Youth horizons expanded at city urban services

Teens are often unable to cope with frustrations brought on by problems in the home, at school or in the community. At age 15, Andrey Bundley, bitter and frustrated over the loss of his parents, became mixed up with a crowd intent on breaking the law. It appeared he was "destined for a life of crime."

Fortunately, however, Bundley learned about the Urban Services Agency Youth Development Program. He became an active participant and credits Urban Services for his personal success. Bundley is now working on his master's degree in counseling and criminal justice at Pennsylvania State University.

"Youths who are properly developed, mentally and physically, and think positively about themselves, have the best chance for success", says Wendell Wright, Director of Neighborhood Operations, and head of its youth programs. "It is a shame to watch young people with a great deal of potential that goes to waste. At Urban Services, we work to develop the potential in each young person."

Youth Development, open to boys and girls, 4-19, offers rap sessions, counseling, food clubs, tutoring, job prep programs, summer camps, a plastering program, arts and crafts, field trips, seminars and other activities. Over the years, six young women have been awarded college scholarships by winning the Youth Development's Miss Inner City Teen Pageants.

In conjunction with Youth Development, the Office of Youth Affairs encourages responsibility and participation by young adults in their communities. The City Wide Youth Council is an excellent vehicle for youth; it is a place where they can express their needs and desires. For boys and girls from 8-18, Youth Affairs offers a plethora of activities including free trips to Oriole baseball games, gardening, scouting, basketball, softball, soccer, volleyball and flag football. During the summer months, mobile units bring instant recreation and entertainment into 23 neighborhoods.

A job bank exists to help unemployed youth. Four hundred (400) teens are referred to free day and overnight camps. Each year, volunteers serve lunches for 10,000 youngsters in the Summer Lunch Programs.

For boys and girls who would like to be college athletes one day, Urban Services Project Survival Program combines sports and much needed scholastics tutoring. Over 1,000 boys and girls participate. Activities include college prep classes and competitive basketball leagues. Every year, Sam Lacy College Scholarships are presented to deserving students. Many young athletes are offered sports scholarships due to their participation in this program.

People of all ages take advantage of the Urban Services Cultural Arts Program. Art, photography, ceramics, fashion design, jewelry making, piano, voice and dance are taught by professionals at Cultural Arts.

Stephanie Powell was first exposed to dance in a Cultural Arts class. She later graduated from Goucher College, and now teaches modern dance and ballet at Goucher College, Urban Services Cultural Arts Program and the Baltimore School for the Arts. Melvin Smothers, Jr., 23, was discovered by Cultural Arts in Cherry Hill. He has appeared as the leading male dancer in major productions at Towson State University.

These are only a few examples of the thousands of young people who have gone on to careers and accomplishments that make the Urban Services Agency so proud of its youth programs. For any information about Urban Services programs, call the Public Information Office at 396-1663.

STEPHANIE POWELL, a former student of the Urban Services Cultural Arts Program, now teaches dance at Goucher College, Urban Services Cultural Arts Program and the Baltimore School for the Arts.

Red Cross aids Ethiopia

By Tea Montier
AFRO Staff Writer

The local office of the Red Cross has launched an all-out effort to aid victims of the Ethiopian drought. According to Patricia Owens, director of public affairs for the Baltimore Regional Red Cross, initial efforts first got underway several months ago.

"When the news media first started showing pictures, people really began offering us money saying they wanted to help. So we started a low key campaign and we've been helping ever since," Mrs. Owens said.

In the early fall the local Red Cross set a goal for the chapter to raise $100,000 to aid Ethiopian drought victims. So far they have raised $60,000 and have been consistently receiving donations from all factions of the local community.

A number of students are participating in efforts to assist the Red Cross by raising money from area schools.

One of the more ambitious projects undertaken by the Baltimore Red Cross is the establishment of a hunger hotline set up for Tuesday Jan. 8. Between the hours of 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. on that day Red Cross operators will be available to take phone pledges from anyone willing to donate money to aid the Ethiopian drought victims. The number to call is 467-FOOD.

"We're asking people to phone in a pledge for African famine relief."

C and P to make customers' phone bills easier to read

Customers of C and P Telephone will find it easier to read their phone bills beginning this January. The Company has made changes in the bill format that will simplify the format and the language and make charges for local, long distance and equipment services more distinguishable.

"We're excited about the changes," said C and P spokesman Carl Smith. "The changes were made in response to requests from consumer groups and feedback from our customers," explained Smith.

"C and P has been very receptive to changes suggested by consumer groups," commented Caroline Stellmann, executive director of the Maryland Consumer Council of the Attorney General's Office of Consumer Protection. "The changed bill is super compared to the previous bill. We're sure C and P will remain flexible in considering future recommendations," she added.

C and P's Smith explained the changes.

"We've renumbered the pages so that there is only one consecutive sequence from page one to the final page of the bill. Customers will find it easier to discuss their bills with a business office representative if they have questions." Before the change, each section of the bill was numbered separately starting with a new page one.

"The second major change," Smith continued, "is the use of the appropriate corporate logo at the top of each page. This means that C and P's logo will appear on each page of the local telephone charges. The corporate logos of those companies for whom C and P is billing customers will appear at the top of each page of their portion of the bill." Since divestiture, C and P has been serving as a billing agent for some long distance and phone equipment companies.

"Using the different logos will help customers keep track more easily of what they're paying for each service and better manage their phone costs," said Smith.

"Many customers prefer one monthly bill. We realize that some customers might get confused by having one bill for different types of services from different companies. It's important for our customers to know that the additional revenue C and P gains from providing billing services for other companies helps keep the local phone rates down," added Smith.

Another new feature of the bill, according to Smith, is the use of more simplified English. Some of the language is required by law and is unaltered.

Other helpful changes made possible by new printing technology include shading of each subtotal for each type of service charge and other key entries like toll calls and credits. Italics and larger and varying typefaces will be used to make the business office telephone numbers and other key information more prominent.

"As soon as we can economically implement new billing systems," said Smith, "we'll make additional changes to make the bill even easier to read."

C and P has changed its bill format in October 1983 to reflect the upcoming breakup of the Bell System, which split up local, long distance and equipment services. The number of pages of the bill increased, and since then C and P has been working steadily with consumer organizations to develop an easier-to-read bill design.

If customers have any questions about charges on their phone bills, C and P advises them to call the business office number listed in the section of the bill for which they seek clarification. Customers should call their C and P business office for questions about local phone charges. For questions on long distance or equipment charges, customers should call the business phone numbers listed on the appropriate section of the bill.

Answers to questions on how C and P bills customers and how to pay the bill can be found in the Customer Guide in the front of the White Pages directory.

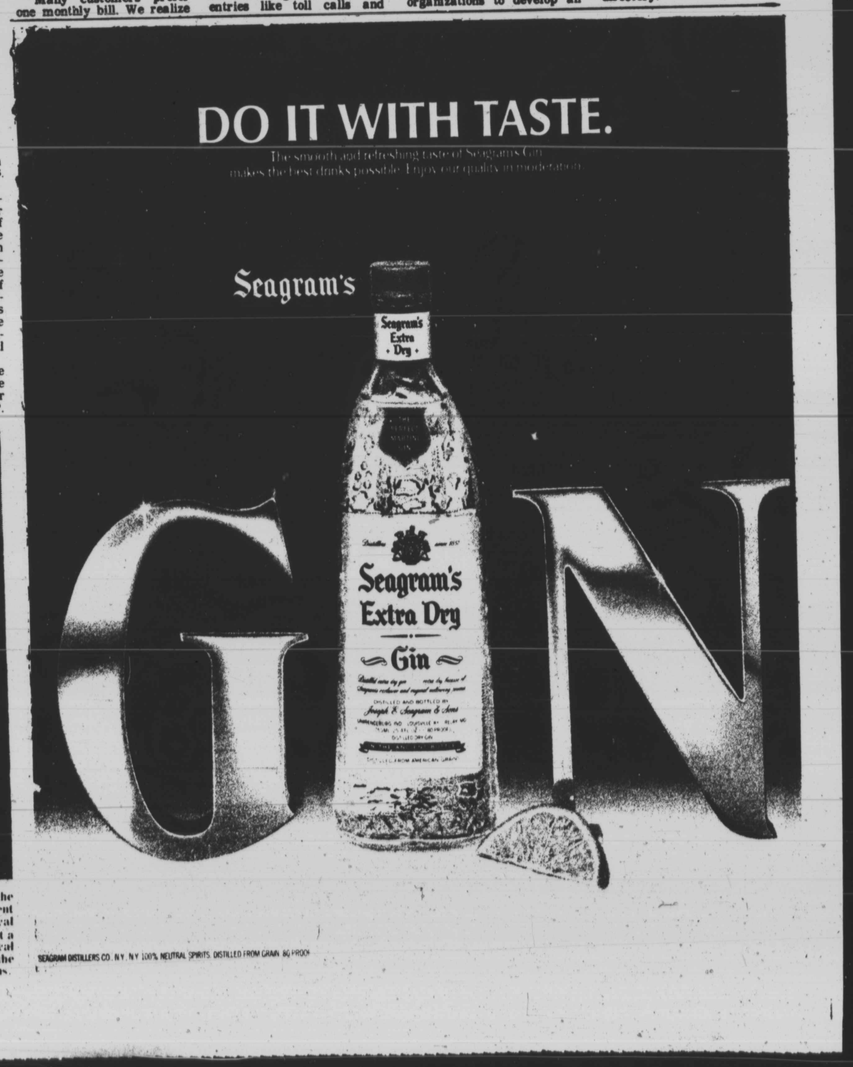
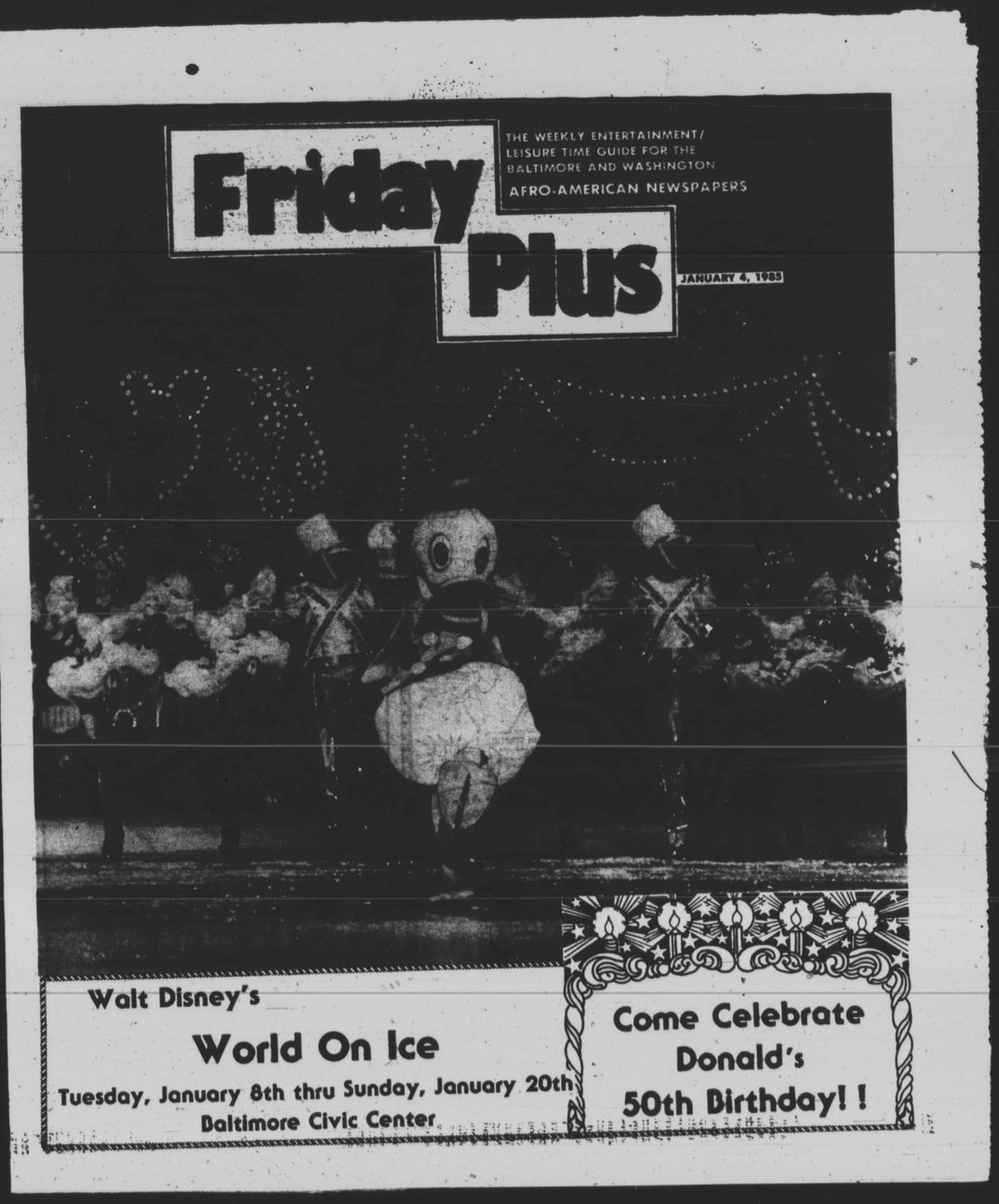
Md. NAACP set for Jubilee Day

By Tea Montier
AFRO Staff Writer

The state conference of the NAACP will be sponsoring the annual Jubilee Day celebration on Sunday, Jan. 6 at the Sharp Street United Methodist Church. The program, which begins at 4 p.m. will feature Dr. John Slaughter, chancellor of the University of Maryland, College Park as the afternoon's keynote speaker.

"We have a good program planned at the Sharp Street Church," acknowledged Dr. Calvin Burnett, president of Coppin State College and chairman of this year's Jubilee Day celebration. "All black churches have been notified. There are quite a few. I've been in contact with a large number of ministers myself."

Part of a nationwide celebration, which has taken place for the 121 years, the observance of Jubilee Day began in 1862, the year in which Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Since then it has come to represent an important part of black American history, reemphasizing each year the efforts which have been made in the struggle for full freedom, equality of opportunity, and social justice.

Over 10,000 envelopes have been distributed throughout the state which will be used for soliciting funds for the NAACP.

THANKS A MILLION—Mrs. Janet Woolridge (R) chairman of the Sollers Point Fine Arts Committee, recently presented Provident Hospital a $3,500 contribution to be used for the institution's Medical Department's Trust Fund. The funds were raised by the group at a benefit performance held earlier this year featuring the musical Statham family in concert. Shown accepting the donation for the hospital is Michele L. McNeill, Director of Community Relations.