AREA SPORTS

Mike Plater — teaching positive values to today's youth

By Will Marshall
AFRO Staff Writer

There are some basketball leagues in Baltimore that do not depend on the whims of the City budget for their existence.

They are the grassroots, dig down deep and do it yourself leagues that not only teach young men and women sports skills, but positive values of pride and self-worth.

Mike Plater has such a league, located at the Cloverdale Recreation Center, located on Druid Hill and Cloverdale Avenues across from Druid Hill Park.

For the last 10 years Plater has run the self-sponsored "Teach Everyman's Child League," which is part of the Baltimore Basketball Association (BBA).

Each team member must participate in fundraising activities to raise the entry fee ($100) and per game fee ($20 if required). "This is all us, we support ourselves. Here you have to earn your way," Plater said.

"The only thing we go outside the league for are jerseys, Other than that, the youngsters raise the money by selling raffle tickets."

In order to participate each youngster must follow a strict set of rules, which include monetary fines and expulsion from the league for forfeiture of games.

Fast-paced and physical action in a game between an Edmondson Village team, and the Robert Marshall Rec Center.

"We play pro rules here. We allow continuation plays, they get six fouls and we let them play, rough it up a little," Plater said. "We don't allow any zones though, and each foul shot is two shots."

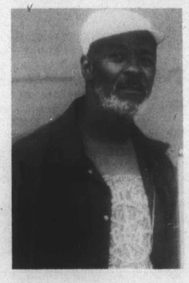
Plater said "the players in my league are creative and so there is plenty of action in the games."

"Our kids are not made to stand around, so I can guarantee you a good game anytime the boy or men are playing. The hardest thing with our league is to develop a playground referee, because they have to be as creative as the kids are," he told the AFRO.

There are seven teams playing from all over Baltimore City, and games can be seen seven days-a-week (see **Games to Watch** column).

They also sponsor special events such as the Teach Everyman's Child Day on July 4, where they have exciting tournament play.

Currently the league is seeking to make needed improvements to the outdoor court on which they play, but to do this they must raise $2,500 to match funds available through the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP).

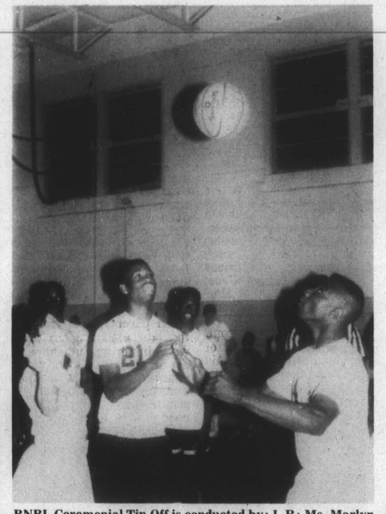


Mike Plater teaches values of self worth and self esteem.

"We're trying to get bleachers so that people will have a place to sit and watch the games. We also need to put up more lights and repave the court with a surface that will cut down on injuries when the kids fall," Plater said.

The youngsters are not the only ones who benefit from this league. They also have men, women, and pro-am/masters leagues. Regular season play ends August 5, followed by a seven day tournament.

For more information on participation in the league play and special events call 462-4303 or 578-3500.



BNBL Ceremonial Tip-Off is conducted by: L-R: Ms. Marlyn Perritt (Director of Parks and Recreation) Jermaine Foster (Northwood Rec. Center) and Brian Copeland (Cecil-Kirk Rec. Center).

BNBL league tip-off

The Baltimore Neighborhood Basketball League (BNBL) play opened Monday June 18, with an official "Tip Off Ceremony" conducted by Ms. Marlyn J Perritt, Director of Parks and Recreation.

The ceremony took place at the Leith-Walk Recreation Center, and the opening game pitted the Northwood Rec Center, coached by Dino Caver, against Anthony Lewis and the Cecil-Kirk Rec Center team.

Other officials present included: June Thomas, Leith-Walk Center Director; Thelma Terry, District Two Supervisor; Alma Bell, Supervisor of Public Relations for Parks and Recreation; Tom Overton, Assistant Superintendent of Specific and Targeted Populations; Ralph Chase, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation and Charles Coliainni, Commissioner of Amature Athletics.

William Sugar Cain award

The William "Sugar" Cain awards recently were presented at Baltimore City school headquarters.

The award is named after William Cain, who acquired the nickname of "Sugar" at Shaw Junior High in his native Washington, D.C.

"Cain was the impresario of the 'Dunbar Dynasty,' " said Mike Wise, coach of the Baltimore Jaguars and a former player for Cain.

While at Dunbar, Cain coached four unbeaten teams (1957, 1965, 1972, 1973) on his way to an overall record of 234-50.

AWARD PRESENTERS and recipients include: (L-R) Dr. Sam Banks (Chairman, William "Sugar" Cain Committee), Lisa N. Williams, Jonathan Johns, Bryant Carter, Dr. Richard Hunter (President City School System), Harvey Jones, Marnette M. Shields and Harry M. Bruce (Director, Instructional Support Services).

Lombard lacrosse champ

In one of the most exciting games of the three-day tournament, Lombard, defending Middle School. Lacrosse Champions, defeated Pimlico by a score of 5-4.

The Middle School Lacrosse League began two years ago, to introduce this sport to Black youths at an earlier age, and help improve their level of play when they reach High School.

MAYOR Kurt L. Schmoke presents 1st Place trophy to Lombard Middle School Lacrosse team members, Maurice Curtis (#4), Paul Preston (#8), Josh Wyche (#30) and coach Joe Fowlkes.

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Baltimore interior designer creates dream homes

By Tracy E. Hopkins
AFRO Staff Writer

Baltimore — Before Interiors by M.E. Inc. opened its doors last February, few African-Americans would have dreamed they could afford to have their dream homes decorated by an interior designer.

Martha Emma Turner, the visionary behind Interiors, made this service more accessible to the community on an affordable basis.

Ms. Turner said her business goal is to help the client make the most out of what she or he already has and to master the art of decorating "richly" on a tight budget. Turner described her services as "elegant, distinctive and personal."

"When most people think of interior designing, they think it is not affordable but I show them how it can be worked into their budgets," she said.

"Just tell me how much you can afford and how much you want to spend. A lot of creative things can be done with a low budget and we can scale a plan according to budget and style," Ms. Turner said.

The Richmond, VA native said there is a difference between an interior designer and an interior decorator.

MARTHA E. TURNER, President of Interiors by M.E., discusses the importance of the service of interior decorating she provides for the Black community at affordable prices.

"An interior decorator comes in with sample swatches and tells the customer this color will match this or that and decorates an existing room, where as an interior designer plans the interior of a room on paper and then drafts the layout based on the client's style, budget and personality," Ms. Turner said.

She said she believes in using the personal approach when dealing with her customers and that she "perfers to go into a setting with the client in mind."

"First I get to know enough about the clients' style and personality to form a personal decorating scheme. Then I plan the decoration, design and layout."

"Everybody should have the opportunity to feel that where they live and work is comfortable. The clients must feel their surroundings fit their lifestyle. When people come into your home, they should say 'this is you.' Your surroundings should exude your personality," Mrs. Turner told the AFRO.

Until a year and a half ago, Ms. Turner said she had planned to put off starting her own business until she retired. She had been manager at the Delux Check Printers plant in Richmond for more than 16 years.

As she developed more patience and fervor for her craft, she said she decided to use her own finances to put her plan into action sooner.

"I didn't have the patience at first, but in my middle years, my creative side has taken over and matured. So I thought, why should I keep working for a company when I could be sharing my talents with someone, the 43-year-old asked."

Ms. Turner has a liberal arts background and has taken courses in interior designing at New York's Sheffield School of Interior Design. She said she feels natural talent coordinated with formal educational training is the most effective way to nurture the development of an aspiring interior designer.

"One must have an initial eye for color and design and from this point the theories can be explained. In my case, the training only confirmed why I do what I do," she said enthusiastically.

Interiors by M.E. Inc. is a family business. Ms. Turner is president of the company and her brother and father, Wesley A. Turner, Jr. and Wesley A. Turner Sr., respectively are vice president and vice chairman. Wesley Jr. also is in charge of the firm's technical aspects of the designing process.

Thus far, Ms. Turner said all of her clients have been African-American and that she would be happy if she could attract a steady flow of Black clients because "being from the same culture, I can relate to Black people and their tastes."

"Black people have come a long way as far as jobs and finance are concerned. Years ago, things may have been harder but now we are more affluent and so are our lifestyles.

THE BUSINESS OF INTERIOR DESIGNING—Wesley A. Turner Jr. (far left), Vice President of Interiors by M.E. Inc., and his sister Martha E. Turner (center), go over the design and layout plans for their client's, businessman Tyrone Taborne (far right) new home.

"It is very important Black people trust and support each other," she said.

Ms. Turner also said she works as a commerical designer for hotel and hospital lobbies but said her first love is designer for residential area.

Working out of her studio at Scarlett Place and 200 S. President St., Ms. Turner said she provides initial planning consultations, does window treatments, makes silk floral arrangements, whole room and whole floor designing (she said she hires subcontractors for painting and wall papering), and also decorates for special occasions and holidays.

Ms. Turner said she hopes one day to establish a branch of her company in her home town of Richmond and would like to see her nephews or an apprentice carry on her work.

Skin care is esthetician's first love

By P.A. Tatum
AFRO Staff Writer

Skin care is Baltimore-based entrepreneur Debe young's first love.

A licensed esthetician, Ms. Young also is the owner of her own private line of cosmetics, "Debe's Colours" and is an expert practitioner of skin care methods which can bestow her many clients with healthier glowing skin.

Ms. Young's treatments focus on acne, dry and dehydrated conditions. She said she pays particular attention to antiaging and preventive skin care methods.

Office hours are kept at the Hair Solution salon in the 6300 block of York Road. An hour treatment may include any of the following:

Deep cleansing, mask therapy, gently exfoliation, treatment for ingrown hair, therapeutic and relaxation message, facial and body waxing and make-up application and lessons.

An attractive, youthful looking woman of 36, Ms. Young is her best advertisement. With or without makeup, she is the epitome of what good grooming and skin care habits can do for one's appearance.

As a child growing up in the Lafayette Courts of East Baltimore, Ms. Young said she often was enlisted to help with the make-up of her friends. She parlayed that interest in her first state license as a cosmetic demonstrator in 1974.

Her desire to learn more led Ms. Young into enrolling in one of the first courses offered by the then newly established Von Lee School in Baltimore. She became a licensed esthetician in 1979, after successfully completing the Von Lee Course.

Ms. Young said she owes much of her knowledge about the skin care business to the school's director, Carol Walderman, who recognized Ms. Young's love and enthusiasm for the business.

"She a true educator, a good teacher. She took special steps with me," Ms. Young said of Ms. Walderman.

She also attended the Community College of Baltimore where she majored in business marketing management and has completed theatrical make up courses at Towson State University.

Armed with her licenses and knowledge, Ms. Young has considerable exprience in the skin care and comestic industry. Since 1974, she has worked for such establishments, in various capacities, as About Face, The Powder Room at Harborplace, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Macys.

Because not just one company makes the best of everything, Ms. Young said she orders different, top of the line products for several firms declaring firmly, "I don't sell what I don't use!"

Her clients run the gamut of congressmen and other politicians to school principals to average citizen. They all share the common interest of good skin care habits. Ms. Young credits several people in addition to Ms. Walderman with her success. First and foremost is her wonderfully supportive husband and partner, Gerard, a U.S. Postal Service employee.

Her parents, Beatrice and the late Arthur Jones also were important in shaping her goals as they stressed education. Rounding out her immediate family are her two sons, Gerard "Dimps," a second year New York City art student and 11 year-old Karlo.

MAKE UP LINE — Debe Young, a licensed esthetician, also is the owner of her own 1 private line of cosmetics, Debe's Colors. Among the many she credits for her success is her husband and partner, Gerard.

AFRO photos by Paul Greene

FACIAL — Clients of Ms. Young have a real treat in store when they experience her hour long facial treatments. She has office hours at the Hair Solution on York Road.

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