exciting new office and light manufacturing complex designed to help small business grow in the Baltimore, Park Heights area.

The Control Data Business and Technology Center (BTC) in Baltimore provides on-site access to many support services small businesses need (but often lack) to operate successfully, independent of outside suppliers.

We believe in small businesses. We're doing something about it. Through the Baltimore BTC, our services create your opportunities.

Occupancy is limited, so call, write or visit the Business and Technology Center. Open daily 8-5, weekends by appointment.

"Big business" resources on a "small business" budget.

Here are some of the services that await you at the Baltimore BTC:

- Affordable and flexible space—from single office to industrial space
- Technology searches
- Word processing
- Computing access
- Information center
- Conference rooms
- Lobby receptionist
- Financial, technical and business planning services

With these vital support services (available at no extra cost or on a low-cost, as-needed basis), can you afford to locate your business anywhere else? Control Data Business and Technology Center, 2901 Druid Park Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215. 301/367-1600.

CONTROL DATA BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Seven Up Salutes Black America

7UP

The Seven-Up Company

Historian cites Black contributions to America

By Hugo Duvall

Did you know that a black doctor performed the world's first successful open heart surgery? Or that the phrase "The Real McCoy" was coined to identify the invention of a black man? Or that the song "I'm Just Wild About Harry," which Harry Truman so fondly embraced, was written by blacks?

These achievements and others make up a part of American History that many people aren't aware of.

February is Black History Month, which means a time to remember, a time to learn the little-known facts about black contributions to America and the world, says Dr. Olive Taylor, assistant professor of history at Howard University.

Taylor is the consultant for an hour-long special television documentary to be aired during Black History Month called "Black Achievement in American History." The nationally syndicated program, which features Taylor, Sidney Poitier, Cicely Tyson, Andrew Young and others, highlights black achievements from the Revolutionary period to the 1980s.

Blacks made contributions to America even before the birth of the nation, says Taylor. On March 5, 1770, a runaway slave who became a sailor, Crispus Attucks, became the first American to give his life in the struggle between the American colonies and the British. Attucks and compatriots were killed in the Boston Massacre.

There were even black Minutemen who joined whites in answering Paul Revere's call to arms. And black militiamen Pomp Blackman and Prince Esterbrook made the heroes' honor roll at Lexington and Concord, Mass.

In 1773, a black fur trader, Jean Baptiste Point DuSable, founded the settlement that was later to become the city of Chicago.

During the post-Revolutionary period, a number of blacks gained acclaim. Among them was inventor, scientist and astronomer Benjamin Banneker, who helped survey and plan the city of Washington, D.C. He is also believed to be the first person to build a clock in America.

Poet Phillis Wheatley became the first black woman to have a book published in America, and it is believed that her book was the second to be written by an American woman.

Blacks were an integral part of the Western movement, says Taylor. She points out, as an example, that James Beckwourth, a former slave, discovered the pass through Sierra Nevada Mountains which still bears his name.

There were a number of black cowboys. Among them was Bill Pickett, a rodeo star, who was cited for developing "bulldogging." Another was Nat Love, known as "Deadwood Dick," who won the title of expert marksman in competition in Deadwood, S.D., where he earned his nickname.

Blacks have been responsible for scores of inventions. Taylor notes that Elijah McCoy's invention of automatic "lubricators" for machinery during the Industrial Revolution was so useful that it was called "The Real McCoy," hence the origin of the popular phrase to indicate authenticity.

Jan E. Matzeliger invented the "lasting machine" which revolutionized the shoe manufacturing industry. Inventor Granville T. Woods made significant contributions to the development of automatic air brakes. And Garrett A. Morgan received a U.S. patent for his invention of the traffic light.

Blacks have also made significant contributions to medicine. In 1893, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performed the world's first successful open heart surgery in Chicago. And Dr. Charles Drew, a professor of surgery in Howard University's medical school, developed a method for storing blood for long periods and has been called "The Father of the Blood Bank."

Many black literary and cultural contributions have been made to America and the world. During the Harlem Renaissance period, Eubie Blake, Aubrey Lyle and Noble Sissle wrote and produced one of the early black revues — "Shuffle Along" — that appeared on Broadway. Out of that revue came popular American hits "I'm Just Wild About Harry," which Harry Truman used as his presidential campaign theme, as well as "Love Will Find A Way" and "Shuffle Along."

It was also during the Harlem Renaissance period that Carter G. Woodson, who established the "Journal of Negro History," spearheaded efforts to foster a national observance of black history. In 1926, "Negro History Week" emerged, and was expanded to a month-long celebration during the 1960s.

The observance of black history is important, says Taylor, because America and its institutions have been shaped by the contributions made by blacks. "The knowledge and appreciation of black history establishes the fact that all Americans have benefited from the presence of blacks in this country."

Black Medal of Honor winners

PETERSBURG - "Black Medal of Honor Winners during the Siege of Petersburg" is the topic of an 8 p.m. lecutre Feb. 24, at Richard Bland College in recognition of Black History Month.

Sponsored by Petersburg National Battlefield Park, the talk will be presented by Edwinin Cole Bearss, currently chief historian for the National Park Service. It will be given in the lecture hall of the Frank Ernst Building at Richard Bland College. There is no charge.

Widely recognized for his many years of studying, research, writing and lecturing on the Civil War, he received the coveted Nevins-Freeman Award for his work in this field.

The lecture by Bearss is one of several events slated this month to recognize Black History Month at Richard Bland College. Librarians have set up a collection of books representative of those on the library shelves.

Two cases of material concerned with the history of Virginia State University are also in the library through the efforts of Lucious Edwards, archivist at VSC,

HARRIS KEY STORE

Salutes

THE AFRO

For

BLACK HISTORY WEEK

Lower Lever Mondawmin

383-0281

CANTY-SHELTON & ASSOCIATES

Is Supportive of

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

TAX PREPARATION

- Bookkeeping
- Credit Investigation
- Proposal Writing
- Small Business Consultation

669-4014
2901 Druid Park Drive
Suite 200C

CASSELL

CASSELL ASSOCS. REALTY INC.

SPECIALIST IN BALTIMORE CITY & COUNTY

TO BUY OR SELL CALL CASSELL

SALES RENTALS
COMPUTERIZED MULTIPLE LISTINGS
FHA-VA TERMS
NO DOWN PAYMENT PLANS
MORTGAGES ARRANGED
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
INVESTMENTS/BUSINESS
HOMES BOUGHT FOR CASH
FORECLOSURES STOPPED

OPEN 9 to 9, EVERY DAY

MIKE CASSELL
CRB, CRS, GRI, BROKER

THE BROKER WILL WORK DIRECTLY WITH YOU, IF YOU CHOOSE

Experience and qualifications of Mike Cassell CRB, CRS, GRI; President-Cassess Assocs. Realty, President-Cassell Mortgage Co.; present Chairman and Past President of the Real Estate Brokers of Baltimore, Inc., serves on the Boards of Directors of: The Greater Balt. Board of Realtors; a title co.; the State's Minorities in Real Estate program; and the Baltimore Plan for Affirmative Marketing in Real Estate. Is an Independent fee appraiser and a real estate instructor. Is the only minority real estate broker on the East Coast that has earned all three professional residential designations of the National Association of Realtors: He is a Certified Real Estate Broker Manager; a Certified Residential Specialist; and a Graduate of the Realtor's Institute. He is listed in:
Who's Who in Residential Real Estate
Who's Who in Residential Real Estate Brokerage Management
Who's Who in Residential Real Estate in America, and
Who's Who in Real Estate, Directory of Professionals

664-2222
4525 GARRISON BLVD
EHO

From great African kings to modern day heros.

Throughout the ages, great Black men and women have left their marks on the world's civilizations. With strength and intelligence—and enormous courage—these towering figures helped to forge new pathways and better directions.

That's a history you can be proud of. You can also take pride in the present. Because today, modern day Black heros continue, the legacy of those who came before them. And following in that tradition are people like you—individuals who move the world forward as a result of your efforts. Budweiser salutes Black History Month and the contributions of Black people everywhere, past, present *and* future.