'The Me Nobody Knows'

Center Stage actors present 'reality' at area schools

By Denise Weeks

"When you're born they carry you. When you're gone they bury you. In between, you've on your own, hard to stand there all alone."

The Young People's Theater of Center Stage has revived the 1970 Obie Award winning musical "The Me Nobody Knows" in a special adaptation to tour high schools throughout Baltimore City and the state through April 20.

"The Me Nobody Knows" is based on a book of the same title containing poems and sketches by ghetto students that were gathered by Stephen M. Joseph, a teacher in a New York inner city school.

Just as the NBC television production 'Scared Straight' brought a reality (prison life) to surface, "The Me Nobody Knows" revives the existence of ghettos, slums, poverty and those who lack some of the necessities of life for human survival, an existence that is constantly pushed "under the table" as the fight for worldwide peace and human rights continues abroad.

"The Me Nobody Knows" reflects not only the external situations of students, who range from seven to 18 years in age, but also the deep inner feelings of these ghetto children.

The same basic feelings that come from other children in all walks of life, in all parts of the world.

It expresses feelings that sometimes show a desire for suicide or some mental or physical escape because they just can't cope; feelings that reflect a suppression of creativity or the ability to dream for a better and brighter future; and feelings that do conceive the love that does exist in the world.

The material for "The Me Nobody Knows" was collected in the latter part of the 1960s but in a discussion with the acting company of the Center Stage touring production, it was brought out that "The Me Nobody Knows" is still relevant today and will continue to be as long as there are ghettos, slums, poverty and hunger.

The actors agreed that this material that is being presented is not only something that the high school students should hear but also something for adult audiences.

And in the literary sense, actress Socorro Santiago feels, "That a child's poetry, any child, is something that is ageless, that has no definite time."

It was felt by the acting company that many of today's high school students live in a sheltered world. As actor Skip Waters states, "They're at the age where they should be aware but they see television, 'Three's Company', 'Laverne and Shirley', and 'Happy Days', that's what their lives are.

"Where there are more girls that look like Farrah Fawcett - Majors than those who know what a rat is and that it can give you disease and that they do run through people houses."

The problem in presenting "The Me Nobody Knows" is getting the students to understand the seriousness in it.

There was no major search of outside experiences to aid in character development for each actor, since it is built on day - to - day emotions and experiences.

But there were things that they had to think back into the past on, ugly things that they thought were locked away for good, which had to be drawn on for this production.

In addition to the performance of "The Me Nobody Knows" the program in schools includes in - class discussions led by the members of the acting company. The actors have discovered that there is a profound excitement in the drama classes or classes that were generated from interested students.

This genuine interest stimulated the actors to give the greatest amount of energy which rewarded both the actors and the students.

The cast of "The Me Nobody Knows" consists of five actors from New York City who are appearing with the Young People's Theater of Center Stage for the first time.

They are Steve Rankin, Diane Reynolds, Socorro Santiago, Ted Sod and Skip Waters. The professional unity of this cast on stage is only surpassed by the social unity they have formed off stage.

Born in small mid-western town, Steve Rankin recently appeared in a regional theatre production of a new play entitled "Diamond Studs". He is a skilled stage combat choreographer and well adapted in mime, tumbling and juggling.

Diane Reynolds appeared off - Broadway as Crystal in "Circles" at the Richard Morse Mime Theatre. She is a graduate of Temple University in Philadelphia and performed in many productions there.

A native New Yorker, Socorro Santiago was last seen as Rosa in "Mio" at the New Federal Theatre in New York. She can be seen on the award winning children's television series entitled "Vegetable Soup".

Ted Sod recently appeared in the film "The Warriors." He has made television appearances on "All My Children," "The Guiding Light," "As The World Turns" and "The Edge of Night".

Originally from Denver, Colo., Skip Waters was last seen as Norman in "The Black Picture" at the Richard Allen Center in New York. He has directed "Freedom Train — The Story of Harriet Tubman" and "Escape To Freedom — Young Frederick Douglass" both for the Performing Arts Repertory Theatre Foundation.

The Young People's Theater of Center Stage will be performing "The Me Nobody Known" throughout Maryland until April 20.

For information concerning the high school performances, contact Peter England at 685 - 3200.

THEATRICS — The Young People's Theater of Center Stage is presenting "The Me Nobody Knows" at area high schools. Actors appearing in the play are (L to R): Steve Rankin, Diane Reynolds, Skip Waters, Rachel Ticotin and Ted Sod.

AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

Hamburgers preferred

CHESTER, Va. — For whoever it was that broke into a McDonald's Restaurant near the intersection of U.S. 1 and Va. 10, food apparently is worth more than money.

Chesterfield County Police said the burglary occurred last Sunday night when a cinderblock was thrown through the restaurant's rear window.

The intruder or intruders didn't take any money, but five hamburgers were cooked on the grill. Police said they didn't know if the hamburgers were eaten on the premises or were "to go." (UPI)

Democrats

The Baltimore Chapter of Americans for Democratic Action is celebrating its 31st annual Roosevelt Day Dinner, Sunday, April 22 at Martin's West.

Michael Harrington, author of "The Other America," is the principal [illegible] information may be obtained by calling 462 - 8435.

EASTER SALE RESERVED
EDGEWOOD AT SUPER DISCOUNTS LIQUORS
3302 EDGEWOOD ST. OFF 3500 Liberty Hghts.
SALE IN EFFECT THRU WED., APRIL 18th

Cutty Sark 1.75 LITER 13.69	Johnnie Walker Red 1.75 LITER 14.49
Old Forester 86° Proof 1.75 LITER 9.65	MacNaughton Canadian 1.75 LITER 7.95
Imported Liebfraumilch 5th 1.49	French Brandy 5th 3.99
Gordons Gin 1.75 LITER 7.98	Pabst Beer 12 oz. Bottles 5.55 CASE

BEDS
MATTRESSES AND BOX SPRINGS IN ALL SIZES AT WHOLESALE PRICES
760-1777

DRESS UP FOR EASTER
Children's Disco Fashion Shoes Sizes 10-4
From 7.99
EPPY'S SHOE STORE
2500 W. Pratt Street

NATIONAL LUMBER
SINCE 1919
EVERYTHING FOR BUILDING
• PLYWOOD • FLOOR TILE • CEILING TILE • INSULATION • DOORS • WINDOWS • KITCHEN CABINETS • RAILROAD TIES • HARDWARE • REDWOOD • SAKRET • FENCING • PANELING
675-4740
OPEN 8 DAYS THURSDAY & FRIDAY 'TIL 8:30 P.M. SATURDAY 'TIL 5 P.M.
4901 PULASKI HWY. (at Monument St.)
"YOUR GRANDDAD WAS A SATISFIED CUSTOMER"

'An Evening With
SAM LACY'
for the benefit of
PROJECT SURVIVAL
Join Us When We Honor One Of
SPORTS' BEST WRITERS
Wednesday, May 2, 1979
Martin's West from 6:30 PM
Baltimore Beltway Exit 17 6817 Dogwood Rd.
Tickets $17.50 each ..... and open bar
Make checks or money orders payable to Sam Lacy Testimonial
For further information call:
Earl C. Banks - 254 - 7148
Suzan Harrison - 837 - 0090
Urban Services Agency - 396 - 1700
11 E. Mount Royal Ave.
Baltimore AFRO: Mrs. Steele - 728 - 8204
Washington AFRO: Art Carter - 202 - 332 - 0080
Richmond AFRO: Mrs. Winston - 804 - 649 - 8478

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE
FURNITURE · RUGS · DINETTES
AND ALL TYPES OF BABY FURNITURE

Kitchen Sets $24.90	9x12 Carpet Rugs $14.90
Sofa Beds $89.90	Bunk Beds COMPLETE $99.90
Baby Cribs $39.90	Baby Strollers $11.90

EVERYTHING FOR THE HOME. ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE.
BEN'S FURNITURE CITY
342-4644
527 N. CHESTER ST. NR. JOHNS HOPKINS HOSP.

AN American National Rate Review
"Money Market" Certificates...
6 Months (26 Weeks) $10,000 Minimum
• DIVIDENDS CREDITED MONTHLY
• AUTOMATIC TRANSFER TO PASSBOOK FOR HIGHER YIELD
weekly offering...
APRIL 12 THRU APRIL 18, 1979
EFFECTIVE ANNUAL YIELD. 9.941%
RATE 9.572%
(Subject To Change at Renewal)
State & Fed. Regulations Prohibit compounding of Dividends on Money Market Accounts.
Certificates for $1000 or more

1-2½ yrs. at a rate of	6.50%	6.72% per annum yield
2½-4 yrs. at a rate of	6.75%	6.98% per annum yield
4-6 yrs. at a rate of	7.50%	7.79% per annum yield
6-8 yrs. at a rate of	7.75%	8.06% per annum yield
8-10 yrs. at a rate of	8.00%	8.33% per annum yield
Passbook Accounts pay	5.25%	5.39%

Federal regulations require a substantial penalty on withdrawals prior to maturity on certificates
AN SAVE THE AMERICAN WAY! A SAVINGS INSTITUTION SINCE 1920
American National Building & Loan Association
Fallstaff Shopping Ctr. — 764-6841 · Chatham Mall — 461-1500 · Lexington & Liberty Sts. — 752-0400 · Westview Mall — 747-7414 · Wilde Lake Village Ctr. Columbia — 997-8205 · Perry Hall Shopping Center — 256-6700 · Rerundale Mall — 761-6545 · Towson Plaza — 825-5130 · Carrollcourse-Sykesville — 795-2200
Sales & Save Offices: Hochschild's Security Square Mall — 256-6220 · Hochschild's Baltimorean Mall — 301-2431
Downtown office open Mon.-Fri. 9-3. Columbia office open Mon.-Thurs. 9-3, Fri. 9-7 & Sat. 10-3. Hochschild's Security Square office open Mon.-Sat. 10-9. All other offices open Mon.-Fri. 9-3. Pri. evenings 5-8 & Sat. 10-3

THE LIVING CHURCH

WOMEN MINISTERS — Officers of the new Interdenominational Women Ministers Alliance of Baltimore shown are the Revs. Christine Phillips, Alfreda Wiggins, Reba Brown, Agnes Alston, Ann Daniels, Lillian Cornish and Constance Diggs.

Women ministers elect officers

The Rev. Miss Agnes Alston, associate minister of Gillis Memorial Christian Community says four years ago she saw a need to have a ministerial alliance for female ministers to be brought together.

After discussing the idea with the Rev. Alfred C. D. Vaughn, pastor of Grace Memorial Baptist Church, who thought it was a good idea, the new Interdenominational Women Ministers Alliance of Baltimore was recently organized.

Speaking of the ministers alliance, Rev. Alston stated, she invited many of the women ministers to attend a meeting at Fulton Baptist Church and only six showed up.

"The Lord came in and spoke to each one. . . there was something for each of us to share. We knew we needed to come together as women ministers.

"We knew we needed to reach a level of acceptance as ministers by all people. We wanted to be an extension, not separate from men but a service to them and them to us. We are hoping to join forces and if at anytime we must emerge, we will be prepared to emerge. We have such fine young women in this movement that I know it's going to be effective."

The Interdenominational Women Ministers Alliance held their first meeting in February at Fulton Baptist Church. According to Rev. Alston, there are 15 members and "we have new ministers joining at each meeting."

Rev. Alston stated that the purpose of the women ministers alliance is to promote the women in ministry to a level of acceptance as ministers and to emphasis their ministry and all events of life in the community. The group is planning to have various workshops that will involve the community.

Officers of the alliance are the Revs. Alfreda Wiggins, president, Lewin United Methodist; Carolyn Showell, first vice president, First Apostolic; Reba Fitchett Brown, recording secretary, Fulton Baptist.

Also, the Revs. Constance Diggs, corresponding secretary, Highway Holiness; Constance Phillips, treasurer, Deliverance Church; Diane Gwynn, chaplain, New Metropolitan and Ann Daniel, chaplain, Christ United Methodist and Marie Braxton, chairperson of publicity.

Metro church briefs

The Minister's Wives committee of the Women's Auxiliary to the United Baptist Missionary Convention of Maryland, will sponsor their 28th annual Easter luncheon [illegible] 16, 12:00 at Martin's West.

Following lunch, the program committee will have a fashion show and distribute door prizes. For ticket information call Mrs. Pauline E. Logan, 664-9530. Mesdames Logan is chairperson; Marie E. Moyd, co-chairperson; Cora Crawley, committee secretary; Betty L. Johnson, president of the Women's Auxiliary and the Rev. Matthew R. Silver is president of the United Baptist Missionary Convention.

The Apostolic Ministerial Fellowship will sponsor their third annual Apostolic Good Friday services on April 13, 12:00 at First Apostolic Faith Church, 27 South Caroline St.

Speakers are Bishops Monroe R. Saunders, William S. Barnes, Walter M. Warner, Morris R. Lane, Elder Willard Saunders, Elder Horace O. Ward, the Rev. Lucille D. Calloway and Elder Lacey Brown. Bishop W. A. Showell is president and host pastor.

The Rev. George Crawley Jr., will be the 6 a.m. speaker for Easter sunrise services at Memorial Stadium sponsored by Metro Baptist.

Maryland Suburban Mass Choir will present a spring concert featuring the Victory Choral Ensemble at New Metropolitan Baptist Church, Mosher and McCulloh St., on April 13, 7:30 p.m. For ticket information call Rev. Evora Robinson, 465-8038.

Ricky Fowler will be appearing in a concert April 21, 7:30 p.m. at Maryland Church of God In Christ, 5100 Denmore Ave., 7:30 p.m.

Isador Oglesby first spiritual album

Isador Oglesby considers his collection of spirituals as one of the most extensive to be found outside of documentary libraries. He has many original manuscripts of black composers in his collection.

The retired North Carolina born Oglesby recently recorded an album, "Negro Spirituals The Musical Roots of Jmerican Folk Songs."

His interpretation of spirituals has always received praise. Oglesby, a member of Union Baptist Church retired in 1977 after 43 years of teaching on the college and high school level. As a performing soloist, Oglesby has appeared with college and university groups.

He has a bachelor of science in business administration from Hampton Institute, Master of Arts in applied business psychology from the University of Iowa and completed all doctoral courses except the dissertation from New York University in administration.

ISADOR OGLESBY

Oglesby traces his ancestral roots to Africa through family ties. Many of his interpretations are based on the singing of his grandmother, Mrs. Nannie Boyd, daughter of a slave in Warren County, N.C.

He plans to record two additional albums relating to spirituals this year. A teachering manual for music appreciation courses in black studies will also be developed later. Oglesby stated that the courses will enable those who have a vague or forgotten knowledge of spirituals as a pure American folk medium, to grasp a deeper appreciation for them and their place in music literature.

The singer senses the demise of spirituals may eventually lead to the complete evanescense of them in their original form and supplanted or merged into a jazz medium.

A former member of Enon Baptist Church and director of the church choirs, Oglesby has also served as director of choirs at First Baptist, Provident Baptist and now has a summer singing group, at Union Baptist.

An Easter message

A minister speaks out

Rev. Lorenzo C. Handy

It is a happy historical coincidence that the feast of the Passover, observed by those of the Jewish faith, comes at the same time as the Christian Easter. Passover is a festival of joy, often called "this festive season."

It is a time for hospitality, for warmth of heart, for remembering those things that are good and those days that are happy. It is a time for the renewal of family ties as all rejoice at the deliverance from bondage.

Easter is also a season of joy. Most of the symbols associated with it are symbols of happiness and life. The music is triumphant, color is everywhere on display. Churches are filled with worshippers, new fashions are evident homes are filled with [illegible] come together for the day, but above all, Christians are joyful because they are commemorating the resurrection of Jesus, the triumph of life over death.

In neither case is the joy a light and frivolous thing. It is a deep and meaningful experience because in both cases it follows a period of suffering and darkness. These events have significant meaning for blacks. The Jews are delivered from the fear of bondage, Christians from the fear of death. In both holidays, joy follows despair.

This is important for us to remember, for the prophets of gloom and despair are having their day in many areas of our common life. In literature, drama, politics and even in theology, the preachers of despair are trying to lead us to believe that life is utterly hopeless and futile.

We are no doubt living in a period of darkness. False optimism would be stupid and suicidal. But, if is even more stupid and suicidal to give in to despair, for those who trust God know that light follows deep darkness. In this season, God gives us blacks, renewed assurance and renewed hope is great triumphs of hope and truth.

Life follows death. Hope follows despair. Freedom follow slavery. This is the message of Passover and Easter!

Baptist clergy donate $6,000 to Provident Hospital

Members of the Baptist Clergy in Action recently donated $6,000 to the Provident Hospital development fund recently. The donation was made during the group's monthly meeting held at the hospital.

The Rev. Dr. Alfred C. D. Vaughn, pastor of Grace Memorial Baptist and president of the Baptist Clergy in Action stated, "We must continue to totally support this hospital." The meeting was attended by 35 members of the group along with various community and hospital representatives.

The Rev. J. Woodard Kelly, pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church and chairperson of the Provident Hospital clerical fund raising committee hosted the meeting and said, "Our overall total for the clerical committee has reached nearly $19,000 and we are just getting started."

Ministers and friends making donations during the meeting were the Rev. James Moore, Vernon Dobson, James S. Wise, Marcus Wood, Olin P. Moyd, Alexander H. Waters, James L. Bell, William H. Mills.

Future plans for the clerical committee include a city wide Provident Hospital Day in all churches, gospel concerts, and many other fundraising activities.

Provident Hospital Inc., will celebrate its 85th anniversary in June and is one of the largest black health care institutions in the nation.

Rev. James Gray feted at anniversary banquet

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

The banquet at the S and R Hall on The Alameda April 6 honored the Rev. James B. Gray Jr. who has been pastor of Pleasant Zion Baptist Church in Dundalk nine years.

The impressive affair witnessed over 150 persons present from the congregation, the Dundalk community as well as his family of 17 members from Baltimore and South Carolina.

The Rev. Mr. Gray not only ministers to the Pleasant Zion parish but also serves as president of the Baptist Evening Conference and as assistant secretary of the Baptist Convention of Maryland. A salesman on the AFRO advertising staff, he is the youngest minister to be placed on the AFRO Honor Roll.

Highlight of the program was the presentation of gifts which came from every organization in the church, the deacons, deaconesses, trustees boards, Missionary Society, Flower Circle, Sunday School classes, Courtesy Committee, Usher Board, Senior and Young Peoples Choir, Pastor's Aide.

Among clergymen who lauded the friendly, well-known pastor were Rev. C.C. Alexander, former president of the United Baptist Missionary Convention of Maryland and Rev. and Mrs. Samuel B. Redd, pastor of Mt. Ararat Baptist Church where the Rev. Mr. Gray was a member.

Also, Mrs. Pauline Wells Lewis, noted RADIO WSID personality, Kenneth Wilson, AFRO vice-president in charge of advertising and City Editor Elizabeth M. Oliver who presented the AFRO Citation of Merit. Leon Foster delivered the church citation for the Board of Deacons.

The guest speaker, Rev. John L. Wright, pastor of First Baptist Church, Guilford, Md., who served as best man when the Rev. and Mrs. Gray were married at Mt. Ararat, praised the honoree as a strong Christian soldier.

Citing the Rev. Mr. Gray's many contributions to the church and Baltimore, the speaker termed him a No. 1 example shepherd and a minister to all people.

Salutations were from Mrs. Geraldine Stewart of the Maryland Association of Ministers Wives and Mrs. Pauline Logan, president of the group; Mrs. Bettye Thomas, president of the Maryland Baptist Women.

Dr. W. A. Thompson, president of the Baptist Ministers also lauded the Rev. Mr. Gray as did Rev. Hamlett III, vice president of the Sunday School and Baptist Training Institute and Rev. Dockery Thompson of UMBC of Maryland.

On the program were Rev. Lindsai Pitts, Charles Lee, toastmaster; Mrs. Ethel Allen who gave the occasion; Mrs. Neil Calhoun, Miss Faith John, David John, soloist; Mesdames Emma Poole and Ruth John, the presentations and Rev. John L. Wright who presented the speaker. Music was by Skinner Johnson, pianist and soloist and decorations by Mrs. Ernestine Foster.

On the Banquet Committee were Mesdames Naomi Thornton, co-chairwoman; Program Committee Chairwomen Mesdames Cathy Evans, Ethel Allen and Mrs. Paul Poole and hostesses Mesdames Pat Lewis, Brenda Grinage, Linda Mason, Loretta Siever, Cathy Evans, Connie Poole, Fannie Scott, Susan Scott, Tuesday Lomax and Lori Foster.

Out of towners present included Mrs. Catherine Pinkney, mother-in-law of the honoree and Miss Brenda Pinkney, both of Mt. Pleasant, S.C. and Miss Louise Lee, a cousin from Edgefield, S.C.

Relatives from Baltimore included Mesdames Loretta Smith, sister; Mary Gray, wife; Marvella Gray, daughter, Bernice Barrett; Stephanie Johnson; niece, Everlee Gray; mother, Catherine Pinkney; mother-in-law, Deanna Pinkney; sister-in-law, Anna Garrett; aunt, Pauline DeCoursey.

Also, Messers. Robert Smith, brother-in-law, Nathaniel Gray; brother, James B. Gray Sr. father; Olin Pinkney Jr., and David Pinkney, brothers-in-law.

Photo by Ryales

HONOREE'S FAMILY — Arrived from the Baltimore area and various cities in South Carolina were the 17 relatives of the Rev. James B. Gray Jr. who was honored at a banquet for his ninth anniversary as pastor of the Pleasant Zion Baptist Church in Dundalk. Standing from left are Robert Smith, brother-in-law; Mrs. Loretta Smith, sister; Nathaniel Gray, brother; James B. Gray Sr., father; Honoree the Rev. James B. Gray Jr.; his wife, Mrs. Mary E. Gray; daughter, Marvella Gray; Olin Pinkney, brother-in-law; David Pinkney, brother-n-law; Mrs. Bernice Barrett, friend. Seated from left, Mrs. Stephanie Johnson, niece; Mrs. Everlee Gray, mother; Mrs. Catherine Pinkney, mother-in-law; Miss Brenda Pinkney, both of Mt. Pleasant, S.C.; Mrs. Deanna Pinkney, sister-in-law; Mrs. Anna Barrett, aunt; Miss Louise Lee, cousin, Edgefield, S.C.; Mrs. Pauline DeCoursey, family friend.