MODELS AIR FASHIONS from the 1930's and 1940's during the Renaissance Rhapsody presented in the Meyerhoff Auditorum at the Baltimore Museum of Art by the WJZ-TV and the President's Round Table in honor of Black History Month Sunday, Feb. 8.

Photos by Paris Gray

MRS. CAMAY MURPHY describes the garments as commentator for the show.

IN A SCINTILLATING SCENE Valerie Smith-Madden, AFRO Staff Writer (L) works her gown during the show as Shawn Murray, a former AFRO employee strikes a demure pose in her outfit.

Renaissance Rhapsody at Balto Museum of Art

Daring and provocative fashions from the 1930s and 40s was what it was all about when the Baltimore Museum of Art presented the Renaissance Rhapsody — their fabulous array of fashions of the 30s and 40s Sunday, Feb. 8 at the museum in the Meyerhoff Auditorium at 3 p.m.

Vintage clothes, compliments of Center Stage, Dreamland, 212 W. Read St. and accessories from Dreamland and The Zone were aired by nine models.

Also seen was one scene of contemporary clothing from Pauline Brooks Boutique and the Oak Tree of White Marsh, MD.

Commentator for the show was Mrs. Camay Murphy, with music provided by Jay Holmes.

The show, a part of the Harlem Black Renaissance period of the 30s, 40s and 50s was sponsored by WJZ-TV and the President's Round Table in honor of Black History Month, was attended by nearly 150 people.

Cheryl Goodman was director for the event.

Modeling were Don Barnett, Sharon Henderson, Laura Jones, Sharon Medley, Valerie Mitchum - Williams, Shawn Murray, Susan O'Neill, Gary Rowley and Valerie Smith - Madden.

Kara C. King to wed

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin L. King have announced the engagement of their daughter, Kara Celeste, to George Thomas Bess, Jr. son of Mr. and Mrs. George T. Bess.

Kara is a graduate of Virginia State University and received her M.B.A. from Columbia University. She passed the Maryland CPA examination in May, 1985 and became a partner in the family accounting practice in January, 1986.

She is a member of the Young Democrats of Baltimore, the Business and Professional Women's Club of Baltimore, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and is the treasurer of Hub, Inc.

George is a graduate of the Community College of Baltimore and a part-time student at the University of Baltimore in the Business Administration program.

He is employed at AT&T Technologies as an engineering associate.

The wedding date is May 30, 1987.

Kara Celeste King
Engaged

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Richard Allen, born in 1760, whose collection of Spiritual Songs and Hymns is the subject of Feb. 21 and 28 worshops. See below.

The following events are scheduled Feb. 19 through 28 at the Smithsonian museums. For a Black History Month calendar of events at the Smithsonian, call 357-2700

The Songs and Times of Richard Allen, who was born a slave in 1760 and became a founder of the American Methodist Episcopal Church. Museum of American History. Free.
Dramatization of Allen's times (Feb. 19 and 26 noon)
Workshop with Allen's Collection of Spiritual Songs and Hymns. (Feb. 21 and 28 at 1 p.m.)

Jump for Joy. Duke Ellington's theater songs. Museum of American History. (Feb. 20 at noon. Feb. 22 at 3 p.m. Free)

I Shall Moulder Before I Shall Be Taken (1978). Film on the struggle for freedom of the Dunkâ people of South America, brought to New World as slaves in the 1600s. Museum of Natural History. (Feb. 20 at noon. Free)

Washington Dixieland All-Stars. Brunch/concert. Museum of American History. (Feb. 22. Concert at 11 a.m., brunch at 10 a.m. or noon. $15. Call 357-3030 for ticket information.)

Killer of Sheep (1977). Film on a Watts slaughterhouse laborer and his struggles to maintain meaning in his life. (Feb. 24 at 8 p.m. $6.50 Call 357-3030 for ticket information.)

Black Wings Film tracing American blacks in aviation. Air and Space Museum. (Feb. 25 at noon. Free)

Free Within Ourselves A tour of works in the Museum of American Art by Afro-Americans who have significantly affected our culture. Call 357-3111 to schedule.

—OMEGAS

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'Best Group.' All prizes were money.

In the 'Best Individual Costume' category, Tamara Brown, who came as the Queen of Hearts, won first place; Delhi Thweatt, M.D. won second as the Grim Reaper, and Ernest C. Bailey came in third as an American Indian.

In the 'Best Couple' category, the first place winners were Joyce and Roland Burrell. The Three Bears, (Mama Bear was supposedly pregnant); Cheryl Mason and Zachary Grant, as Chip and Dale got second place and Madeline and Roosevelt Hobbs, garnered third place as Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

Winning first place in the 'Best Group' category was a ghoulishly hilarious group called the Halloween Leftovers. Second place honors were taken by a group, replete with all of the hotel personnel which dubbed themselves 'The Hotel.' Third Place winners were a group decked out in red and white, replete with hearts, led by James and Ponjola Priest, called Jimmy and Ponjie's Valentine Party.

Judging the categories this year were Chenal Alford and Anne Davis, (who judged the 'individual' category; Mary Clayburn and Arthur Pierce, who judged best couples and Beverly Burke and George Collins, who judged best groups.

And that wasn't all of the winners for the evening. There were lucky raffle winners. Ricardo Tyson, of Baker St. won first prize—a 1987 Mustang car; Charles M. Woodford won second prize of $500. In third place were five lucky $100 winners—Rebecca English, Wardell Bentley, Mattie Jackson, H. Brown and Art Snowden.

And after all the winning, the guests partied and danced the rest of the evening, which ran from 7:30 p.m. until 1 a.m., away.

Of course, the Omega brothers rang out their Omega hymn prior to the evenings end.

Special guest at the affair was Dr. John Epps, National Omega Executive Secretary.

Mardi Gras Committee members were Benjamin C. Whitten, Chairman; Walter E. Riddick, Co-Chairman; Garland A. Brown, Ernest B. Curtis, Luther W. Day, Sr., Melvin Fossett, William H. Ghant, James E. Grant, Thomas L. Hasty, Jr., Roosevelt Hobbs, Lewis Logan;

Edward McDaniels, George K. McKinney, Joseph C. McNeill, Arthur E. Milburn, William G. Neal, Elmer S. Patterson, Charles Payne, Luther Reeder, Bennie Short and Eugene Ward.

Pi Omega Chapter Officers are George K. McKinney, Basileus; Arthur W. Lambert, Vice Basileus; Walter R. Riddick, Keeper of Records and Seals; William L. Reaves, Asst. Keeper

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COLUMBIA CAPERS

SURPRISE! HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

It was indeed a surprise for Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Thompson, Sr. (Mentora) when their only son Leroy Thompson, Jr. (Rocky) who resides in Virginia with his lovely family, gave his parents a Surprise anniversary party.

It was coordinated successfully by Leroy Jr. and with the help of his aunt, Elva Edwards, Baltimore's well known Urban Services Deputy Director. It was superbly done, no questions about it. The weather was frigid but it did not alter the many friends from attending the tribute.

The tribute was held at the downtown Omni Hotel, where more than sixty close friends gathered to greet the Thompsons.

It was an indication that old acquaintances were never forgotten. There were friends who had not seen each other in more than ten years, and the hand-shaking and kissing were more than welcome.

The special guests at the tribute were the lovely Mrs. Ethel Edwards, Mrs. Thompson's mother, and Alex Mitala from Ruanda, Uganda.

The honorees had been relaxing most of the day in preparation for their son, Leroy Jr.s' seminar which was supposedly to have been held at the hotel. That was the surprise. Prior to the Thompson's arrival, guests were greeted by the lovely hostess Elva Edwards. She sparkled the evening in a black knitted sequin dress. Flanking her and also greeting guests was her husband, Randy Edwards.

As the son Leroy Jr. appeared with his family, wife Rita, daughter Aisha, and son Leroy III, the lights were dimmed and the honorees entered the room. "Happy Anniversary," the well wishers yelled. The facial expressions the Thompson's wore were just what we expected. Mary Clayburn, WWIN Radio Community Service Director, continued to say, "She was really surprised."

The unrestrained tears and joy attested to the success that Leroy Jr. and Elva had in pulling off the surprise.

It was a wonderful evening. The food was delicious. There were cold and hot finger pick-ups. The trays were replenished as soon as they were emptied.

Guests didn't have a problem regarding calories, because son Leroy Jr. saw to that. The wine was non-alcoholic, the main dish was stir fried and consisted of chicken and other vegetables with brown rice on the side. On the other side of the room were a variety of spaghetti dishes in pretty colors and very tasty.

Guests listened to the beautiful music rendered by the trio from the Baltimore Symphony. Young Aisha and Master Leroy III quietly pulled up a chair, sat, watched and listened carefully.

ABOUT LEROY JR.

Leroy Jr. we call "Rocky," He was a student at Park School in Baltimore. He received his BA degree from Harvard University and his MA degree from Columbia University.

"Rocky" has a very successful company. He is the president and owner of Top Management Assistance, Inc. His lovely wife, Rita who also graduated from Harvard, received her law degree from Georgetown University.

ABOUT THE HONOREES

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are both employed with the Baltimore City School system. Mrs. Thompson is vice principal at Cherry Hill Middle School. The Thompsons are members of St. James Episcopal Church. Mrs. Thompson is one of its staunch workers.

AMERICAN BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Afro-American Cultural Awareness Committee of St. John Baptist Church will sponsor a program in commemoration of Afro-American Black History Month, Saturday, February 21 at 5 p.m.

The program will include art exhibits by Ursula Cole of Washington, D.C. and Negrelite, Inc. of Baltimore, MD.

The program will also include dramatic presentations featuring Verna Day and special music conditions.

For further information call Odessa Mathews, 596-4462.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Success is a journey, not a destination.

Ben Sweetland

Kelly Hill

SINGLE PARENTING

ANOTHER STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION: CASHING IN ON LOTTERY TICKETS FOR CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS

Just when everybody started to settle back and let the dust settle in, another bolt of lightning hit those absent, non-paying support parents. Right at this moment, Senator John Coleman is trying to introduce a law that would certainly step on the toes of those who play the lottery.

It just isn't enough to expect the federal government or local government to continue to support children whose absentee parents won't pay up. It isn't fair that women (who are in the majority) are left with low paying jobs, scrapping the bottom of the barrel to put food on the table, while the other parent gets off scot free.

Even though the state of Maryland has made an all-out stand to get a hook on collecting past payments, Senator Coleman is going to take it one step further.

By now, you have heard about grandparents being responsible for child support payments. If the Senator gets his way, when you go in to cash in your lottery ticket, if you are behind in your payments, your winnings may be taken for child support payments.

In reality, just what does this mean? It means that you can't hide any longer. The state of Maryland and the Federal government is out to make changes in the system. Local government now realizes that there are thousands and thousands of dollars being sent to parents to help them support their children, and they can see now that there is a way to gain access to that money.

On the subject of grandparents being responsible for their grandchildren — Does this mean that all grandparents are involved or just on the mother's side. Whatever the situation may be, all grandparents should share in the responsibility if they are made to pay child support.

When you think about it, it all boils down to this, shouldn't parents consider their children to be their most precious assets, and if that is the case, why are there so many fathers not supporting their children?

Was there a precedent set sometime way back when thay said, "just because you father a child does not mean you should support the child?" I guess if you take a look back at the 50s and 60s, any young lady who was found to be pregnant was thrown out of school, shunned by her friends and parents, and virtually left for dead. Consequently, she either went down South for a while, had the baby and then came back to the city. If she wasn't fortunate enough to be able to do that, she lived an adolescent life of pure misery. Parents would say "you make your bed hard you have to lie in it." Young girls were expected to care for their children without much assistance from family and friends.

That being the case during the 50s and 60s, what happened to the fathers of these babies? They got away without any strings attached. They were left to go out and father another baby and not accept the responsibility of supporting that child, either.

Maybe this is why so many absentee fathers refuse to pay child support. The old cliche, "Like father like son?" Whatever your story may be, if you are a non-supporting parent, why not get with it, they're going to get you one way or the other.

Marjorie Green

WOODLAWN HIGHLIGHTS

LIBRA AND SCORPIO EXCHANGE VOWS ON VALENTINE'S DAY

Hazel Karen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barney, Sr., of Baltimore and Robert Perry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Perry, Sr. of Birmingham, AL, were married in a double ring ceremony at their home in the Woodmoor area of Baltimore County on St. Valentine's Day.

Mrs. Geraldine Neal was the bride's Maid-of-Honor and Alvin Griffin was the best man. Serita Bonner, the bride's God-child and her son, Paul Kane, Jr., also served as honor attendants.

The bride wore a long sleeved floor-length white satin gown with a beaded lace bodice. Her headpiece was a beaded lace veil. The bride's gown, the pink satin gowns worn by the attendants, the bouquet and all the floral arrangements were created by the bride.

The groom and his attendants wore white tuxedos with red accessories.

The 150 invited wedding guests feasted on a buffet menu of ham, chicken and a variety of fruit and vegetable salads that were prepared by friends and relatives.

Following the reception, the couple spent a couple nights in the downtown Hyatt Regency Hotel. The real honeymoon will be in the form of a vacation trip to San francisco in mid-July.

The marriage ceremony minus the traditional music, was performed by the Rev. William Calhoun, pastor of the Trinity Baptist Church in West Baltimore.

The bride, who is a Social Insurance Claims Examiner with the Social Security Administration (SSA), is a 1966 graduate of Western High school. The groom is also an SSA employee.

Guests from Birmingham, AL included Mrs. Shirley Reese, Mrs. Linda King, Mrs. Janice Johnson and Ms. Phyllis Perry. All four women are sisters of the groom.

RETIREMENT

A gala retirement send-off was given for SSAer Sam Hicks at the Forum on Thursday, February 19. Hicks worked in OMBP's Division of Evaluation and Special Projects. He is married to SSAer Pat Hatcher. Committee planners for the event were Nat Trader, Cynthia Burrows, Audrey Massenburg, Sandi Jackson and Andre Hunt.

NAACP NEWS

The Maryland State Conference of NAACP Branches will hold its bi-annual training for NAACP Branch officers and executive board members Saturday, February 28. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Wiseman Center of Bowie State College.

The curriculum will include training in the area of employment discrimination, NAACP Structure and policies, membership solicitation, fundraising, NAACP Programs, duties of officers and executive board members and committee responsibilities.

Several National Board program directors will be on hand to instruct NAACP leaders from the eastern, western, southern and northern areas of Maryland.

Maryland State Conference officers recently participated in the reorganization of Branches in Calvert and Kent counties.

Congratulations to the Worcester County Branch of the NAACP Youth members recently applied for a Youth Council Charter. The Rev. John L. Wright is State Conference president.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Send birthday greetings to Little Miss Stephanie Hamm, Ms. Ann Woods, and James E. Green who happened to be this writer's favorite Pisces.

AMONG THE FRIENDS greeting each other are Julia Stovel, Dona Wright and Romaine Wise.

Scenes from 'Miss Nite Life' Pageant

THE MISS NITE LIFE 1987 CROWN garnered by a smiling Laverne Page (C) who receives her flowers and crown from Alice Tucker is surrounded by well-wishers. Laverne, fondly called Liz, has won the title and will get a round trip to Las Vegas. The Miss Nite Life Pageant was held recently at the Palladium. For the last five years,

HOSTESSES FOR THE PAGEANT are (seated, L to R): Carolyn Cronwell, Linda G. Hopkins, Andrea Bland-Travis and Carolyn Hunter. (Standing, L to R): Willia Bland, Alice Tucker, Robert Gafford, Mary Gafford and Tamara James.

—More Partyline

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Session, 6:30 p.m. - Reception;

Feb. 27, 9 a.m. - Symposium I International Trade: Congressional Discussion: Protectionism of Free Trade;

10:15 a.m. - Symposium II International Trade: Federal Initiatives;

11:30 a.m. - INTERFACE - federal officials and Participants, 12 noon - Luncheon; 1:30 p.m. - Symposium III, Investment and Trade Opportunities;

3 p.m., INTERFACE - Embassy's Trade and Commerce Officers and Participants; 7 p.m., Congressional Reception and 8 p.m. Ambassadors' Banquet and Ball.

For Information: World Congrgence of Mayors, 1825 K St., Suite 722, Washington, D.C., 2006 - 202-331-7532.

AKA FOUNDER' DAY

On Saturday, February 21, Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will be celebrating its 79th Founders' Day.

This occasion will be held at The Forum, 4210 Primrose Ave. beginning at 12 noon. The theme for this year is: "Service With A Global Perspective."

One of the major parts of the program will be recognizing outstanding citizens with our community.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 744-6324.

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