Local artists flock to Mfume summit

By Alicia Benjamin

Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke and Governor William Donald Schaefer strongly support furthering the cause of the artistic community but Congress does not share their enthusiasm to help artists continue to practice their crafts, U.S. Rep. Kweisi Mfume, D-7th told an audience comprised of mostly artists at an arts town meeting.

The first State of the Arts Town Meeting was held at the Enoch Pratt Library Auditorium Monday by Rep. Mfume, a panel of arts promoters and Mfume's Arts and Culture Liaison Belva Scott.

Mfume and the panel told the audience of about 200 artists that Congress has a responsibility to ensure that art is not taken for granted in the U.S. and that there are people who support the longevity of art.

ALL EYES — Brenda Alford, her daughter Melody and Mary Carter Smith stare attentively as they listen to a discussion of the arts at the Enoch Pratt Free Library Monday evening.

The Congressman mentioned several legislitive items which affect the artistic community and non-profit organizations affiliated with the arts.

He said the first session of the 100th Congress continues national support for major cultural programs in the nation. Funding increases were passed for virtually all of the federal arts agencies, he said.

The National Endowment for the Arts received a higher budget in reconciliation than was passed in either the House or the Senate.

The Congress heard many legislative proposals which could negatively affect the arts, he continued.

"It's a negative approach and it's not what we should be doing in our nation," the Congressman remarked.

The Internal Revenue Service proposed rules last year which limit the lobbying activities of nonprofit organizations. If the organization exceeds their lobbying limit, they would be subjected to stiff fines and, ultimately, revocation of tax-exempt status, if the IRS rules are implemented.

Since introducing their proposal, the IRS announced its intention to reconsider the proposed rules.

They agreed that the lobbying rules would not be retroactive, as was previously proposed. Administrative practices in effect before the proposed regulations would continue to be followed.

On Oct. 6. the Senate Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Federal Services, Post Office and Civil Service concluded hearings on a Postal Rate Commission report studying the extent to which nonprofit mail was being used to convey or support political opinions.

"The bill addressed a lack of clear guidelines of what constitutes political activity," Mfume said.

The resolution calls for reporting of political expenditure and imposition of excise taxes.

The bill was adopted by the House Ways and Means Committee in its Budget Reconciliation bill.

Also, several House Budget revenue raising options were considered by the House Ways and Means Committee that would affect the nonprofit arts community, Mfume explained.

The opinions included a five percent excise tax on the net investment income of tax-exempt organizations and a limitation on charitable deductions for taxpayers who itemize to the lowest tax rate, which is 15 percent.

On a positive note, legislation was introduced which would give back to artists the ability to deduct the full market value of work they donate providing the piece was in existence for over a year; Mufume said.

Morgan guides young chemists

Morgan State University's Department of Chemistry sponsored its second annual chemistry workshop for high ability college-bound students who intend to major in the discipline. The workshop was on Dec. 3.

The students were given a tour of the department's facilities and information on chemistry programs, undergraduate research activities, scientific student organizations, the university's admission procedure, and student financial aid programs.

The high point of the workshop was the competitive chemistry exam designed specifically for high school students.

The five students who earned the highest scores on the exam were awarded a $500 scholarship each with the condition that they major in chemistry at Morgan.

The five scholarship recipients and the schools they attend are: Babatunde Stokes, first place (Polytechnic Institute); Brian Torbit, second place (Polytechnic Institute); Frederick Veney, third place (Paul Laurence Dunbar); Damon Kelly and Nicole Briggs, honorable mention (both students at Paul Laurence Dunbar).

Dr. Roosevelt Shaw, chemistry department chair closed the workshop by challenging all student participants to work harder to prepare for careers in the future.

Dream the "Possible Dream."

"Choir of Mankind" by Vladimir Kordic

Go tell it on the mountain...
Over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain,
That a man with a Dream was born.

KRAFT

A family friend salutes the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Black History Month.

In 1986, Kraft commemorated the first official national holiday honoring the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with this original oil painting. It was donated to and is now on exhibit at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center For Non-violent Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia.

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Students gain skills in word-processing

The Baltimore Urban League's Information Processing Training Center recently graduated its nineteenth class in Word Processing at the Wheeler Auditorium of the Central Enoch Pratt Library on Cathedral Street.

This event celebrated student achievement and recognized the contributions of its supporting partners — the Baltimore Urban League, IBM Corporation, and the Office of Employment Development, local administrator of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA).

IPTC Instructor/Managers Robert Urbanski and Carolyn Watford received special awards.

The guest speaker was Leonard Patterson, IPTC Alumnus, currently employed as a Senior Computer Operator with the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company.

Other program participants included Lucille Green, IPTC Director; Benjamin Whitten, President, Baltimore Urban League; William Dunson of the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, and Chairman of the IPTC Advisory Board; Kenneth J. Miller, Branch Manager, IBM Corporation which has supported the Center since its 1982 inception; Teresa Boston, IPTC graduate; and Amelia Horton, Curtis Pitts, and the Reverend John P. Carter of the Eastern United Methodist Church.

Additional graduates included Denise Brown, Carolyn Byrd, Linda Hughes, Joyce Jobes, Michele Kirk, David Parker, Lori Qualls, Renee Thomas, Lucrisa Walls-El, Martha Williams, and Stacia Wilson. Over half of the graduates were employed when they received their certificates.

Last October the Baltimore Urban League's Information Processing Training Center celebrated its fifth anniversary with a gala event at the Baltimore Aquarium. The guest speaker and honorary chairman for that event was the Honorable William Donald Schaefer, Governor of the State of Maryland.

Since 1982, IPTC has graduated 470 trainees and placed over 90 percent of the graduates in permanent, unsubsidized jobs in positions which include word processors, clerk-typists, administrative assistants, secretaries, and receptionists.

IPTC graduates are now collectively earning over $5 million a year. The Center is currently recruiting candidates for a word processing class which will start next month.

For further information, contact Director of Admissions Veronica Rogers at 727-4812.

AWARDEE — Carolyn Watford was presented with an Instructor/Manager award during the graduation ceremonies.

—Community Calendar—

Adult Education classes set

The Sandtown Winchester Improvement Association is sponsoring a Free Adult Basic Education Program. Classes will be held Monday and Wednesay, from 4:00 P.M. to 6 P.M., at 1343 North Calhoun Street.

Individual instruction in reading, writing and math skills will be provided to persons who have low skills levels, as well as, to persons who can not read. It is never to late to learn. Call 462-1933 for more information. Register now at 1343 North Calhoun Street, between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Gilman names development head

Nicholas J. Koas has been named Gilman School's Director of Development. He will oversee the school's fund-raising, alumni relations, and public relations programs. For the last three years, Koas has served as Gilman's Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations.

Little League to hold fundraiser

Forest Park Little League will hold its oyster and bull roast on Friday, February 19th from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. at the Forum located at 4210 Primrose Ave. Donation: $25.00 per person. Open bar. For ticket information call Mr. Bell at 466-3410, Mr. Brown at 664-9429 or M's Gilmore at 947-4387.

Loyola bull roast planned

Loyola High School hold its annual Blakefield Bull & Oyster Roast on Saturday, March 5 from 7 p.m., until midnight in the school's Kennedy Fieldhouse. Tickets are $20 per person in advance only. Jerry D of Parkville is the caterer. For information contact the alumni office at Loyola at 823-0601.

Coffin to speak

Dr. William Sloane Coffin Jr. will speak at UMBC on Saturday, February 13 at 4:00 p.m. The day long conference "For a Just and Peaceful World" celebrates the merger of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze and Sane with workshops, music and speakers which are free and open to the public. A fundraising reception will follow Dr. Coffin's address.

Veterans sought for CCB courses

The veterans upward bound program of the Community College of Baltimore is offering a free course for veterans only. You may register for day or evening classes full-time or part-time.

VA benefits and transportation expenses are available for eligible veterans.

Registration before February 5, 1988 is recommended. For further information and to register call Pamela Evans Monday-Friday, 8-30 A.M. - 4:30 p.m. at 396-0986. Evening appointments available upon request.

Hypnotic luncheon planned

The Auxiliary of The Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital will host a lecture and luncheon on March 10th at L'Hirondelle Club in Ruxton, MD starting at Noon. Dr. Charles Citrenbaum, a well-known Baltimore Psychologist, who trained under Dr. Milton Erikson (the Father of modern clinical hypnosis) will speak on "SELF HYPNOSIS FOR RELAXATION." Trance is a natural phenomenon that anyone experience through self hypnosis.

The cost is $15.00. Reservations are required. Call 823-8200, Ext. 2118 or Volunteer Office.

Lung Association sets exercise sessions

The American Lung Association of Maryland will hold an exercise class designed to help people who have chronic bronchitis, asthma, emphysema, and other chronic lung disease. The eight-week Pulmonary Exercise Program will meet at Baltimore County General Hospital, Administrative Services Building, 5401 Old Court Road, twice weekly. March 8 to May 3, 1988, from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Physician approval and pre-registration are required. Please call the American Lung Association of Maryland at 494-1100 by March 1, 1988 to receive your preliminary information packet. Class size is limited.

Sex and infertility to be discussed

RESOLVE of Maryland, a non-profit organization that offers peer support and education or infertility, is holding its next monthly program meeting on Thursday, February 11, 1988. The topic will be "Sex and Infertility (Stress)." A question and answer period will follow the program.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Coffee Shop, Greater Baltimore Medical Center, 6701 North Charles Street, Exit 25 South off the Baltimore Beltway. The meeting is free and open to the public.

The problem of infertility affects one in every five couples of childbearing age and is described as the inability to conceive after one year of trying or being able to carry a pregnancy to a live birth.

For furher information, call 269-4038.

PROUD FAMILY — Warren, Ernest, Jesola and Ralph W. E. Jones Jr. pose for a family picture.

Jones has big plans for city recs

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

The poinsettias, family portraits and the sparkling fireplace in an extravagant bi-level home in Northwest Baltimore help to explain Ralph W. E. Jones's enthusiasm for life.

Jones, recently nominated by the mayor to head the Department of Recreation and Parks in March, is as happy as a child surrounded by toys and goodies. He has found his heaven on earth in his new job.

"I'm just a gregarious and happy person," the former Chicago Cubs minor league pitcher said. "I'm a positive thinker."

As he sat in the living room of his home with his wife, Jesola, and their athletic sons, Ernest and Warren; Jones recalled his days at a segregated Grambling High School in Louisiana, where he played football.

During halftime, team members would rush to get instruments to play in the school's band, because the student body was so small. Jones even has a positive anecdote about that experience.

"At least I didn't have to take the tuba," he said laughingly. "We went on to the state championships." Jones, incidentally, played the trumpet.

Today, as the city's director of recreation and parks Jones, 49, will oversee recreational services and facilities in Baltimore.

Currently, he is conducting two separate leisure studies to evaluate the area counties' use of education in recreation and to compare Baltimore's rec services with Atlanta's Philadelphia's and Washington D.C.'s

He holds three degrees in recreation and has taught and coached sports at Morgan State University and Indiana University.

"I have the theoretical base. The theory is there, putting it into practice is the challenge," he said.

During his career, Jones, of Lafayette, LA, has taught and coached notables including, Maryland basketball head coach, Bob Wade, Hall of Famer Willie Lanier and Bob Stabb, executive director of recreation and parks in Baltimore County, he said.

"Many of the people in strategic places in the department (recreation and parks) are my people. All of my former students are very important to me."

When he was 29, Jones suffered from a heart attack. That did not drain his optimism.

He said that experience taught him to not worry about situations out of his control and to live within his limitations.

His father, often demanding, instilled hard work and ambition into Jones. He also told him he would have to be better than the average person, because he was black.

"If you think you can do something, you can," he said. Jesola said her husband does not allow the family to give in to a challenge, because of that reinforcement.

"We have no quitters in our family," she said. The two were childhood sweethearts in Louisiana and have been married for 25 years. She is assistant principal at Northern High School.

Jones said education would play a more active role in the recreation and parks programs in the future. Mayor Kurt L. Schmokes and Jones agreed education is vital beyond the classroom. Jones said he would like the cultural art to dovetail with the rec program.

"The department will piggyback on what the schools have," Jones said.

"...If we can play basketball we darn sure can toot music," he said. He has addressed recreational issue all over the world.

In 1985, he spoke at the Dependent Youth of Armed Forces Personnel in Europe and in Berchtesgarten, Germany.

As the third generation of college educated men, Jones said he hopes his children will emulate his family's success. The Jones's eldest son, Ralph Eldridge is a junior at the university of Pittsburgh and a chancellor's scholar scholar.

"I try to be a positive role model for my children and those I've taught and coached," he said.

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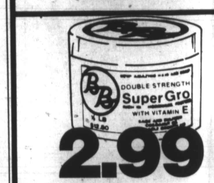

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FEB 1988