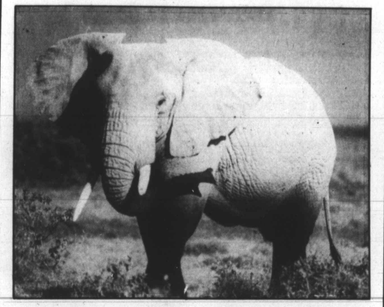
Kids Talk

Do you know this person?

She abandoned her first career as a classroom teacher to turn her attention to her real love, journalism. In 1899 she bought into the Free Speech and Headlight newspaper in Memphis. She went on to become a leading and uncompromising organizer, editorial writer, and speaker against lynching.

She is Ida B. Wells-Barnett.

The mighty elephant



The elephant is an endangered species in Asia and is seriously threatened in Africa. This means that one day there may be no more of these animals that have enjoyed an age-old relationship with man. Many of the animals are poached each year to get ivory from their tusks.

In Asia, Hindus worship a god with an elephant-shaped head. Here in America the elephant appears as a lovable fictional character in stories of Babar and Dumbo. "Kids Talk" readers, you can get your name in the paper by doing some reading. Find out the difference between the Asian and African elephants and send it in at the address below. The best article will appear in an upcoming issue of Kids Talk!

Baka people

The Baka people live in a rain forest in southeasten Cameroon. They live in a hunter-gatherer society. They harvest honey, catch fish and use forest plants to make medicines. These people live in huts made of wood and leaves.

The extended families live together. In many ways, the roles of Baka family members are much like ours, but there are some differences. The father gathers the food and hunts. The mother prepares the food. Grandparents often take charge of the children and pass on traditional stories about their history. Have your grandparents told you any interesting stories about your family background? Write them down and send them in. The best stories will be featured in an upcoming issue of "Kids Talk." (National Geographic Specials)

Education Briefs

USDA Campus Officer Program

As part of an initiative by the president of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, William P. Hytch, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have entered into an agreement to staff a U.S.D.A liaison officer on campus. The U.S.D.A has established offices at 17 historically black land-grant colleges and universities.

For more information contact Frank White at (301) 651-2200.

Career Workshop

The Educational Opportunity Center will sponsor a career development workshop on hospital health careers on Sat. April 8, at 11:00 at the Howard University Hospital.

For more information call 889-5300.

Available Scholarships

The Alexandria Branch of the NAACP will award $1,000.00 in educational scholarships to graduating seniors from Alexandria, Virginia in its 1st annual scholarship drive.

Prospective applicants may obtain applications by writing to the NAACP Alexandria Branch.

For more information call (703) 684-6190.

More Scholarships

Riggs National Bank and the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) have joined forces to offer a scholarship program for area high school seniors. $13,000 in scholarship will be awarded to students throughout the metropolitan region with the best essay ideas.

Summer Youth Program

The staff of the Department of Quality Integrated Education is currently involved in coordinating "Summer Search 1989." The program is designed to help minority students to broaden their interest, to develop their skills, and to expand their educational horizons through nurturance and participation in an enriching summer program.

For more information call 585-1246.

Kindergarten Registration

The Prince George's County Public Schools will schedule special kindergarten registration days on April 17, 18, 19, 25 and 26. Parents are encouraged to register on these dates.

For more information call (301) 952-6000

Student Govt. Elections

The Prince George's Regional Association of Student Governments (PGRASG) will hold elections on Wednesday, April 26, for the seat of student member of the Board of Education for Prince George's County.

For more information call 567-9303.

Spelman Reunion

Spelman College is sponsoring a reunion of former glee club members on the weekend of April 1 - 2. Workshops and concerts are planned.

For more information call (404) 681-3643.

Summer Program

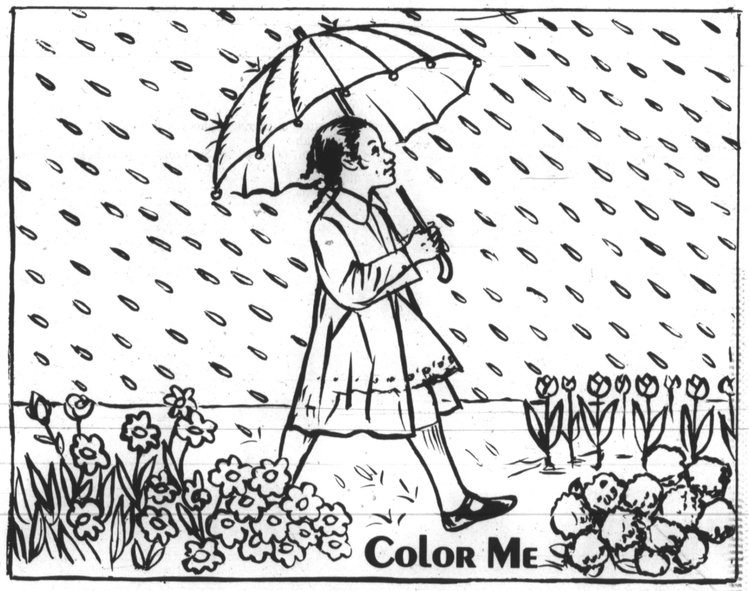
Morehouse and Spelman colleges will sponsor an early college summer program for high school graduates and seniors. Students who are high school graduates and seniors in 1989 will have the opportunity to get a headstart on their college English and mathematics studies in a five-week program.

For more information contact Robert Bolton at (404) 681-2800.

College Summer Programs

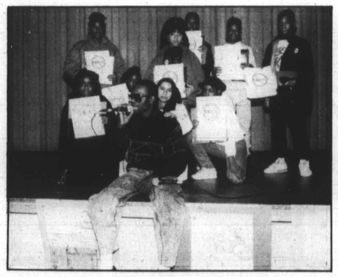
"The Sexual Mountain and Black Women Writers" will be among many topics discussed this summer at the Oberlin College Teachers Academy In-Service Education Institute. The program will begin June 19, and is offered in conjunction with several two week programs.

For more information contact Betty Gabrielli at (216) 775-8474.



SNAPSHOTS

TRACIE SPENCER recently performed at The Ritz in New Jersey — and afterwards hooked up with THE BOYS. Tracie Spencer's current hit single is "Imagine." The Boys are scoring big with "My Lucky Charm."



Reggae Rap sensation SHINEHEAD has been visiting schools around the nation warning students of the perils of drug use. All students who participate will receive certification thereof and will become inducted as members of Shinehead's "Gimme No Crack" crew.

This page was edited for
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by Sherri Milner

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The regular School of the Week feature will return next week upon the return of Baltimore City Public School students from their Spring Vacation.

Boy Scouting in the projects - an uplifting experience!

By Delfield S. Yoes III
AFRO Staff Writer

Murphy Homes is the nucleus of low income housing in Baltimore. The "living" conditions that exist at Murphy Homes, Lexington Terrace, Lafayette Court and dwellings similar to these are conducive to little that could be deemed positive. Motivating young people is supposed to be next to impossible. Stan Smith does not believe this for a second.

"I have proven that 'ghetto kids' can do anything. I'll put these boys up against anybody," declares Smith who is the Scouting Coordinator for the Housing Authority of Baltimore City. Essentially Smith has brought scouting to the projects.

Initially, the Housing Authority lobbied then Mayor of Baltimore, William Donald Schaefer, to establish a chapter of the Boy Scouts of America at Murphy Homes.

Four years ago when Smith, who is a graduate of Coppin State College, was brought in to oversee the effort, he was to have a suit and tie position that involved little direct involvement with the scouts.

However, six months into the project things weren't moving as quickly as desired, so it was decided that Smith would immerse himself more fully into his new position.

This became the cue for him to don an immaculately creased Scoutmaster's uniform and adopt some of the mores attributed to his experience as a Marine Corp Sargeant.

After the new approach was put into effect, things began to happen.

"It was different for them, (the Scouts) to see a clean-cut man showing them exactly what is right and exactly what is wrong," explains Smith.

The ex-Marine heavily emphasizes the point that these young men desperately need male role models, positive progressive images that they can emulate.

"In these areas all these kids are exposed to is drugs, sometimes prostitution and broken homes, scouting helps to create a certain measure of structure in their lives," states Smith.

The scouting experience has also exposed these boys to a multitude of diverse worlds that they probably would have never known.

They not only attend several sporting events, but they also witness cultural affairs at concert halls like the Lyric Opera House. "This encourages culture, it gives the boys a look at the other side," says Smith.

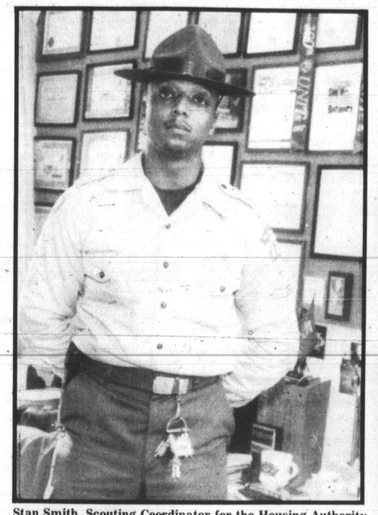
The scouts have also had the distinction of flying with the Baltimore Blackhawks, a chapter of the renowned flying group, the Negro Airmen.

Smith's scouts also participate in the Just Say No To Drugs Program and they provide community services to elderly residents of Murphy Homes during the holidays.

Experiences like these have made very tangible differences in the lives of these young men.

"Changes have occurred across the board, in the home environment, school and on sports teams," comments Smith.

Smith points to two specific examples of young people who have reaped all of the benefits of scouting.



Stan Smith, Scouting Coordinator for the Housing Authority of Baltimore City.

Robert White of pack 365 is, "One of the best scouts that I have. He's a fine student as well as a good athlete," exclaims Smith. Smith also singles out Leroy Johnson of troop 219, who won the honor of, "Scout of the Year."

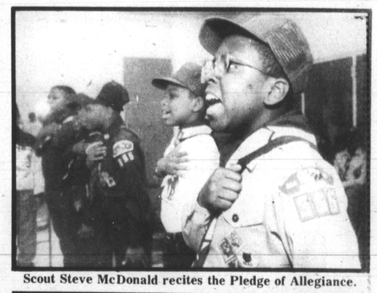
Although Smith has made a substantial impact on the lives of these young people since his arrival in the projects, he is still only one man.

He is responsible for four seperate scouting units. This undertaking requires the efforts of several in order to be fully effective.

"I'm only one cog in the wheel. We need the full cooperation of parents, teachers and the community," says Smith.

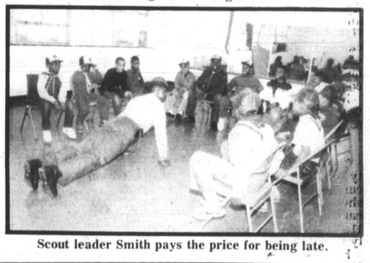
However, the efforts of Stan Smith are indicative of the old adage, "One man, (or woman) can make a difference."

AFRO Photos by Paul A. Greene



Scout Steve McDonald recites the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reciting the Scouting Oath



Scout leader Smith pays the price for being late.

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