New theology courses at St. Mary's Seminary

The Ecumenical Institute of Theology of St. Mary's Seminary and University will offer 18 graduate evening courses in areas such as scriptural studies, philosophy and religious education during the fall semester of 1981.

Classes at the Ecumenical Institute, which begin Sept. 9, are open to men and women of all denominations. The Ecumenical Institute, founded in 1968 is Baltimore's pioneer effort to offer interdenominational graduate theology.

In philosophy, the available course is philosophical concepts for theology. Courses offerings in scriptural studies are "Jesus and the Gosepl Tradition, Psalms: The Songs of Israel and the Church and Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell in the New Testament."

In Judaica, the Ecumenical Institute will offer "Judaism in the Time of Jesus."

Classes to be held in religious education and the arts and Principles of Curriculum Development.

Foundations of Systematic Theology, Introduction to the Study of Theology and The Theological Foundations of Ministry are courses offered in systematic theology.

Classes to be offered in Biblical languages are Basic Biblical Hebrew, Basic Ecclesiastical Latin and Basic New Testament Greek.

In moral spirituality studies Modern Catholic Social Thought and Moral Decision Making will be taught. In history, the course Church hhistory will be offiered.

The Ecumenical Institute will also offer a seminar titled New Testament Christology.

All courses are three graduate credits except for Biblical language courses, which are two graduate credits. The registration deadline is Aug. 29.

No clues in bathtub murder

After smelling a foul odor coming from a first floor apartment and seeing bugs fly around the front door of the apartment, a tenant who lives at 2710 Reisterstown Road became suspicious and called the police.

The unidentified neighbor told police he had not seen his neighbor in several days and the strong odor comiing from his apartment smelled like an animal had died.

Police responded to the scene around 2 p.m. and report they had to use gas mask to enter the apartment because of the odor. According to police, the bedroom had been ransacked by an unknown person.

When police entered the bathroom, they discovered the body of a man wearing a bathrobe lying face down in a half filled tub of water.

The decomposed body found in the bathtub has not been positively identified by the medical examiner. However, police and relatives said the man was Denjamin Washington, 29. He had been stabbed twice in the chest.

A spokesman for the medical examiner's office said it has not been determined how long the man had been dead and his body will not be released until he is positively identified.

According to police, there were no signs of forced entry into the apartment and the victim might have known the person who killed him. The suspect left the victim's apartment through the back door, police report.

Relatives told the AFRO, Washington loved to play chess and was unemployed. The family will receive friends Sunday, Aug. 16, 5 p.m. with last rites at 5:30 p.m. at James A Morton Funeral Home on Laurens Street.

Washington is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar (Samantha) Washington Sr.; four sisters, Brenda, Washington, Barbara Johnson, Arnetta Ioward and Doris Washington; five brothers, Edgar Jr., Charles, Brett, Joseph and Bryant. L C Police search for trio of kid-

Black police group to meet

"Balancing the Scales of Justice Through Community Involvement" is the theme of the 9th annual conference of the National Police Association, Aug. 25 - 29, in Washington, D.C.

This year marks the first time the group will stage its national conference in the nation's capital. The conference will occur at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill.

Eleven substantive seminars on criminal justice issues and speakers Tony Brown, televisio commentator, Dr. Nathan Wright, of Black Media Resources, Robert Woodson, of the American Enterprise Institute, and Dolores Tucker, chairwoman of the National Democratic Women's Club will be featured at the conference.

Issues raised at the conference seminars and positive recommendations will be made on reducing urban crime and improving community-police relations will be discussed at a news conference at 11:30 a.m., Friday, Aug. 28.

The conference's focus will be on the need to forge a new relationship between local police, community residents and grassroot groups, according to Jimmy Hargrove, national chairman of the NBPA. The group represents some 20,000 black police officers in 46 states.

"There are many traditional police department policies and practices that actually produce rather than alleviate tensions within urban communities," Hargrove said.

"Police officers are rewarded with medals and commendations for the violent confrontations they have made," he said. "They get nothing for the violent confrontations they prevent."

"Often police departments assign the least experienced or worst performing officers to high-risk areas," he said. "Yet that's where we can least afford a scared, inexperienced, trigger-happy police officer."

Hargrove went on to say how it is rare residents in any community, especially minority neighborhoods, are consulted in the formulation of police policies.

"The police departments are not accountable to the communities."

And it also is equally rare that black and other minority officers are consulted on the formulation or enforcement of policies for fighting urban crime, even though most of the above officers "are on the street everyday and live with the problem 24-hours a day," Hargrove said.

Tony Fisher, national information officer for NBPA, said the conference will seek to promote the use of self-help, community oriented programs to control urban crime.

One of the Aug. 28 sessions will include representatives from urban grassroots organizations from around the country, who have been successful in fighting youth crime.

Another session will explore the disproportionate number of black crime victims of rape, robbery, burglary, larceny and assault.

Women in law enforcement, tensions in prisons today, civil rights compliance in the public sector in the 1980's and the declining number of minorities in law enforcement will be among the many topics addressed at the conference.

Eastside strike heats up

Six employees of the East Baltimore Medical Clinic (EBMC) were arrested this week for trespassing, as a strike against that organization for better benefits and pay officially began.

According to police spokesman Mike Bass, a group of five females and one male entered the office of Sen. Robert Douglass, president of the corporation unoer which EBMC operates, shortly before mid-day on Tuesday of this week.

Repeatedly asked to leave, the group refused to do so, Bass said. After police, reading the group the trespass act, were unable to persuade the strikers to move out of the office, the arrests were made.

They were taken to the eastern district police station, where they were later booked.

The strike began this week, after employees of the corporation were unable to persuade management to allow them to organize into a union.

In a prepared statement released last week, employees complained that Douglass had refused to hear their concerns, and had issued "threats and intimidation aginst EBMC employees."

Employees also said they are paid only the minimum wage, and charged that Douglass has "absolutely refused to meet with them."

Douglass has been unavailable for commentdespite repeated attempts by the AFRO to reach him, neither has there been any response from other spokespersons from EBMC.

EBMC employees are seeking to join with union Local 1199E, the union which represents hospitals and nursing home employees throughout the state of Maryland.

Kidnappers still on the loose

Police are still searching for a trio of kidnappers who abducted a Baltimore county woman on Thursday, July 30 and successfully made off with $5,000.

Police further stated that all suspects rounded up during the dragnet on July 30 have been cleared and released.

Regarding the arrest of Baltimore business man Edward "Slim" Butler, a police spokesman said Mr. Butler was originally being held on an outstanding warrant and further investigations revealed that the warrant was intended for another man who has the same name.

Baltimore county police received a call from the 21-year-old woman's mother who said she received a call from a male who said that her daughter had been kidnapped.

Police report the woman had gone to the Judas Priest show with several friends. According to police, her friends said they became separated in the crowd and went home after waiting for the woman who never showed up where the car was parked.

Police state the woman was allegedly raped by one of the kidnappers. According to police, two black men and a white woman kidnapped the woman and the case is still being investigated.

After the victim's mother received a phone call from one of the suspects, she was told to go to a phone booth near the Sutton Place apartments.

After arriving at the phone booth, the caller gave her additional instructions and she was told to drop the money in a phone booth at Maryland Avenue and Preston Street.

The area was under surveillance by city police officers when the woman left the money in the phone booth and walked away. After she left the booth, police state an unidentified male entered the booth and was seen walking in an alley near Preston Street. The suspect escaped and the money has not been recovered.

State offers mortgage loans

By John W. Frece

It used to be that when state residents who could not obtain home mortgage loans were offered state loans at low interest rates, the residents began lining up nearly a week in advance.

This year, however, there will be none of the long lines or days and nights camping out in parking lots that marked past state run home financing programs.

Instead, the $4.5 million in mortgage money available to low and middle income families at 9¾ percent interest will be divided up Thursday by lottery.

Not surprisingly, state officials said Tuesday that the latest offer of low interest mortgage money has attracted twice as many applicants for twice the amount of money the state has to offer.

"This is the first time we're using the lottery," said Alyce Heath, director of the Maryland Home Financing Program. "We've used the first-come, first-served basis over the last few years and because of economic conditions, people would line up in our parking lot for as much as six days before we opened our doors and would actually live out there in our parking lot."

Mrs. Heath said conventional mortgage loans available this week "go from somewhere in the neighborhood of 16 to 18 percent interest), with 20 percent down."

"Our program doesn't require a down payment, although we do require that they have their settlement costs. We can make up to a 100 percent loan."

"See why we're so popular?" she said.

Economic and community development secretary James Roberson will do the actual drawing, picking cards out of a box that identify who among 117 qualified applicants will receive the low interest mortgages.

The department expects about 125 families to be awarded loans before the money runs out.

To satisfy the requests of all the Maryland residents who have applied, the state would have had to offer $8.8 million in loans, Mrs. Heath said.

All applicants were required to submit their application forms and fees of $115 ($135 for two unmarried persons) by Aug. 5 to qualify. Those who are not chosen will get their fees and other paperwork back.

Mrs. Heath said applicant cards will be thrown into the box divided by counties before Roberson makes the actual selection under the watchful eye of a representative from the attorney general's office.

The fees, she said, are used to cover the cost of an independen. appraisal of the property applicants wish to purchase and to pay for credit checks.

To qualify for the mortgage program, applicants had to be within certain income limits ranging from $21,275 to $29,800 a year, depending on the number of people in the family and where the family lived. The applicants also had to be rejected at least twice, in writing by private lending institutions.

Maximum loan amounts are to range from $42,500 to $46,500 depending again on where in the state the property is located.

Money for the program was derived through the sale in June of state general obligation bonds.

Over the years, about 2,500 families have received $63 million in below market rate mortgages, usually in one to two separate offerings a year.

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Religious programs not threatened

Despite a general wave of concern throughout the Christian community, there apparently is no petition circulating asking that religious broadcasting be stopped.

Counter-petitions are being distributed all over the country, seeking signatures that would negate any efforts, supposedly by Madelyn Murray O'Hair, to remove religious programs from the air.

But a spokesman for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) told the AFRO that there is NO threat to religious broadcasting, and that a petition to remove religious programs was never backed up by Ms. O'Hair.

"A petition was filed in 1974, by two men, Jeremy Lansman and Lorenzo Milam, asking that the FCC freeze all applications for religious broadcasting," explained Bonny Thompson, a spokesperson for the consumer assistance department of the FCC, "but that petition was unanimously denied by the FCC in August of 1975."

Thompson said that the First Amendment requires neutrality on the part of the government when it comes to religious issues.

She also explained that Ms. O'Hair, despite her successful campaign to get prayer removed from the classrooms, was never associated with the petition concerning religious broadcasting, nor has she ever filed a similar petition.

Thompson explained that the FCC gets thousands of letters a day concerning the problem. In a prepared brochure, the FCC said that over "the past few years, more than $1 million has been spent to write...about a nonexistent petition.

"We hope you will tell your friends," the brochure says, "that the FCC is not attempting to take religious broadcasting off the air."

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SHOWTIME

Are you ready again? 3D is... 'Comin' At Ya!'

Victoria Abril is held captive by Gene Quintano to lure her boyfriend into the outlaw's camp.

Imagine a flaming arrow leaping from the screen and careening on a collision course with the audience... or a bat flying at breakneck speed at each and every viewer in the theatre.

"Comin' At Ya!", Filmways Pictures' action-packed Western melodrama, adds these and other equally spectacular illusions to the thrill of going to the movies.

How is it done? The answer is 3-D.

"Comin' At Ya!" is the first major feature film to be shot in the 3-D process in more than 25 years. Presented in Dimensionscope 3-D, "Comin' At Ya!" utilizes advances in technology that lift it to a level of audience participation incredivable when earlier 3-D films were made. Filmed in Optimax III-TM, the addition of four track Dolby stereo sound further enchances the spectacular effects of the film.

"Comin' At Ya!" stars Tony Anthony, Gene Quintano, Victoria Abril and Ficardo Palacios. It was directed by Ferdinando Baldi from a screenplay by Quintano, Lloyd Battista and Wolf Loweinbal, based on a story by Tony Petitto.

"Comin' At Ya!" takes place in the old West. It revolves around a young couple, their confrontation with a pair of outlaw brothers, and a spectacular OK Corral-type shootout.

Anthony, who produced and stars in "Comin' At Ya!", is a veteran film maker who has written, produced and starred in a series of European made motion pictures. He also co-produced the Beatles' "Let It Be" and "Come Together".

Anthony's partner in "Comin' At Ya!" are Eugene F. Quintano and Marshall Lupo, Jr.

Quintano has been involved in the entertainment industry for many years. He has acted on stage, in films and has also written, produced and directed numerous commercials and industrial shows.

For Lupo, whose background is business, "Comin' At Ya!" marks his introduction to independent motion picture production.

While searching for a cinematic approach that would separate them from ordinary film makers, the three began looking into the possibilities of the 3-D process. They felt that an entire generation of moviegoers had grown up having never seen a 3-D movie.

"We thought that this could be the very thing that could get people away from their television sets and back into the theatres", Lupo said.

They found substantial evidence that interest in the process was high. According to Quintano, there were reports that when early 3-D films were shown in revival theatres in the United States and abroad, attendance records were broken.

"We also knew", Anthony said, "that several of the major studios were experimenting with various 3-D processes".

The partners tested 3-D equipment from Tokyo, Taiwan, West Germany, London, and the United States before finally adopting the best of all of them.

What they finally came up with was new system which dramatically improved the stilted filming techniques used in the 1950's. It now became possible to shoot 3-D from a variety of angles, to obtain slow motion and speeded-up action. They could even use hand-held cameras.

Additionally innovative, and especially important and attractive to exhibitors is the fact that the new system requires only one projector whereas two were previously needed. "Comin' At Ya!" utilizes single split from 35 mm film, eliminating sychronization problems.

Even with their advanced equipment, shooting in 3-D presented unique problems for the film makers. Special lens had to be given to camera angles and set designs to enhance the sense of depth provided by 3-D. A shot of a woman across a table has no significance in 3-D until a bowl of fruit is placed between the woman and the camera. This little detail reinforces the sense of depth whereby the audience feels they can reach out and touch the bowl.

A special tower, 120 feet high, was constructed for a scene where 100 women are held captive under crowded conditions. While creating a larger room would have made filming easier, it would have dispelled the claustrophobic atmosphere of desperation needed for the scene.

Probably no scene in the film exemplifies the use of the 3-D system better than the shooting of the buring arrows which fly into the audience

★On Stage★

Magic at Pier 6

The "Harborlights Music Festival" continues on Saturday, August 15 at 8 p.m. as Harry Blackstone, Jr. brings his Blackstone Magic Show to the Pier 6 Concert Pavilion for one performance only. This electric entertainment series is sponsored by WJZ-TV and the City of Baltimore.

Harry Blackstone, Jr. brings to Baltimore an American theatre legacy that dates back nearly eighty years. Named "Magician of the Year, 1979" by the Academy of Magical Arts, the gifted son and professional heir of the Great Blackstone, America's legendary creative magical genius, is currently involved in a far more ambitious undertaking than merely following his father's giant footsteps.

Harry Blackstone, Jr., began his magical career at the age of six months, appearing and disappearing from his famous father's illusion. By age four, he was performing feats of "mental telepathy": for visitors to the Blackstones' Michigan home. When he first performed it, he even astonished his mother and father: he'd learned their complicated code while eavesdropping on rehearsals.

Under the watchful eye of his father, Harry learned, by trial and error, the elements of his craft. All the world-famous Blackstone illusions—the Floating Light Bulb, Dancing Handkerchief, Vanishing Birdcage, even the terrifying Buzz saw were mastered by Harry, Jr. as his father critiqued and encouraged him.

In his teens, Harry decided to pursue a theatrical career. He enrolled in Swarthmore College, later transferring to the University of Southern California and the University of Texas for majors in theatre arts. After college, Blackstone produced local children's TV shows. He later joined the Smothers Brothers in an important production post on their CBS-TV variety show. This led to the managing of three West Coast companies of the hit Broadway musical, "Hair". He also produced the Smothers Brothers' acclaimed Las Vegas act.

The Great Blackstone died in 1965 and many of his associates began to urge Harry to return full-time to magic. Finally, Harry resolved to return to "enhance the name of Blackstone and all it stands for in the words of Magic and entertainment".

After several years of headlining top night clubs and hotels and television shows all over the world, including his own syndicated television special, "Magic! Magic! Magic!", his dream came true. In 1978 Harry Blackstone, Jr. produced the largest illusion show the world has seen since his father's retirement. Blackstone toured the country with his magic show. In 1980, Blackstone opened at the Majestic Theatre, New York's premier musical theatre. It became the longest running illusion show in the history of New York Theatre.

Pointer Sisters at Merriweather Post, in Columbia

'Expressions in Excellence' in Pittsburgh, Aug. 21-23

Donald Byrd and the 125th Street Band, Rufus Harley, noted bagpipe artists, and a host of internationally and nationally acclaimed dramatics, dancers and musicians will perform at "Expressions in Excellence: A Festival of Black, Hispanic and Native American Arts", to be held August 21-23 in Pittsburgh, Pa. Fine artists and crafts people will also participate in the Festival with an invitational exhibition, a juried show and an outdoor open show.

To date, seven dance companies will perform during the three day event. They include the internationally known Arthur Hall and his Afro-American Dance Ensemble; Philadanco from the City of Brotherly love; the Pittsburgh Black Theatre Dance Ensemble; Armonia Folklorica, a Hispanic group; New Jersey's Inner City Ensemble Theatre and Dance Company; and two Native American groups: Delaware's Nanticoke Fancy Men's Dancer's and the Thunderbird Dancers from New York.

Drama companies include Philadephia's New Freedom Theatre, which is ranked among the top six black theatre groups in the nation; the Kuntu Repertory Theatre from the University of Pittsburgh Department of Black Studies; Karamu Theatre Company from Ohio; the New Theatre of Washington; the National Black Theate of New York; La Familia, a Hispanic group, also from New York; and New Jersey's Crossroads Theatre.

The music will range from intimate performances by soloists to soulful gospel sounds and from opera to the brassy big band beat. Philadelphia's professional black opera company, Opera Ebony; Pittsburgh's favorite trumpeter Harold Betters; the New Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club; Creative Artists Music Ensemble, a big band group; Natalie Hinderas, concert pianist, and the Rev. Tommy Brown and the Gospel Now Singers are among the many musicians who will perform at "Expressions of Excellence".

The fine arts and crafts exhibits will include photography, paintings, prints, sculpture, weaving, jewelry and wood carvings. Invited artists include Hembert Howard, Reba Dickerson-Hill, Native American Peter Jemison, sculptor Oliver La Grone; and photographer Adal Maldonado.

Seminars on arts management and marketing will be conducted by experts during the Festival.

Dr. Nathan Davis, associate professor of music at the University of Pittsburgh and a saxaphonist who has performed all over the world, is on-site coordinator of "Expression in Excellence: A Festival of Black, Hispanic and Native American Arts".

Baltimore Symphony

The Baltimore Symphony Chorus, directed by Edward Polochick, willhold its major auditions of the year in the first two weeks of September. The all-volunteer Chorus, now entering its 12th year, will perform numerous times during the 1981-82 Season with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra under Sergiu Comissiona. Music to be performed ranges from Baroque to Broadway.

Interested singers need not be professional musicians, though it is preferred that they have some choral experience and the ability to read music. The Chorus rehearses once a season in Towson, with special full-orchestra rehears before performances.

Night Scene Seen

By Bob Matthews

There was a bit of a change in plans at The Sportsmen's Lounge this past weekend, when singer Sonny Til was forced to cancel his engagement.

Scheduled to perform Friday and Saturday nights, Sonny was hospitalized in the D.C area forcing the cancellation. Vocalist-saxman Vernon Wolst substituted.

But, Sonny is ok, and will be in town to fulfill the engagement this weekend, and says he wants to make it up to his Baltimore fans.

The Saturday afternoon jazz jam will be led by organist Thom as Hurley, who we heard a few weeks ago, and can state unequivocably that he is right up to the minute in his musical interpretations.

Sundays in August still belong to O'Donel Levy, who is really doing it up. Dropped by to hear him last weekend and was comple tely overwhelmed with his artistry.

As most people know, a lot of the modern fusion-type music is not in our particular bag, but we can respond to it when it is we done.

Levy does it well, and just to show that he is not limited in scope, does a turn throwing back to the hard bop days, then mixes it all with original tunes and lyrics.

There is a rapport in the group that is just magnificent. In fact, he and Bob Butta on organ seem to almost read each others mind.

Got a call to remind me that O'Donel and his group are playing Friday and Saturday nights at Gatsby's, which leaves no reason to miss him.

Must say that Gatsby's is going all out to make the Billie H liday Room a success. Now, there is a live session on Wednesday nig hts featuring the B-W 3 plus One.

This is composed of Marc Cohen, piano, Tommy Cecil, bass, an Hugh Walker, drums. The plus one is vocalist Ruby Glover.

— —

Those 99-cent nights are really catching on at The Closet. Henry Baker, Jr. informs that in addition to the group Sundo on Wednesdays, they now have the Jazzmen on Thursday nights.

This group is composed of George Gray, drums; Tom McCormick, reeds; Jess Andrews bass, and Charlie Exel (sp), piano.

The weekend has drummer Harold White leading a trio, with Mark Russell and Tim Murphy.

In case you have wondered, the Left Bank Jazz Society will officially open its fall series of concerts on September 13. First act on the schedule is the Houston Person-Etta Jones group.

Although the entire schedule is in the formative stage, we a told that the Sept. 20 date featuring Johnny Griffin is firm. Negotiations are under way for many acts, with the nearest to fruition, an appearance by the Jimmy Heath group.

— —

Incidently Houston and Etta will be appearing in town tomorrow (Sat. Aug. 15) at Walbrook Senior High School auditorium. It's be ing billed as a Jazz Function at the Junction, and in addition to Ho ston and Etta, will have Scott Peaker and Company.

It commences at 8 p.m. and lasts until midnight.

James Booker's N.Y.

Recent statistics from Miami, Fla. indicate that this once "Sun and Fun" capital is now the haven for the dope underground. A recent report said that in Florida more money is made importing dope (7 billion a year) than exporting citrus (1.6 billion) and smuggling is bigger business than tourism.

— —

Harlem's active Friends United organization had a jammed packed house last week at Smalls Paradise when they raffled off prizes of a 1981 Cadillac, $1,000 second prize and $500 third prize with all the winners showing up to collect their prizes. The group is extremely active in helping senior citizens and youth activities in Harlem and South Bronx.

— —

Save the date, Sunday October 3, when the Christmas Tree in Harlem Committee will hold a gala concert at the 369th Armory, featuring Lionel Hampton and the big band sound, with Frankie Crocker, as master of ceremonies, and several other surprise guest artists. It promises to be a big evening of fun and entertainment.

— —

Visitors to New York this summer will have a good opportunity to see New York blacks at their best what with Harlem Week activities beginning August 13, Dave Dinkins Sunday in Harlem Churches on August 16, the annual West Indies Day Parade in Brooklyn on Labor Day, and the 136th annual African-American Day Parade up Harlem's Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. on Sunday, September 13.

— —

"New York at the Crossroads of African Thought", is the theme of this year's third annual Caribbean Expressions Festival which kicks off on August 16 at Lincoln Center. The Visual Arts Research and Resource Center, Relating to the Caribbean, has a series of exciting affairs running through October at various locations.

Con-man arrested; posed as tour rep for The Jacksons

Police in the Buffalo suburb of Amherst, N.Y. have arrested a 26 year old man they say has been going around the country representing himself as the road manager for the Jacksons, soul group to defraud young people.

Police allege that Edward Williams, charged with one count of grand-larceny and one count of petty larceny, has been collecting $275 in "union dues" payments from victims after promising them $1,600 per-week jobs with the group as advance men and roadies.

Investigators found a receipt book in Williams' posssion with about 40 names of presumed victims as well as hotel receipts from L.A., Chicago, Milwaukee, Gotham and Philadelphia, among other cities. Officers theorize that Williams has been hitting cities on the group's current 35 city U.S. Tour about four weeks in advance of their arrival.

Spokesman for the group, which was alerted to the scam when a victim called the Jackson's organization in L.A. to verify the job offer, described them as "furious that someone has been using (their) name to rip off the black community.

Amherst police have circulated a bulletin about the scam and Williams' arrest.