Woodlawn Highlights

Vietnam vet wins SSA's Handicapped Award

HE'S A WINNER — Eugene S. Roberts Sr., (C) smiles broadly after winning the SSA Outstanding Handicapped Employee of the Year Award during the agency's Honor Award Ceremony. He is flanked by (L to R) Mrs. Alicia Roberts, his wife and Mrs. Margaret Klein, his mother.

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewyce

By Marjorie R. Green

In a traditional honor award ceremony held in the Altmeyer Building Auditorium at the Social Security Administration's Woodlawn Complex, approximately 150 individual employees and two groups, were awarded the coveted Commissioner's Citation in recognition of special achievements.

Twenty-eight other employees were recognized for their 40 years in government service.

In addition, the Bartlett Award for Humanity in Government was presented to James P. McNamara and the SSA Outstanding Handicapped Employee of the Year Award went to Eugene S. Roberts, a 34-year-old Vietnam War Veteran who suffered the loss of both legs when a landmine exploded during combat.

A strong willed person who believes it is important to be sound in mind and body, Eugene is deeply committed to and involved in many civic and charitable endeavors and since his injury has actively participated in such all-American pastimes as jogging, swimming and camping.

He also works as a part-time painter for his brother, who according to Eugene, has been a great source of encouragement because of the faith that he has shown in his ability to get the job done.

Shortly after the loss of his limbs, Roberts came to fully realize the need for "Christ in my Life", and so he turned to his faith and personal conviction to give him strength to deal with his problems.

It was around this time 11 years ago that he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and his life began to take on new meaning and purpose.

His determination was so strong that in one year's time, he had recovered enough to have the full use of two artificial limbs.

Roberts began his career with SSA in the Division of International Operations in June 1978 as a mail clerk and he has mastered all the functions of the various jobs in the mailroom. He was recently awarded a Special Achievement Award for his excellent performance.

Prior to his current position, Roberts worked for the Veterans Administration in Philadelphia and the U.S. Post Office in Baltimore.

Because of his athletic background, he is keenly aware of the importance of team work and is always willing to help others.

He has developed new methods to facilitate work processing and because of his optimistic attitude, he has been an inspiration to his supervisors and co-workers.

He has also been able to help other handicapped persons who have called on him when they needed assistance in dealing with their particular handicaps.

Roberts states that "being a double amputee does not bother me as much as some of the every day problems that confront everyone else."

As proof of his capabilities, he has attempted to swim the English Channel twice, and although he was unsuccessful in reaching his goal, he was an inspiration to those with a handicap.

Physical fitness rates high in his life and he is in perfect physical and emotional health.

The Award's Committee feels that Roberts is worthy of the special recognition given him by the Social Security Administration because he is an extraordinary person.

He is a man who is able to deal with his handicap as though it does not exist, and he continues to set high goals for himself as he looks towards his future career in SSA.

Eugene Roberts is married to the former Alicia Anderson. He and his wife along with their four children enjoy all the pleasures of the great outdoors.

His children are learning, by his example, that each person must put his faith in God and fully live each day if he is to succeed.

Send news items for this column c-o Woodlawn Highlights, P.O. Box 785, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

Columbia Capers

Dr. Fran Beckles coordinates writer's conference

Dr. Frances Beckles

By Pinnie L. Ross

Dr. Frances N. Beckles author of the book Twenty Black Women and associate professor at Morgan State University announces the Second Regional Writers Conference, which will be a weekend event, this Friday evening, October 31st at Gallery, 409 N. Charles Street. The conference will continue all day Saturday.

Dr. Beckles stated that the program will bring together professional writers and members of the community who are interested in writing.

Workshops and discussions will concentrate on the humanistic influence of literature as well as the practical details of writing, illustrating and publishing.

This event is sponsored by the Regional Writers Association, the Maryland Committee for the Humanities and Morgan State University, Department of Social Work.

Featured guest speaker will be Toni Cade Bambara, author and poet and special lecturer Dr. Ralph Reckling.

Ms. Bambara is a writer with vision. "She serves her stories well," says Kir Kus.

Another review said "she writes powerfully of earthy elements, she is sharp, funny, and wonderfully skillful." Her first novel is called "The Salt Eaters."

Bits and Pieces

The National Council of Negro Women will kick off their first activity in November. The group and their guests will be attending a disco at the fabulous and spacious home of Columbian John Taylor on Indian Camp Road, November 1. Tickets are $8.00 BYOL.

You may contact Mrs. Roberta Briscoe at 730-3311 for ticket information.

My daughter, Rae, (Hari Dam Kaur) who lives in New York — dancer, teacher, choreographer, could not wait until the show ended in New York recently to hug her adopted brother Travis Winkey as his famed troupe performed in New York sponsored by Essence Mazzani.

"over 25,000" she said, "chanted his name over and over again, Travis, Travis . . . Mom, I was so proud until I couldn't hold the tears back from my eyes.

"I kept remembering when he did his first show with us in Baltimore's YWCA many years ago. What a change — What a change."

Travis never attended a modeling school, he began to model back in 1968 with my group, staging my shows as assistant director of the shows and the State Pageant until he opened his studio on Liberty Heights Avenue.

His success has not gotten too big and never will, for him to help anyone. When I call on him, he "comes running" as he always has.

He will be in Columbia participating in an upcoming Fashion Show with me in November.

If you didn't get last Sunday's Sun Magazine, please ask a neighbor you can borrow his. In you will find a five pa story with pictures of o own Travis Winkey.

The residents Baltimore and t outlying communiti should be proud of Trav for the work he is doing help our young people.

Travis, The man — talented, energetic perserverying an assertive. He has it, yo may as well stand back and let him take ove because he is reaching fo the top, and he will reach it. So let's help him and others who are trying.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

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Reception held for Danny, Meryl Steele

Mr. and Mrs. James Steele

Newlyweds Mr. and Mrs. James Steele (Meryl) whose nuptials took place recently in Buffalo, New York, were hosted at a lavish reception at the Brompton Rd. home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith (Loretta) on Saturday, Oct. 11

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry McNeal of Buffalo, New York.

She is a graduate of N.Y.U. and Boston U. and is now pursuing her Ph.D. in psychology at Georgia State, Atlanta, Ga.

The bridegroom is the son of Dr. James D. Steele of Culver City, Cal. and Mrs. Loretta Smith of Charm City.

He is the grandson of the late Elihu and James Steele. Mrs. Steele was a former housemother at Morgan State.

James, or Danny, as he is fondly known, is a graduate of Morgan U. and Atlanta U., where he is now also pursuing a doctorate degree in political science.

The couple is now at home in Atlanta, Ga.

Guests at their reception included:

From Buffalo, New York: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lee Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Henry McNeal (Groom Parents).

From Summit, New Jersey: Dr. and Mrs. Lemuel Leeper, Ms. Lynn Leeper.

From Washington, D.C.: Mr. Mahmood Dorosi, Dr. Paula Sanderlin, Harvey Long, Ms. Theresa Gross.

From Maryland: Mrs. Jane Hughes, Larry Hughes, and Sidney Hughes, of Fairmount Hgts.; Mr. and Mrs. Royster Norwood, and Ms. Rosalind Norwood, Suitland; Mrs. Gerri Heggins, Easton; Mr. and Mrs. James Crawley, Adelphia; Ms. Gayle M. Sengow, Oxon Hill; Ms. Catherine Whiteside, Silver Springs.

From Baltimore, Maryland: Ms. Sharon F. Dickerson, Ms. Wagio Ngure, Ms. Ramona Arthur, Mrs. Miriam Chavis, Robert L. Leverton, Mrs. Anne Arthur, Mrs. Carolyn Fenwick, Ms. Yvette Boone, Milton Cummings, William Falson.

Also Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gray, Ms. Monica Gray, Ms. Sheri Gray, Walter Gray Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Harold Butler, Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. Sampson Green, Mrs. Willie Beatrice Brown, Hamlet Brown.

Also Mr. and Mrs. Frank Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Rolins, Rev. and Mrs. James B. Gray Jr., Ms. Marvella Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Womble Jr. (Quinton), Eric Womble, Elliott Womble, Lester Bland, Ronald Bland, Mrs. Shirley Drew.

Also Mr. and Mrs. William Eastman, Ms. Delia McKoy, Ms. Natalie Evans, Ms. Hilda Evans, Ms. Ruth Rich, Ms. Sheila A. Alferi, Ms. Wagio Ngure and Mrs. John Osmerch.

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SURVIVAL News to help you cope with the '80's

Don't let high prices get you down

High schools provide services at prices you can afford

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

Times are hard.

People are walking around in shoes that should have gone to the repair shop months ago. Faltering cars are being "encouraged" to go just one more mile, complete with faulty transmission, bad brakes and all. Men and women are wearing their hair longer for longer periods of time...anything to avoid the sting of today's beauty and barber fees. And winter clothes are more often being subjected to K-2R sessions and Woolite in efforts to do what dry cleaners do at half the cost and agony.

Because of inflation and the rising cost of equipment and labor, necessary services to consumers are going up at alarming rates. SURVIVAL has been listening to the complaints and concerns of readers, and wondered if we might come up with at least a partial solution that would help ease the pain of paying for what we absolutely need.

We came up with Carver High School. One of the oldest vocational high schools in the city, Carver has won a reputation for providing superior services to consumers at half and often more than half of the cost these services run in the competitive commercial market.

All of the services are provided by Carver students under the watchful eyes of instructors who demand, it seems, quality of the highest sort. From cleaning to beauty and barber services to catering services... almost anything one needs is offered at the school.

There are drawbacks. It might take a student cosmetology student a bit longer to apply a permanent relaxer to a client's hair than it would a professional stylist. And a novice in the dry cleaning business might be stumped for at least a moment at the sight of a stain that would appear impossible to remove...

But the advantages, SURVIVAL feels, far outweigh the problems. For one thing, the instructors are always on the spot, ready to help advise any student who needs help. The training given the students before they are allowed to begin any job is intensive, so the probability of serious problems is drastically reduced. And the students themselves...are in that delicate part of their growing professional lives where perfectionism is the key. It means more to them to make the perfect cake, or to apply the perfect relaxer... than to make big dollars. . . or at least for now.

So what can the general public get from Carver? Hair cuts. Holiday turkeys and hams, baked according to your own desires. Sheet cakes. Clothes cleaned for one third the going commercial rate. Flyers and posters made to order. Television repair.

We are listing just a few of the services available, with prices, so that you can see what you can get and how much money you can save. If you have more questions, you may call or visit the school located at 2201 Presstman St, and someone will be more than willing to help you.

If the services you want are not available at Carver, you may try calling one of the other vocational high schools. We have also listed them, with phone numbers, for your convenience. The prices of services offered are about the same at all of the schools; the service, we feel, is excellent.

CARVER SERVICES
Food Services

Students in the food services division of Carver receive three years of both practical and theoretical training. During their training they learn not only how to prepare foods, but how to select the best cuts of meat, how to make the most of food dollars, and how to cater.

The students will give advice to consumers on any of the above areas, free of charge.

They will bake sheet cakes, decorated, for parties for $15; holiday hams and turkeys will be prepared for consumers at $4 for hams and $5 for turkeys. Any person desiring a ham or turkey should allow two days for preparation; the first day is used to thaw out the meat, and allow the seasoning to work its way in; baking is done the second day.

People wanting this service should also bring their own turkey or ham; the school will not purchase it for you.

The food services division also provides full, 7-course lunches to the public for $2.50. The lunches are not only cooked by the students but served by them as well. There are no regularly scheduled lunches but interested people can call the school to find out when they will be served. The department will also cater events for clubs and organizations, upon request.

All requests for services by the food services division must be placed at least two weeks in advance, and may be done by calling 396-0553. Orders for holiday baking and cooking will be taken until December 23rd.

Cosmetology

Students in the cosmetology department are required to be licensed as students by the state, and all of them are working toward being licensed cosmetologists.

Services offered include haircuts, permanent relaxers, massages, shampoos, and special calp treatments.

Mrs. Rose Smith, chairman of the department, said that the students are trained in "beauty culture," and will be prepared to work in any beauty shop, black or white upon graduation

The general public can receive the services of the students, Monday through Friday, from 11:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Prices are about half of what they are in commercial beauty shops. Permanent relaxers, for example, are about $20 to $25, compared to $45-$55 in beauty shops. Haircuts range from $1 to $1.50.

Mrs. Smith says that the public should understand that the students are not professionals. "But," she says, "we're very proud of what goes out of here."

Interested customers should call 669-7510 for an appointment.

Dry cleaning

Roland Nicholson, himself the owner and operator of two dry cleaners in the city, is the instructor for the dry cleaning division at the school.

Nicholson runs his shop much like a professional shop; it is important, he told SURVIVAL, that the students be prepared to go out into any dry cleaning establishment.

The students are in the shop 3 hours each day, and are taught pressing, spot removal, minor repairs and care and maintenancce of equipment.

Nicholson says the students are qualified to work on any fabric, be it pure silk or wool or synthetics. The Carver shop is the only one, according to Nicholson, which is authorized to send students out into the commercial market on cleaning jobs. The students learn to use both the more familiar petroleum solvent cleaner and the newer synthetic solvent.

Men's three-piece suits are $1.50; blankets are $2; winter coats are $2 or less, depending on the weight. The students will also clean draperies, curtains, bedspreads and slip covers. They do not clean leather or suede garments and charge 5 cents more for any garment having more than two pleats.

Customers interested in using the Carver dry cleaning service should call 396-0565. Print Shop

George Johnson, the director of the Carver print shop, is a former AFRO employee.

He boasts of the latest equipment in his shop, and teaches students typesetting, offsetting phototypesetting and darkroom skills.

Johnson says that his students will do flyers and posters for groups and churches requesting the services. He guarantees the quality of the work and also says that the price is about half of what groups pay for commercial print shop work.

The only thing the Carver students will not print is raffle tickets.

Johnson says that all requests for flyers must be submitted two weeks ahead of time; he asks that the information for the flyer be complete and that persons submitting the work be sure to include a contact number so that the information can be double checked before any printing is done.

He also says that the students will lay out flyers or will simply print those flyers for which layout has already been done.

For more information, call 396-0565.

Other services offered by Carver include carpentry (students help in demolition and renovation of city homes and are in the process of working on on three homes now diesel mechanics; graphics, and radio and television repair. The school does not offer shoe repair or auto repair, but other vocational schools do have these services.

SURVIVAL recommends that consumers visit the school and see first hand what is offered. The prices are about the best in the city, and the services are excellent. The ages of the students make little difference in the level of competency and skill they show.

For any additional information, call Mrs. Mary Cummings at 396-0565.

AFRO Photos by Mark Gail

LEARNING TO COOK is serious business for Carver students who will prepare meals for consumers at nominal cost. Students receive practical and theoretical training. Jane Cross and Lillian Blake are two students in food services curriculum.

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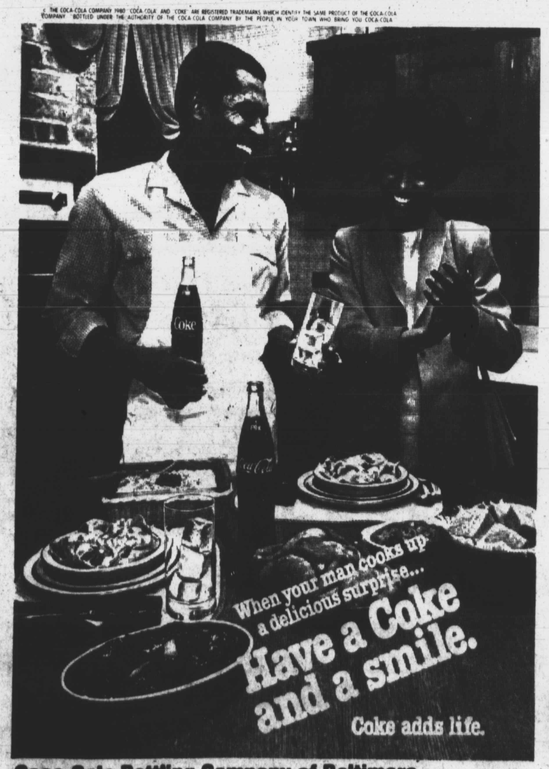

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