SURVIVAL

News to help you cope with the '80's

Inner city grocery bills not always higher

SURVIVAL survey shows surprising results

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

True or false: A supermarket that is part of a large chain located in the inner city charges more money for inferior merchandise.

If surveyed, much of the black community would give a "true" response to the above question. But in an AFRO Survival survey this week, we found that markets not only charge the same prices as their suburban competitors, but that the quality of the merchandise was at least equal and in some cases superior.

According to a spokesperson from the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs, the myth of higher prices and poorer quality for inner city customers has largely been due to the influx of smaller markets in black neighborhoods, which do in fact charge higher prices in order to remain competitive.

Unfortunately, the spokesperson said, these "corner markets" are many times more convenient to a population that does not on the whole have access to easy transportation. What happens, he said, is that neighborhood residents end up frequenting the smaller markets rather than going through the trouble of getting to the larger stores.

Barry Scher, director of public information for the Giant Food chain, supported the statements of the government official.

"I have heard that statement so many times," he said, "and there is absolutely no truth to it."

"All of the stores go to the same warehouse and are able to select from the same merchandise. In the case of Giant markets, a computer decides what portions of merchandise will go to each market."

(AFRO photo by Mark Gail)

PRODUCE LIKE THIS was seen in all of the markets surveyed this week. AFRO found quality of meat and produce no different in smaller food chain stores than in larger chains.

When asked about the lack of the larger food chain stores in the inner city such as Giant, Scher replied that the region was more economical and practical, though he testiemnty endorsed.

"We have to have enough land to build a 40,000 square foot market with ample parking space," he said, and we also have to make sure that the population of the community we build in is adequate enough to support the store."

Large cities frequently do not have the necessary land, he said. In addition, the current trend of American consumers toward "one-stop shopping" makes it more appealing for speculators to consider shopping centers as opposed to one-site spots.

The statements of Scher and government officials held up in the AFRO survey. We visited twelve different supermarkets in the inner city, including east and west Baltimore, and seven supermarkets in surrounding suburban areas.

Markets visited included Pantry Pride, Brown's, Food-A-Rama, A&P, Giant and Super Pride.

Using a list of what we considered items which would be most frequently purchased by black consumers, we priced the items in each store visited.

The list included white bread, medium eggs, whole milk, bologna, whole chickens, jelly, catsup, yellow onions, pork chops, ground beef, hot dogs, Tide, Pampers, Clorox bleach, lettuce, and toilet tissue.

There were no noticeable differences in prices of the items, except in the cases of individual sales or markdowns. Ground beef generally ran from $1.49-$1.69 per pound. White bread was available in most stores anywhere from 2 loaves for 85 cents to 3 loaves for $1.00.

Yellow onions were 69 cents for a 3 pound bag in every store visited, 3 pounds of apples were 99 cents in every store except the Food-A-Rama in Mondawmin Mall where they were 10 cents cheaper for the same quantity.

A box of overnight Pampers ran from $3.19 to $3.29 in every store visited; a large box (3 lb. 1 oz.) Tide was most often $1.69.

There was no significance abundance of lower prices in Giant markets, despite their advertisement of having "warehouse prices," and the other markets visited was in the price of eggs (69 cents for Giant against 84-87 cents for other stores); Giant's own brand of bleach was 57 cents as opposed to nearly 90 cents for Clorox in most stores, and a half gallon of whole milk was about 10 cents cheaper than at the other stores.

But in other items, including chicken wings (79 cents a pound) butter ($2.09 per pound) and jelly (28 oz-$1.65) it did not appear that it would benefit a consumer more to shop at Giant than at any other market.

The most economical market for budget-conscious consumers appeared to be the Pantry Pride located in Mondawmin Mall. In contrast to all the other stores surveyed, including the Giant, Pantry Pride was the only market which carried a relatively extensive supply of generic products.

Prices for those items were noticeably different: 14 oz. of Heinz catsup, for example, was 79 cents, but a generic brand, same size was 30 cents less. Thirty-two ounces of jelly at Pantry Pride was $1.69, but the generic brand was one dollar less. Generic bleach at the Pantry Pride was 55 cents as opposed to the 89 cents charged for Clorox (1 gallon size), and four rolls of generic toilet paper was 79 cents, against $1.09 for four rolls of the more popular Charmin.

Pantry Pride also seemed to have a more economical line of its own products, saving the consumer anywhere from 30 to 60 cents per item.

None of the stores we visited, in contrast to what we expected, were dirty or unkempt, and many of them had delicatessen sections.

As a result of our first market survey, we would have to say that smaller chains are not unfair to the inner city customer.

Next week, we'll visit neighborhood stores which are not part of any large chain, as well as the Lexington Market, and see how those markets stand the test.

End of a neighborhood tradition

(Photo by Roman Hankewycz)

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES will no longer be sold to neighborhood residents in Coldspring Lane-Wabash St. area. Herman Eagan (pictured) and wife are stopping service after twenty years due to ill health

For twenty years, Herman and Eleanor Eagan have been a familiar sight to the people who live in the Coldspring Lane Wabash St. area.

Every Sunday morning, the Eagans have driven their truck filled with fresh fruits and vegetables into the sleepy neighborhood and wait for the customers to come.

And come they did. Not usually at 7:00 a.m., when the Eagans would be busy setting up, but after a while, after they had had time to take in the morning and realize that Sunday dinner and the week, too, could use some fresh produce that was not available at the neighborhood grocery store.

The Eagans are ending their twenty-year stay on the corner of Coldspring Lane. Because of illness, rising costs of farming, and fatigue, they will not be around for the people on Sunday mornings anymore.

"We feel kind of bad," Mrs. Eagan told the AFRO, "but there really is no way we can continue. It's too hard now...we have been needing more help for some time now...but help is hard to come by," she said.

Used to be that the neighborhood kids would help set up, help distribute the orders to the regular customers. But as weather has gotten bad—extremely cold winters and scorching summers, folks have been a bit reluctant to pitch in like they used to.

"I remember one winter morning," Mrs. Eagan said, "it was so cold. It was terrible.

"Herman and I sat out there and waited and waited...and nobody came. We thought we were going to have to go home without selling anything."

But that was not the case: After the sun came out "it was about noon," Mrs. Eagan remembered, "people started coming from everywhere. It was funny, really. We actually had lines of people all anxious to get their food."

With the emergence of more and more food markets in the area, Mrs. Eagan feels that the residents have more opportunities to buy the fresh produce they like.

"We used to try to bring the folks the very special vegetables they asked for...but now the markets have those things."

The Eagans started bringing their truck into the city at the suggestion of a neighborhood resident twenty years ago. Since then, they have occupied the same corner and met many new people.

"Some people we know by name...and some people we know by the Perfume they wear," she said. The property now owned by Mr. Shinn's body shop was once owned by "Mr. C.", who, Mrs. Eagan remembers, was very supportive when they first started.

If has been a long and beautiful time for the couple who would now like to get out of farming altogether.

Undoubtedly, it has been just as beautiful a time for the customers who are used to seeing a truck load of fruits, vegetables... and love...every Sunday morning.

Fleas like winter

Fleas do not flee from pets with the passing of summer into winter, contrary to common belief.

Veterinarian Diane Camilleri says the insects often hang on to dogs and cats, and even furniture and carpets, well into November.

The vet for the "Bide-a-Wee Animal Shelters in New York recommends flea collars as the best and easiest preventive measure. She says the collar should be worn until winter.

She also says flea sprays and powders are useful as preventive measures and treatments for pets that already have fleas.

Yard and kennel sprays are another good idea, she says, and flea shampoo for pets that are allowed outdoors.

In addition, sprays and detergents that are too strong to be used on pets are available to kill fleas indoors.

BEST BUYS....

MEATS	PRICE PER POUND	FISH	PRICE PER POUND
Beef, Ground, Regular		Bluefish	
Beef, Ground, Lean		Butterfish	
* Chuck Roast, Bone In, Blade		Croakers	
* Chuck Roast, Boneless		Flounders, Whole	
Cross Cut Roast, Boneless		Norfolk Spots	
Rib Roast		Perches	
* Steak, Porterhouse		Steakfish	
Steak, Round, Full Cut		Scallops	
Steak, Sirloin, Bone In		Shrimp, Regular	
* Stew Beef, Boneless		Shrimp, 21-25	
Pork, Roast, Loin End		Shrimp, 30-42	
Pork, Roast, Rib End		Fillet, Cod, Frozen	
Pork, End Chops		Fillet, Haddock, Frozen	
Pork, Center Chops		Fillet, Perch, Fresh	
Spareribs		Oysters, Select, 12 oz.	
* Pork, Shoulder, Fresh		Oysters, Standard, 12 oz.	
Pork, Shoulder, Smoked			
Ham, Smoked, Whole Half			
Ham, Fully Cooked, Semi-Boneless			
Sausage, Fresh "Roll"			
* Bacon, Sliced			
* Frankfurters			
Lamb, Leg			
Lamb, Loin Chops			
Lamb, Ribs, Rack			
Lamb, Shoulder Chops Bd. Bone			
* Lamb, Breast			
Veal, Cutlet			
Veal, Rump Roast			
Liver, Beef			
Liver, Calves			
Liver, Pork			

EGGS	UNIT	PRICE
Extra Large Grade A	dozen	
Large Grade A	dozen	
Medium Grade A	dozen	

POULTRY	PRICE PER POUND
(Fresh)	
* Chicken, Fryers, Whole	
* Chicken, Cut-up, Breasts	
* Chicken, Cut-up, Legs	
(Frozen)	
Capons	
Chicken, Roaster	
Chicken, Stewers	
Ducks	
Turkeys, under 16#	
Turkeys, over 16#	

Those 'hyper' aspirin ads!

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

The so-called "extra strength" pain relievers on the market today are no more effective against fighting the common headache than are other government-approved and inspected less familiar brands, a pharmacist told the AFRO this week.

But as the result of recent television advertisements, many consumers are buying more expensive brand-name "extra strength" aspirin under the assumption that they are more effective.

"The way the commercials are worded," said Mrs. Delores Dixon, director of pharmaceutical services at Provident Hospital, "they are not misleading."

"It is true that one extra strength tablet is more effective against headache pain than is one regular-strength tablet."

But, she said, the normal dosage of the regular 5-grain tablet is two tablets; the extra strength tablet brands direct the user to take one tablet per dosage.

The catch is, she said, is that normal, or regular strength tablets are 5 grains each, and the extra strength tablets are 10 grains per tablet.

So, if a person takes one extra strength tablet, he is taking the exact same dosage as he would were he taking two of the regular-strength brand.

Mrs. Dixon said that any aspirin brand has the same potential to fight pain as long as it has the letters "U.S.P." on the label.

Those letters, she said, mean that the drug has passed certain government regulations that assure standard weight, disintegration times, and actual aspirin content.

"If an aspirin brand does not have the letters on the label, for example," she said, "it may take it one hour to disintegrate in the system and begin getting to the pain."

But any USP brand, she said, is always 325 milligrams, disintegrates in 30 minutes, and contains not less than 95 percent but not more than 105 percent of the basic aspirin compound.

"A person who takes 2 "Giant" brand USP tablets and a person who takes one Bayer extra strength tablet are basically taking the same thing."

The danger of the ads, Mrs. Dixon said, is that many people do not carefully read the directions of the aspirin brand they take, thereby increasing their chances of taking too much of the drug.

It has been proven that aspirin is one of the most dangerous drugs on the market today. Aspirin overdosages are responsible for stomach bleeding, loss of hearing, and other internal maladies.

Aspirin also shows up in the milk of nursing mothers, Mrs. Dixon said.

"Money is tight right now," she said, "and people would rather try to find a way to feel better themselves than to spend time and money going to a doctor."

Mrs. Dixon explained that the current extra strength craze came as the result of aspirin manufacturing sales going down.

"What the companies did was respond to their marketing needs. They saw and felt (accurately) that the public would respond to a "more effective, stronger action" hype, and that's what they produced."

"Let's face it," she said, "the manufacturing companies are out to make money."

Mrs. Dixon said that no studies have been done at this time to show how many people are taking too much aspirin as the result of the new extra strength brands, but advised that consumers carefully read the labels of all drugs they take.

TV show aids adoption

Finding [illegible] for adoptive [illegible] with special n[illegible] television of a [illegible] aired on program [illegible] WBAL-[illegible]

"We[illegible] Child" is bringing [illegible] viewers children [illegible] of permanent [illegible] but for whom [illegible] is difficult [illegible] of handicaps [illegible] children may have, [illegible] their being [illegible] of a minority [illegible]

Hosted [illegible] 11 news and [illegible] Miller, the program [illegible] on the "Hello Baltimore" program, and again Wednesday evening on the station's 6:00 newscast.

Luther Starnes, director of the public information offices at the Social Services Administration of the Maryland Department of Human Resources, said the television station approached his agency with the idea some time ago.

"There is a similar program in Oklahoma City," he said, "that is and has been successful."

He said that Channel 11 was a proposal for a similar program to be aired in Baltimore which was approved by DHR.

Children selected for the program are being selected from referrals to the Social Services Administration from public and private agencies throughout the state.

Viewers interested in adopting the featured child or any other child with special needs will be able to call the Social Services Administration on a toll-free number and receive information on how to begin adoptive proceedings.

Starnes said that the television program is just one of several approaches being taken to place children with special needs.

More on TSS

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

Although there has been much speculation on the reasons why RELY tampons are associated with Toxic Shock Syndrome more than any other tampon, a Baltimore physician says that there is no proof that the disease is caused by RELY's reported extra absorbent qualities.

Dr. Jerry Seals, Chief of Infectious Diseases at Provident Hospital, said that at a medical conference held last week in New Orleans, TSS was discussed, but that no mention was made about the extra-absorbent qualities of the tampons and its effect on the incidence of the disease.

In a newsletter prepared for the hospital staff, Dr. Seals explained that the disease is caused by a bacterium, Staphlococcus aureus, and not tampons themselves or any particular quality of tampons, including extra absorbency.

The bacterium, he said, is common, and is responsible for such diseases as skin boils, food poisoning and, in rare cases, pneumonia. It also occurs in women who are not menstruating.

"We just don't know," he said, "how the bacterium gets into the vagina. That's the real question we have to answer at this point."

Dr. Seals said that it may be that the bacteria are present normally in small quantities in the vagina and that tampons create a medium for their growth.

"Women have to understand that tampons are sterile and that the bacteria have never been isolated from them. We just don't know what is causing TSS at this time."

Dr. Seals said that the media had been largely responsible for the current explanations linking TSS with extra absorbency, but that the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga. has yet to find or publish conclusive evidence on the cause of the disease.

He said that since the disease is associated with RELY, women should stop using them, and should in general use any tampon less frequently than before.

He also said that symptoms of TSS, including vomiting, diarrhea and high fever should be reported to a doctor immediately.

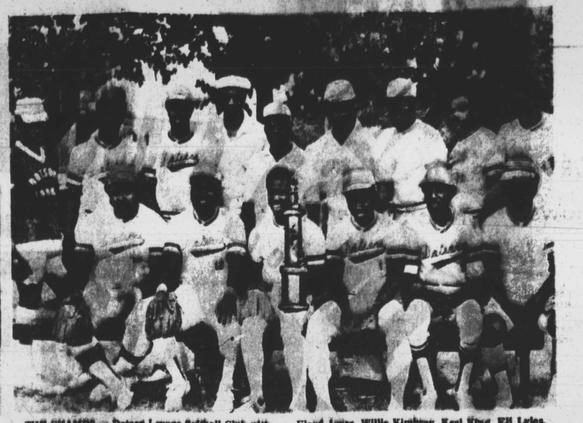
Earlier this week, Proctor and Gamble urged all women with unused RELY tampons to send them back to the company for a refund.

The product has been associated with about 71 percent of all deaths caused by TSS.

The world's largest covered stadium is the Azteca stadium in Mexico City. It can seat 107,000 people, nearly all under cover.

Summer ends with baseball and barbecue in Glen Burnie

DOTSON CLUB batter Karl King is ready for the pitch as members of his team, the Demons, and the Belairs watch under the grove trees.



THE CHAMPS — Dotson Lounge Softball Club with Jesse Bennett, manager; Richard Dotson, coach; Leroy Bradford, equipment manager; Leroy Flowers, public relations manager; Nathaniel Windham, coach; Frank Reddick, sponsor; and members, Joshua Beaulaire, Michael Brooks, Talley Crowder, James Davis, Ray Gaines, Lloyd Johnson, Floyd Jones, Willie Kimbrey, Karl King, Eli Lyles, James Little, Thomas Martin, William Mathews, James Mills, Riley Joyner, Kenneth Nicholson, Lyndale Parker, Linwood Rodgers, Barry West (CENTER) the trophy the Dotson team received after defeating both teams the Demons and the Belair Democratic Club.

DEMONS — James Williams, manager; Tyrone Wrigh and David Burrell, captains; Carl Edmonds, Elzie Hicks, Tody Edmonds, Alvin Edmonds, Donald Brayton, Eric Acree, Warren Warfield, James McIntosh, James Gross, Charles Wright and Robert Jenkins.

BELAIR DEMOCRATIC CLUB — Andrew Washington, George Washington, Chuck Smith, Willie Little, Melvin Jackson, Herman Hamilton, Calvin Lamberth, Ray Smith, King Scott, Amos Ross, William Bagett, Kevin Thomas, Daryl Baylor, Donald Grey, captain; Anthony Randolph, bat boy; William Nero, Leroy Martin.

WATCHING — Miss Suzette Peel, Miss Lisa Sturdivant, Chanel Davis and Rita Sturdivant of Glen Burnie. (SECOND PANEL) SITTING in the shade are Misses Janet Martin, Cynthia Lawe, Edna Hall and Viola Gregory and a fascinated young fellow fan. WAITING for the score (RIGHT PANEL) are Ms. Hazel Edwards and Mrs. Elsinor Dotson, manager of Dotson's Lounge. Dotson's on Furnace Branch Rd. sponsors its own softball team which has been challenged by teams from many parts of the nation bringing scores of tourists and fans to Glen Burnie and Baltimore.

RELAXING on the sidelines and enjoying the game was a picnic at the same time two some of the teams' fans and visitors to Dotson's on Furnace Branch Road in Glen Burnie. A popular spot for the Baltimore and Washington area summer people, Dotson's is noted for its barbecue, "the best South of

CATCHING the ball meant a big slide by Lloyd Johnson with one too left on base. ALL PHOTOS BY RYALES.

ENJOYING that famous Dotson barbecue are Ms. Mary Coates, comfortably seated on a tree stump and a tall-haired fan.

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