—Supreme Court

(Continued from Page A1)

Court decisions undercutting civil rights gains, while the Democratic national chairman pledged his party's efforts to restore them.

The resolution urged Congress to return the lost gains, asked the court to reverse its present course and called on President Bush to "give leadership to the fight for social and economic justice."

The resolution passed unanimously on a standing vote at the final business session of the 80th annual convention.

The convention ended Thursday night with presentation of the Spingarn Medal, the NAACP's most prestigious award, to 1988 presidential candidate Jesse Jackson.

Democratic Chairman Ron Brown, who challenged Republicans to prove their pitch to blacks was more than "just a cynical attempt to divide us," vowed Democrats would lead a fight against the court setbacks.

He said GOP chairman Lee Atwater's remark that the nation is in a "post civil rights era" illustrates "thinking that lets a Republican-packed Supreme Court threaten three hard decades of progress with three short months of backwards opinions."

"We know that we must support the affirmative action plans that have brought so many Americans into the mainstream of economic life — the programs the Supreme Court has taken upon itself to shoot down."

Vice President Dan Quayle said Wednesday Bush does not believe reversal of the decisions is necessary to advance the civil rights cause.

Brown told reporters that Democrats "will clearly be in the vanguard, in the forefront" and that several members of Congress already are preparing for the fight.

"Clearly, there needs to be a strong legislative response to recent Supreme Court decisions on affirmative action and civil rights," he said.

Health and Human Services Secretary Louis W. Sullivan said at a news conference he supports the court decision empowering states to pass restrictive abortion laws.

He said he would welcome more states adopting the Missouri law that led to the ruling and he supports a constitutional amendment to outlaw abortion in most cases.

Sullivan said he would like to see wording in the amendment stating that life begins at conception.

Sullivan said he also supports legislative restrictions on public funding of abortions, parental consent and on abortion counseling.

In his speech, Sullivan cited new figures from his department showing black life expectancy declined for the second year in a row, to 69.4 years, while overall longevity rose to 74.8 years.

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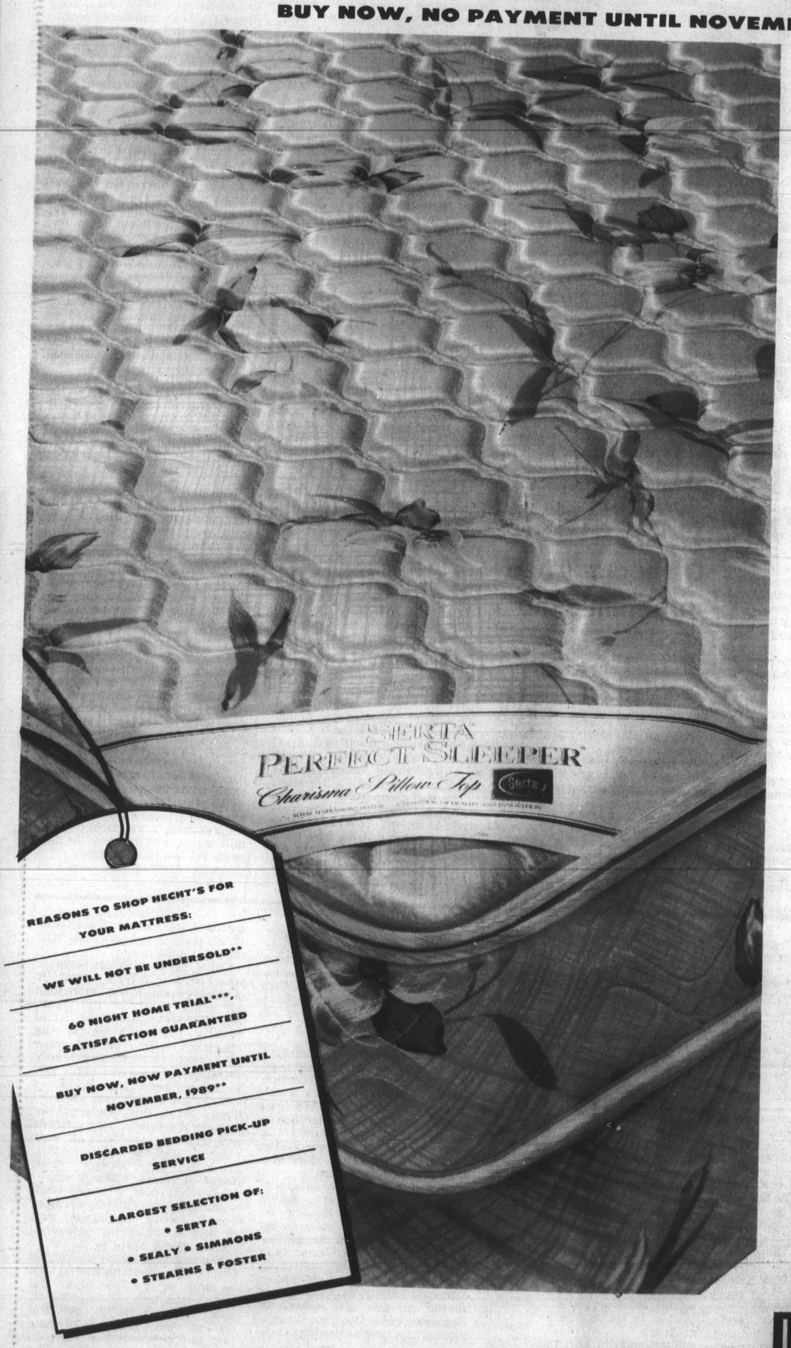

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The Afro-American Section B

METRO PROFILE

■ Lifestyle B4
■ Kids Talk B6

Saturday, July 15, 1989

"RENAISSANCE MAN"

By Delfield S. Yoes, III
AFRO Staff Writer

Artartus Jenkins' home is a virtuoso's monument to the aesthetic.

It is an eclectic vision of artifacts gathered from around the world, each symbolic of some experience, some memory that Jenkins has saved and cherished, including a Master's Degree in Art and Science.

His home is a celebration of the arts and his life, the two are synonymous.

Thespian fever began to smolder inside of Jenkins at the age of four when he portrayed Prince Charming in a school play. He's been on a mission ever since.

"This, (the arts) is why I'm here. I believe that God decided this boy was going to be in the arts," explains Artartus.

He continues, "I sing, I dance, I model, I act, I design, I sew, I create sets, anything that has to do with the performing arts, I do it."

When talking to Artartus Jenkins you sense the urgency of a man with so much to say, who desperately wants to say all of it. It's not possible.

He started modeling here in Baltimore in 1968, when he founded the group, "The Ebony Sophisticates." Three nights a week, he taught young people from E. Baltimore, "the basic formulas of modeling," says Jenkins.

He has been involved in all phases of fashion locally for more than 20 years and he has participated in fashion shows around the country and overseas.

Artartus has appeared on Broadway 17 times in such productions as, "A Chorus Line," "Your Arms Are too Short to Box With God," "The Wiz."

He had a part in the movie version of "The Wiz." He was in an episode of "Miami Vice," the list goes on and on. However, how do you make the big time out of Baltimore?

"The last three years in Baltimore has been the most depressing, heartbreaking, horrendous experience. It is not easy here, but I haven't given up," says Jenkins.

You would suspect that a man with all the right moves, God-given talent and the Hollywood formula of tall, dark and handsome, would not have a problem making a move to the coast or New York City, right? Guess again.

In Jenkins case, as in the case of so many other talented African-American performers, he is tall, too dark and handsome.

"Yes, I'm angry that whites will not except what we are able to do. I fight hard not to be bitter, but it's difficult sometimes," says Jenkins, the smile disappearing from his face.

"They, (whites) love it when we mess up. It gives them the chance to say, 'Didn't I tell you, aren't they all alike.'

We, (Blacks) are still in the dark, still second class citizens. Until we stop thinking that we've made it, things will never change," he continues.

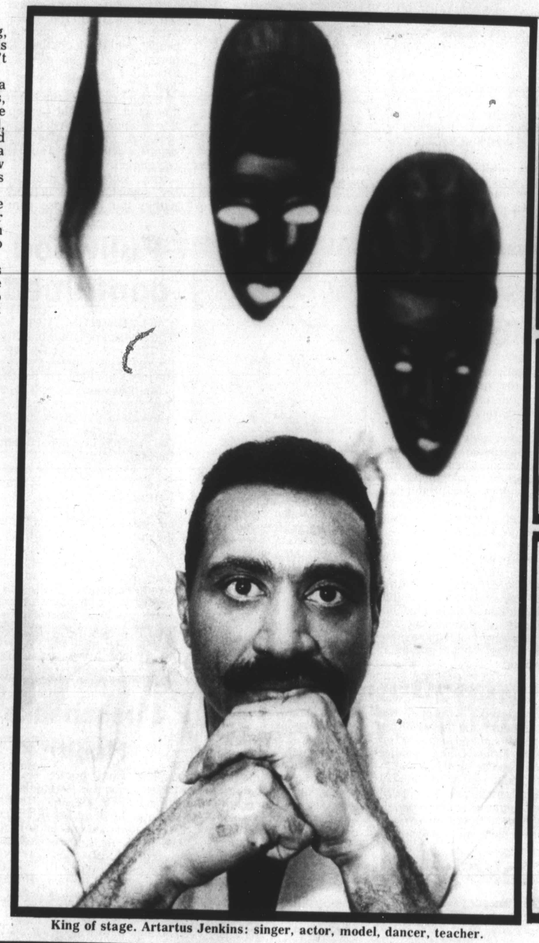
Jenkins has maintained his desire to perform however, and he has aspirations to relocate to the West Coast. More importantly he wants to impart his knowledge, his experience to young performers.

"We have to make a place for us, an equal place. It's going to change, it will change, through the youth," says Artartus.

Jenkins teaches modeling at several studios around the state, he teaches dance and conducts drama workshops as well. Through his talent he teaches lessons in life too.

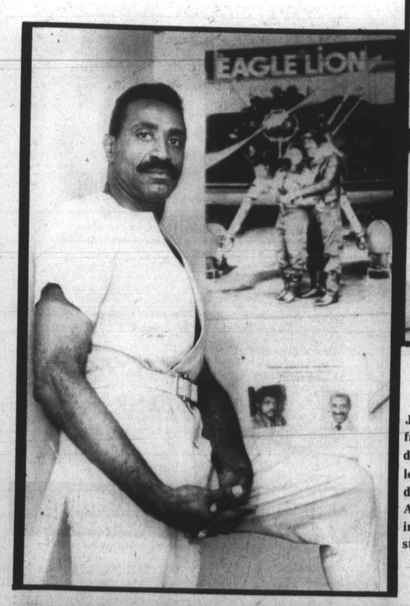
"Learning, usage of knowledge, experience is what makes a man. I constantly stress this to the young men especially, because this is what they need to hear," he comments.

The arts, teaching the arts is his life. "That's why God gave me a name with two art's in it...ART ART us," he explains.

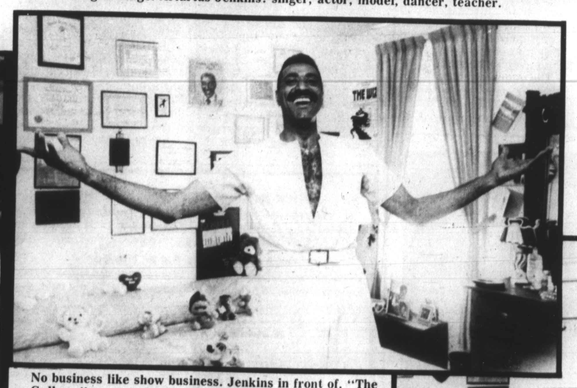


King of stage. Artartus Jenkins: singer, actor, model, dancer, teacher.

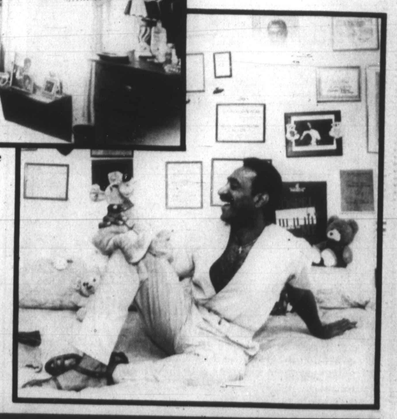
Reflecting on a life dedicated to art, Jenkins displays a wide range of emotions.



Jenkins posing in front of a poster depicting the locally televised drama, "The Eagle And The Lion," in which he starred.



No business like show business. Jenkins in front of, "The Gallery."



Artartus hamming it up with one of his many stuffed animals.