—Biggest raise

Continued from page 1

teachers will realize an average 9.75 percent increase during each of the next two school years, with some teachers at the top of the pay scale receiving increases of as much as 14-18 percent, said Mrs. Dandridge. School and union officials offered no other details of the contract.

Most of the teachers' pay hike was made possible by the $24 million the city received as a result of the passage of the Civiletti aid for education bill during the 1984 session of the General Assembly, said Mrs. Dandridge. The BTU president added that the state aid is a one-time appropriation and that during the 1985-1986 school year the city will have to fund the teachers' increase.

But as school administrators and union officials signed the contract inside, pickets protested just outside. Carrying placards proclaiming "City Teachers Deserve the Entire Contract" and "Protect Teachers From BTU," about 15 teachers began picketing before the 11:00 a.m. signing. Some engaged in shouting matches with BTU members who joined the picket line carrying signs in support of the new contract.

"We go to work on August 29. Why should I get a copy of the contract in September?" asked picketer Kathy Owens Wyatt.

Mrs. Dandridge, who said during the signing that she was sure the teachers represented by the BTU were happy with the contract, including those outside picketing, explained that teachers were made aware of the new contract items that were to be negotiated.

The BTU president stated that over 6,000 copies of the new language of the contract were duplicated, and that language that would not change in the newly negotiated contract was not duplicated.

"They have had every opportunity to see. Unfortunately, some teachers don't read," said Mrs. Dandridge at the press conference.

—Refused rental

Continued from page 1

ed as co-defendant in the suit, said that she knew nothing of the suit when contacted by the AFRO Thursday.

"I don't know a thing about it. I never heard of Shirley Rivers," Ms. King stated when phoned about the suit. When read portions of the allegations against her, she responded, "Sometimes there are apartments and sometimes there aren't."

In one test conducted July 5 and 6, a black tester was reportedly told by the rental agent that nothing was available, but that she would be put on a waiting list. When a white tester inquired about an apartment on July 9, he was told that a rental unit was available "practically now" and would be available the first of Aug., the suit alleges.

According to the suit, Ms. Kling, "freely volunteered information and encouraged them (white testers) to rent. Defendent Kling offered minimal information to the black testers and advised them no rental units were available.

On June 12, another black tester inquired of Kling as to the availability of a one bedroom apartment in response to a newspaper advertisement. She was informed that an apartment "may or may not be available" but to check back with her. On June 13, the black tester inquired again and was told that nothing was available.

On June 13, a white tester inquired about an apartment and was given an appointment for June 18. On June 18, a black tester was again told no rental units were available, the same day that the aforementioned white tester kept his appointment and wa shown apartments which were available for renting.

The suit alleges that the conduct of the defendants injured and violated the plaintiffs' civil rights, and violated the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

Counsel for the plaintiffs is seeking $450,000 in compensatory damages and $1 million in punitive damages against the defendants, reasonable attorney's fees and expenses for plaintiffs anf other relief as may be just or necessary.

BNI and a white BNI employee who live in the area where the alleged discrimination occurred, are also named as plaintiffs in the suit. The fair housing organization charges that the defendants have frustrated the achievement of its (BNI's) corporate purposes and injured its members whose interests BNI represents; promotes residential segregation, and causes or threatens to cause BNI members the loss of important benefits from interracial associations.

The defendants have also allegedly adversley affected the racially intergrated quality of plaintiff Don Miller's (a BNI employee) neighborhood and denied him interracial associations, thereby causing him great harm, according to the suit.

The suit is the first such action by BNI in the city courts and the first request for a jury trial. The suit also marks the first time that a white BNI member is claiming the defendant's actions have adversely affected the racially integrated quality of his immediate neighborhood and denied him interracial associations, Kenneth Montague, BNI president said.

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—Possible solution

Continued from page 1

account—are scheduled to meet with Shake and Bake representatives on Monday.

Sources have not ruled out the possibility that the city may join the effort to attract more customers to the center by organizing an employee membership drive or by sponsoring a citywide, bowling tournament.

Plans to create a residential membership card discount program similar to those offered at health spas and the YMCA and YWCA have also been suggested.

The 17-odd churches located near the center may also be asked to support a special "church guaranteed league program" by pledging to finance parishioners on winter bowling leagues.

The churches would guarantee to continue funding their individual leagues regardless of whether the participants are able to attend each bowling session.

Dashiell indicated that similar ideas have been suggested in the past to help booster attendance, but have been repeatedly "thwarted" by adverse publicity.

—Upton

Continued from page 1

focused on the "new" Pennsylvania Avenue whose present "institutions" have been erected to meet the growing demands of 14,000 black people who live on the 182 acres of city land.

Her comments jarred my memory during that Monday morning press conference convened to discuss a beleagured Shake and Bake. I recall the first of two visits to the center.

Curiously it was one of those spur-of-the moment impulses that decided that a Friday night trip to Pennsylvania Avenue was just the therapy for a tense working day.

It was curiosity that turned the wheel of my blue Ford onto Reisterstown Road and across Northern Pkwy heading into the heart of the city.

The April evening air was balmy on that Friday night a year ago and the Avenue was only moderately busy with people.

Stoop-sitters sat on two levels of marble steps watching the traffic flow of people and cars travel back and forth up the street. Their heads turned to watch us in the old blue Ford.

Men and women darted in between the traffic to the various cut-rate joints and club doors swung open and shut to admit early revellers.

Typical for Friday a crowd had congregated on almost every corner some blowing cigarette smoke from their noses, others munching on fast-food snacks and sipping from glass containers.

The Avenue happenings were no different from the weekend happenings in other parts of the city. But since it was the fabled spot where Red Foxx first turned a joke and Billie Holiday had once crooned while couples paraded in zoot suits and spectator pumps, we both tended to magnify the most trival of activities.

When our vehicle pulled into the parking lot across from Shake and Bake it was well past 8 p.m. and we could see groups of young people, roller skates slung over their shoulders, headed behind the row of glass doors leading into the recreation center.

The Shake and Bake Family Center officially opened its doors on October 7, 1982. The center is comprised of some seven thousand square feet and includes two levels of recreational activity.

The lower level houses 40 bowling lanes (duck and ten-pin) and a nearby adjacent snack-food area. It is the largest bowling center in Baltimore.

Upstairs a huge roller skate rink holds a capacity crowd of 786 people and has it own eating area and locker space.

A banquet hall, arcade amusement room, bowling and skating supply shop and additional concession set-ups, round out the 22-month old center.

Safely inside the main corridor a security booth set off to the side of the upper level. This was manned by two guards who sat watching the row of black and white t.v. monitors trained on areas throughout the facility.

The Friday night gathering of local residents was a mixture of pint-sized children being excorted by teenage sisters and brothers, adolescent couples out for an inexpensive date, several older adults and a sprinkling of senior citizens who either bowled or sat in one of the snack areas.

Since we had come mainly to try out hands at skating we only peeked in on the crowded bowling lanes and the various groupings of spirited bowlers who stood with balls in hand flinging them down the shiney wooden lanes.

With rented skates tied securely on our feet ($1 for skates and $2.50 for admission) and the disc jockey nestled in his purch high above the large circular wooden floor, we joined the growing band of skaters already whirling around the room.

Shake and Bake must have the best roller skating program for miles. A staff of aids follow the on floor traffic to assure that nobody is injured or trampled. There are rules of travel to be followed, like no backwards skating or overly enthusiastic acrobatics. Beginners are allowed to stake out the middle of the rink while the real "ball bearing burners" whip by at speeds of five miles an hour.

The D.J. clears the floor after long intervals to allow couples only to skate, then triple pairs and girls only and boys only and beginners and lastly advanced rollers who sped around the rink to James Brown's "Payback."

Aides rush to and fro rescuing sprawled fallen bodies from the floor and assist them to the outer railing. It is an orderly two-hour affair.

Having downed soda, hotdogs and pizza and skated ourselves into a painful frenzy, my partner and I returned our equipment to the counter and headed for the exit.

Already yet another crowd had gathered outside the entrance to the rink to wait for the next session. Passing by the glass doors, the sound of lazer effects from the arcade game room scream above the volume of chattering patrons.

Out again in the late night air and settled securely behind the blue Ford, the Avenue had attracted many more people who were heading for the nightclub joints or no place in particular.

But then Pennsylvania Avenue with all its history and notoriety is like any other street on a weekend night.

Free clinic the oldest

By Lynn McClarrin

Established in 1968, The Washington Free Clinic is the "oldest free clinic of its kind on the east coast" according to Ray Battistelli, the executive director of the clinic.

The Georgetown Clergy Association first corporately put free clinic together in Georgetown, and then, moved it in 1980 to the corner of 16th and Newton Street, NW, the location of St. Stephens and the Incarnation Episcopal Church.

The clinic is only open one night a week, on Thursday evenings.

An appointment should be made ahead of time for the marital blood exam, or a free physical.

Their medical staff is concerned with the cure of general medical problems, as opposed to the venereal disease patients. They do make general diagnosis on sexually transmitted diseases, though.

The free clinic provides counseling by skilled clergymen and women. They discuss birth control and pregnancy.

"On the average we take in 20 patients a night" said Mr. Battistelli. "In 1983, we took in approximately 2,500 patients. The projected number of patients for 1984, is approximately 800."

THE BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN
(Registered U.S. Patent Office)
Second class postage paid at Baltimore, Md.
Circulation audited by Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC).
Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN Company, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201. Phone (301) 728-8200.
John H. Murphy 3rd, President; Mae E. Dyson, Secretary; George C. Lottier, Treasurer; Frederick A. Howard, Vice President — Production; Kenneth O. Wilson, Vice President — Advertising; Robert W. Matthews, Executive Editor.
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21st Century celebrates its first anniversary

By Lynn McClarrin

The Twenty-First Century Institute for Political Action, celebrated their 'First Birthday Celebration', at R.S.V.P., at the Waterside Mall, last week to raise funds to support politically accountable candidates in both the local, state, and national elections.

"These candidates assist PAC in educating and informing Black voters on issues of primary concern to the Black community," according to PAC's Founder and President, Donald Temple.

The Twenty-First Century Institute for Political Action was organized in July 1983, by a group of young black men and women, many of whom reside in California, Philadelphia, New York, North Carolina, and Michigan.

This year, in 1984, they raised $1,000 at the birthday celebration. They are pushing for more black officials on the Congressional level to support programs in the Black community.

Robert Clarke is running, in 1984, for Congress, for the state of Mississippi, and Israel Augustine, is running out of New Orleans.

"It is important to get more young Black professionals involved in the political process," said Mr. Temple, a graduate of Howard University, and House District Committee Aide, up on the 'Hill.'

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FAMILY LAW—If you are married, engaged to be married, or single, below are some recent family law cases from which you will learn about some of your very important rights.

VISITATION RIGHTS NOT ABSOLUTE—Although the right of visitation is not an absolute right, it is a very important natural and legal right, which depends on the best interests of the child. In a recent case involving an alcoholic mother who wanted visitation rights with her children, the court granted her visitation and said that visitation rights will only be denied under extraordinary circumstances.

VISITATION BETWEEN NATURAL PARENT AND ADOPTIE CHILD—A Maryland Court recently held that once a mother gives her child up for adoption, she is still entitled to visitation rights with the adoptive child as long as the adoptive parents agree, and such visitation is in the best interests of the child.

MARYLAND REJECTS UNMARRIED'S CLAIMS FOR LOSS OF SERVICES—A Maryland Court recently held that the fiance of a person who was injured in an accident cannot sue for loss of service damages. The Court stated that such a legal right is unique to married persons only, not those who are merely engaged at the time of the accident, even though a wedding date is set for shortly after the accident.

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Minority representation still inadequate on Mondale ticket

Jesse Jackson complained Tuesday minority representation in the Mondale-Ferraro campaign is inadequate and warned that a loss of black enthusiasm for the Democratic ticket would be devastating in November.

He said Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro have failed to address the concerns of blacks and Hispanics, but that he is talking to the campaign and expects changes to be made soon.

"Transactions are going to be made that will make all parties feel they belong around the Democratic table," Jackson said. "We're going to keep the pressure on them until things do change."

Jackson held an impromptu news conference at Washington National Airport to answer questions about an interview in Tuesday's Los Angeles Times in which Jackson was quoted as saying Mondale and Ms. Ferraro were "insensitive" to the black population and were paying more attention to middle-class whites.

The former Democratic presidential candidate did not dispute the accuracy of the quotes, but said the interview was conducted more than a week ago and since then there have been indications of change from the Mondale-Ferraro camp.

"Certainly so far the representation (of minorities in the campaign) is inadequate," Jackson said. "I believe that is changing. There are now forces in that direction to change that wrong."

Shortly after the Democratic convention last month, the two Democratic candidates appointed blacks to their staffs. Mondale named Jackson adviser Ernest Green to a staff position and appointed a black Mondale supporter, Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., co-chairman.

Jackson called the black appointments "a step in the right direction," but indicated he is far from satisfied with the number of minorities appointed or what he perceives as a lack of concern within the Democratic campaign to address the needs of minorities.

Noting his campaign helped register 2 million new black voters, Jackson warned, "Any withdrawal of enthusiasm (by blacks) would be devastating" to the Democratic ticket in the November election.

"The focus (of the Democratic campaign) must be jobs and job training," Jackson said. "Secondly, a commitment to fairness. Lastly, an all-out commitment to peace."

He said since the convention, there has been "a lull ... a transition" within the Mondale-Ferraro campaign. He said he is talking daily to Mondale-Ferraro campaign officials and expects changes by Labor Day.

In the Los Angeles Times interview published Tuesday, Jackson said, "At this point, the campaign has no media strategy, no coherent regional or national strategy, no themes have come through" to attract black voters.

"You open up a rally in Queens and it's on the front page of The New York Times and there's not one black face on the stage," Jackson said of a recent Mondale-Ferraro appearance. "That embarrassed even some of Mondale's own black supporters."

Steering problems on all Ford should be repaired cars

Ford Motor Co. should be ordered to repair steering and transmission problems that are costing owners of the cars $400 to $700 each, the Center for Auto Safety told the government.

The Ralph Nader-backed consumer group asked the Federal Trade Commission Monday to make Ford repair rack and pinion steering in 1978-83 model cars, possibly as many as 5.9 million, and to fix automatic transmissions in up to 1.2 million 1981-83 Escorts and Lynxes. The repairs could cost Ford $3 billion.

Robert Dewey, a member of the center's staff, said the consumer group was not sure of the failure rate for either problem, "but we believe they are relatively high."

Ford said in a statement that it "has not yet had a chance to analysis the concerns" raised by the center, but that it "does not consider either of the alleged problems to be safety related."

In letters to FTC Chairman James Miller, the center said the steering defects cost consumers an average of $400 to repair while the average transmission bill is $700.

"Due to a discriminatory warranty policy, millions of 1978-83 Ford owners are liable to each pay hundreds of dollars to replace defective rack and pinion steering," the center said.

Ford agreed last year to pay for rack and pinion repairs for 900,000 owners living in 17 northern and mountain states and Canada, but refused to cover owners in other states.

Ford reasoned at the time the steering problem was weather-related.

The Center for Auto Safety said, however, it has received complaints from owners across the country and told the FTC Ford's repair program should be extended nationwide.

As for the transmission problem, the center said its analysis shows "failures typically occur at very low mileage, usually under 12,000 miles and often require extensive repairs."

It said 1981-83 Escorts and Lynxes are so plagued with transmission problems, ranging from locking-up to failure to shift into a higher gear, that Ford has issued at least ten "Technical Service Bulletins" to dealers.

First black public service commissioner

By Arthur Johnson
AFRO Staff Writer

Five men sit on the governor-appointed board of the Public Service Commission (PSC) which regulates gas, electric, steam heating, telephone, telegraph, water, sewage disposal, radio common carrier companies, as well as bus, trucking and railroad companies and taxicabs operating in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Cumberland and Hagerstown.

Commissioners serve six-year terms (beginning this year the terms of appointment will be reduced to five years'- Currently, the PSC is chaired by Frank O. Heintz and also included William A. Badger, Lilo K. Schifter, Wayne B. Hamilton, and Haskell N. Arnold, the commission's first and only black commissioner.

A graduate of Hampton Institute (B.S. Accounting) and the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, the 39-year-old commissioner and ex-Army officer has also served as staff auditor for Arthur Anderson and controller of H.G. Parks, Inc.; manager of budget administration of Potomac Electric Power Company; and vice president for finance and administration with Public Broadcasting Service before becoming the state's first black PSC commissioner.

Arnold's commissionership began in April, 1980 and extends thru June 1987. Commissioners can be reappointed by the governor an unlimited number of times, said Arnold.

"A lot of people don't understand what our role is. Some are misled and believe if a company makes a request, we can turn them down flat, and if we uphold them (the company's request), they (the public) give up," said Arnold.

Instead, the process of PSC hearings is similar to the judicial system in which testimony is heard from all sides and decisions are made as a result of the findings.

But why does it seems as though telephone and gas and electric companies are seeking increases every few months?

According to Commissioner Arnold, the utilities set their rates by estimating what future costs will be and then file rate cases.

"They have the same economic pressures as everybody else," explained Arnold. In a typical rate increase case, there is a counsel to represent the public's interests as well as representatives for industry. All evidence is presented under oath and subject to cross examination.

Within an 180-day statutory period, a decision must be made. If a ruling is not given, the rates go into effect automatically.

To those who lack a sympathetic ear for the seemingly frequent utility company rate requests, Arnold offered this explanation:

"We want to make sure the company attracts an adequate rate of return to be able to attract investors and to borrow at a reasonable interest rate. If there is no adequate rate relief, the company's bond rating goes down and no one wants to invest in it."

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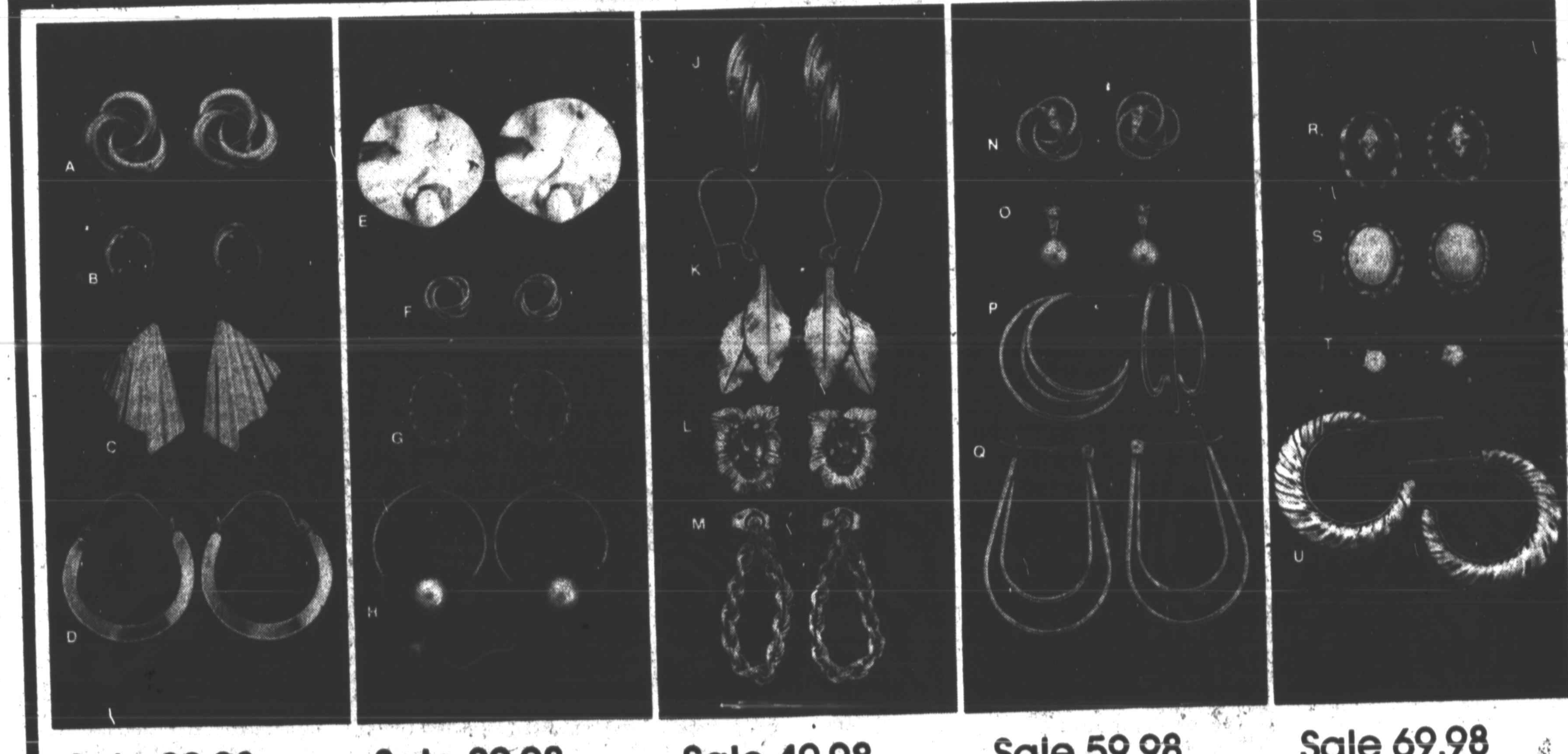

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