—HHS secretary

(Continued from Page A1)

come from within the Black community.

Stating that there are still some people who don't believe that smoking causes cancer, Dr. Sullivan said that what was needed are changes in behavior as a result of health education.

He said that tobacco kills 400,000 people a year and that other people's smoking costs each individual $221 a year in additional medical costs.

Dr. Sullivan told the publishers that advertising for cigarettes is targeted toward a susceptible group and that people who are quitting smoking are the well educated group.

In recent weeks, Dr. Sullivan's stance against the deliberate targeting of Blacks and women by mega tobacco firms has led to the withdrawal of "Uptown" and "Dakota" cigarettes.

Frances Draper, president of The AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, urged Dr. Sullivan to form a task force of Black publishers to help find solutions to the problems

Other publishers, many of whom in principle agreed with Dr. Sullivan, urged him to help them find replacements for the millions of dollars now being spent in both the Black and White media on cigarette advertising.

Others at the meeting were Thomas H. Watkins, *The New York Daily Challenge* and president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA); John J. Oliver, Jr., Chairman of the Board, The AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers; Brenda Andrews, Norfolk Journal and Guide;

Dr. Donald M. Suggs, *The St. Louis American*; Ernest H. Pitt, *Winston-Salem Chronicle*; Rodd Doss, *New Pittsburgh Courier*; Ethel Payne, *Dollars and Sense Magazine*;

Dr. William H. Lee, *The Sacramento Observer*; Deborah Tang, Black Entertainment Network; William Garth, *Citizen Newspapers*; L. Lowell Ware, *The Atlanta Voice*; Paul A. Bennett, *The Philadelphia Tribune*; Frances Murphy, Washington AFRO-AMERICAN; and Steve Davis, executive secretary, NNPA.

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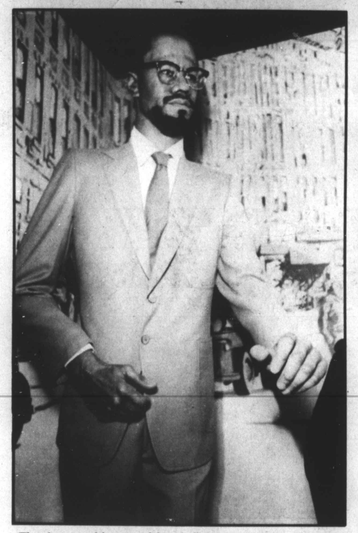
The Afro-American Section B

METRO PROFILE

■ Lifestyle B2
■ Pen Pals B3

Saturday, March 3, 1990

Great Blacks In Wax Museum



The far reaching, positive influence of El Hajj Malik Shabazz b.k.a., Malcolm X on the Civil Rights Movement is just becoming understood today.

Conquering the final frontier. Ron McNair was killed during the space shuttle "Challenger" disaster in 1986 and Guion Bluford was the first African-American in space.

Mary Carter Smith, "Maryland's Official Griot.

By Delfield S. Yoes, III
AFRO Staff Writer

Black history month is over and the debate over the appropriateness of a Black history "month," will no doubt be picked up again in February 1991. However, the history of African-Americans is an ongoing celebration at the Great Blacks in Wax Museum in Baltimore.

Great Blacks in Wax, the first wax museum of African-American history in the U.S., was founded in 1983 by Drs. Elmer and Joanne Martin. Originally located on Saratoga Street, the museum was forced to relocate in 1985, because of its burgeoning popularity to its current, more spacious residence on North Avenue. The Martin's cite four predominant objectives behind their establishment of GBIW.

One was to create an invigorated interest in Black history by illuminating obscure, often omitted facts of history. The Martins also sought to improve the tragic state of U.S. race relations, by shattering stereotypical racial images. Third, GBIW uses outstanding leaders of African ancestry as role models to inspire young people to learn, to aspire to greatness and to be aware and proud of their heritage. The fourth prime objective of GBIW is to lend support to and work with other non-profit organizations to improve the socio-economic status of African-Americans.

Realizing these objectives, as well as relaying the history of people of African ancestry over a span of about 3,000 years, are tasks GBIW perform with unique impact. The earliest depiction of Black history is the figure of the Egyptian Pharaoh Akhenaton, "the father of monotheism" (the belief in one God). The most recent scene of history is of Black pioneers in space. This depiction features a model of a space shuttle, Guion Bluford, the first African American in space and Ron McNair, who was killed during the space shuttle "Challenger" disdisaster.

In addition to African-American contributions to the final frontier in space, the museum has an exhibit commemorating Black contributions to the western frontier. The figure of Bill Pickett, one of the most famous and most respected cowboys of the "wild west," symbolizes the many Black pioneers who helped immeasurably in settling the "Old West."

Other historical scenes include exhibits that pay homage to African leaders Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya. In an exhibit very relative to recent history, Steven Biko, the martyred South African freedom fighter shares a prison cell with Nelson Mandela, African National Congress leader who was recently freed after 27 years in a South African jail. Outside of the cell is Winnie Mandela, wife of Nelson Mandela.

GBIW currently displays 43 exhibits with 115 wax figures, including "The Maryland Room," located on the second floor of the museum. The Maryland Room features six important African-Americans from Maryland, including: Mary Carter Smith; "Maryland's Official Griot," Clarence Blount; Maryland State Senator, Parren J. Mitchell; former U.S. Congressman and civil rights leader, Clarence "Du" Burns; first African-American mayor of Baltimore, Billie Holiday; legendary jazz chanteuse and Eubie Blake; music pioneer.

According to the museum's director, Tulani Salahi-Din, the number of visitors to the museum increases dramatically during Black History Month. "About 1/3 of the visitors to the museum in 1989 came during February," says Salahi-Din. The museum projects that about 19,000 people will visit Great Blacks In Wax in 1990.

GBIW's next unveiling will be the figure of the Honorable Shirley Chisholm. Ms. Chisholm will be present for the unveiling, June 23.

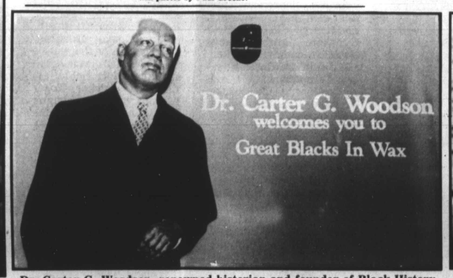
With the addition of Shirley Chisholm's wax figure, The Great Blacks In Wax Museum adds another fabric to its historic tapestry. GBIW is a divergent amalgam of Black History, filled with different hues and textures, each representing a different chapter in the story of a people.

(All photos by Paul Greene)

The days of "Jim Crow."

Two Marylander's who made indelible marks on the world of music; jazz diva, Billie Holiday and legendary composer, Eubie Blake.

Marcus Garvey, architect of the modern Black nationalism movement.



Dr. Carter G. Woodson, renowned historian and founder of Black History Month.

Tulani Salahi-Din, director of The Great Blacks In Wax Museum.