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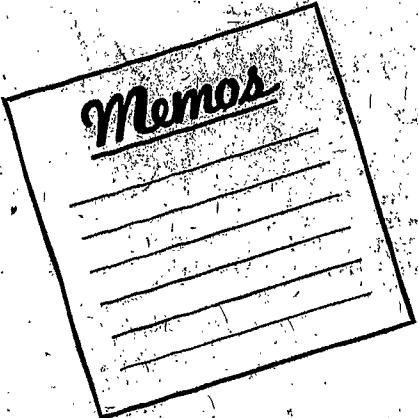
THE CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION



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From the Office of Human Concern

By Father John J. Hempel

By Father John J. Hempel

Memo To Sister James, Project Unique:

It was a rewarding experience to visit the World School of Inquiry, but especially to view a class of pre-schoolers in one of the homes of the inner city. The idea of teaching pre-school youngsters as a group within a home environment seems to have a great deal of merit not only as a teaching media, but also as a means of social orientation. It is hoped that the knowledge and techniques gained from this program can be transferred to the general public and private school systems. I was most disappointed to hear that the funding for this program ends this school year.

Memo To Father Tim, Weider:

I was most proud of your presentation to the Social Action Committee of the Priests Association last week. You certainly have related to the many serious problems of health, education and now even housing in the Steuben area. Your remarks of the Church acting as a catalyst in moving communities to act in relating to poverty, truly exemplifies the spirit of the Secular Mission.

Memo To Rev. Larry Coppard, Joint Office of Urban Ministry:

Attached is a copy of the Rev. Perry Fuller's synopsis of the Joint Office Training Program.

During the years 1964-1968, Urban Ministry in Rochester has emphasized community organization based on citizen participation. This emphasis has ranged from support of black community organization to the establishment of Ecumenical Sector Ministries. Many Catholic and Protestant churches have joined together in these sector efforts to make their neighborhoods more human and desirable places to live.

Out of this organizational thrust came many inquiries about Urban Ministry's help. Our first response was to accept numerous requests for consultation with organizing groups. Soon it became apparent that we simply could not keep up with all the requests. It seemed we needed a more systematic method of meeting the need: action training. The concept is simple enough. Just as we learn skills and procedures in any variety of activities, there are ways of training people in community involvement and action.

After six months of research, visiting action training centers around the country, reading and talking, we developed a six-week program called Foresight Action Training. We cover such things as analysis of the metropolitan Rochester scene and an examination of some issue, such as housing, to see all the inter-related factors. After the initial training is over, staff time is made available to the trained groups to check on their progress in the issues they have chosen to pursue.

We also use the technique of simulations or gaming. While the word "games" seems to introduce an excessively lighthearted note in the procedure, it is in fact a very serious activity. The participants are divided into teams, representing various groupings within a usual city mix: politicians, humanitarians, speculators, planners, minority groups. They interact, within the rules of the game, in ways like real-life situations. This method is learning by experience, and it considerably compresses the learning time.

We have had experience with other kinds of training events. For example, several months ago we developed a session of computerized gaming for fifty of the top executives of the Sybron Corporation. The game was "Metropolis", and it was played in a computer center in Ithaca. The executives came from all over the world and played the game for an entire day, followed by an analysis of their results as city-runners and some directions for more business involvements in social concerns.

community involvement. Also, Rev. Larry Coppard, staff to the Office of Human Concern, by virtue of a grant from Union Theological Seminary, New York, is developing experimental ways of training seminarian students and providing continuing education for clergy.

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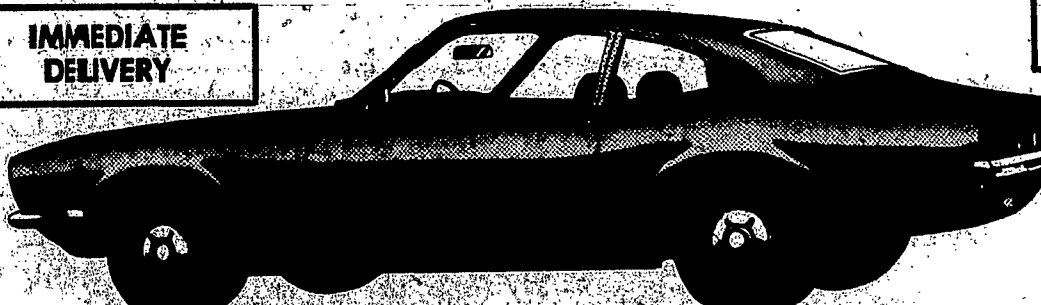
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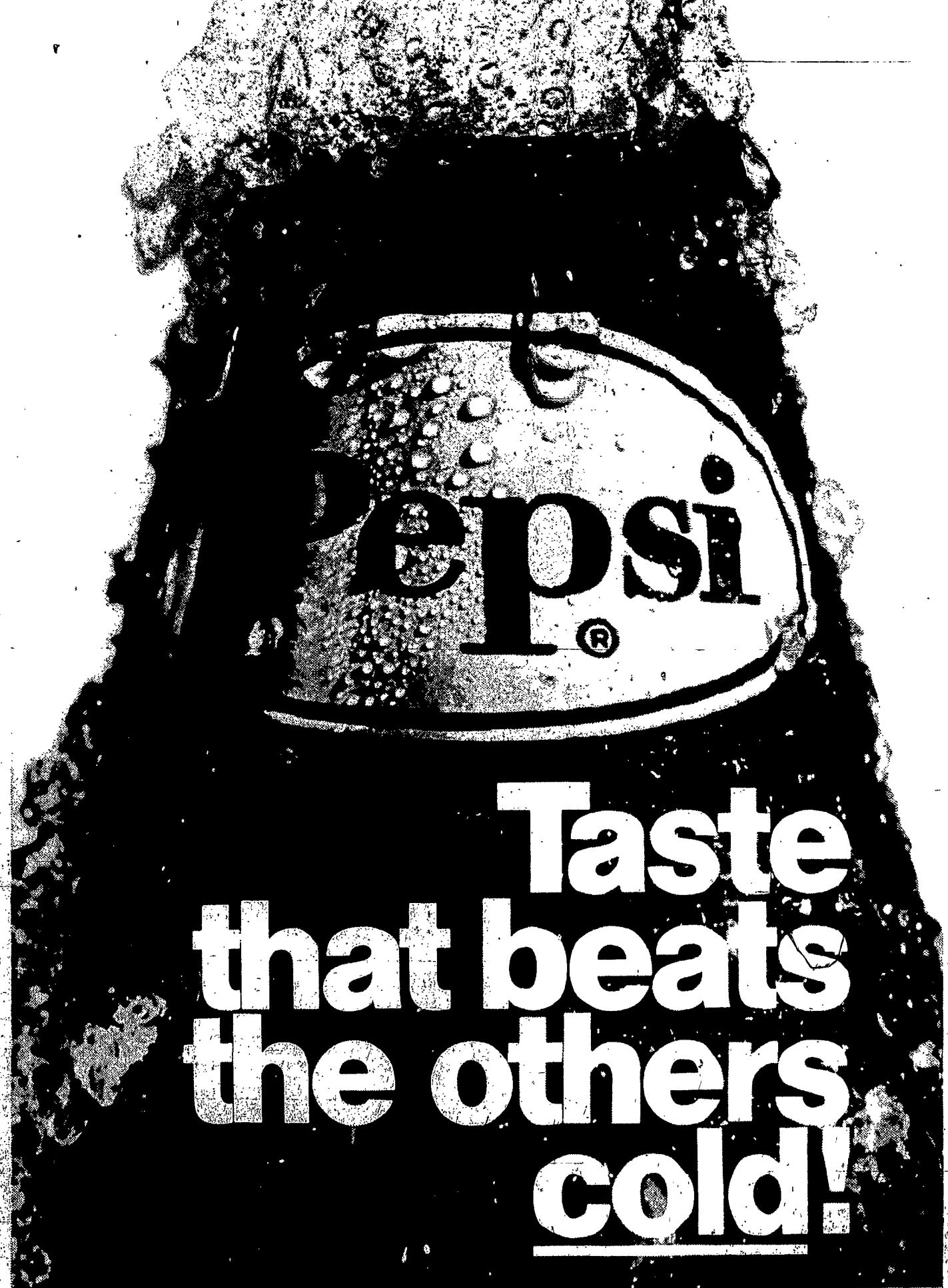
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