

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 14 OF 16

FOLDER 23

CLP NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF ARTISTS 1976

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ARTISTS
MICHIGAN CHAPTER

CONSTITUTION

Article I/Organization

- Sec.1/ The name of the organization shall be The Michigan Chapter of the National Conference of Artists, Inc.
- Sec.2/ The organization may change its name by two thirds vote of the membership.

Article II/Purpose

- Sec.1/ The basic purpose of the Michigan Chapter of the National Conference of Artists, Inc., shall be to serve as an organization of the arts and culture. This chapter shall be to composed of artists of recognized (those who've been presented to the community) and non-recognized standing and supportive non-artists, who are aware of the needs of the artist and have the willingness to struggle collectively for the defense and advancement of the arts culture, in particular for the progressive arts & cultural heritage of the national minorities. (Blacks, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans & Indians.)
- All over the world progressive art and culture, and the people's cultural heritage is being plundered, distorted and vulgarized in the drive for commercialization, profit, and exploitation. Our task is to stimulate a much more universal understanding of our creative efforts that speak to the world problems and the preservation and development of our specific cultural heritages.

We realize the necessity for collective discussion and planning to improve the position of the arts as a whole. This will be accomplished through conferences, forums, exhibitions, meetings, as well as allying ourselves with other cultural organizations throughout the nation and the world. One of the principle aims of this organization will be to make art available to the working class and at the same time to realize the highest objectives of our profession. We will adopt a point of view of what is progressive art as it relates to the culture of the working populace. We encourage the formation of new art organizations according to the diverse backgrounds and practices within the arts. These areas would include visual arts, dance, drama, written word, music.

NCA MICHIGAN CHAPTER CONSTITUTION

Sec.2/Program and Activities

- (a) Sponsoring local, regional and national/international conferences.
- (b) Sponsoring lectures, forums, workshops and seminars.
- (c) Supplying art & job reference services.
- (d) Publishing materials that support the aims and objectives of the organization.
- (e) Structuring experimental and/or pilot research projects using various media for educational presentations.
- (f) Acquiring facilities for the training of persons in the arts.
- (g) Maintenance of an office for the organization.
- (h) Collecting and disseminating educational materials in the cultural fields.
- (i) Building resources for the granting of fellowships, scholarships, grants, awards, merits, and prizes for creative efforts and achievements in the realm of culture and art.
- (j) Organizing art exhibitions for local and national membership.

Article III/Publications

- Sec.1/ The chapter shall publish a monthly newsletter. This newsletter shall be a means of communication and expression of ideas related to the local and national NCA as well as related to art and cultural activities in our local and national community.
- Sec.2/ The editor shall be nominated by the Executive Board of the chapter and shall be subject to the approval of two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership. The term of office shall be for one (1) year with approval from the above mention for continual basis by yearly.
- Sec.3/ The staff shall be provided by one person from each of the discipline areas of arts. Each member of the Michigan Chapter shall be responsible for the circulation of the newsletter and providing articles and information for the newsletter.
- Sec.4/ Whenever possible, the newsletter shall be translated into Spanish and other languages to aid in the dissemination of information of the chapter to membership in any part of the world.
- Sec.5/ The chapter will strive to publish a yearly journal which summarizes the work of the chapter for the year. Our membership will also strive to contribute to the national journal & newsletter of the National Conference of Artists.
- Sec.6/ Other official publications will be planned for the promotion of NCA artists and for exposure of our community to the arts.

Article IV/Membership

- Sec.1/ Membership in the organization shall be open to individuals, groups, schools or other organizations who are engaged in or supportive of the creative arts and who are representative of the purposes of the organization as set forth in Article II.
- Sec.2/ Persons meeting the criteria as set forth in Section I (above) shall become members upon payment of dues as set up in the By-Laws.
- Sec.3/ The Executive Board may suspend a member for cause after a hearing and a subsequent two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Executive Board and may reinstate a member by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Executive Board.

Article VI/Section

The Michigan Chapter shall be organized into discipline areas of Visual Arts, Music, Drama, Written Word, Dance. These areas will be referred to as sections within the organization. Each section may consist of three (3) or more persons.

Article VII/Meeting

- Sec.1/ The Michigan Chapter shall have bi-monthly meetings to conduct its business, along with its other activities. The place & date of each meeting along with agenda shall be mailed to the total membership two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.
- Sec.2/ Other meetings may be called at the discretion of the Executive Board or one third (1/3) of the membership, but any action taken at such meetings shall be subject to the ratification of the membership at large.
- Sec.3/ The membership year of the Conference shall be the calendar year. The end of the fiscal year of the conference shall be March 31, at which time all financial records shall be closed.
- Sec.4/ Shall meet as units twice monthly.

Article VIII/Officers

- Sec.1/ The officers of the chapter shall be as follows:
Chairperson
Vice-Chairperson, State Representative to national body
Corresponding Secretary
Recording Secretary
Treasurer
Editor of Newsletter
Chairperson of discipline areas
- Sec.2/ All officers shall serve for one (1) year or until the adjournment of the meeting at which their successors are elected or until they are qualified which shall not be no longer than three (3) months. Officers shall be eligible for re-election for same office or others.
- Sec.3/ There may be co-officers but only designated by a majority vote of the total membership at a regular general membership meeting.

Article IX/Executive Board

- Sec.1/ On a day to day basis the business of the organization will be conducted by the Executive Board consisting of officers and three (3) other members of the organization.
- Sec.2/ The Executive Board shall have the control and management of the affairs and business of the Conference. Such Executive Board shall act only in the name of the Conference when it shall be regularly convened by its Chairman after due notice to all directors of such meeting.
- Sec.3/ A majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.
- Sec.4/ Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Chairman (or in his absence, the Vice-President) when he deems it in the best interests of the Conference, and shall be held at such place and time as he may determine.
- Sec.5/ The Executive Board may make such rules and regulations covering its meetings as it may in its discretion determine are necessary.

Article X/Dues and Financial Commitment

- (1) The Michigan Chapter will follow guidelines set by National Conference of Artists relating to membership dues and/or fees.
- (2) The Michigan Chapter will regulate dues other than those committed to national body according to program and activities of the chapter.

BY-LAWS

Article I/Membership

- Sec.1/ The membership of the Michigan Chapter shall consist of 51% visual artists.
- (a) Youth membership
Any youth between the ages of 8-22 are encouraged to participate in and attend general and annual conferences. They shall be in a youth section and have voting privileges within their section only one (1) representative on the executive board.
 - (b) Non-artists
Non-artists are those who are interested in the affairs of the organization, support the purpose of the Constitution and are in one of the sectional disciplines. They shall have voting privileges and hold office.
 - (c) Active artists
Privileges include membership to sectional discipline, voting and holding of office.
 - (d) Institutions
Art departments, art schools and other institutions interested in the development of the arts and are supportive of the aims and objectives of NCA may become an institutional member. Privileges include a subscription to the Newsletter and discounts on any purchases of papers or publications produced by the conference.
Invitation to general membership meetings.

Article II/Voting

Sec.1/ Each member shall have one vote on all organizational matters and questions.

Sec.2/ To amend the By-Laws and elect officers, two-thirds vote of the membership shall be required. In all other matters the vote of the majority of members present at the regular meeting will carry a decision.

Article III/Elections

Sec.1/ An annual election of officers shall be held by the National Conference of Artists, Michigan Chapter, under the supervision of the executive board.

Sec.2/ Elections will be held in January at a regular meeting or a special election meeting.

Sec.3/ Officers shall be elected by ballot to serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their term of office shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they were elected.

Sec.4/ Election of all officers shall be by the vote of two-thirds of the total membership.

Article IV/Nominations

Sec.1/ All members shall be eligible for nominations to any office of the organization. (See guidelines for voting privileges in article I of By-Laws).

Sec.2/ Nominations for the election of officers shall be made of any member of the Michigan Chapter at the regular meeting designated for that purpose.

NCA MIDWEST MOBILIZATION CONFERENCE REPORT

Some of the central ideas of the NCA Midwest Mobilization Conference held at Detroit Sheraton Hotel on Saturday, February 7, were based on establishing a stronger link between the chapters within that region. NCA president, Murry DePillars related in his opening address, the need for a "preferred cultural policy" or cultural philosophy that will give precise direction for our programs. He explained that the policy must be based on a nationalist premise in order to serve and promote Black Art in the Black community/nation.

Our positive visual support of "ourselves" can only result in a healthier attitude and self direction for our community. If we fail to adopt a cultural policy, then will continually have the cultural policy of Euro-America present the images of us to us and we will be unable to alter our present visual dilemma.

The mobilization workshops were: National, Regional and Local Planning directed by Ibn Pori, Michigan chapter vice chairperson; Development of a viable Midwest Structure, directed by national vice-president Bing Davis; Afrikan Art in America; Some thoughts on Ideology, directed by Jon Onye Lockard, national publicity chairman and Bamidele Agbasegbe, member of Michigan Chapter. Summation reports were made on the progress of both Indiana Chapter and Michigan Chapter for 1975. The Indiana report was given by Bing Davis and Michigan report by Shirley Woodson Reid, Chairperson of Michigan Chapter.

Another highlight of the workshop was a Second World Festival Update presentation with slides of Senegal and Nigeria made by Henri King, Michigan Chairperson for the festival. The festival is schedule to open in January, 1977 in Lagos, Nigeria.

During the dinner recess Murry DePillars was interviewed on radio station WDET by Edsel Reid, NCA member of Michigan Chapter and national Sargeant-at-arms. Mr. DePillars was asked to give some insights into the music of The Association for the Advancement Of Creative Music, musician, Anthony Braxton. Murry DePillars began by defining the characteristics of traditional Afrikan music and how they differ from European structures. This explanation clarified the visionary presentations of Mr. Braxton and his fellow musicians.

The evening social culminated with an Art Raffle where 4 original works of art by NCA artists were given away. This effort was sponsored by the Michigan Chapter.

The one-day conference was a very important one for the newly organized Michigan Chapter in that it gave support and direction to our programs. Three cheers for NCA.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ARTISTS
18th ANNUAL CONVENTION
JACKSON HILTON HOTEL
JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY, HOST
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

WORKSHOP I: THE BUSINESS OF ART

EDMUND B. GAITHER, Sage
E. J. MONTGOMERY, Art Consultant, San Francisco, California
WILLIS BING DAVIS, Professor, DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana
OAKLEY HOLMES, Ph.D., Producer, Spring Valley, New York
DAN HOUSTON, Relevant Graphics
LARRY HARRIS, Uhuru Unlimited, Aspen, Colorado
NORMA MCMICHAEL, Pratt Institute, New York
CHARLENE CLAYE VAN DERZEE, Art Administrator, New York

TOPICS: Funding Sources, Proposal Writing, Gallery Management, Contracts,
Employment, Art As An Investment, Commissioned Works, Tax Exemption,
Incorporation, Copyrights, Reproduction Rights.

WORKSHOP II: METHODS, MATERIALS, AND RESEARCH

ROSALIND JEFFRIES, Sage
DAVID DRISKELL, Chairman, Art Department, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee
LI FRAN FORT, Chicago Institute of Art, Chicago, Illinois
JACK JORDAN, Ph. D., Chairman, Art Department, Southern University, New Orleans, La.
JAMES LEWIS, Ph.D., Chairman, Art Department, Morgan State University, Baltimore, Md.
LEO TWIGGS, Ph.D., Chairman, Art Department, South Carolina State, Orangeburg, S.C.

TOPICS: Archaeological Research in Owo, Nigeria, Afro-American Artists in Europe,
Black Historical Murals in Louisiana, History of NCA, The Fisk Collection,
Art In Public Schools, Aaron Douglas

WORKSHOP III: THE IMPACT OF THE BLACK ARTIST IN SOCIETY

BENNY ANDREWS, Sage
VIVIAN BROWNE, Professor, Art Department, Rutgers University, Newark, N.J.
EDWARD TOWLES, Art Director, Black Enterprise, New York
DIANE WEATHERS, Writer, Black Enterprise, New York
MICHAEL CHISHOLM, Art in Prison Program, Black Emergency Coalition, New York
AMOS WHITE, Professor, Art Department, Bowie State College, Maryland

TOPICS: The Realistic Role, Society-Response to and producer of the artist,
The Product-How does society view the product, Cultural Education
and Programs: Neighborhood and Prison Programs, Marketing and Public
Relations, Personal Development, Interpersonal Relationships

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ARTISTS
Michigan Chapter Meeting,
May 15, 1976

The Michigan Chapter of NCA held its regular meeting on May 15 at Highland Park Community College, in the Learning Resource Center, with director Robert Smith, at 11 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 11:55 by chairperson, Shirley Reid. Robert Smith opened the meeting with the playing of a taped interview related to our Oral History. Brother Smith had interviewed _____, who had lived in Natchez, Miss. for forty-seven years. The interview related to the experiences and description of the Mississippi environment during that time. Of special significance was the description of Federal Food Programs in the 1930's and 40's and the burning of the Riverview Night club in 1940 where over 200 Black people were killed.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, corrected and approved by the membership. Treasurer, Robert Brewer, gave the financial report. Dues collected in April brought the amount in our treasury to \$46.34. Members paying dues in April were: Adebayo Ni Yonu, Kwasi Asantey, Ibn Pori, Robert Brewer, Edsel Reid, Shirley Reid, Robert Smith.

Shirley Reid distributed the tentative calendar for the Michigan Chapter, which the membership had requested. Shirley and Ibn Pori as a committee had compiled a yearly calendar to include meeting dates and places, Michigan NCA, Regional and National events.

Summer Art Fair and Exhibition Activities:

Our general discussion began with the calendar. Jon Lockard suggested that since the group was too late to enter the Ann Arbor Fair (applications are due in January) in July that we prepare an outdoor exhibit area at the Trotter House in Ann Arbor. The location of the Trotter House is in the immediate vicinity of the Fairs activities and this would give us almost the same opportunities for exposure as being a part of the fair itself. The group agreed to this plan. Details on the project relating to exhibits, food preparation, etc. will be reported on at our next regular meeting.

Jon Lockard also raised the question of criteria and who would be included in the NCA exhibition. It was the group's consensus that only NCA members would show works reflecting the philosophy and direction of NCA. The dates for the Ann Arbor Fair will be from July 21st to 24th.

Edsel Reid reported on the Michigan NCA Fair planned for August at the Cross playfield at Civic, Manor. Barbara Pace is the person contacted at the Detroit Dept. of Parks and Recreation. Jon Lockard suggested that our efforts with this project be coordinated with the Soul Day Festival date at the Northwestern playfield. The discussion followed that we observe the Soul Day Festival Organization and resources which would give us a first hand view of what would be involved in putting on an NCA Fair. It was then suggested by Edsel Reid that our planning for this event be made for the summer of 1977. This would give us proper timing for a successful event. This was agreed upon by the group. Edsel Reid reported on the proposed NCA meeting and workshop in Grand Rapids. The artist, Lawrence Houston, living in Grand Rapids had contacted both Edsel and Jon Lockard regarding NCA activities in that area. Edsel related that no real organizing of artists or art community had been made by Mr. Houston and requested our membership to discuss this matter. Jon Lockard expressed that our group is of small size and Grand Rapids is a great distance that more organization and plans be made by the Grand Rapids groups before we wet up workshop sessions. The following recommendations were made regarding the Grand

Rapids meeting.

1. That Lawrence Houston or some member of the Grand Rapids group join the Michigan Chapter NCA and be at our meetings to become aware of our philosophy and program.
2. That a host committee be organized in Grand Rapids for any meetings or workshops to be held there.
3. That the Grand Rapids group send an outline of their needs and plans and how they want Michigan NCA to function at an organized program-workshop-meeting.

After these recommendations are met, we feel our efforts will be more significant.

Detroit Ethnic Festival booths for July festival rent for \$500.00. Our participation in this festival will be cancelled due to the great expense. The cultural survey committee then set a meeting date of Saturday, June 5 at 10 a.m. and will give a report at our next meeting. The meeting will take place at the Trotter House in Ann Arbor. At this time, this committee can set up tentative plans for the July Exhibition and Fair. Their findings will also be reported at the next meeting. Bamidele Agbasegbe has been asked to serve on the Cultural Survey Committee.

Plans for the Black Family exhibition to open in August will be discussed at our next regular meeting. It was suggested by Jon Lockard that we address ourselves to philosophy and attitudes to be shown in this exhibit.

At this point, we decided upon a meeting date for the Constitution meeting to respond to the letter sent to our chapter by NCA president, Murry DePillars. The meeting will be held on Sunday, May 23rd at the home of Robert Brewer, 95 McLean, Highland Park from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Copies of the letter will be xeroxed for members before the meeting.

It was requested by Shirley Reid that their be a newsletter content discussion be placed on the agenda of our next regular meeting, June 13th.

Announcements:

1. Edsel Reid requested that all members living in Detroit vote for the suggested slates that for the Detroit Board of Education. He related that some of the proposed candidates did not support strong music and art programs in our schools.
2. Copyright Laws:
3. National Endowment Funds for Cartooning.
4. Tax deduction for artists studios and legislation to eliminate these deductions.
5. Autograph party for Binnie White at Heritage House for 4 to 7. Admission \$3.00, Saturday, May 15 or Sunday, May 16. He has illustrated a book on Famous Black People in Detroit.
6. Ibn Pori announced an authors party for a book he is co-publishing on Black music. The book is called Fire Music. party to be held at 874 W. Chicago. 5/21/76

Meeting was adjourned at 2:20.

Members present: Robert Brewer, Ibn Pori, Bernadine Grey, Jon Lockard, Bamidele Agbasegbe, Robert Smith, Edsel Reid, Shirley Reid.

Visitors: Zahir Sadiq, Vajava Lewis, Gnagna Faruq Hamif.

Members Absent: Margaret Montgomery, Kwasi Asantey, Adebayo Ni Yonu, Eddie Rivera

Next Meeting: May 23rd - 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Robert Brewer
95 McLean
Highland Park, Michigan
865-6774

MAY - 1976

TO: A & P COMMISSION
FROM: CULTURE ~~COMMISSION~~ SECTION
RE: NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ARTIST / SAVE GEORGETOWN COMMITTEE BENEFIT / BGI / CULTURE PROPOSAL

~~THREE~~ REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MICH. CHAPTER ATTENDED THE ^{187th} ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NCA, HELD IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI - MARCH 17-20, 1976. TWO OF THE MICH. REPRESENTATIVES ARE ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. THE INTERNAL FIGHTING, LACK OF ORGANIZATIONAL COHESIVENESS AND VARIOUS PETTY BOURGEOIS & BOURGEOIS NATIONALIST OUTLOOKS FORCED THE ENTIRE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO SPEND THE MAJORITY OF THEIR TIME MEETING TO DRAFT SOME METHOD OF SOLVING THESE PROBLEMS.

ONE OF THE KEY AREAS OF STRUGGLE IS OVER THE ATTENDANCE OF ANGLO-AMERICANS AND EVEN ^{THE ACCEPTANCE OF} PUERTO-RICANS & MEXICAN ARTISTS PARTICIPATION. ALSO HEATED DEBATE OVER THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE MICH. CHAPTERS BY-LAWS. THEY SAY THAT THEY'RE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE BASIC CONTENT BUT HAVE ISSUE WITH THE KIND OF WORDS THAT WERE USED. A LETTER TO THE MICH. CHAPTER EXPLAINING THIS IS FORTHCOMING. ~~THE WORDS~~ FROM THE NCA EXECUTIVE BOARD. THE WORDS IN QUESTION ARE: NATIONAL MINORITIES, PEOPLE'S CULTURE, & WORKING CLASS.

IBN Puri WAS ABLE TO ATTEND 3 DAYS BUT DUE TO THE SAVE GEORGETOWN COMMITTEE BENEFIT BEING HELD SAT, MARCH 20, WAS NOT ABLE TO STAY FOR THE NCA BUSINESS MEETING FOR NCA MEMBERS ONLY.

A BOOKFAIR TABLE DISPLAY WAS ALLOWED. BGI WAS ABLE TO SELL 35 BGI'S, 3 NEGRO NATIONAL COLONIAL QUESTIONS, 5 YENAN FORUMS ON LITERATURE & ART, 12 PEOPLE'S TRIBUNES BESIDES INSENCE, OILS, HATS & EARRINGS.

ONE OF THE PRINCIPLE OBJECTIVES WAS ACHIEVED IN TERMS OF ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH OTHER PROGRESSIVE ARTISTS AND IN PARTICULAR THE MEXICAN & PUERTO RICAN ARTISTS. ANOTHER WAS HEARING IN ^{WORKSHOP} MEETINGS AND OPEN SESSIONS THE ACTUAL EVERYDAY STRUGGLES OF ARTISTS AND HOW THEY SEE NCA RELATION TO THESE PROBLEMS/ JOBS, POLITICAL INPUT OVER PEOPLES LIVES AS WELL AS ARTISTIC ISSUES & MORE ORGANIZATIONAL COHESION.

WE'VE LEARNED THAT EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON DEVELOPING STATE CHAPTERS INSTEAD OF REGIONAL. A TASK FORCE HAS BEEN ORGANIZED TO SEE HOW TO GIVE TECHNICAL & ORGANIZATIONAL TRAINING TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR MORE EFFECTIVE & COHESIVE ORGANIZATION. A PROPOSED FREEZE ON MEMBERSHIP IS BEING LOOKED AT IN TERMS OF ACHIEVING THEIR GOALS.

THERE IS ALSO A STRUGGLE OF THE OLD PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP WISHING TO TAKE OVER THE ORGANIZATION AND SPEAK TO NON POLITICAL ISSUES.

THIS SHOWS THE DRIVE OF THE BOURGEOIS IN TERMS OF EITHER YOU'RE SERVING HIS INTEREST BY BEING A OUT & OUT REACTIONARY (NO POLITICS & JUST FIGHT TO SAVE YOUR JOB) OR A BOURGEOIS NATIONALIST THAT FIGHTS FOR BLACK ARTISTS ONLY OR TO FIGHT TO FORM THE BROADEST UNITED FRONT OF ARTIST AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S CULTURAL HERITAGE BEING PLUNDERED

AND DISTORTED).

ONE NOTE: A NCA MEMBER FROM THE MIDWEST REGION, WISCONSIN UNIVERSITY BROUGHT SEVERAL ANGLO-AMERICANS FROM A CLASS SHE WAS TEACHING. SHE'S FROM CHICAGO AND WISHES TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN ANGLO-AMERICAN AND NEGRO ACTIVISTS. I LOST HER ADDRESS AND AM IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING IT AND COMMUNICATING WITH HER.

SAVE GEORGETOWN COMMITTEE BENEFIT

IN RELATION TO THE MEETING SETUP BETWEEN THE A&P COMMISSION AND THE B&I FRACTION, IT WAS AGREED TO BRING TO ANNA TO DETROIT. OTHER CULTURAL ENTERTAINMENT WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE AND BOTH THE WORKING CLASS AND PETTY BOURGEOIS WOULD BE PULLED. ~~THE THEME~~ THE THEME WAS AROUND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.

IN THE TIME TO MOUNT THIS IT WAS AGREED THAT AS LITTLE MONEY BE SPENT IN TERMS OF TRYING TO GET A MINIMUM LOSS IF OUR OBJECTIVE WANTED ACHIEVED IN TERMS OF ATTENDANCE.

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY'S ASSOCIATION OF BLACK STUDENTS AGREED TO CO-SPONSOR THE EVENT THUS THE NAME CHANGE TO SPEAK TO THIS ISSUE. "SAVE GEORGETOWN COMMITTEE AROUND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND THE STRUGGLE OF BLACK WOMEN IN APPALACHIA." A DIVISION OF LABOR WAS SET UP IN TERMS OF: TICKETS AND LITERATURE HANDLED BY EDDIE TO THE AREA. MIKE TO HANDLE ADVERTISEMENT TO RADIO & NEWSPAPERS COVERAGE. REGGIE ^{AUDIO-}SOUND EQUIPMENT. CONNIE BOOK SALES, ADARAYO & GEORGIA DOOR.

MANY TIMES IT HAS BEEN MYSELF HANDLING EVERYTHING AND AGAIN THE SITUATION WAS THE

SAME. ~~BESIDES CHANGE~~

IN TERMS OF PLAYING THE PIANO OUR FRACTION HAD PROBLEMS. THAT IS DOING THEIR UNIT WORK, JOBS, FAMILY LIFE AND FRAGMENTAL WORK-TIME PROBLEMS SET IN ON HOW TO DO YOUR BEST. RE/ 3 TIMES WSU (CHANGED THE PLACE WHERE THE BENEFIT WOULD BE HELD); THE ASSOCIATION OF BLACK STUDENT REACTY DIDNIT WANT TO HELP BUT FELT IT HAD TO DO IT JUST TO SAVE FACE; COMRADES IN AREA DIDNIT SEE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THIS BENEFIT AND THEIR WORK AND MISSED A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO TIE IN THE BESSIE COU FURNETT STRUGGLE; A VERY LOW CULTURAL AWARENESS IN THE AREA; WORKLOADS OF COMRADES; MATERIALS FOR JUANNA NOT ARRIVING IN TIME; ~~ALL OF THESE PROBLEMS~~ ONE OF OUR CULTURAL WORKERS TOOK A VACATION IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WORK. ALL OF THESE SEEMINGLY SMALL PROBLEMS HAS HAD THE EFFECT OF FORCING THE WORKLOAD ON A FEW COMRADES TO COORDINATE AND EXECUTE. IF YOU SUCCEEDED ALL PRAISE WILL COME AND IF YOU FAIL THEN CRITICISM GALORE COMES DOWN WITH NO METHODS OF HELPING TO ACTUALLY SOLVE THE PROBLEMS. ONE OF THE MAJOR ~~REASONS~~ CRITICISM WAS THE LACK OF AUDIENCE AND GENERAL EMPHASIS OF THE PROGRAM ON THE PARTY'S OBJECTIVES.

WITH COMRADES NOT ABLE TO MEET TOGETHER COLLECTIVELY TO SOLVE ALL THESE PROBLEMS AND TO CHECK UP ON HOW EFFECTIVE IS THE WORK GOING RESULTS IN A POOR QUANTITY OF AUDIENCE AND PROGRAM EMPHASIS.

IT IS HOPED THAT WITH THE FORMATION OF A CULTURAL COMMISSION THESE PROBLEMS

WILL BE LESSEN AND OVERCOME.

AT THE SAME TIME BECAUSE OF THE BREAK BETWEEN THE NATIONAL CULTURAL COMMISSION AND THE 1367 JOURNAL NOT BEING CLEAR IT HAS CAUSED PROBLEMS. WHO TO ANSWER TO? WHAT IS 1367 TO OTHER COMRADES? WHAT IS CULTURE? ECT.

THE BENEFIT HAD ITS POSITIVE SIDE IN RELATION THAT THE EXPOSURE WAS TO THE DEGREE THAT THOSE WHO DIDN'T SHOW UP WISHED THEY HAD. A VIDEO TAPE OF THE PERFORMANCE EVEN THOUGH THE LIGHTING WAS BAD. EXPERIENCE IN PUTTING ON CULTURAL SHOWS & FORCING THE ISSUE THAT CULTURE MUST BE TIED INTO OUR ONGOING WORK.

BLACK GRAPHICS INTERNATIONAL

THE NEXT ISSUE OF 1367 IS ON MUSIC AND THE CULTURE OF THE WORKING CLASS. IT IS STILL NOT TOO LATE FOR ARTICLES & DRAWINGS RELATED TO THEME OR OTHER AREAS. IT IS HOPED TO BE ABLE TO GO TO THE PRINTERS BY THE END OF MAY.

MICHAEL DAUGHTER HAS AGREED TO BE A CONTRIBUTING EDITOR FOR 1367 WHICH IS ANOTHER STEP IN MAKING 1367 A MULTINATIONAL ORGANIZATION. HE RECENTLY RESIGNED FROM THE PARTY TO CONCENTRATE ON A BOOK HE'S WRITING ON YOUTH & CULTURE

1367 IS WORKING WITH THE WSU COLLEGE OF LIFE LONG LEARNING AT JACKSON STATE PRISON PROGRAM. BOTH IN TERMS OF DEVELOPING A MULTI-NATIONAL CULTURAL PROGRAM AND HELPING IN THE PETITION CAMPAIGN TO ALLOW GRADUATING PRISONERS TO ATTEND THEIR CLASS GRADUATION CEREMONY INSTEAD OF AT PRISON.

B67 HAS TEMPORARY USE OF THE JAMES LEE GRAPHIC STUDIO WORKSHOP AND ITS HOPED THAT A CULTURAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM WILL BE ABLE TO WORK OUT OF THEIR AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION PROMOTING CULTURE AND THE ARTS TO WORKING PEOPLE. THOSE WHO HAVE INTERESTS SHOULD CONTACT JOHN PURI AT B67 ADDRESS P.O. BOX 732 / DET / 48206 IT'S TEMPORARY BECAUSE THE RENT IS \$125 A MONTH STARTING IN SEPTEMBER AND IF STUDENTS ADMIT USING IT BY THEN I'LL HAVE TO GIVE IT UP FOR LACK OF FUNDS.

CULTURE PROPOSAL

A MEMO SHOULD GO OUT TO ALL COMRADES TO LIST WHAT KINDS OF TALENTS DO THEY HAVE IN DRAMA, LITERATURE, ART, MUSIC ETC. THE PURPOSE IS TO COMPILE A FILE OF TALENT TO PULL FROM.

DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE STARTED WITHIN THE A & P ON HOW TO UTILIZE THE RED LABEL STRUGGLERS, A RECORD WITH POETRY & MUSIC MADE. WORKSHOP/SEMINARS WILL BE DEVELOPED ON HOW TO USE SILK SCREEN TO AIDE UNITS WORK PLUS PUTTING TOGETHER BOOKS & PAMPHLETS I.E./ GRAPHIC PRESENTATIONS ON THE STRUGGLE AGAINST FASCISM/WOMAN QUESTION/NEGRO/ETC.

(continuing from)

NOTE: B67 HAS RECEIVED GOOD RESPONSE FROM OTHER PUBLISHERS ABOUT THE NEED FOR A CONFERENCE ON LITERATURE & ART & THE STRUGGLE AGAINST FASCISM BUT STILL NEED INPUT FROM NATIONAL CULTURE COMMISSION.

May 28, 1976

To: A & P Commission

From: Cultural Bureau

Re: National Conference of Artists/Cultural Questionnaire/BGI & James Lee Graphic/Studio Workshop

NCA:

At the special meeting on the Constitution Sunday May 23, 1976 a very good discussion was had over to wheather or not to change the words in our constitution off of a recommendation from the Executive Board of the National body of NCA. After much heated debate between two groups it boiled down to: accept changes as recommended and present position paper of why we felt the national constitution is incorrect in these areas or not change words, present the definitions around the words in question that we had all united around previously and to ask for all correspondence that had question the Michigan chapter of the NCA so as to better reply with the said recommendations. Everyone voted for the last position. Reason was that we must try to work with our own constitution in-order to find out the pro's and con's in trying to implement it as it reads.

Most members still feel that Comrade Eddie Riv- is Black and not Puerto Rican. Both he and I see that as a struggle we must wage in terms of utilizing the NNCQ and showing that in concrete fashion applies to the oppressed peoples of the USNA State. Also by encouraging membership to participate in the Equal Rights Congress, Juneteenth holiday, purchasing the NNCQ, building a workshop around this question for NCA membership for both the state and the Mid-west Regional conferences.

Cultural Questionnaire:

In the Party Organizer Vol.2 No.13/August 1975, the article On The Development of our Cultural Work, put forth suggestions to correct "the Leftish attitude within the party that considers music, writing, drawing or any other cultural skill as something apart from the political life of comrades and the party".

Attached is a questionnaire (2) one for comrades and the other for close contacts. The deadline for returning them shall be July 5, 1976. From these the Cultural Bureau will send copies to the National Cultural Commission along with the developed activity and analysis that the local Cultural Bureau will do.

BGI & The James Lee Graphic/Studio Workshop

Bgi should be at the printers by the end of June. At present BGI has been accepted as a full member of the Associated Black Publishers of Detroit, Inc., but the degree of nationalism from one of the Pac members is thick. Attached is there press release for a poetry festival that I wasn't able to participate in but they want me in.

The James Lee Studio will be offered to the John Brown Center for their Graphic workshop.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ARTISTS

NEWS LETTER

VOL. I NO. 1 FALL-WINTER EDITION FEB 7, 1976

Detroit Gallery's

Robert Murry/Gallery 7 - Oct. 11 - Nov. 5 (315)
 Robert Natkin/Gertrude Kasle Gallery Oct. 11 - Nov. 6 (310)
 Roy Castleberry, Douglas James Bradley Jones, Edward Levina/Willie Gallery - Oct. 7 - Oct. 25 (305)
 FISHER BUILDING

Like early autumn myself and my Puerto Rican friend Eddie Riveria gently strode into the old arena to view what the galleries had to offer up on this opening Saturday. We had already left a National Conference of Artists meeting and were feeling in good spirits. A stop on the way at 3 for 3 Food Co-Op. to load up with nuts seemed to fortify us to what we were about to witness.

First stop was the Robert Natkin Exhibitions of recent paintings at the Gertrude Kasle Gallery. We both were cordially greeted and given a price listing. Nothing under \$2,600. This was his sixth showing at the gallery so both Eddie and myself were taken aback by the total non-objective approach that the paintings took. Although the gentle colors and the little warm icon's have a warm overbridge affect - the only statement made is the ability of the artist to work with a variety of materials. An Anglo-American artist that fits well into the non-realistic & commercialized art.

Gallery 7 is an experience in itself which brings to case Robert Murry a creative genius in the manner in which

he uses bits and pieces of hair, string, color crayon's bits, narrow stripes of maskin-tape, band-aides and even bits of charcoal from his old Lark's inbetween an opaque back and a transparent overlay. The show is suppose to be a representation of himself and his environment/a spliced together self portrait. Paintings with nothing over \$800 with a light gain that its a show of non-realistic art but with the manner in which he uses the material is something one must see. A Negro national minority artists that in our opinion refuses to remain stagnast, but waiting to see him really express the essence of his soul.

Last is the Willis gallery where images of reality seemed to be on the verge of emerging but because of strong-conscious individualism the only thing to really grab you is either good handling of the material. Such as Roy Castleberry's drawings of portions of a nude woman's body or the straight raw edge paintings of either Bradley Jones' sort of nostalgia of the old rock era and leather jackets. The realistic stills by Edward Levina show promise but the strong abstracts of Douglas James show nothing but strong overlays of color as if warding off ghosts.

In all we thought of the madness most artists seem to be enjoying as the masses of people struggle to survive we wonder where the art that represents the drive of a people is at. It makes you wonder - Where are the really progressive and revolutionary artists? Where are the artists that emergd during the sixties? Maybe in the nex opening.

By Ibn Kori

African History Seminar

At Shaw College, from Aug. 11-22/75, Mr. Clarence Harris presented a two (2) week workshop at which Dr. Josef ben-Jochannan and Professor George Simmons were the lecturers. The lectures covered Afrikan History and Philosophy from ancient times (c 30,000BC) to the present with Prof. Simmons dealing with the history and Dr. ben-Jochannan the philosophy. At each session Prof. Simmons lead off with the history and Dr. ben-Jochannan based the philosophy in that history. Some of the lecture topics were:

"The Origin of Man (Afrikan) Concentrating on the Major Archeological Finds" - Prof. Simmons, and 'A Nigger Ain't Shit' - Dr. ben-Jochannan."

"History of The Phallic Obelisk"- Prof. Simmons, and "The 'Fat Buckle' and The Phallic Obelisk and The Creation Story with respect to Black Philosophy" - Dr. ben-Jochannan....

just to mention only a few. The two lecturers are due to return next year in the month of Aug./75.

P.S. Dr. ben-Jochannan will lecture on Sunday Dec. 28 at the Stevenson Building. For further information contact Mr. Clarence Harris at 899-2670

By Robert Brewer



TIBBS FIGHTS FRAMEUP!

The particular white chauvanist brand of "justice" is out to claim another victim.

Delbert Tibbs, a 36-year old Negro-poet, writer/activist from South Chicago, Ill., was hitchhiking thru the South collecting information for a book. On Feb. 13, 1974 Tibbs was arrested by the Mississippi Highway Patrol on orders from Florida that he was wanted for murdering a 27 year-old white man and the rape of a 16 year-old white woman.

On Dec. 14, 1974 he was found guilty by an all white jury in less than 20 minutes of deliberation and recommended the death penalty.

The railroading is obvious and no gun or positive identification was ever established. The State based its case on a cellmate of Tibbs in the county jail who's serving a life sentence. The date he gives for Tibbs "confession" to him was two (2) wks before the crime took place, and his account closely parallels newspaper accounts of the case.

The International Black Appeal has set-up a defense fund along with several organizations to help in the numerous legal appeals to free Bro' Tibbs. All inquiries and assistance can be sent to Delbert Tibbs Defense Committee #IBA/4946 S. Dorchester/Chi./Ill./60615 or the NCA Mich. chapter at P.O. Box-32359/Det./Mi./48232

TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FESTIVAL OF BROADSIDE PRESS

The poets of Broadside Press, founder and publisher Dudley Randall, presented their "Memories" in the recent celebration of the tenth (10th) anniversary year. Festival events took place at various locations in the city on September 26 - September 28.

An initial reading at Highland Park Community College (Friday, September 26) by Gwendolyn Brooks, Dudley, and Aaki Madhusuti (Don L. Lee), stimulated overwhelming response from students and staff. Shirley Reid and members of the Black Studies Department planned and sponsored this occasion. Later during the evening, these poets and others were received with heartfelt warmth by the community at the Mayor's Mangoonian mansion and the University of Detroit Faculty Club.

On Saturday, September 27, students of literary interest and talent participated in workshops directed by the poets of Broadside and Dudley Randall. Mini-sessions (of the original sessions) with the various writers extended into the late evening, only moments prior the presentation of awards, at the Awards Banquet, to six of Broadside's renown poets: Gwendolyn Brooks, Nikki Giovanni, Etheridge Knight, Audre Lorde, Haki Madhusuti, and Sonia Sanchez. Due to the serious illness of her father, Nikki was unable to attend.

The aspirations, joys, and love of several generations were bestowed upon a full audience through verses created by these poets. Awards were made, and a poem of dedication to the six by Dudley Randall gave reverence to the evening. In recognition by the poets and Broadside, a commendatory gift of one thousand dollars was presented Haki in acknowledgment of his personal commitment, diligence and labor. Much happiness filled these moments of history.

Festival events ended on Sunday, (September 28) with readings by all published Broadside Poets. Held at Wayne State University's Community Arts Building, one reminisced on memories of "Homecoming" with Margaret Danner and of Broadside's friends in celebration of a new decade of tradition to challenge young African writers the world over.

NEWS...

THE AFRO CENTIC THEATRE WILL BE OPENNING A NEW PLAY ON FEB. 26th AT THE LANGSTON HUGHES THEATRE

NEWS

NEWS....NEWS....

NCA is accepting material for its forth-coming journal-poems, art works, films, criticism, essays, etc., can be sent into P.O. Box 5546/Richmond/Virginia/23220

Black Pride continues to publish. It's a Black Cultural Newsletter from Marion Federal Penetentiary. P.O. Box 1000/Marion/Ill./62959

Black Graphics International just held its First annual Cultural Awards benefit with the theme of Promotion of Our Music...The Continuance & Exposure of Progressive Art. over 200 braved the cold to warm up the New Langston Hughes Theatre that Bro's Edward Vaughn & Playwrite fame Ron Milner have opened.

BGI #20 is out.....

UNIVERSAL HIEROGLYPHICS IS SPONSORING A SPECIAL BICENTAL PROJECT " A JOURNEY TOWARDS FREEDOM" for more info-call-William Wade 368-7165 between 9-5PM.

THE ALEXANDER CRUMMELL CENTER & ASSOCIATED BLACK PUBLISHERS OF DETROIT ARE PRESENTING A/ANUAL BOOK FAIR & POETRY FESTIVAL ON SUNDAY FEB. 22, 1976 at 6PM at the Center/74 Glendale/HP, Mi. FOR MORE INFO_ CALL 865-2484

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS ALONG WITH BLACK GRAPHICS INTERNATIONAL WILL SPONSOR A CULTURAL BENEFIT IN RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ON MARCH 20th

MAJI MAJI, a revolutionary paper published by the Univ. of Dar-es-Salaam branch of the Tanzania Youth League is Available from the university.

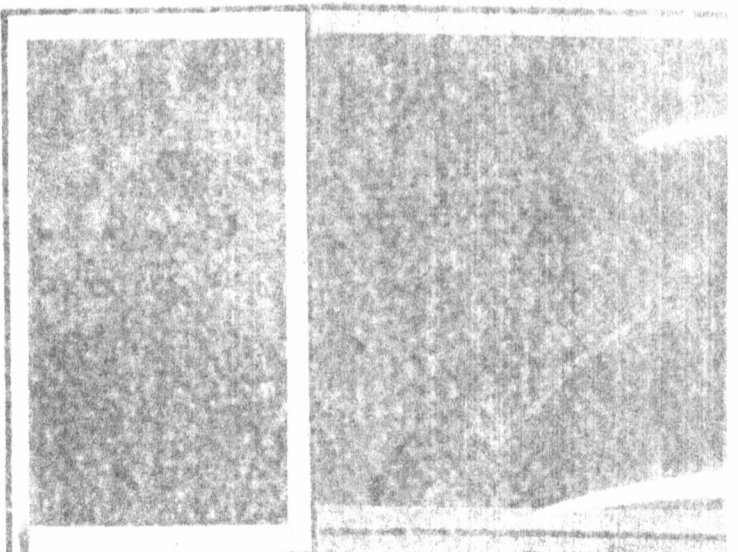
Love & Peace

A TRAGIC LOSS PAUL ROBESON a true revolutionary in both the academic cultural and political history is dead. His book "HERE I STAND" is a testement of the Negro People's Liberation Movement. The causes he fought for are to numerous to mention. Leaving us and the world to say, and especially our class would have been leaner had he not been with us.

We of the NCA take this time to express our deep sorrow to his family and world of the death of this most revolutionary and great artist.

Another TRAGIC LOSS was the untimely death of James Lee. A gifted painter, and master graphic printmaker of Detroit, Michigan who just recently was honored at the BGI Annual Cultural Awards. He was Vice-President of the Michigan Association of Printmakers. A memorial is being planned for those of us in the arts who knew this gallant freedom fighter to express and to continue his graphic ideas. Those interested should contact Ibn Pori % Black Graphics International/ P.O. Box-732/Detroit/Mich/48206

We of the NCA have lost and express our deepest sorrow and feelings to his family and may we be able to say Brother James Lee we were at lost for words upon receiving the news of your death, of a great artist, a master printmaker, and heroic progressive.



James Lee

Paul Robeson