—Fighting teen pregnancy

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prevention campaign because she could not "sit by any longer and see (her) generation having children when they are not ready."

Fields, 19, who plays Tootie on the NBC television show "Facts Of Life," and Malcolm Jamal Warner, who plays Bill Cosby's son on "The Cosby Show," have made public service announcements for local television and radio stations, on behalf of the Baltimore City Health Department.

Tonya Johnson, Director of the Department's Community-School Based Health Education program, said this campaign is the first attempt to feature celebrities in a campaign to combat teenage pregnancy.

The program was designed by the Education Program to assist in reducing the adolescent pregnancy rate in Baltimore City.

During the press conference, Fields said it was "heartbreaking and nerve wrenching" to see her young peers having children.

Dr. Maxie Collier, Commissioner of the Ciy Health Department said one out of every four babies born in Baltimore is the child of a teenage mother.

Teenagers are under more pressure now to become sexually active at earlier ages, said Collier.

"Virginity is no longer valued or desirable," he said. "The use of contraception is considered unromantic, and is most often not used."

The Health Department is sending the message to teens to postpone sexual involvement, he continued.

"We want to promote abstinence as the popular alternative," he stated.

But often, teenagers who are not sexually active are seen as "nerds" and made to feel as if there is something wrong with them, according to the Health Department's community education program educators.

In a public service announcement, presented by Fields, she says, "...Hey, Teens, you don't have to be rushed into sex. Before you consider getting intimate get the real facts of life."

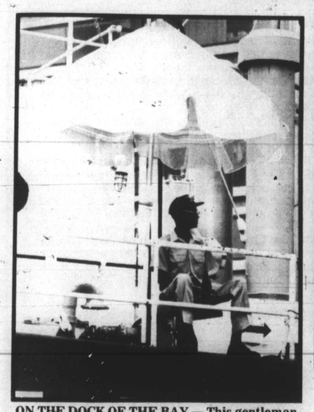
In another announcement she says, "Being young isn't always fun... and neither is being pregnant. Think about being a parent before you become one. Are you really ready?

The campaign will begin sometime this fall. The education program educators who helped develop the campaign include, Joyce Dantzler, assistant director of the education program, Loretta Brown, secretary, Michele Franklin, Lynda Brown, Antoinette Mitchell, John Ciesielski and Gwendolyn Green.

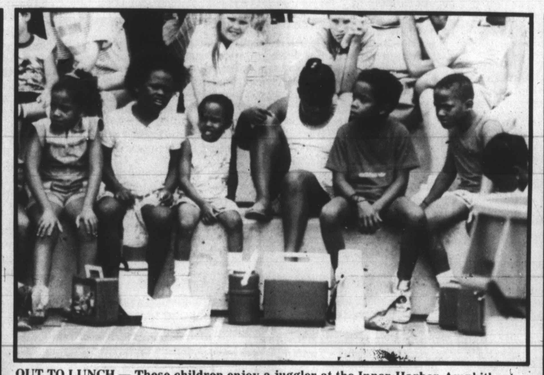
METRO PROFILE

■ Community Calendar 2B
■ Clean Block 3B

Heartbeat of the City



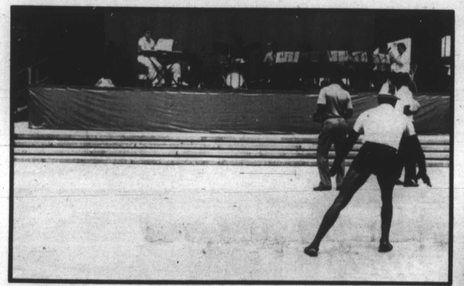
ON THE DOCK OF THE BAY — This gentleman enjoys a ride on the Maritime Museum's boat entitled "The Chesapeake."



OUT TO LUNCH — These children enjoy a juggler at the Inner Harbor Amphitheatre as they pause for lunch.

ALMOST FORGOT — This young man remembers to eat as he plays on this piece of sculpture at the Inner Harbor.

Photos by Paris Gray

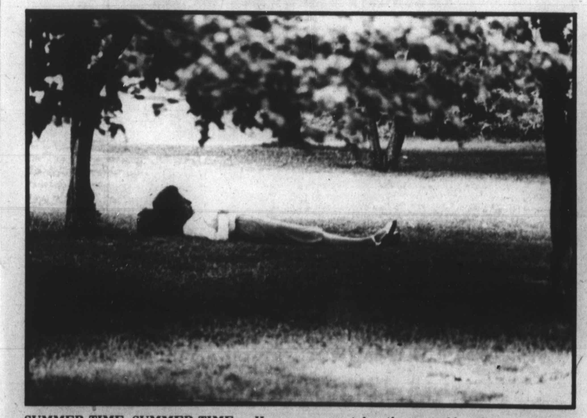


BOOGIE DOWN — These three men do their thing as a band plays at the Hopkins Plaza.

BLOW MAN, BLOW! — Here, a saxophonist makes beautiful music along with fellow musicians at the Hopkins Plaza.

INNER HARBOR OFFERINGS — Many Baltimoreans come down to the Inner Harbor to ride the famous paddle boats.

WADE IN THE WATER — This seal at the National Aquarium at the Inner Harbor shows observers that he loves the water as he swims along.



SUMMER TIME, SUMMER TIME — Here, a woman takes time out of her day to lay in the grass and enjoy the pleasant summer weather in the Inner Harbor area.

AND AWAY WE GO — This little fella takes a trip around the merry-go-round at the Inner Harbor.