What a fun, learning summer it was at the Mt. Royal camp

By Brion Tyson

In a genuine effort to develop further the reading and writing ability of area students ages 8 through 10, the Mount Royal-Orioles Reading Camp, a summer program sponsored by the Baltimore Orioles baseball team, is cultivating youngsters' talent through a technique called the "Language - Experience" approach to reading and writing.

The six-week summer camp, overseen by two counselors, Kay Ballard and Elijah Williams, consists of 32 student-campers and 16 counselors, from city high schools and colleges selected for their scholastic and athletic ability. The two campers per counselor ratio is one of the advantages of the Mount Royal-Orioles reading program.

In the course of a day, campers participate in a number of activities, including sharing an experience with the entire group by showing, reading, and explaining. Reading is encouraged through the program's self-selected silent reading period. Here each day, campers read silently for 15 minutes from a book or periodical of their own choice.

Each week campers visit the Enoch-Pratt Library and at the end of the six-week camp period, each camper has learned to look up a book in the library and has gone through the complete process of applying for, and obtaining, his or her own library card.

As a daily activity, one camper reads aloud a story from a selected group of children's literature. Campers' reading is also encouraged through High Interest Level reading kits, comprised of selected material taken from books, magazines, and newspapers. "By giving them something to read and talk about that they are really interested in, many times they will research and begin to read on their own," says Elijah Williams.

All games and activities incorporated into this six-week program are chosen in such a way that campers must either read, write, spell or explain during their participation. "We put emphasis on games that will improve their literacy like "Scrabble," spelling or vocabulary." "These games require that the children either read, write, spell or explain," states Kay Ballard, senior counselor for the Oriole-funded reading program.

The 16 counselors, selected for their scholastic-athletic ability, serve as role models for many of the campers; yet they stress to the youngsters that sports are great, but education comes first.

Trips are scheduled for each of the six camp weeks, these trips allow the counselors to exercise the Language-Experience approach to reading and writing.

According to Senior Counselors Williams and Ballard, this has proven to be a highly successful technique. "We take our campers to different places each week, when they return they are called on to give oral presentations and write about their experience using illustrations and vocabulary words." Each camper creates a book telling of, and illustrating, his or her trip experiences for each week of camp. "This method incorporates describing, reading, writing and creativity. As well as allowing campers to perform in each of these capacities. It provides a self-made souvenir of these trips for the children. First they experience it, then they think it, they say it, they write it, and finally they read it," states a delighted Kay Ballard.

The final activity of each day is the Self-Sustained writing period. During this time campers write one page telling of his or her activities of the day. After each day campers have been exposed to writing silently and aloud, listening, writing, and interacting and communicating with their fellow campers. Many of these campers are reportedly reading beyond the level expected of their particular age group.

Mr. Williams says, "We attempt to instill in each camper a positive and winning attitude. We praise their efforts and encourage them to go that 'extra mile'. We know that every child can learn; perhaps some faster or slower than others, but learn and learn well nevertheless....that's what we are about."

Ms. Ballard says, "One of the main aims of this program is to encourage these children to read and write, not only in school but for personal growth and enjoyment. If we accomplish this much we know that they will continue to learn through the motivation of their own interests."

"Already results can be seen," asserts Mr. Williams. "There are many cases where parents have called us or even stopped by to pay us a visit and thank us for inspiring their child to read and write more at home. It's the biggest reward we can receive because we know that these children will be better off because of us."

Ms. Ballard attributes the program's success to her co-worker, and "the very fine, hard working and cooperative group of students and counselors". These junior counselors are Eric Cannady, Ronald Mills, John Johnson, LaTonia Yancy, Nia Jones, Brenda Williams, Mayess Foster, Warrick Graves, Mark Duncan, Edward Goode, Terrance Pope, Dwayne Cooper, Tracey Walker, Darryl Owens, and Kevin Brewer.

According to Mr. Williams and Ms. Ballard, these 16 area high school and college students have played a major role in the smooth operation of this summer's program.

Thanks to all of these individuals and the Baltimore Orioles, an eager group of 32 elementary school students ages 8 to 10 will be better prepared to handle the task of obtaining a sound, quality education.

HAPPY SUMMER READING — Shown from left to right are Sylvia Gold, 7, and Mayess Foster, 18, her tutor for the summer reading program. Then, Dwayne Cooper, 17, is shown with Tavon Barnes, 9, and Jason Parker, 8, examines a book by himself.

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR WOMEN

Baltimore New Directions for Women, Inc. sponsors a month-long series of "Your Career Key" workshops, especially designed to assist working professionals with personal career strategies at the Village of Cross Keys, 5100 Falls Rd.

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OUR WORLD

ELIGIBLE BACHELORETTES '84

All Eligible Bachelors and Bachelorettes Photos by P. A. Greene and Bruce Smallwood.

Developed By Pattie Hodges

Last week we showcased Baltimore bachelors for 1984. This week we offer you our eligible bachelorettes — their vocations, hobbies, qualities they seek in a mate, their pet peeves and their thoughts on the problem with black male-female relationships.

Yolanda James

SHAWN MURRAY, a 5' 5" Scorpio and clerk-receptionist, likes traveling, swimming, playing softball.

Shawn also likes men who are intelligent, trustworthy and well-groomed.

Her pet peeves are broken promises, hypocracy and jealousy.

She thinks that too much tension between couples because of economic struggles causes the problem in black relationships.

Shawn Murray

YOLANDA JAMES, a 5' 3" Sagittarian, is a receptionist. Her hobbies are bowling, rollerskating, playing piano.

Yolanda likes men who are honest, courteous and ambitious.

Her pet peeves are arguments, possessiveness and deceit.

She feels that the relationships between black males and females are marred because they don't talk to each other.

Maude Byrd

ROSEMARY BURTON, 5' 6", Cancer, is a receptionist whose hobbies are swimming, bike riding and running track.

Rosemary likes men with inner strength who are masterful and physically fit.

Her pet peeves are stubborness, dishonesty and insecurity.

She thinks the problem between black males and females exists because our men do not know their own identity as black men.

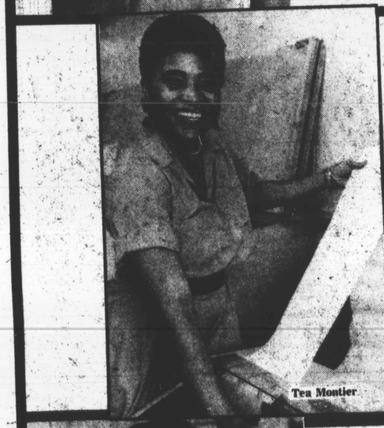
Rosemary Burton

MAUDE BYRD, 5' 5", Virgo and a HCFA Specialist, likes dancing, reading, attending plays and traveling.

Maude also likes men who are tall, have nice personalities and like to travel.

Her pet peeves are bossiness and selfishness.

Maude thinks that the problem in black male-female relationships stems from not ironing out problem situations together and not sharing ideas.



Tea Montier

VIRGINIA MACER, 5' 4", Libra, and a group premium examiner, likes playing pinochle, seeing Broadway shows, listening to music and going to basketball games.

Virginia also likes men who are sincere and have interest compatible with hers.

Her pet peeve is seeing men overdo the macho bit.

She thinks that black couples have problems with their relationships because they don't know how to communicate with each other.

Virginia Macer

TEA MONTIER, 5' 7", Cancer, is a free lance journalist, commercial producer and news anchor, WJZ-TV News, City Line.

Her hobbies: swimming, horseback riding, roller-skating and bicycling.

The qualities Tea seeks in a mate are sensitivity, intelligence, honesty and industriousness.

Her pet peeves are petty bickering, inability to follow through on plans and lack of foresight.

Tea feels that black males and females have problems in their relationships because of not taking enough time and energy to make the relationship work.

Theresa Coleman

CLAUDETTE EDGERTON, Cancer, is a teacher. Her hobbies: bowling, dancing, horseback riding and shopping for clothes.

Claudette likes men who are down to earth, honest and well-rounded.

Her pet peeves are immaturity and selfishness.

She feels that the problem with black male-female relationships is not understanding each other and not talking things out.

Claudette Edgerton

THERESA COLEMAN, 5' 4", a Scorpion, is a features specialist and cheerleading coach. Her hobbies: writing poetry, short stories, gymnastics, listening to music and watching sports.

Theresa likes men who are intelligent, understanding and have the will to succeed.

Her pet peeves are dishonesty, sloppiness and tardiness.

She feels that the problem in black male-female relationships is caused by poor communication and lack of understanding.