BACK OF AVAILABLE JOBS FORCES:

Urban League to halt computer training

By Tea Montier
AFRO Staff Writer

A computer operator training course offered by the Baltimore Urban League has been discontinued because it has become increasingly difficult for the group to find employment for graduates of the program.

"Even though our students have hands-on experience with state of the Art equipment, we just were unable to get them placed," said Lucille Green, director of the Urban League's Information Processing Training Center. "...We're not going to train people for jobs if we can't get them placed. The technology changes so rapidly that the demand for computer operators is not as great as it has been. Even Social Security will be laying off some computer operators pretty soon. I read that recently."

The Baltimore Urban League's Information Processing Training Center located on Eutaw St. was established in October, 1982. Word processing courses were initially offered. The center later expanded into terminal and computer operations in 1983.

Over 300 students have participated in the program with approximately 250 of them successfully completing the program. Two hundred of the graduates have been placed in jobs.

One of the reasons for the discontinuance of the computer operator's course is that the center has a performance-based contract with the Office of Manpower Resources that states that all graduates must be placed in employment within 60 days after completion of the course. That is one of the Center's terms for its Joint Partnership Training Act.

According to Louis T. Bonitto, the Center's manager who is on loan from IBM 'competition' is and her real reason new graduates are finding it hard to get a job.

"It's a matter of the competition out there," said Bonitto, "if one of my people is out there after 16 weeks of intensive training and no previous data processing experience and in many cases no work experience at all he is up against people who have much broader training. You're comparing 16 weeks with 2 to 4 years of experience. If you were an employer, you would take the other person."

The computer environment is much slower to hire says Bonitto and when they do hire, often that decision is based on a career path as opposed to filling an immediate need.

"I thought it was a very good program," said Michelle Clark, a recent graduate of BUL's computer operators course. "The people at the Center were really concerned about placement."

Clark has been actively looking for a job with her newly learned skill since the first of the year. So far, she hasn't been able to find one and is one of several students who completed their training in December.

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Photo by P.A. Greene

ON THE KEYBOARD — Marlene Whitfield reads her work on the display terminal as she types it on the keyboard while her instructor, Gloria Blount, and the center's director, Lucille Green, look on.

(Photo by P.A. Greene)

CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION — Patrice Brown, instructor/manager for word processing at the Urban League's Information Processing Training Center, shares some classroom notes with her attentive students.

lot," declared 22-year old Wanda Trice, a recent graduate of BUL's computer operators course and a month employee of USF and G. "It taught me the computer operations and language and most of all how the equipment is used. The job seminar we had was excellent. It gave me a lot of pointers on how to get a job and handle an interview which I think clinched the job for me besides knowing how to work the equipment."

Although the computer industry is expected to be a good source of employment opportunity for job seekers in Maryland through the 1980's as a group computer occupations will represent only a small percentage of Maryland's employment total. Computer related jobs in the state represent less than 2.0 percent of all occupations. That average is expected to remain about the same throughout the 1990's.

The demand for computer operating personnel could be significantly lowered with the use of computers able to understand plain English commands.

According to a report prepared by Maryland's Department of Employment and Training Research and Analysis Division, "the increasing diversity of computer uses along with the expansion in the computer industry has led to an influx of applicants vying for jobs in this field."

"This influx," the report notes, "has led to an overabundance of computer-trained job candidates and has in some cases created a market in which supply exceeds demand."

This past December there were 14 graduates of the computer operators course offered by BUL's Information Processing Training Center. Of that number, only eight have been placed in employment, so far.

"We can only train in areas where there is a demand," adds Lucille Green, "our people just had a difficult time competing with degreed applicants."

Although the Center's computer operators course has been discontinued the other two courses taught by the Center will continue to be offered.

W2s in the mail mean tax time

State Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein says taxpayers should receive two important types of documents around the end of January which are necessary for completing their federal and state income tax returns.

"These documents are your W-2's which show salaries and wages and the 1099 forms which show other kinds of income, such as interest and state tax refunds," Mr. Goldstein stated.

The Income Tax Division of the State Comptroller's Office mailed form 1099G to about 300,000 taxpayers who itemized deductions on last year's return and received a state tax refund in 1984. Form 1099G is a reminder for most of those taxpayers to report their state tax refund as income on the federal return they're filing this year.

"We are required by federal law to send form 1099G to those taxpayers who are affected by this situation. You do not have to include your 1099G with your tax return, however. It is simply a reference document.

"With these documents in hand, many Marylanders will begin working on their tax returns," Mr. Goldstein said. The comptroller pointed out two important differences between the federal and state returns that affect working married couples.

"Married couples who claim the federal deduction for two - earned married couples should remember that they must file the Maryland long form and add that deduction on line 50 of the state form. This deduction is added back because Maryland already provides a special filing method for married couples to receive the same tax advantages they would normally get by filing separate returns.

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"This is the combined separate method, and by using columns A and B, both incomes receive the full advantage of the graduated tax with both incomes reported on only one form. Maryland doesn't need a two - earner deduction, since our tax break is already built in."

The second important difference to bear in mind is the tax break for child and dependent care costs.

"While the federal return offers a tax credit for a actual child care expenses up to $2,400 for one child or $4,800 for two or more children. To claim the state deduction, you must file the Maryland long form and report on line 58 the amount of actual child care expenses paid in 1984 — up to the legal maximum.

You don't have to itemize deductions to get this benefit, but you must substantiate your expenses by including a copy of federal form 2441, or federal form 1040A, Schedule 1, which ever you sent to the IRS," he said.

Another important difference between federal and state tax returns this year concerns Social Security recipients.

The comptroller noted that Social Security recipients in Maryland will be receiving form SSA-1099 from the U.S. Social Security Administration, showing the total amount of benefits those taxpayers received in 1984.

"Even though a portion of those benefits for some Social Security recipients may be taxable on their 1984 federal return, that portion is now exempted may be taxable on their 1984 federal return, that portion is now exempted from Maryland income tax, thanks to emergency legislation enacted by the Maryland legislature and recently signed by Governor Hughes," Mr. Goldstein stsated.

He instructed the nearly 50,000 Maryland taxpayers affected by the legislation to "use line 61 on the back of the Maryland long form to subtract any Social Security or Railroad Retirement income you had to report to the Internal Revenue Service. Be sure to label line 61 as 'Social Security' or 'Railroad Retirement' income, whichever is appropriate."

The comptroller reminded taxpayers that free state taxpayer assistance is available at all 15 Maryland income tax offices, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Free help will also be available on all state holidays, some weekends and certain evenings for the convenience of taxpayers who work during the week.

The extra hours are listed in the state tax packet. The addresses and telephone numbers of all the state income tax offices are also listed on the back of the state tax packet and in local telephone directories.

Summer centers now accepting applications

The state Department of Education is now accepting student applications for 1985 residential and non-residential summer centers offering a variety of programs for gifted and talented students.

Maryland students currently enrolled in grades 3-11 are eligible to apply. Brochures containing applications and course information are available in every public and private school across the state. Students must return completed applications to their schools by February 1, 1985.

The Maryland Summer Centers offer an opportunity to engage in intensive, advanced-level learning for 2,600 students who demonstrate outstanding academic, intellectual, or leadership ability or who are talented in the visual or performing arts.

This program offers studies in: mathematics and computers, writing in the humanities, visual and performing arts, critical thinking and creative problem solving, social studies, science, leadership, economics and government, foreign langauge, and internships.

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This year the program introduces a non-residential course for entering fourth grade students, a residential setting or entering fifth and sixth grade students, and a new center for international studies.

Students are selected based on a comprehensive application which includes: teacher recommendations, a student essay, test scores for applicants to academic centers, and auditions or interviews for music, dance, theatre, and visual arts applicants.

Black History Art programs

The Walters Art Gallery at 600 N. Charles St. will present two Black History Month programs.

Guided tours on "The Image os the Black in Western Art" are scheduled every Wednesday at 1 p.m. in February. Admission to the museum is free on Wednesday.

On Feb. 13, at 8 p.m. the Walters will present three films by Ousmane Sembene. Sembene, a prominent African director, depicts life in his native Senegal in "Borom Sarret", "Black Girl" and "Tauw". Film admission is $1 for members, and $2 for non-members.

For futher information call 547-9000.

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The Museum and Library of Maryland History at 201 W. Monument St. will offer "Black Marylanders in Africa" Thursdays now through Feb. 28. The exhibit will feature Nineteenth Century pamphlets and booklets.

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628 N. EUTAW STREET BALTIMORE, MD. 21201

Guests enjoying concert were Shawn Murray, Roderick Wilson and Lenay Chisum.

Co-hosts with Urban Services were from (L) Don Williams, Eyewitness News Team, John J. Spinola, WJZ-TV General Manager and Mrs. Phyllis Shelton.

(Photos by Ida Peters)

Patrons at Alvin Ailey concert are gathered around huge cake saluting Blacl History Month.

At Alvin Ailey reception were Paulette Reid, Dale Dixon, Joseph Otis and Gaynette Russell.

Ailey's dancers bring electrifying energy

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre under sponsorship of the Urban Services Cultural Arts Program and WJZ-TV Ch. 13 brought electrifying energy to the Lyric Stage last week-end before sell out crowds at three performances despite rain and threats of snow.

Dr. Lenwood Ivey executive director of Urban Services thanked John Spinola of WJZ for helping kick-off Black History Month with the Lyric program designed to fund various Urban Service projects.

Friday night's program opened with "Night Creature" a 1975 work choreographed by Alvin Ailey with music by Duke Ellington and costumes by Jane Greenwood. As the program stated Duke Ellington says that "night creatures unlike stars, do not come out at night-they come on, each thinking that before the night is out he or she will be a star."

Carl Bailey and Deborah Manning performed the highly erotic "Treading" choreographed by Elsa Monte with music from Steve Reich. These dancers were like snakes stretching, sliding and interwining into a varied mixture of sexual statements.

Before intermission the entire company did "The Stack-Up" with the 1962 choreography by Talley Beatty. Some of the music was by Maurice and Verdine White, "Faces" was performed by Earth, Wind and Fire, "Aubrey" by Grover Washington Jr. and "Rockin' It" by Fearless Four. The decor was adatped from "Under the Bridge" a painting by Romare Beardin.

Friday night's program to this point was soul-satisfying but after Intermission when the group went into their world-famous "Revelations" the audience was fused as one into ecstasy.

Alvin Ailey says that this suite explores motivations and emotions of Afro-American religious music which, like its heir, the blues takes many forms-true spirituals with their sustained melodies, song-sermons, gospel songs and holy blues... songs of trouble, of love and deliverance.

Truly the company performed and let dancing support the song. "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine."

Songs included the "Revelations," "I Been Buked," "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel," "Wading in the Water," "I Want to be Ready" and the finale, "Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham" which brought the audience to their collective feet and sustained applause.

Roses were presented to Stephen Willard Smith, the newest member of the Ailey Company who studied at the Baltimore School for the Arts, Capitol Ballet School. While in Baltimore he performed in "The Nutcracker" and "Porgy and Bess".

Aside from its signature piece, "Revelations," the company performed eight other dances from a varied range in choreographic styles. "Suite Otis" is a pure jazz tribute to the late Otis Redding; "Cry" is Ailey's 1971 work of solos for three women. Dedicated to "all black women everywhere, especially our mothers," "Cry" in many respects is as moving as "Revelations."

The company also performed "Divining," a new dance choreographed by former Ailey dancer Judith Jamison.

Alvin Ailey was born in Rogers Texas. As a child he attended Sunday school and the Baptist Young People's Union and it was out of these experiences and memories that two of his most popular and critically acclaimed works were inspired: "Blues Suite" (1958) and "Revelations" (1960).

Ailey's career in dance began with Lester Horton in Los Angeles. After Horton's death in 1953, he became the Company's Artistic Director and he began to choreograph for the Horton Company. In 1954, Ailey and another Horton dancer Carmen deLavallade, his inspiration to begin dancing in the first place, were invited to New York to dance in Truman Capote's "House of Flowers." While appearing in Broadway musicals and acting on and off Broadway, he decided to start a dance company of his own. In 1958, the Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre, then a seven-member comapny, made its debut at the 92nd Street YM-CA in New York.

Ailey has not restricted his choreography to his own company, but has created works for modern and ballet companies the world over; those companies include Bat-Dor of Israel, Aterballeto, the Harkness Ballet, The American Ballet Theatre and the Paris Opera Ballet. He was honored to work with Leonard Bernstein on his "Mass," which opened the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. for the opening of the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center in New York, he choreographed "Anthony and Cleopatra and later "Carmen." His dances were seen in the premiere of Virgil Thomson's opera "Lord Byron." He later directed Thomson's "Four Saints in Three Acts" for the Mini-Met.

Today, the troupe numbers 30 dancers, many of whom are products of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center school located in Manhattan. The Company's repertory contains more than 150 ballets by more than 45 choreographers including Talley Beatty, Billy Wilson, Glen Tetley, Hans Van Manen, Louis Johnson, George Faison, Elisa Monte and Bill T. Jones. Approximately 50 of these works are by Mr. Ailey. The Company's active repertory consists of about 18 ballets.

Since its inception, the Ailey Company has performed for an estimated audience of 15,000,000 persons in 48 states and 44 countries on 6 continents.

The Steering Committee for the presentation of the Alvin Ailey Company at the Lyric had Wendell Wright, general chairman; Norman E. Ross, vice-chairman; and Clara Kelly, secretary.

The Finance Committee included William Davis, Clayton Tucker, Romilla David, Donna K. Bolyard, Alvin Steele and Ulysta Evans. Group sales members were Donald Washington Jr., William Davis, Phyllis Shelton, Dorothy Jordan, Herbert Sledge, and Harvey Webb. Ticket sales members were Norman Ross, Donna K. Bolyard and Delvia Myers.

The Publicity Committee included James Miller, Rachel Wohl, Edward Goldman, James McNamara, Dorothy H. Jordan and Donald Washington Jr.

The Program Committee included Norman Ross, Roberta Ross, and Phyllis Shelton. The Reception Committee included Cleveland Brister, Phyllis Shelton and Roberta Ross. The Lobby Exhibit was handled by Roberta Ross and Phyllis Shelton.

A reception for the Ailey dancers was held after the Friday night opening at Gallery 409. Before the show, Ethel's Place was packed for the 6 p.m. dinner seating with Ethel Ennis and hubby Earl Arnett greeting guests which included Clarence du Burns ans his party and a club which included Medames Bernita Fuller and Vyna Skinner.

Award-winning actress Ruby Dee will present "Walking the Words," a program of dramatic readings and commentary on the black woman today, (Feb. 9) in the Kraushaar Auditorium of Goucher College, at 8 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Goucher Black Students Association. For info call 337-6116.

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The Maryland Education Committee will hold a public seminar, "Desegregation in Maryland: Public Higher Education: Ten Years Later," from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Feb. 9 in the Tawes Center of Coppin State College. Call 276-0306 for information.

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The Cloisters Children Museum in Brooklandville is presenting films based on storybooks by Ezra Jack Keats; two African folk tales, and "Right On/Be Free," a film about black artists, at 2 p.m. Feb. 9. The program is suggested for children 4 and older. After the show, children can make their own film strips and optical illusion toys. Admission is free, but seating is on a first-come first serve basis. Call 823-2550 for more information.

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The Black Student Association at Notre Dame College is sponsoring a gospel extravaganza in celebration of Black History Month at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 9 in LeClere Hall at the College, 4701 N. Charles St. Featured will be the King Choral Ensemble, the St. Bernadine's Choir, Virginia Raynor Memorial Choir and the Voices of Victory. For information call 435-0100, ext. 426.

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"A Tribute to Black Film" will be shown in the Hoff Theatre of the Stamp Union at the University of Maryland, College Park, Feb. 11 at 4 p.m. The five films in the free program are "Emperor Jones", 4 p.m.; "Sanders of the River", 6:15 p.m.; "No Man Is An Island", "A Raisin in the Sun", and "The Brotherhood of Man" at 7:30 p.m. For information call 454-4987.

Showtime

Ida M. Peters

What's Happening

Coming and going

Deborah Craig is Billie (L) hitting Nura Saleema-Bey (Everalda) in "Nevis Mountain Dew" by Steve Carter, opening Friday at Arena Players, 801 McCulloh St., Balto. This production by the Arena Players runs weekends thru March 3.

Best bets this weekend will be Ethel Ennis at Ethel's Place for two shows nightly at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Brenda Alford on the 13th Floor of the Belevedere with pianist Bob Fields and bassist Bob Simmons. Jazz pianist Abdu-Raschild Yahya at a new eatery Hamilton's Landing in Fells Point at the foot of Broadway, 4700 Thames St.

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Take time to visit the new exhibit "Design for the Stage in Baltimore" at City Hall Courtyard Galleries. Costumes, set models and drawings are displayed from production of The Arena Players, The Baltimore Ballet, The Baltimore Opera and Center Stage.

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Thursday we were in D.C. for "Ceremonies In Dark Old Men" starring Douglas Turner Ward, the first production of the Negro Ensemble Company's new Black Classics series. Mrs. Alma Rangel wife of the congressman hosted a black tie reception for the cast and VIP's following opening at Ford's Theatre.

The paintings of the AFRO's Thomas Stockett and Roger Mason are on display during Black History Month at Fells Point Art Gallery, 811 N. Broadway.

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Last month's groundbreaking in front of the Harbor Campus of CCB was the announcement by Harborpark Development.... Leroy Hoffberger, Leonard Sachs and the law firm of Wolf, Pokempner & Hillman and Willard Hackerman and United Artists Communications for a $3.5 million cinema complex.

Mayor William Donald Schaefer and Salah Hassanein executive vice-president of United Artists made the announcement on a cold, cold day the project will include nine new first-run movie houses with a central corridor, two restaurants and parking space for 770 cars. The complex should be completed by Spring.

Luncheon afterwards at Harbor View room of the Aquarium had Robert Hilliard introducing guests and Hyman Pressman reading one of his poems.

Black History Month Calendar

Dr. Mellasenah Morris presents "The Black Composer: A Recital of Piano Works" at the Eubie Blake Cultural Center, Sunday, Feb. 17 at 3 p.m.

The Arena Players, 801 McCulloh St., for Black History Month will run an art Exhibit now through March 31. Bill Banks, the show's coordinator, works by Albert Tinson, Alvin Smith, Michael Raison, Charles Diggs and others will be included.

Mr. Banks is also showing three of his own paintings: a portrait of Sojourner Truth, a portrait of Martin Luther King Jr., and a group portrait of 10 black leaders.

For more information call 728-6500.

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To celebrate Black History Month, art exhibitions in musuems, colleges and galleries in Baltimore and Washington will showcase black achievements and talents.

The Baltimore Museum on Art Museum Drive, celbrations include a film series on black artists, children's classes and a musical performance.

On Feb. 16, "Bernie Casey: Black Artist," "The Spirit Catcher - The Art of Betye Saar" and "From the Roots." On Feb. 23, the program is "Alberta Hunter: Blues at the Cookery."

The children's classes at the Baltimore Museum offer boys and girls 7-11 of age a chance to study African masks in the museum's collection and then make their own. The "Beyond the Mask" children's classes will be offered Feb. 9, 16 and 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. It costs $10 for museum members and $12 for non-members. Advance registration is required. Call 396-6320.

One free mask class will be offered Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. on a first-come, first served basis.

On Feb. 17, 3 p.m. the Baltimore Museum and WBAL-TV Ch. 11 will sponsor the premiere of "A Different Shade of Blue" by the Bryant Bolling Creative Arts Ensemble.

The Ensemble, a Baltimore based group of 18 musicians and dancers will trace the history of Afro - American music from its origins in Africa through spiritual gospel, blues, swing and bebop to present day jazz, progressive and avant - garde music.

For further information call 396-6310.

1918—Photo by Gordon Anderson taken backstage at Royal Theatre. Lady Day is shown with late Willie Lewis. Both died from drug overdose. Note iron gate and peeling walls of Royal Theatre. Anderson's photos are now on display at Gallery 409.