HEALTH IN ACTION

'Health fads' don't touch the 'unfashionably' poor

PAUL B. CORNELY, MD.

This is really a country of healt fads, and the "In thing" today is the environment. Everybody is talking about what we are going to do about it. Senator Muskie began it and President Nixon has taken it over. There is every indication it is becoming a major political issue in our country.

DR. PAUL CORNELY

Most of those who talk about this problem get no further than water and air pollution. These are improtant, and I want it clearly understood that I wholeheartedly support any and all efforts to clean up our environment. I cannot help but believe, however, that the reason for this long overdue declaration of war on pollution is because America's upper and middle classes are beginning to feel its effects.

Their expensive seaside resorts are becomeing polluted and pure air to breathe is becoming harder to find.

Pollution has always been a problem of the poor. It's nothing new to us, because we could not run from it as the rich have done.

Even President Nixon has not said enough about the trash and garbage problems that plague our inner cities. This is important too. It has real meaning to millions of human begins.

Recently I had an opportunity to testify before the Senate Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution in support of Senate Bill 2005 (which would amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act).

In addition to expressing the viewpoints of Al'HA's 25,000 members, I was able to speak to these key leaders on behalf of millions who need and desperately want a better deal for their families and neighborhoods.

The senators were told about visits to areas such as the Canales Courts sector of Houston. Here in near 100-degree heat, people of the Second Ward —mostly Mexican-Americans — came out to tell us about mosquitoes that try to eat them alive" and rats "big enough to scare away cats."

In Wire Mill Road, an Indian ghetto, outside the city limits of Great Falls, Mont., 12 American-Indian families living on the side of a hill face a unique environmental health problem.

The hillside is used by the city residents as a junkyard. Every year the piles of junk, automobiles, and other trash grow larger and move closer to the homes of the Indians.

The senators were told that in Chicago's southside black children grow up playing on crumbling sidewalks, and rotting garbage and trash; or in alleys; streets and fields cluttered with rubble from torn down building and abandonel, rusting cars.

Such families, the senators were told, cannot help but be plaquel by rats, flies, cockraoches and other vermin that increase rapidly as trash and garbage accumulate.

Since Biblical times it has been known that rats carry diseases through fleas and infect water and food. What is more tragic is that infants and young children are bitten by rats.

Some 14,000 rat bites are reported every year and the total, including cases unreported, must be at least three times this number.

• • •

I studied the rat-bite statistics for Washington, D.C. recently. During the last 15 years, there were about 750 reported rat bites, 290 of which were suffered by children under two years old. This is outrageous!

In our country we seem to care more about animals since we have the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals than for infant and babies. In addition, our government has standards for farms where milk is produced.

Housing and the surroundings for the cows must meet certain standards. I have never seen garbage and trash piled up against these barns, but it is done to human abodes.

Flies play a big role in carrying bacteria and other organisms that can infect the food of adults and infants. The high infant mortality rate for the poor and disadvantaged can in part be blamed on diseases caused by contamination of the milk or the untensils used in preparing their formula. Also these insects crawl on the face, mouth and hands of these babies in their cribs.

There also is growing evidence that the cockroach is a much more dangerous pest than some believed it to be in the past.

Ghetto asthma may be due to reactions to substances found in these lowly insects.

Far too little has been said, the senators were told, about the psychological and emotional trauma that a filthy, rat-infested environment has on those who must face it daily, but the anger and the resentment as well as the apathy and the depression of the ghetto dweller must inded in some degree arise from these factors.

Broadcasters must present both views

WASHINGTON (UPI) — the Federal Communications Commission, responding to a Supreme Court ruling, has proposed a new rule requiring that broadcasting stations seek out opposing points of view on controversial issues.

The FCC said Friday the proposed rule would require that a broadcaster be required to seek out opposing viewpoints if he presents only one side of a controversial issue in a series of broadcasts made within a "reasonably close" time period of six months or less.

If no response is produced by general announcements soliciting them, the broadcaster would be required to contact specific spokesmen to present a contrasting viewpoint, the FCC said.

If there is still no response, the FCC said, then the commission will have noted that the broadcaster made a good faith attempt.

The commission said it was proposing the rule under the fairness doctrine as a result of the Supreme Court ruling last year that the broadcaster must take adequate coverage of public issues.

No Fat Figures From USDA

WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department has again refused to let consumers find out, from federal meat plant inspection files, how much fat individual processors are putting into hot dogs and other cooked sausage.

But while the plant inspection files on fat remain closed department spokesmen disclosed they now plan to give consumers access to brand-by-brand reports on fat in hot dogs from another source — a projected program of testing sausage samples purchased in retail markets.

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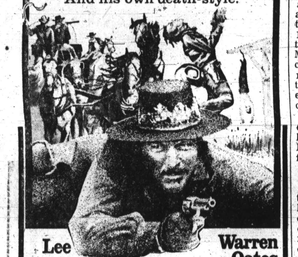

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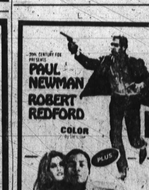

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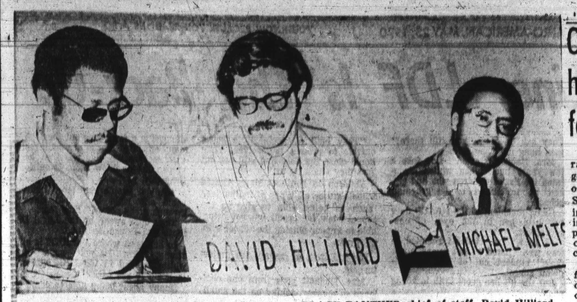
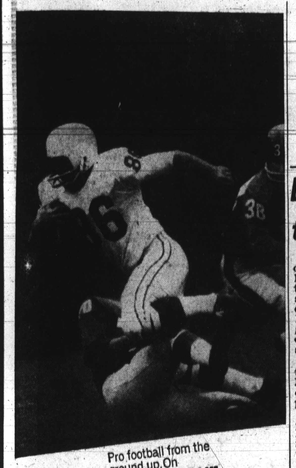


BLACK PANTHER chief of staff, David Hilliard, left, joined other experts in discussion of Crime and Race during NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund's annual institute in New York City. Center is Michael Meltzner, first assistant counsel, LDF, and at right Leroy Clark, LDF poverty litigation chief. Also on this panel was Marvin E. Wolfgang, professor, University of Pennsylvania and author of "Crime and Race: Conceptions and Misconceptions." They spotlighted discrepanies in treatment of poor, minorities and whites, the crackdown by police on unpopular groups and the question of whether violent revolution is the only answer to what is happening in the country.



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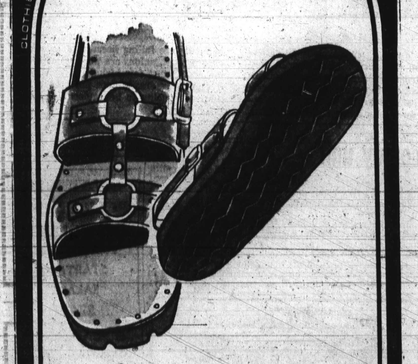

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City budget hearing set for May 24

Chairman J. Joseph Curran, chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee of the City Council, has set Sunday, May 24, at 3 p.m. in the War Memorial Building for the annual "Taxpayers' Hearing Day" proceedings of the City Council.

This is the opportunity for city taxpayers and residents to present their views concerning the city's budget and the revenue measures proposed to finance it. All persons are eligible to address the Council at this hearing.

On Tuesday, May 26, at 2 p.m. the Department of Education budget, the largest single component of the city's expenditure program, will be the subject of a separate hearing, followed by a hearing at 4:30 p.m. on the Community College of Baltimore budget.

Chavez Raps DD 'Scab Grape' Buying

WASHINGTON — A top farm union official last week demanded a halt to Defense Department purchase of "scab grapes" as well as a halt to subsidies for growers fighting the drive of farm workers to build their union.

Cesar Chavez director of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO charged that the Defense Department's stepped up table grape buying is more than "coincidence — I think it is planned." Chavez pointed out that "during those periods last year when the boycott was its most effective, the Defense Department assigned a buyer" who most often purchased grapes from the growers "who were feeling the most heat from the boycott."

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — HARRY F. THOMPSON, analyst programer at Lincoln University, was elected president of the Missouri Association for Educational Data Systems at the annual Spring Conference on the campus of the University of Missouri, Columbia. He has served on the Board of Directors for the association this past year and has been active in MAEDS since it began five years ago.

LDF launches scholarships to double lawyers' number

NEW YORK — "Today only one per cent "of the lawyers and law students in the United States are black, said Jack Greenberg Friday, announcing a NAACP Legal Defense Fund program to double the number of black lawyers in the next seven years.

Greenberg estimated that there are now 3000 black lawyers in the country out of a total of 325,000 in the profession.

The fund will provide, the director counsel said, 1500 law scholarships in that period and will hire 200 graduates as one-year interns. The scholarships have been named for the late Walter P. Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers.

Greenberg spoke at the observance of the fund's 30th anniversary and the 16th anniversary of the Supreme Court's school desegregation decision.

The fund, Greenberg said, is launching a drive to raise $16,250,000 over the next three years to support its program. The scholarships will be given over the next five years, resulting in the projected increase after seven years, he said.

• • •

"There is only one black lawyer for every 7,000 black Americans, and in the South and Southwest the ratio is one to 37,000," he said. "The comparable national figure for white Americans is one to 637.

The program would grant three-year scholarships to 300 new law students each year over the next five years, resulting in the graduation of 1500 law students by the end of seven years.

With 1,500 other students expected to enter law school independently over the same period, he said, a total of 3000 new law students could be expected to graduate within seven years.

"There will be no cutback in any of our litigation," said William T. Coleman, vice president of the fund's board of directors.

Greenberg said the fund is "uniquely qualified to take on this responsibility, since it has for many years served as the training ground for the most effective black members of the bar."

The program will include summer jobs for students, who will work with experienced constitutional lawyers, and internships for graduates, who will work with the fund's civil rights lawyers for a year.

"When he completes the graduate year," Greenberg said, "the fund will help the young lawyer to begin his law practice in an area where his services and expertise are desperately needed.

"We will pay the lawyer a diminishing subsidy over a three-year period, enabling him to take cases for defendants who cannot pay legal fees."

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The fund also said that it will launch school integration projects in 36 northern communities over the next three years in an effort to eliminate de facto school segregation.

Greenberg said the LDF plans to develop legal action in 12 new school districts each year, over a three-year period, and to provide technical assistance to local groups seeking to mobilize support for integration.

Final selection of the communities has not been made, Greenberg said, but he indicated they would be in medium-size urban areas.

The aim of the plan, Greenberg said, would be to "discredit the false dichotomy which the administration has attempted to create between so-called de facto and de jure segregation."

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W. Indians fight plan for flogging

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, W. I., (UPI) — A government proposal to reintroduce cat-o-nine tails flogging punishment in a crackdown on increasing black power militancy touched off a storm of controversy last week on this Caribbean Island.

The Grenada Christian Council said Premier Eric Gairy's proposal to reintroduce the whip as official punihment clearly violated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and would only breed further violence.

The council in an open letter to Gairy called for immediate dialogue between the government and black power leaders. It followed an outbreak of five suspicious fires in a 48-hour period on this Caribbean spice island.

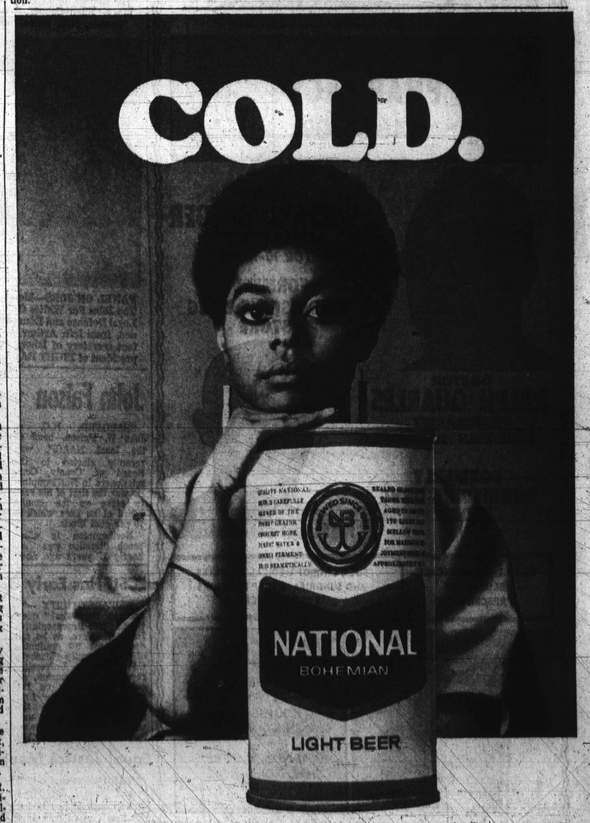
The fires were the latest manifestation of a growing breach between Gairy's government and black power leaders.

The previous week, Gairy announced he was doubling the island's 300-man police force to curb black power disorders. He called on Britain to provide modern equipment for the expanded force.

Grenada, most of whose 100,000 persons are black, is an internally self-governing associated state within the British Commonwealth.

DOVER, Del. — DR. LUNA I. MISHOE, president of Delaware State College, has been elected president of the Delaware Council of Presidents for 1970-71.

COLD.



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