Eastside activist has new political role

By Patricia Tatum
AFRO Staff Writer

Paula D. Johnson

Paula D. Johnson, a 33-year-old mother of two, said her election to the State Central Committee in the 46th legislative district is an outgrowth of 10 years of political activity and concern for the residents of Baltimore's Eastside.

Ms. Johnson, who works as an in-take specialist for the Mayor's office at the Kirk Multi-Purpose Center, told the AFRO her work deals with handling the complaints such as housing and employment, of the area's residents.

However, the things she does during the day seem to carry over into her nights and weekends.

Ms. Johnson's off work activities include being an active member of the Eastside Democratic Organization, the Coldstream - Montebello Community Corp. and the board of the Eastside Medical Plan.

She said she also has worked with other community groups such as the Darley Park Improvement Association and the Barley - Greenmeut Community Corp.

Joseph Chester Sr., a veteran Eastside politician and former delegate was familiar with her work in the community and asked her to run for the State Central Committee, she said.

Her community involvement over the years and because she is known in the community helped her when she was running for office, Ms. Johnson said.

While she speaks highly of Chester, it is City Council President Clarence Du Burns who Ms. Johnson calls her "mentor and inspiration."

"I really admire him," she said.

A native of East Baltimore and a graduate of Eastern High School, Ms. Johnson said she also has attended Essex Community College, the Community College of Baltimore and Morgan State University.

She said she is active in her community because she cares about it and its people.

"I love it," she said. "People say 'you're crazy ... you don't get paid. But I just love [illegible] people. I've been like that all of my life."

As a newly elected State Central Committee member, Ms. Johnson said one of her major goals is to educate people on the political process.

"I found out that a lot of people don't even know what the State Central Committee (a policy making group for the state's Democratic party) is . . . we have to let them know what it is," she said.

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New federal guidelines

Parents to be notified of contraceptives use

By Johanne Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

Regulations Proposed by the federal government that would require federally funded contraceptive clinics to notify parents when their daughters under the age of 18 obtain prescription birth control methods, have met with great resistance from th Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

The new rule would require the nation's 4,000 federally funded clinics to tell parents or guardians within 10 days after giving a girl under age 18 a prescription for the pill, intrauterine device or diaphragm.

Planned Parenthood Organizations in Maryland, N.Y. and Washington, D.C. filed suit Jan. 10 in the Federal District Court in D.C. to enjoin the federal government from issuing the regulations.

The suit was filed immediately after the announcement by Health and Human Services Secretary Richard Schweiker of his intention to issue the regulations after review by the Office of Management and Budget.

In a press conference Wednesday at Planned Parenthood's Howard Street Clinic a spokesman for the organization said the suit charges that the proposed guidelines violate the intent of Congress.

According to Planned Parenthood, Congress has never in its eleven year history of providing Title X family funds for low income women, required parental notification for services to minors.

Congress specified in 1981 that family planning "should encourage family participation to the extent practical," and an accompanying committee report stated that "family involvement is not mandated."

According to the Executive director of Planned Parenthood of Md., Daniel Pellegrom, the regulations would conflict with thirty state laws including Md's, which allows minors to obtain contraception confidentially.

Pellegrom said, "There is not a single shred of evidence that Congress intended to preempt such state laws," and that "Md.'s law has worked well since its passage in 1971 for all minors."

Pellegrom indicated that the regulations would establish a double standard "one for low-income teenagers whose parents would have to be notified and one for minors with enough money to pay for effective birth control methods, whose parents would not be notified."

Planned Parenthood feare the regulations may cause a breakdown in communication between parents and their children

They view the Title X family planning program as a "major vehicle for reducing intended pregnancies among teenagers."

Research conducted by Planned Parenthood and other organizations indicates that over "90 percent of sexually active minors now inform their parents when they seek contraception."

A study conducted by the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene & Public Health discovered that "at least 25 percent of sexually active teenagers would stop using most effective birth control devices rather than involve their parents, and only two percent would stop having sex."

According to Ilse Darling, director of public relations at th Howard Street Clinic, the proposed guidelines would effect total health care.

Darling said that only "one in seven teenagers come to clinics before they are sexually active."

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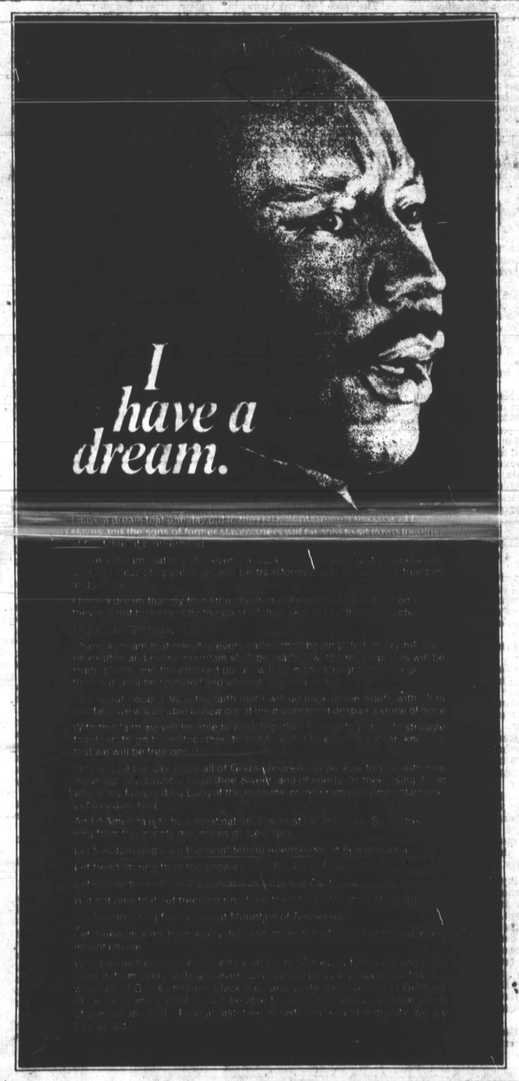

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ANHEUSER-BUSCH COMPANIES

The LIVING CHURCH

Student ministers find out what it is like to be homeless and hungry

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Religious Editor

They wore old clothes, slept on park benches, received their meals from soup lines and only had $2.50 to survive on in the big city.

For 48 hours, 21 student ministers from Virginia Union University School of Theology experienced living the life of homeless people.

Raymond McKenzie, program director of the urban term project known as "the plunge" said this was a sensitivity experience and the first of the training goals to "sensitize the clergyman in depth to urban problems."

The students have been in Baltimore since Jan. 3 and are staying at the homes of local ministers. As part of the urban term semester project, they have met with ministers, visited hospitals, met with Rep. Parren Mitchell, visited prisons, went on a tour of the city, state and federal courts, visited the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers and attended services at local churches. Several of the students will be preaching at various churches on Sunday.

Kenneth Dennis, Crystal O. Lewis and Albert Homes, were team members for 48 hours. Dennis, 27, and his two team members walked in the rain Tuesday night from downtown Baltimore to the Alameda after sleeping for several hours in a sewer drainage.

"We slept on a bench about two hours and someone gave us fifteen cents," said Dennis. He told the AFRO it was an experience they will never forget. "It makes you more aware of your surroundings. To me my survival was depending upon a degree. It has changed. Things were taken for granted and it now makes you more aware of humanity," he told the AFRO.

Emery Anderson, 44-year-old theological student stayed at a mission home where he came in contact with people from 20 to 70-years old who were homeless and had no jobs.

Emery believes that the church is a sleeping giant and needs to become more involved by providing shelter, food and the gospel to those in need.

He said he was touched by hostility and despair. The Rev. George [illegible] coordinator for Greater [illegible] Baltimore said that local ministers and politicians were very helpful and 30 pulpits were open to the student ministers to preach.

McKenzie said the purpose of the plunge is a chance for student ministers to come close to being rock bottom in the city and being with men and women who live virtually alone on a shoestring.

STUDENT MINISTERS from Virginia Union University School of Theology who have spent nearly two weeks in Baltimore as part of a special project for their class shown from left are Carey Casey, Henry Anderson, Gerald Grandison, Terence Jones, Albert Holmes, Luke Torian.

HOMELESS — For two nights, students from Virginia Union University School of Theology slept on the streets of Baltimore, shelters for the homeless and received free meals from soup lines.

WOMEN MINISTERS were among the 21 students who have spent nearly two weeks in Baltimore. The students from Virginia Union University School of Theology shown from left are Emery Anderson, Carl Young, Mary Young, Jo-Anne Maxwell, Kristal Lewis, Debra Crosby and Barry Young. Mary Young will speak at the Saturday Church School at New Shiloh Baptist Church on Saturday.

AFRO Photos by P. A. Greene
Students shown from left are James Wellington, Kenneth Dennis, Vincent Thomas, Andre Pierce, Roderick Greene and Angelo Chatman.

URBAN TERM instructor for the theology students is Raymond McKenzie (left). Others shown are Walter Johnson a student, the Rev. Leo Wagner, Ronald Shelton, Rev. Toliver Perkins and Charles Peeker. Several of the student ministers preached at local churches.

Coppin offers college programs to churches

By Johanne Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

This Spring Coppin State College will offer outreach programs for credit and non-credit to local churches.

Under the auspices of the Division of Continuing Education's weekend College Program, courses in basic skills, community awareness, business financial art, communications, history and religion and philosophy will be taught by qualified members of the college's faculty.

Dr. William Carroll, director of Coppin's Continuing Education Program said the purpose of the program is to afford the community the opportunity to take advantage of the college's available resources.

"There will be a minimum fee based on the population of the church and we are willing to negotiate with the church for what they need," Carroll said.

Courses will be administered in a workshop setting in the churches and will be geared towards the needs of the participants.

"If a person is going to get a job, they need to be able to communicate (that intention to an interviewer)," said Carroll.

The basic skills course will offer remedial instruction to aid in dividuals with essential communication techniques.

Carroll told the AFRO the program will be totally flexible and will be administered on a first come first serve basis.

Courses will be offered evenings and weekend in accordance with the college's regular evening and weekend schedules.

The following list of courses are offered through the program reading improvement, advanced reading skills, rapid reading techniques, basic writing review, masic mathematics math for the consumer.

Family studies courses include understanding alcoholism, How to Cope with Mental Disorders in your Family, How to deal with the Older Adult in your Family, Parenting the Exceptional Child, Behavior Control for the Exceptional Child and Coping with Death.

Community Awareness courses include The Justice System and You, Police Community Relations and Crime Prevention.

Business finances courses include Preparing Income Taxes, Tax Accounting, Introduction to Business and Consumer Math.

Other courts are Life Drawing, Lettering, photography, Developing Communications Skills, Leadership Skills Training.

Black Women in American Life and Culture, History of the Black America, History of Maryland.

Also, Basic Issues in Contemporary Religious Thought, How Can We Talk About God? The Nature of Religious Belief, God and The Problem of Evil.

Further information about the program can be obtained by calling the school's Division of Continuing Education 383-5540.

Metro church briefs

The Deacons Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity will have their annual revival services Jan. 9-14, 7:30 p.m. at Israel Baptist Church, Preston and Chester Street.

The Rev. Thomas B. Teel of Timothy Baptist Church will be the speaker from Jan. 9-11 and the Rev. H. Weldon Wilson, pastor of Israel Baptist Church will be the speaker from Jan. 12-14. J. Martin Capehart is president of the conference.

The Board of Directors of Maryland Churches United will sponsor a week of prayer services for Christian unity Jan. 18-23. On Jan. 22 a prayer luncheon will be held on Jan. 22, 11:30 a.m. at the Hilton Hotel. The Rev. A. Theodore Eastman Bishop Coadjutor of the Episcopal Diocese of Baltimore will be the speaker. The theme is "Jesus Christ, Life of the World."

The Youth Department of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church will celebrate their annual Youth Day on Sunday, Jan. 16, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Their theme is "Youth Awaken, Alert the World The Time is Nigh For Jesus Christ is Coming Soon."

Dwayne Banks is Youth Day chairman. Donald Robinson director the Youth Department and the Rev. Clifford M. Johnson is pastor.

Members of Brown's Memorial Baptist Church, 3215 Belvedere Ave. will present the Richard Smallwood Sisters in concert on Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m. at the church. The concert is being sponsored by the music department. Ralph Hunter is minister of music and Dr. Douglas T. Miles is pastor.

The Trustees of Ray of Hope Baptist Church will have the Rev. Kenneth Blevins associate minister of Ray of Hope Baptist Church as the 4 p.m. speaker on Sunday, Jan. 16. The Rev. Charles M. Franklin is pastor.

St. Luke United Methodist Church members will have services on Sunday, Jan. 23 at the McCulloh Home, 501 Dolphin St., at 3 p.m. The Rev. James H. Smith is pastor. Members of the church also have weekly Bible services on Tuesdays 2 to 3 p.m. and mid-week prayer service on Wednesday 11 a.m.

The Maranatha Christian Church will have revival services Jan. 19-21, 7:30 p.m. The Rev. Mark Riddix, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church will be the speaker. The church is located at North Avenue and St. Paul Street. The Rev. John E. Bagley Jr., is pastor.

The All Saints Choir will be presented in a concert on Jan. 30, 3:30 p.m. at Harlem Park Community Baptist Church, 612 Gilmor St., Barbara Kelly is chairperson, Irene Evans is president and the Rev. Dr. Raymond Kelly Jr., is pastor.

Rev. George A. Crawley

Enon Baptist pays tribute to Dr. Martin L. King

"Empowered by God's Grace to be Free," is the theme for activities for the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday at Enon Baptist Church, Edmondson Avenue and Schroeder St. The Rev. Porter Phillips is pastor.

Today (Friday) 7 p.m. worship and study with the Mary Cassat Randall Bible Class. The Rev. James Wooten is study leader.

A freedom luncheon will be held at the church on Jan. 15, 1 p.m. Dr. Harry Wright, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Brooklyn, N. Y. will be the speaker. Dr. Calvin S. Morris of Howard University Divinity School will be the 11 a.m. speaker on Sunday, Jan. 16 at the church and a slide presentation "Freedom in the Arts" will be presented to the church at 4 p.m. Sunday by Donald Bailey, with poetry by Mrs. Verna Day.

JAN