Annual turtle derby draws crowds, winners

THEY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE FASTEST CREATURES AROUND — but racing turtles this week at War Memorial Plaza had young spectators captivated.

(Mark Gail photo)

WINNERS — Nathan Powell, winner of the 8th race, is shown with his turtle James McHenry, named for the recreation center he attends. William Thornton (R), winner of the 1st race, is shown with his winner, Herman. Thornton is a science teacher at the city jail.

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Government agency helps black inventors

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

A government agency established in 1977 to help black inventors get their products on the market and to assist them in all levels of high technology and manufacturing is not, apparently afraid of the Reagan federal budget cuts.

Dr. Mel Butler, director of the Booker T. Washington Technology Commercialization Center, says the agency, which gets $150,000 from the federal government annually, returns an investment to the government at the rate of about 50 to 1.

Butler explained that he devised an eight-point metholdology designed to help black inventors get their products on the market initially and to help them remain successful businessmen afterwards.

The eight-point strategy includes 'evaluation;' advisory board review; advisory board recommendation; resource marching; business plan review; market strategy review; prototype introduction, and marketing plan implementation.

Butler said that it came to his attention that many black inventors were not bringing their ideas to the fore because they were either afraid of their ideas being stolen or were tired of being rejected.

He said that those blacks who were able to get their products on the market did not have the expertise to remain in business once they began manufacuring their goods.

In response to the problems, Butler, who holds a Ph.D. in marketing from the University of Chicago, wrote a proposal in which he solicited federal funds to help inventors get started and to maximize all available resources.

Since its inception in 1977, the Technology Commercialization Center has been what Butler terms as "extremely successful." Gross sales last year topped $3 million, and with the 50 to 1 return to the federal government, he says Reagan budget slashes are not threatening.

"Even if the government were to drop us," he said, "private industry would pick us up. We've grown to be too valuable."

Butler said that staff members are required to be experts in the areas in which they counsel clients.

The Center first decides whether or not an invention is good enough to succeed in today's market. That decision is based on assumptions of use value, as well as its utility for a large population.

After the initial decision has been made, the Center begins to walk the clients through the steps necessary for success, including finance assistance, referrals to the proper buying sources, introduction to a purchasing agent, and the like.

"We don't let the client do anything without our help," Butler said. "We know how to make successes happen..."

Butler said the Center's work differs from that of the Council for Equal Business Opportunity (CEBO) in that the latter organization will usually only help an emerging business put together a business package and possibly lead it to a funding source.

After that, he said, CEBO basically leaves the new businesses to themselves.

Butler said that approximately 150 black inventors request the Center's services annually, but only 35 actually receive the Center's services.

Examples of the Center's applicants are the man who invented and eventually marketed gasohol; a former athlete who spent 15 years trying to get a certain food on the market before coming to the Center and finally seeing his invention produced; and a manufacturing firm from Scranton, Pa., which was recently granted an exclusive license to produce and sell mechanical laminated metal sheets and shims in the U.S. using a process originally patented in France.

The manufacturing firm, which is now the 5th largest laminating firm in the country, is the first to receive a license to foreign technology.

The Center, like CEBO, receives its funds through the Minority Business Development Administration (MBDA). It receives additional funds from the Booker T. Washington Foundation, a profit organization dedicated to the furtherance of minority business development.

Medical Association to meet in Atlanta

The National Medical Association (NMA) opens its 86th annual convention July 19-23 in Atlanta, Georgia.

According to its president, Dr. Vertis Thompson, this year's convention will serve as a major planning session for black doctors throughout the country. The National Medical Association is the professional organization that represents the interests of the nation's 10,000 minority physicians.

The 1981 convention, which is expected to draw over 4,000 participants, will likely be the largest health related convention held in Atlanta this summer.

"This year's convention will be an optimal forum for members of the medical profession and the public to get together and map out ways to improve health care," said Dr. Thompson.

The conference agenda contains a number of provocative speakers, exciting workshops and enlightening continuing education courses. Particular emphasis will be placed on recent developments in medicine and the profound impact that they will have on public health.

Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins (D-Cal.) is the featured speaker at the public welcoming ceremony on Tuesday, July 21. Later that evening, Freda Payne, talented songstress and host of "Today's Black Woman," will appear at the President's Ball.

Among the many Black leaders who occupied high places in New Deal councils was Robert L. Vann, editor of the *Pittsburgh Courier* and special assistant to the U.S. Attorney General.

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The posters contain brief biographical sketches outlining the achievements and contributions of these exceptional individuals.

The full color posters are the work of renowned black artist Ernest Crichlow of Brooklyn, New York. Mr. Crichlow was one of the ten black artists honored in 1980 at the White House for his excellence and accomplishments in art.

CIBA-GEIGY is a diversified chemical company with offices throughout the United States. To learn more about us and to obtain this year's Exceptional Black Scientists Poster series, we invite you to visit our booth (#366) during the exhibit hours, July 19th to July 22nd at the National Urban League Convention, being held in Washington, D.C., at the Sheraton Washington Hotel.

We also invite you to inquire about the possible career opportunities within our company.

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Sincerely,

Dorothy Arnette

Dorothy Arnette
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NAFAD's 32nd annual convention hosted here

SOME WINNING DESIGNS aired during the National Association of Fashion and Accessory Designers Awards Fashion show which was the highlight of their thrity second annual convention held at the Baltimore Hilton Hotel Saturday, July 11 are (L to R): a rain ensemble, designed by Jean Taylor (Baltimore NAFAD designer) and modeled by Gwen Kellam; after - 5 lounging outfit designed by Yusuf Ha'Fiz, Philadelphia, Pa.; leisure outfit designed by Barvara Wooten (Baltimore), modeled by Cee Cee Stokes; three - pieced suit designed by Catherine Wooten, Baltimore, modeled by Steve Sawczenko and ombre - striped, bias - cut dress designed by Ava Cutler, Philadelphia, Pa., modeled by Shawan Patterson.

AFRO Photos by Mark Gail

NAFAD FIRST PLACE WINNERS — Some first place winners in the National Association of Fashion and Accessory Designers competition held at the Hilton Hotel (downtown) Saturday, July 11 are (L to R): Helen Reeves, Washington, D.C., who won the first place trophy for her hat design, Arvester Frazier, Chicago, Ill., who won first prize for evening wear design of a black velvet evening gown; and Sarah Shortt, Washington, D.C. for her intricately crocheted top and skirt.

LUAU SCENE — Enjoying the opening Hawaiian Luau Reception held poolside at the Hilton on Wednesday, July 8, are: Helen Reeve, Washington, D.C.; Sara Shortt, North Carolina; Ora Williams, Silver Spring, Md. and Barbara Hunter, Washington, D.C.

RECEIVING CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION from Pattie Hodges, AFRO Women's Editor (far L) are Nell Sheridan, local NAFAD president, Henrienne Vincent, and Ruth Turner, St. Louis, Missouri; Lois Alexander, founder, Baltimore NAFAD chapter, past national president, founder, Harlem Institute of Fashion and the Black Fashion Museum, New York City; Grace Groves, newly elected national vice president, Denver, Colorado and Alma C. Wiggins, present national NAFAD president, Washington, D.C.

MRS. NELL SHERIDAN, local NAFAD president, presents check to Mrs. Enolia P. McMillan, as a final payment on the local chapter's life membership in the NAACP.

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

By Pattie Hodges,
AFRO Women's Editor

The thirty - second annual convention of the National Association of Fashion and Accessory Designers (NAFAD) was hosted by the Baltimore Chapter from Wednesday, July 8 through Sunday, July 12 at the downtown Hilton Hotel.

Fifty seven delegates hailing from nine states across the U.S. landed here for four days which were filled with festivity, business meetings, seminars related to the various aspects of fashion design, shopping trips and tours to points of interest in Charm City.

States represented were Ohio, Colorado, Missouri, West Virginia, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, the District of Columbia and of course Maryland's chapter, represented by Baltimore NAFAD members.

The opening reception for delegates and guests, a delightful Hawaiian Luau, hosted poolside on the cabana level of the Hilton, featured hot hors d'oeuvres, Hawaiian punch, munchies and cool Hawaiian music played by local D.J. Abe Riley.

On July 9 all enjoyed a luncheon and an extraordinary fashion show with NAFAD members as participants. On July 10 special highlights included the installation of new officers and the Junior Fashion Show by Junior NAFAD members.

New national officers elected were Grace Groves, Denver, Colo., vice president; Freddie Mae Williams, financial secretary and Dorothy McDaniels, treasurer, both of Cleveland, Ohio; Tony Dorsey, Baltimore, reporter and Turalee Jackson, St. Louis, Mo. Lay member of the Board.

Supreme highlight of the convention was the Banquet Awards Fashion Show, held in the Hilton's Francis Scott Key Ballroom with more than 600 in attendance.

(Continued on page 10)

Partyline

Long-time C & P employee feted on retirement

By Pattie Hodges,
AFRO Women's Editor

Mrs. Dorothy H. Wilkins, retiring employee of the C & P Telephone Company was honored at a retirement luncheon hosted for her by co - workers in one of the conference rooms at the World Trade Center's Constellation Building in the Inner Harbor, Friday, July 10.

Dorothy, with 34 years service (starting at the old Accounting Office on North Division St.) was praised by many long - time co - workers, friends and neighbors.

Participants on the program were Joyce McNeil, Manager, Purchases, Dot's immediate supervisor, who gave the opening remarks. Father Donald Sterling, her pastor at St. Cecelia Catholic Church gave the invocation.

J. A. Gregg, district manager, Administrative Services, served as Master of Cermonies.

W. W. Schaake, manager, Purchases, also recently retired, was guest speaker.

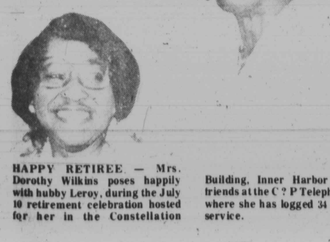
Leo Fenzel, past president of the Maryland Chapter, Telephone Pioneers of America, made presentations for that organization.

Presentations of gifts were made by Deloris Fields and Rosemarie Kleps, retirement committee members.

Harriet Boston, another committee member, presented the memory book in which many of Dot's friends expressed their good wishes for a happy retirement.

Represented at the luncheon were the Ladies Guild of St. Cecelia Church, of which Dot serves as Hospitality Secretary, and Les Dix Amies Club, of which she serves as secretary.

These organizations and the Order of Eastern Star (Hiram Affiliation) should keep Dorothy busy for many years.



HAPPY RETIREE — Mrs. Dorothy Wilkins poses happily with hubby Leroy, during the July 10 retirement celebration hosted for her in the Constellation Building, Inner Harbor by her friends at the C & P Telephone Co., where she has logged 34 years of service.