

Black Arts Festival spotlights education, cultural expression

By ANNE McDONOUGH
Collegian Staff Writer

The weeklong Black Arts Festival, sponsored by the Paul Robeson Cultural Center and Black Caucus, will begin tomorrow with a Cultural Bazaar featuring a dance show by members of black fraternities and sororities.

The show is scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m. in the Pollock Halls quad.

The theme of this year's festival is "Retrospective on the '60s—Prospects for the '90s." The festival is an opportunity for campus-wide participation in the expression of black culture, director of the center Larry Young said.

"Most of the programs will be educational, but some cultural and social activities are also planned, he said. The festival will be of value to the majority of students who would have to travel to foreign countries to experience some of the festival's offerings, he said.

At 2 tomorrow afternoon, visitors to the Paul Robeson Cultural Center in Walnut Building will be able to sample black cuisine labeled a "Taste of Soul," for \$1.

At 8:30 tomorrow night in the Eisenhower Auditorium, "Pieces of a Dream," a jazz group from Philadelphia, will perform. Tickets are on sale at Eisenhower and at the HUB Desk.

An after-the-concert dance will take place at the center beginning at 11 tomorrow night. Admission is free with a concert ticket stub. Sunday's events will begin at 1:30 p.m. with a performance by the University's Gospel Choir, the United Soul Ensemble, in Schwab Auditorium.

After the concert, the Malcolm X-Fannie Lou Hamer Leadership Award will be presented to the black student who has demonstrated leadership in the University black community.

The winner will receive a plaque and \$100 donated by the members of the selection committee, said committee member Venus Young. The center will also receive a plaque, she said.

The nominees are selected from those students nominated by black student organizations based on set criteria, said Venus Young (12th-base planning administration).

The criteria include academic standing, books they have read, and evaluations written by the nominators and the nominees themselves.

The selection committee also considers the person's potential as a future leader of the black community, she said.

This is the third year for the award and it will be presented for 12 more years, she said.

The festival's theme will be discussed by keynote speaker, the Rev. Benjamin Charvis, at 3 Sunday afternoon in Schwab Auditorium. Charvis, one of 10 defendants in the Wilmington 10 trial in 1971, was indicted and convicted on charges of conspiracy and fire-bombing a white-owned grocery store. He was originally sentenced to 34 years in prison, but served 4½ years. The convictions of the defendants were overturned in 1980.

Young said Charvis will give his perspective of events that shaped the '60s and '70s and current events that may shape the '80s. Charvis combines his religious training and desire for social justice, which in turn makes him a political speaker, Larry Young said.

Also on Sunday, festival visitors will be able to sample Caribbean food, entertainment and music at 6 p.m. in the HUB ballroom. The Trinidad Star Steel Band from Philadelphia will perform. Tickets are \$5 and for more information, call 227-3950 or 238-6958.

On Monday, the Black Film Festival begins at 7 p.m. at the center with the films, "Malcolm X" and "Blue Collar."

The first film follows the life of the civil rights activist with the use of film clips and based on information from his book written with Alex Haley, author of "Roots," said Larry Young.

"Blue Collar," starring Richard Pryor, involves the life of one white and two black auto workers as they fight the automobile union.

Anyone who does not understand labor should see this film, Larry Young said. The film points out problems that affect blacks and whites in the labor force, he said.

At 7 Tuesday night, the film "Putney Swope" will be shown at the center. The film concerns the only black employee in a New York City advertising agency. The black employee eventually becomes the chairman of the board and recreates the agency in his own image.

"The agency goes from Blarney and Smith to Truth and Soul advertising," Larry Young said.

After the film, students and faculty will discuss "Where will we be in 1993?" said Venus Young.

At a Wednesday night, Nigerian tribal chief Jomo Logan will speak about his experiences as a tribal chief and American citizen to the festival in the HUB fishbowl lounge.

A Gong Show, presented by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, is tentatively scheduled for 7:30 Thursday night.

Poet Haki Madhubuti will speak about the future of black America at 8 p.m. next Friday

in the center. Madhubuti is the founder and editor of Third World Press and editor of Black Books Bulletin. He has written eight poetry books and three books of essays.

If people have not heard him before, they will be in for the biggest surprise of their lives, Young said. Madhubuti will bring his aesthetic and political point of view to the festival, he said.

Also next Friday, a dance will take place at 11:30 p.m. at the center as a show of appreciation for the support given to the festival.

The Self Destruct Band from Philadelphia will give a dance concert at 10 p.m. next Saturday at the center. Admission is free. Participants in the festival will be able to fill out evaluation forms and recommend any suggestions for future festivals, Young said. A Black Arts Festival, dedicated to the class of 1983 will be available, he said.

The festival will continue through May 10 with an African and Afro-American Art Exhibit at the center. The exhibit features the works in ebony, ivory, leather and wood of Nigerian artist O'dy Maduka. Also featured will be the works of State College artists Robert Wilder and Forrest Wortham.

For more information, call the center at 865-1779 or 865-3776.

New A.W. & Sons apartments may be completed by August

By MICHAEL NEWMAN
Collegian Staff Writer

A.W. & Sons Enterprise, 340 E. Beaver Ave., has broken ground for construction of a 67-unit apartment building at the corner of Locust Lane and Beaver Avenue.

The building, to be named Alexander Court, will have 53 two-bedroom apartments and 14 one-bedroom apartments. All units will be furnished and will have draperies, wall-to-wall carpeting, air conditioning and fully equipped kitchens.

Dottie Williams, director of sales and personnel for A.W. & Sons, said the building is scheduled to be completed by Aug. 15, barring unforeseen delays such as poor weather.

"We still expect to meet the August 15 deadline," Williams said. The builders "are working days and weekends."

Although plans to accommodate renter parking have not yet been affirmed, she said she expects no problems.

"We always seem to have enough parking," she said.

Thirty-four units have already been rented and applications are still being accepted at the main office of A.W. & Sons.

"Two-bedroom apartments are \$680 to \$695 per month and large one-bedroom apartments are \$495 per month," she said.

Controversy had arisen recently about whether future tenants would be required to pay rent even if the building were not completed.

Daniel Kienle, general manager of A.W. & Sons said if a tenant rents from an apartment that is not completed, the money will be refunded.

"If the building isn't completed on time, the money is refunded," Kienle said. "Everything is subject to completion of the building."

Peter Cutrone, president of the Organization of Town Independent Students (OTIS), said a landlord is not legally permitted to ask for rent on an uncompleted building.

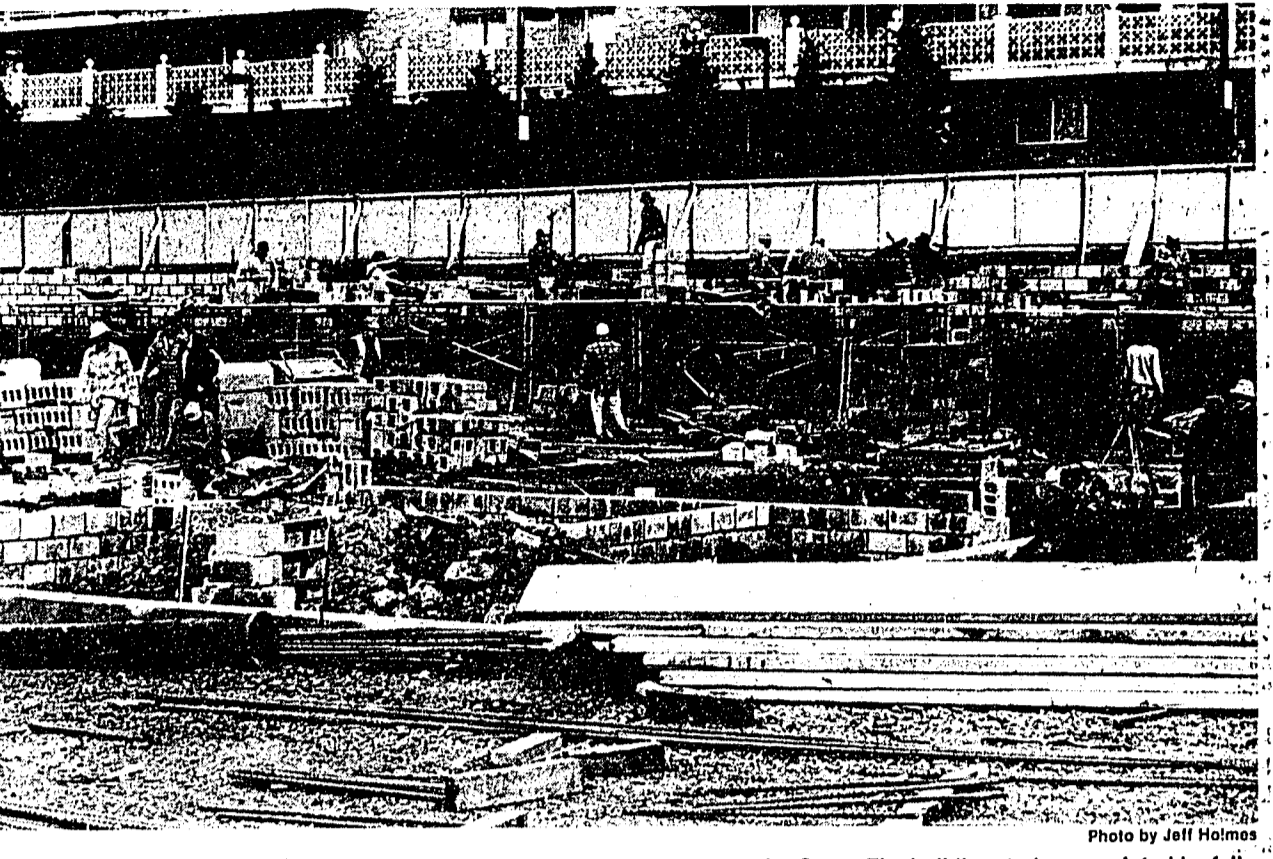
"I don't think it should hold up in court," Cutrone said. "There's no way they can have (tenants) sign a lease for a place that doesn't exist."

Williams said tenants were asked to sign an addendum stating that they understood the building might not be completed on time.

"The addendum states that they accept the apartment subject to the building's completion," she said.

None of the tenants was asked to pay rent on an uncompleted apartment, Williams said.

The project is being financed by United Federal Savings and Loan Association and is being built by Alex Woskob, president of A.W. & Sons Enterprises.



Construction has begun on A.W. & Sons' new apartment building, Alexander Court. The building, to be completed by fall, will have 14 one-bedroom units and 53 two-bedroom units. Photo by Jeff Holmes

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