SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SHOPPER'S GUIDE

—Shoppers and the Christmas spirit

(Continued from page 1)

I have the Christmas spirit every day," stated Thelma Jeffries, a grandmother from West Baltimore. "It's just feeling healthy and having my strength." But Ms. Jeffries also feels that costs have soared since last Christmas. She was weighted down with shopping bags and packages and as she lifted her bags to leave, she said, "You know, even the shopping bags have gone up in price. Last year they cost five cents, but this year they're costing me twenty-five cents."

She said she plans on spending about $300 on gifts for fifteen people. She says she is releived that she doesn't have to buy toys for her children, who are all grown now, because toys have always been her most expensive Christmas purchases.

At Reisterstown Plaza, one young lady seemed to be just realizing the high prices of toys. She moved along the aisles of a department store in the Plaza, disgustedly picking up toys and putting them back down after examining their prices.

Although she didn't wish to be identified, she says she is buying toys for five children, and doesn't see how she is going to do it.

"My kids see all this stuff on T.V that they say they just got to have, but when I go to buy their toys, they're just too expensive. Now I see what my parents had to go through every year."

A merchant in the Plaza echoed the woman's sentiments. "I guess it's the prices, but it seems like people just aren't buying like they usually do." The merchant refused to give his name, stating that it was against company policy.

Ronald Hill, a steelworker from the Sparrows Point Bethlehem Steel plant, stood in a record store in the Plaza. He stated that he's found a thrifty way to buy gifts for all his friends and relatives.

"I'm just gonna buy my woman and my family an album each," said Hill. "If I tried to get them all clothes and stuff, I'd be working overtime right now."

One woman walked along the Plaza in a daze. When a reporter asked her was she out Christmas shopping, she just nodded her head wearily and kept on walking.

Linda Hargrove, of the 1900 block of McCulloh St. stood at the No. 11 bus stop waiting to continue her Christmas shopping. She already had two large shopping bags, but she wasn't finished yet. "I'm heading out to Montgomery Wards to try to finish up my shopping," she said. "I'm not doing as much shopping as last year, 'cause there ain't as much money in my pocket."

She adds that she doesn't have the Christmas spirit yet, but, standing outside in the 60-degree weather, added, "All I really need to get me in the mood is a little snow." Probably the greatest commercial apostle of the spirit of Christmas, Santa Claus, has assumed a low profile this holiday season. His face is seldom seen either downtown or in the outlying shopping centers.

"Shucks, they done made him a robot too," said one passerby on Howard St., as he stared into a display window at an automated image of the jolly saint.

And his statement seemed to be true. For although there was a multitude of Santa robots and mechanical reindeer waving bowing or uttering greetings, the real thing is a hard commodity to locate.

"Well," said a downtown merchant, "A lot of people don't beleive in Santa Claus anymore. Do you?"

4th club sets 'energy rip-off' seminar

The Fourth District Democratic Club is sponsoring an "Energy Rip—off Seminar" on Tuesday, Dec. 18. The seminar will take place at the Odd Fellows Hall, 2257 Madison Ave. at 7:30 p.m. The seminar will alert the public to the various ways they could be "ripped off" in the coming winter by some heating contractors. Speakers at the affair include John T. Thornton, Engineer; Belle Frye, State Energy Office; Bernard Goines, Engineer; and Mrs. Rosalind Lee.

Offender aid needs volunteers

Offender Aid and Restoration (O.A.R.) is seeking adults and students interested in the criminal justice process to work with pre-trial defendants released to the custody of O.A.R. and those being detained at the Baltimore City Jail.

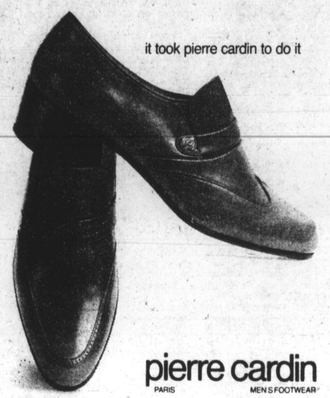
Interviews, screening and training sessions for volunteers have no deadline and are ongoing. Volunteers receive a certificate of award after one year of service.

O.A.R. is a non-profit organiztion with the goals of reducing the rate at which ex-offenders return to crime and involving citizens in the reform of the correctional system.

Interested persons should call Laura Wilson at 332-0777 or write O.A.R., 1110 St. Paul St.

A benefit program to commemorate the lives and deaths of the five people recently killed at an anti-Ku Klux Klan rally in Greensboro, N.C. is scheduled for Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Julie Community Center, 2000 block of East Baltimore Street at Washington.

it took pierre cardin to do it



pierre cardin
PARIS MEN'S FOOTWEAR

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Right: soel wing-tip slip-on with gold-tone metal accent; black or brown. Both in the finest kidskin. $86

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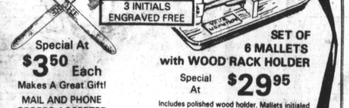

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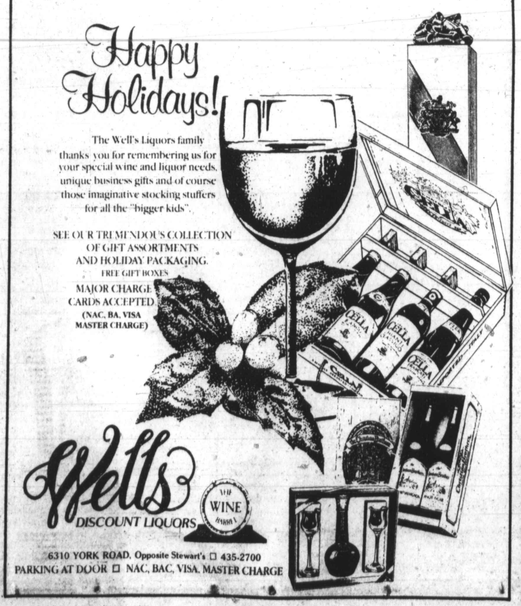
Sun. 12-6 P.M.
327-8827

Happy Holidays!



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SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SHOPPER'S GUIDE

CHRISTMAS MUSIC — Edmondson High School's choir performed this week at the Federal Building to the delight of employees and Christmas season on-lookers. AFRO photo by Mark Gail

TV Poww lines busy

Does WMAR-TV Channel 2 discriminate against black viewers on their electronic game?

An AFRO reader called to complain that whenever she tried to reach TV POWW, a video game where viewers call in and try to win prizes by hitting targets on the air, said when targets are on the air, she cannot get a dial tone to get in touch with the station.

She said friends have complained about the lack of a dial tone which she said reappears as soon as the game is completed.

Dale Wright, station manager at WMAR-TV, said the probable reason for the missing dial tone is that a particular exchange may be overloaded because so many other people are using it.

There is no list.

He said he has no idea of the racial composition of winners or the callers who do get through to TV POWW, which airs three times each week day.

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