Carnival brings fun to eastside residents

By Tea Montier
AFRO Staff Writer

When Rolanda and Ranita Holmes first heard about the carnival that was coming to East Baltimore the young twins were totally excited. When they learned their cousin Robin was going that night, the twins decided that they were going to go too.

So Rolanda and Ranita and Robin Anita rounded up their aunt and off to the carnival they went.

The tro rode rides, took pictures, ate plenty of cotton candy and overall had a really good time.

For the past 12 days residents of East Baltimore have been treated to a backyard carnival with all of the glamour, glitter and attractions that go with it.

But behind the facade of smiling faces and festive music lies a very serious cause, that of "Stopping the Youth Killings" in Baltimore City.

"The carnival is a medium to get through to the general public," said Rev. Willie Ray, spearhead of the "Stop the Killings" coalition that was responsible for bringing the carnival to town. "This is an ongoing crusade. This carnival is just an introduction to what we're going to do."

Some other plans that Rev. Ray and the coalition would like to see carried out include the establishment of satellite inner city outreach centers geared directly towards youth.

"After 10 o'clock most recreation centers close and the young person is back on the street," said Rev. Ray. "Anyway recreation centers today are just not attractive anymore. We want to establish centers where youths can come to learn about many things. We don't want to use just one theme — stop the killings. We want to concentrate on various youth problems while serving as a youth hotline."

Yesterday (Thursday) would have been the Baltimore Youth Fair's special tribute for the handicapped, but because of the rain the event has been postponed until today (Friday) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At that time, all handicapped and disabled persons will have free admission for all rides.

According to Frank B. Okroy, the carnival's director of marketing, the hoped for benefits from this special project, "are to show the handicapped of the area, our concern and compassion for their plight. We know the many problems that the handicapped have coping with the shoving, pushing and other problems related to crowds of people rushing on a carnival midway. We also have seen the tears and hurt that this environment can bring to their spirit."

Continued Okroy in a letter to the mayor's handicapped services coordinator, "This is our reason for a special handicapped day — a day when everyone shares the same concerns and problems, and where everyone has the patience to wait while an individual is unloaded from a wheelchair to a ride and back again."

Also, today (Friday) from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. all rides will be free for financially deprived children and single parents. Those rides are being provided compliments of "The Baltimore Coalition to Stop the Killings and Olympic Expositions, Inc.

Because the carnival has proven to be a successful venture in East Baltimore, organizers of the event are considering extending the carnival's Baltimore visit until June 9 and moving its location from East Baltimore to West Baltimore.

"We've already begun touching bases on a couple of locations in West Baltimore," said Rev. Ray, "now we are waiting on a response."

Dr. Smoot given the A. H. Robins Award

Roland T. Smoot, M.D. has been honored by the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland (Maryland State Medical Society) with the 1985 A. H. Robins Award for community service.

The award was presented April 25 at the 187th Annual Meeting of the Faculty, held at the Hunt Valley Inn in recognition of Dr. Smoot's outstanding service to his community at large.

Dr. Smoot is the immediate past president of the medical society and a past president of the Baltimore City Medical Society. He is a specialist in internal medicine and a member of the staff of Provident Hospital in Baltimore. There he founded and directed the first alcoholism detoxification unit to be established in a community hospital in the United States.

This project spread to other hospitals throughout the county and aided in the acceptance of the concept that alcoholism is a disease and not just a human failing.

Since his earliest days in medical practice, Dr. Smoot sought to increase the enrollment of minority students in the fields of medicine and allied health professions. His efforts resulted in large increases in black enrollment both at the University of Maryland Medical School and at Johns Hopkins University Medical School.

But more than increasing enrollment, Dr. Smoot with his wife, Minnie, demonstrated their concern for those students who were often homesick and bewildered. They offered their home, their encouragement and their solicitude to dozens of students over the years and continue this outreach today.

Dr. Smoot received the Baltimore Urban League's Equal Opportunity Award in 1983 for "outstanding and meritorious contributions to the field of medicine as a professor and practitioner, for dedicated leadership as a poineer in recruiting, admission and retention of minorities in the field of medicine and other allied professions, and for devotion to and addressing the health problems of all people in Baltimore and the State of Maryland."

Dr. Smoot was nominated for the A.H. Robins Award by the Baltimore City Medical Society. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and has served as President of the Maryland Thoracic Society. A native of Washington, D.C., he is a graduate of Howard University School of Medicine.

Melissa Edwards awarded Frostburg St. scholarship

FROSTBURG — Miss Melissa A. Edwards, of 5811 Gist Ave. Baltimore, has been awarded an Academic Scholarship to attend Frostburg State College.

The scholarship, given to Maryland residents who have demonsfrated outstanding scholastic ability in high school, is based solely on academic merit and not financial need.

IMiss Edwards will receive free tuition for her freshman academic year and will be eligible to participate in the college's Honors Program.

Eligibility requirements for the award include a combined Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score of 1100 or more, a Test of Standard Written English (TSWE) score of no less than 50, and a minimum high school cumulative average of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale.

Miss Edwards will graduate from Western High School this spring. Her honors and activities include National Honor Society, commended student in the National Achievement competition, "Who's Who Among American High School Students," concert choir officer, and volleyball and decathlon teams.

Additional information about FSC Merit Scholarships and the honors program may be obtained by contacting Dr. Thomas L. Bowling, associate vice president for student affairs.

House of Ruth fundraising

Fifty volunteers raised over $12,000 in pledges over the two nights. "We completed over 1800 calls in two 3-hour periods," reported Marcella Schuyler and Joyce Kroeller, co-chairs. Funds raised will support the operating expenses of the House of Ruth's shelter for battered women and counseling services.

Anyone wishing to make a contribuion toward this effort may write the House of Ruth, 2518 Maryland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21218.

Hopkins medical student receives $5,000 research grant

Selwyn Vickers, third-year medical student at The Johns Hopkins University, has been selected as a 1985 Commonwealth Fund Medical Fellow, receiving $5,000 to support his research in intestinal physiology.

Vickers, 25, a native of Huntsville, ALA., is one of 20 academically outstanding minority medical students selected nationwide by the Commonwealth Fund in efforts to encourage minority students in academic medicine.

"I am elated that I will have sufficient funds to pursue a research topic and to learn research methods with an accomplished scientist," Vickers says of the honor. He will work with Gregory Bulkley, M.D., director of surgical research at Hopkins.

Vickers worked at the National Institute of Health's Gerontology Research Center, and division of virology during the summers of 1983 and 1984. He received his undergraduate degree from the University.

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Gospel music contestants brace for final showdown

By Alberta D. Payton

Wednesday night's Kentucky Fried Chicken preliminary Gospel Music Contest was a spirit moving, hand-clapping, foot stomping music revival with plenty to shout about.

This salute to gospel music was held at St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church in the Southeast.

The free concert gave the general public, as well as the competition judges, an opportunity to see and hear the semifinalists selected from a field of 125 entrants.

The preliminary auditions were held to narrow the field to two finalists in each of five categories: choir, ensemble, female and male soloist and youth choir. These ten entrants will perform during the competition finals scheduled for Sunday July 14 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Churches sponsoring the winning entrant will share over $10,000 in cash donations contributed by Kentucky Fried Chicken.

The Preliminary program was long with nearly three and half hours worth of singing with various announcements punctuating the program. Some of the Washington area semifinalists who appeared in concert were the Frank Hopper Ensemble from Ambassador Church who sang "I've Got Something to Shout About," which sent the audience screaming. Jeanie Watson from the New Hope Free Baptist Church had received numerous awards for her fine soprano voice. She got the spirit moving with "How Great Thou Art."

The Sargent Gospel Aires from Sargent Memorial Presbyterian seemed to overcome all obstacles with "I must tell Jesus All of My Troubles." Herflite, a multiracial group from the First Assembly of God, delighted the audience with their song "A Strong Lighted Tower. Rhonda Y. Sutton who studied at Oberlin Conservatory and Howard University brought the audience to their feet with the different depths of her voice when she sang "How Can I Say Thanks."

Representing Rankin Chapel was Timothy M. Harris Williams with "When I see Jesus." Other participants were the Gospel Crusader from Crusader Youth Revival Church, Ceceilia Baily from Galbraith AME Zion Church, Thlonius Carroll from St. Judah Southern Baptist Church, The Male Chorus, which was another favorite was from Union Wesley AME Zion Church, Judith E. Carter from the Metropolitan Baptist Church and many more.

The semifinalists were selected by a distinguished panel of judges during a screening process headed by Archie Buffkins, president of the National Committee on Cultural Diversity, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

James Booker's New York

A group of nationally prominent businessmen, headed by Bronx's Fred Brown, newly-elected head of the National Black Republican Council, planning a late June dinner in New York honoring former President Richard Nixon... Heavy eyebrows being raised after the Shaw Divinity School Saturday presented an honorary degree to the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, imprisoned Unification Church leader. University officials denied that it had any connection with a recent $30,000 donation from the church to the school... Singer Lionel Richie awarded an honorary degree Sunday by his alma mater, Tuskegee... The usually highly diplomatic United Nations chambers resembled a rock and roll concert Monday as Stevie Wonder was honored on his 35th Birthday while nearly 200 stations across the nation gave an hour's tribute to him... Abyssinia Baptist Church's Rev. Calvin O. Butts is the new board chairman of the Harlem YMCA... Eleven-year-old K.K. Karanja, a New York City product, is the new U.S. elementary school chess whiz, winning the honors in a national competition over 479 other youngsters from across the nation last week in Charlotte, N.C.

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Around Town: The Bronx Concerned Businessmen will hold a special day on August 6 at Yankee Stadium honoring hard-working Deputy Police Comm. Wilhelmina Holliday... Harlem's famed 369th Armory slated for city landmark status... Harlem community saddened this week by the sudden deaths of ace advertising and newsman C. Melvin Patrick, PAL Executive Director Conrad Ford, retired policeman Elray Hobbs, retired artist Earl Hill and former Red Rooster manager Charles Dixon... Former federal government official Andy White to be a happy father when his daughter, Dr. Cheryl N. White says the "I do" with CCNY music grad Rory Scott at the Church of the Master Saturday... Frankie Richards and the Jet Set New York Atlantic City Friends were greeted by Atlantic City Mayor James Usry last Saturday during their bus outing to the resort city... At least five Harlem area storefront numbers spots, including the former Obie's Restaurant at 135th and Adam Powell Blvd., have been suspiciously firebombed in the past month as the Cuban-Puerto Rican numbers war continues... New York and Philadelphia bus operators continue to complain of discrimination by Atlantic City casinos.

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Show Biz: The 125th Street Innkeepers Association to honor popular La Famille Restaurant manager Mrs. Bea Hopkins at its regular monthly reception on Monday, May 20 at, where else, the La Famille, 125th and Fifth... George Norford, a pioneer in radio and television broadcasting, honored recently for his 20 years of service with Group W. He is the only outside member of the company's board and has previously served as a Vice President and general executive of Westinghouse Broadcasting and Cable, Inc. ... Manufacturers Hanover hosting the gala resumption of the Apollo Theatre amateur nights on May 22, with Daryl Hall and John Oates in a gala UNCF benefit May 23 honoring 1,000 minority public school students, all part of Apollo Week which has been proclaimed by Gov. Mario Cuomo ... The popular Copasetics back after a triumphant tour of Italy, according to manager Leroy Myers, during which they had a prominent New England woman dancer join their entourage.

INNOVATIVE—Trumpeter Miles Davis, celebrating 40 years in show business, will be featured in concert Friday, June 7 as part of the first annual Capital City Jazz Festival. In addition, an exhibition of Miles Davis paintings will be held as a prelude to the Festival and concert, both to be held at the D.C. Convention Center.

Showtime

Ida M. Peters

What's Happening

No matter how they protest, Raquel Welch, DIAHANN CARROLL and Cher - despite long colorful careers in show business - have done nothing to spoil their image as sex symbols, a subject comes up on "The Barbara Walters Special," Wednesday, May 29.

Diahann Carroll's beauty is extraordinary when you think back to her 30 years in show business, but she takes it all in stride:

Barbara: You talk about being an old war-horse, but you are - always have been, are still considered a very sexy lady. Do you know why you are?

DIAHANN: I enjoy men, and I've been ashamed of that. I've always felt that was one of my better qualities.

BARBARA: What you're saying is that if you really like men, you're almost automatically sexy.

DIAHANN: Yes, I really like men. I really do. I prefer the company of men to women.

BARBARA: I could have had Mike Wallace do this interview today if I had -

DIAHANN: (laughter) No, there's something about you that's terribly special. I like it.

LUTHER VANDROSS has new album "The Night I Fell In Love" and a new hit single "Till My Baby Comes Home." He'll start his 1985 tour in Augustus, Ga. on May 30; Charlotte, N.C. June 14; Richmond, Va. June 20 and Greensboror, N.C. June 21.

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The Hong Kong caper becomes a nightmare for BENSON, who's being pursued by police while trying to rescue Gov. Gatling, Clayton and Kraus from the mansion prison of ruthless fashion tycoon Ursula Van Dyne, in the concluding segment of a special two-part episode of "Benson," airing Friday, May 24, on the ABC Television Network.

In "Made in Hong Kong" Part II, fashion thief Ursula Van Dyne has kidnapped Clayton, mistaking him for a famous fashion designer. She gets the governor in her clutches when he gets a clue about Clayton's whereabouts, and captures Kraus when she and Benson visit Ursula's sweatshop factory. Benson escapes from her henchmen, and is now alone in his efforts to find his friends because the police believe he has done away with Clayton. Robert Guillaume stars as Benson.

Lionel Brockman Richie received the Doctor of Music degree from Tuskegee Institute at graduation last week. The Tuskegee, Ala. native encouraged the more than 500 graduates to consider his motto: "Whatever you believe, you can achieve." Richie's wife, Brenda, received the Centennial Commencement Presidential Award. Mrs. Richie, also a Tuskegee Institute graduate, is co-author of several of Lionel Richie's top-rated songs and was production assistant for two albums by Kenny Rogers. Dr. Benjamin E. Payton (L) is president of Tuskegee Institute.

Vanessa sues for $400M

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (UPI) "Former Miss America Vanessa Williams sued Penthouse magazine and a photographer for publishing sexually explicit pictures of her that she claims cost her several jobs, including a role in a Broadway musical, and her title.

The suit was revealed Thursday, it expands on a $70,000 suit filed last year against Tom Chiapel, who took the pictures and sold them to Penthouse.

Williams was forced to relinquish the crown as the first black Miss America when the photos showing her nude with another woman were made public last July.

Helene Freeman, Williams' attorney, said the suit — to be heard in State Surpreme Court in White Plains — seeks damages for breach of contract, fraud and civil rights violations.

"She's lost a great deal and she continues to lose," Freeman said. "She's also been hurt emotionally."

Freeman said the scandal cost Williams' jobs as a Gillette corporate spokeswoman, roles in commercials for Coca - Cola and American Greeting Co., public relations work for Walt Disney and a Broadway role in "My One and Only."

The suit seeks $150 million in punitive and actual damages against Penthouse and $250 million against Chiapel.

Williams also claims she is entitled to all money the magazine and Chiapel made on the photos, published in Penthouse last September and November, and seeks return of the negatives and prints.

The two issues sold 10 million copies, which brought Penthouse $6 million in sales. Chiapel's payment was never disclosed.

Jeffrey Daichman, an attorney for Penthouse and Chiapel, re-

Continued on page 16.

...AND ALL THAT JAZZ

Next time some of our so-called "jazz lovers" want to bemoan the state of jazz in Baltimore, they will get very little sympathy in this quarter.

We laud the efforts of Bobby Thomas and Camera Productions in making the attempt to bring live jazz into town, for their presentation of Terri Lynne Carrington, though flawed, demonstrated three important things.

One: Gary Bartz is without a doubt one of the top alto saxophonists in the world. His performance was simply exquisite, and alas, it may be among the last times he will be appearing in this area for a while. (More about that shortly.)

Two: Terri Lynne has become a drummer of note, able to keep pace with the best of them.

Three: All of the people in town who talk a good jazz game, are conspiciously missing when it comes to paying a small stipend to hear the music they claim to love.

One thing you can say about rock fans - they support the music. Consider the Michael Jackson tour — ducats were $30, and there were sold-out concerts across the country.

Yet, an artist the stature of Oscar Peterson with Nils Pederson generate cries of "Oh, that's too expensive," although the tab was $25.

Stephan Grappeli is at Ethel's Place through Sunday night. The cover charge is $18 for the weekend.

Dropped in to hear Stephan on opening night, and can say without equivocation, the show is well worth the admission price. The man is simply amazing.

He is now 78 years old, and we can remember hearing him back in the 30s when he was a member of the Hot Club of France, led by guitarist Django Rheinhardt.

If you like the old songs, or are not too familiar with them, Stephan features them all the way through. He started off with "Fascinating Rhythm," "Blue Moon," "St. Louis Blues," "I Get A Kick Out of You," among many others.

Interestingly enough, he did the Stevie Wonder tune, "You Are The Shunshine of My Life," which really swung - the man is amazing as we said.

It's an all-stringed instrument trio, with Jack Sewing on bass, and Marc Fosset, guitar. And that man Marc apply demonstrated the type of jazz coming out of Europe these days.

When he solos, he alternately whistles the riffs, strums them a la Django, hums them a la Slam Stewart, or just scats a la George Benson.

Was trying to think of a single word to describe Stephen's play, and guess it has to be "clean." His music remains classy and clean, even when he is playing smears, slurs and basic blues.

At 78, Stephan won't be around forever, and if you can get in — there was a goodly crowd on opening night - this should not be missed.

Next week, Carmen McRae is on tap at Ethel's Place, and they are taking advance reservations. It might not be a bad idea., if you are planning to make the set.

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Sometimes you pick up information in the strangest ways. For example, a friend was in conversation with the people who handle Sonny Rollins and Betty Carter, and indicated that both of them were scheduled to appear in this area during the summer.

Seems that Sonny Rollins is firm for ArtScape, as we have reported on a previous occasion, but he dropped the word that Betty Carter will also appear at the ArtScape festival.

Betty will be playing a concert at Ft. Dupont Park over in D. C. on July 12 and 13, and is scheduled to appear in Baltimore either 19 or 20.

That's good news, and Baltimore jazz lovers should have no trouble this scene — the price is right.

Got a chance to talk with Gary Bartz at the Drumswell Show at Coppin State College last week, and must say Gary is looking in the best of health.

He has lost some weight, and really looks neat. The bad news— for us that is is that Gary is about to move his residence to Europe. He will probably join up with Charles Tolliver, and becom an expatriate musician.

'Tis completely understandable, since jazz musicians in Europe have equal status with classical music artists. In fact, jazz musicians are really looked up to over there.

He'll probably play in some of the festivals which go on during the summer months in Europe, although nothing is firm at this point. We'll keep you posted.

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Seems some of our readers missed the lineup of the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz Festival, which takes place June 28-30 in Camp Hill, PA, just outside of Harrisburg.

Friday night:
6 p.m. to midnight
Bill Fisher Trio
Ira Sullivan - Joe DiOrio Quintet
Cedar Walton - David Fathead Newman Quartet
Ahmad Jamal Trio
Jam Session

Saturday, 2 p.m. to Midnight
High school all stars
Rob Middleton Quartet
David Chertok jazz films
Al Grey-Buddy Tate Quintet
Roberta Davis - with the Reuben Brown Trio
Clark Terry and the Jolly Giants
Jam Session

Sunday, 2 p.m. to midnight
Steve Rudolph Bebop Band
David Chertok jazz films
The Airman of Note
David Liebman Quartet
Jimmy Witherspoon blues review
James Williams Quintet, with Cecil McBee
All Star jam session

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This Wednesday, the announcement of the Eubie Blake Jazz Festival which will go on at Pier 6 once again, will be announced. It's being put together again by the Kool Jazz folks, so we'll bring you the lineup next week.

Have also learned that once again, the Baltimore Jazz Quest will be a part of the Harborlights Festival scene, with the winners getting a slot in the program.

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Was kinda wondering where they would be holding the AFRAM and other ethnic festivals this year, since most of the places that were available seem to have construction going up.

But, the list is out, and the festival will be held in the new Festival Hall of the Convention Center. Dates for AFRAM is August 2-4.

Just think, they won't have to worry about being rained on this year.