AREA SPORTS

SPORTSCENE

By Will Marshall

AAU State Championships

The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) State Championships will continue this weekend, Saturday, April 28, at the Community College of Baltimore (CCB) located at 2901 Liberty Heights Avenue.

Two Baltimore teams, the Jaguars, and the Cecil-Kirk Recreation Center team, are expected to do very well at this event.

The Jaguars, coached by Mike Wise, is a group of city all-stars who played at different recreation centers during the year.

Their coach, who is an assistant varsity basketball/football coach at Southern High School, "has put together a good tam for this tournament," according to Anthony Lewis, the coach of the Cecil-Kirk Team.

The Jaguars' game begins at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28.

Woodlawn Baseball Opening Day Festival

The Woodlawn baseball league will have its Opening Day Festival Sunday, April 29 at the Memorial Park, located in the 1900 block of Gwynn Oak Rd.

According to Bob Plumer, the league athletic director, "there will be some exhibition games, a parade, and even the Oriole Bird will be on hand for the festivities."

The activities will begin at 1 pm with the parade, which will start out at Woodlawn Avenue & Gwynn Oak Drive, ending at Memorial Park.

The event is free and open to the public. For additional information contact the Woodlawn Recreation and Parks office at 887-1357.

Golden Anniversary for Unsung Hero Award

The 50th anniversary of the McCormick & Company Unsung Hero Award will be held Friday, May 4 in the Hunt Valley Ballroom at the Hunt Valley Inn.

Anita Manning: rising star

By Will Marshall
AFRO Staff Writer

She's five foot three inches tall and weighs only 90 pounds, but when it comes to girls track, she is fast becoming a huge success.

Her name is Anita Manning, and just eleven short months ago this 15 year-old dynamo decided to run organized track at Polytechnic Institute (Poly).

Anita Manning is an intelligent young lady with a great personality, and she also likes to contribute her time to others less fortunate than she is.

In fact we caught up with Anita while she was volunteering at the Maryland Special Olympics Games as an official hugger.

"I started in third grade in the little Olympics at our school, and I won every year," said Manning. She continued saying, "But this is different. Before there wasn't any training or anything, you just go out one time and run against people."

But now Anita Manning receives excellent coaching from Helen Shaw, the Poly High School girls track team coach, and Jim Kidd, from the Louden-Kidd Track Club.

When asked to what she attributes her success, she replied, "my coach." "My club coach.....he does most of the work."

According to Jim Kidd, her club coach, "We saw Anita compete last year in a local championship, and we approached her mother about (Anita) running with us this year."

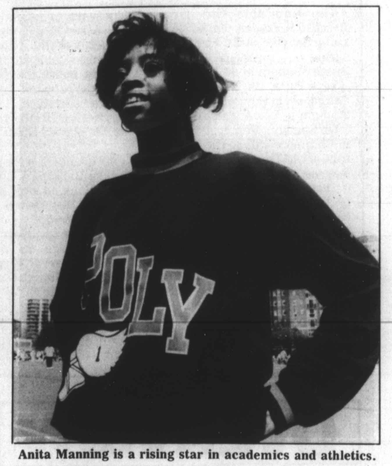
Anita is now the top runner in her events as of Saturday, April 14, when she took first place in the 1500, 800, 400, and 200 meter races at a Bureau of Recreation city-wide track competition.

In addition to winning first place, Anita also set "area best times in all four events," according to Kidd.

Kidd stated that Anita's father (Carlos) and mother (Dorothy) were very supportive from the beginning. He stated that "They made a commitment to get her (Anita) there every day, and from there on (Anita's) times have been dropping."

He added, "In our club the parents must bring their children every day and stay with them until the practice is over."

There are other stipulations involved in joining the Louden-Kidd Track Club. "They must be an honor student," said Kidd. "And if they aren't an honor student when they join, then they must show progress by working toward becoming one."



Anita Manning is a rising star in academics and athletics.

Jim Kidd is not kidding (pardon the pun) around about academics.

He says his club "evaluates their grades every semester," and if they're not keeping their honor roll status or working towards better grades, "we will stop the running immediately."

Anita Manning is an honor student who has the support of her two loving parents. She is also setting the example for her 12 year old brother, Carlos Jr., and her 10 year old sister Lolita. They also run track with the Louden-Kidd club.

Anita said that she is improving on her technique due to the help from Jim Kidd. He's teaching me "techniques like using my arms to make your legs go faster, cause they work both ways." She also said, "I have trouble leaning back, so now they're trying to get me to lean forward."

Anita will compete in the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) National Track Meet held every summer at Towson State University. She has qualified for the 1500 and 800 meter races.

She is also expected to win the 1500, 800, 400, and 200 meter races at the city-wide Maryland State Athletics (MSA) Conference Championships.

When asked did she always want to run track, she replied, "basically." She also feels "Not right now (but) maybe in the future...yes" she will be in the Olympics.

As to her level of experience she said, "I just got into it and really don't know a lot about it." One thing she does know how do, is win.

Special hugs at Special Olympics

By Will Marshall
AFRO Staff Writer

It was a perfect day this past Tuesday, April 24. The temperature was in the low to mid 80's and the sun was shining brightly on the campus of Johns Hopkins University where the Baltimore City Special Olympics were held.

Catherine Palmer (seated) helps athletes choose patterns for do-it-yourself button stand.

The games were spread over two days this year (they also competed Thursday, April 26) due to the large number of athletes participating.

These games are important to the participating athletes because it will allow them to qualify for the Maryland State Special Olympic Games this summer.

One of the inspiring sights at the Baltimore Games, is the enthusiasm of the athletes, and the most inspiring sight, was the large number of area High School students who volunteered their services as huggers.

Some were honor students like Mya Redfern, a senior from Overlea High School who will attend Hood College in the Fall.

Some were athletes like Anita Manning, an honor student and member of the Poly girls track team. And some just came to give the athletes a loving hug.

The event on Tuesday lasted all day, and by the time it was over even the huggers could use a hug, which is exactly what three Patterson High School Seniors did. When they were through Kisher Scott, Shirelle Ware, and Joanne Jackson got together for a group hug.

Some of the other highlights included a button making stand, a puppet making stand, clowns, balloons, and of course plenty of running, jumping and throwing.

Hugger Mya Redfern, gives 10 years old Antoine Lucas a hug.

Shawnika Murphy proudly displays medal.

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SCHOOL OF THE WEEK

The Baer School
Takes one day at a time

By Joy M. Tyler
AFRO Staff Reporter

It's 2 p.m. on a beautiful spring afternoon, and Baer school students are returning from a school trip, but instead of traveling to the city park or zoo, these students were participating in the Special Olympics.

The Bare school is tucked away just off of North Ave and unlike its counterparts, is a school solely run for the physical and mentally handicapped.

The unusual part about the Baer school is not that the students are handicapped, but the faculty, staff and volunteers that help each student, instill trust, courage, concern and happiness in all who attend the unique school.

Each child has a major stumbling block to overcome because of their handicap, it was amazing to see that no child was seen with the look of defeat or anger.

Students were eager to show off their efforts from special Olympics that resulted in winning medals and lifting up spirits of those who struggle daily to learn.

But never let it be said that Baer school students aren't willing to learn. Unlike many students who regularly skip class or school all together, perfect attendance is not rare, and most students only miss classes because of physical ailments.

Students learn skills that many of us take for granted everyday. Saying their name, recognizing a smell, or working on coordination skills, each gets the advantage of working in a positive environment.

Principal Dr. Shari Huene-Johnson congratulates Tiffany Martin on her efforts in winning her cherished Olympic medals.

Hugger and teacher Arleen Dorsey works with student George Alston who is part of the functional living track at the school.

One's first impression is to feel sorry for these kids, seeing the struggles that would make the average person run out of patience, but principal Dr. Shari Huene-Johnson explained that teachers concentrate on helping them achieve high levels of learning, and that overshadows any feelings of sympathy.

Operations in classrooms are also different, students are not labeled according to levels, but on individual need, age and skill.

Because students are multi-handicapped, special considerations are mandatory. Small intimate groups are used in order to get the individual attention they need.

Skill levels play the most important role. One group may only focus on motor skills and socialization, another on sensory skills, such as recognizing smells, and sensations.

Not all students suffer from major physical impairments, some are developmentally slow and operate on a different track. A portion of the students do eventually work their way into the mainstream, with some special assistance.

The Baer school has several programs geared especially towards rehabilitation of students into everyday life and its challenges.

One course focuses on developmental life skills. Students are taken out to learn how to get transportation, ID card's at the MTA, grocery shopping, cleaning and cooking, sewing, and many other functional skills.

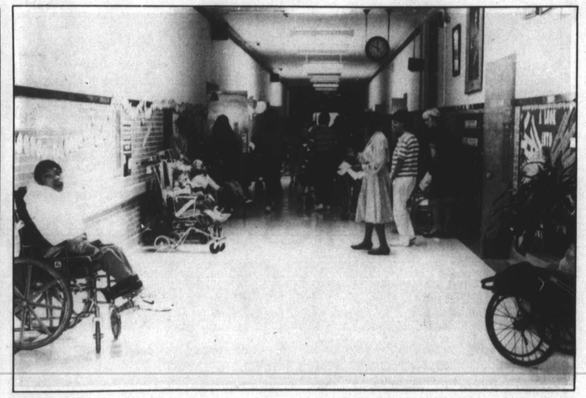
Those more limited to the classroom learn special skills. Woodshop is offered to those who have upper body strength skills, and those not able to do the work help guide them.

Computers and typing are offered as in most schools today. A media center is also used to spur learning through puppets, research, and communication skills.

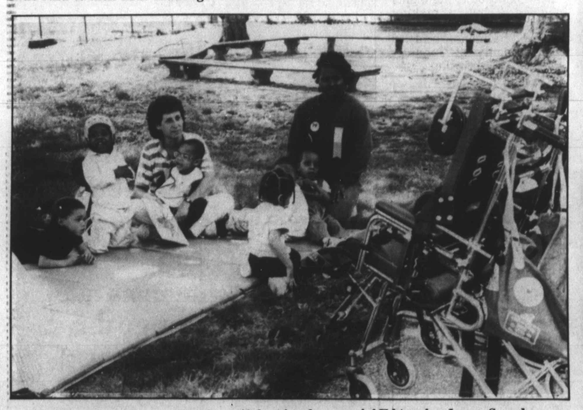
Community support is a factor to Baer's success. Local high schools such as Douglass high school which participated in the schools special Olympic day as huggers, and regularly help with activities such as school plays.

The Baer school helps not only to educate the disabled, but to see the smiles and pride on the faces of students who may never know complete independence, one learn's that love and patience can go a long way.

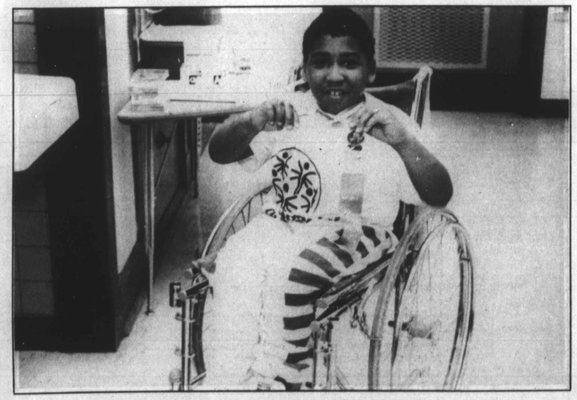
Make way! Students at the Baer School just don't sit around, hallways bustle with busy students who rush to their next challenge in the classroom.



Spacious hallways and eager staff help those who need a little help getting around. But don't look for any frowning faces, there are none.



Taking advantage of a warm beautiful spring day, special Ed teacher Laura Savadow and parent volunteer Tina Watkins, read and work on motor skills with the younger students.



Nine-year-old Dandre Stewart shows off his two gold metals won at the schools recent participation at the Special Olympics.