# Sickle cell treatment probed

A prescription drug usually used to treat leukemia patients may turn out to be the first effective drug treatment for sickle anemia, says Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions researcher, one of a multicenter team of investigators.

No one knows just how the drug — hydroxyurea — works, says Samuel Charache, M.D., professor of medicine at Hopkins, but it may turn on a gene that directs the production of fetal hemoglobin.

"We know that some adults in Saudia Arabia and India who have the genes for sickle cell anemia have a milder form of the disease and in some cases are actually symptom free," says Charache. "Examinations have shown that these adults have some fetal hemoglobin in about 60 to 70 percent of their red blood cells."

Hemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying component of red blood cells, is composed of two protein chains, which in turn are made up of amino-acid sequences. In adults these chains are called alpha and beta; in fetuses, alpha and gamma. Adults retain the gene for producing fetal hemoglobin, but it is usually inactive.

Charache emphasizes that the study, involving researchers at Hopkins, Harvard, Duke, the University of Illinois and the University of Georgia, concentrates on dosages and dosage regimens, rather than therapeutic benefits. "For us to look at the therapeutic aspects of the drug at this point is premature because you first have to know what dosage of drug to use," he points out. "However, we will note any improvements."

The investigators are looking for 25 to 30 patients, at least 19 years old, who have two or more episodes of pain a year. Anyone interested in participating should call (301) 9556-8491.

# AFRO workers honored

The AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper Company celebrated its most dedicated employees at an Employees Service Awards Luncheon last week at the Engineering Society in Baltimore.

Featured speakers included the Rev. Vashti McKenzie, John J. Oliver, Jr., publisher of the AFRO, and Frances M. Draper, president of the newspaper.

Charlotte Dorsey, an AFRO employee for 10 years joined the company in 1977 as a bookkeeper in Circulation. In 1983 she was named assistant cashier and was subsequently promoted to cashier, a position she has held since 1985.

Joseph Davis, AFRO employee for 15 years, began working at the newspaper in 1971 as a stuffer. He is presently assigned to the mailroom.

KISSING COUPLE — Joe Davis, long-time AFRO employee, bestows a kiss upon his wife Debra during awards festivities.

PROUD FAMILY — Bernice Dorsey, right, and Richard Clark admire the service awards presented to their respective daughter and aunt, Charlotte Dorsey, at the AFRO ceremonies.

ANNAPOLIS ROUND-UP

# Bill to kill judicial elections advances

Schaefer administration officials and Maryland Bar Association members banded together to seek a House committee's approval of legislation that would end contested elections for circuit judges.

Saying "no system is perfect," administration officials, including Lt. Gov. Melvin Steinberg, made the case Wednesday for a constitutional amendment — which would have to be approved by voters — they contend would make the selection process more equitable without the "emotionalism" of elections.

The bill would allow the governor, on the advice of local nominating commissions, to appoint judges to the Circuit Court. Voters would later decide whether to confirm a judge for a 10-year term, but the candidate would run only on his record and would not face opposition.

Circuit judges currently are appointed by the governor from lists prepared by local groups, but can be challenged when they seek confirmation for a 15-year term.

Alan Rifkin, Schaefer's chief legislative aide, said the current procedure, which requires fund-raising on the judge's behalf, has the potential for "impropriety" and discourages qualified candidates from seeking judgeships.

The process also has created a system in which no woman and only three blacks successfully have challenged incumbents in a Circuit Court race, Rifkin said.

But opponents of the adminstration bill said the proposed process would take the selection of judges away from voters and place too much power in the hands of local nominating commissions.

Proponents speaking in a hearing that lasted more than three hours included Judge Robert Murphy, chief judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, and leaders of the Maryland Bar Association, the state's Women's Bar Association and the Maryland Judicial Conference.

SCHOOL NEWS

# Morgan to host black history pageant

The stories of black Marylanders, from actor Ira Aldridge to former State Senator Verda Welcome to activist Frederick Douglass to singer Billie Holiday to Cab Calloway, are the key figures in a pageant, "HACOBA: A Living Exhibit of **Black Landmarks in Baltimore.**

The pageant, co-sponsored by The Cox Education Fund and the Theatre Program at Morgan State University, plays for one night only, February 27, at Murphy Auditorium on Morgan's South Campus.

Headlining the pageant will be Tony-Award winner Trazana Beverley as activist Lillie Carroll Jackson; veteran actress of stage, screen and television Alfie Brown as poet Frances Watkins; and popular jazz singer and composer Brenda Alford as Billie Holiday.

Appearing as the special guest artist will be jazz saxophonist Tony Zamora as Coltrane. Zamora leads his own jazz quartet in West Lafayette, Indiana, where he is director of the Black Cultural Center at Purdue University.

The cast includes such Maryland theatre veterans as: Sam Wilson, artistic director of the Arena Players, who will appear as Frederick Douglass; and actors Harvey Denmark and Mary West Miller, founding members of the Arena Players, as Ira Aldridge and as a reader of James Weldon Johnson.

Appearing also are lyric baritone Daniel Comegys, distinguished concert artist, as himself; pianist Norman Ross, director of the Urban Services Cultural Arts Program, who performs Eubie Blake; and Yemi Khensu, actor and writer, as Marcus Garvey.

Among the Morgan State students who will appear are: Cindy German as activist Betty Shabazz, Karen Palmer as politician Verda Welcome, Kim Kiah as educator Thelma Cox, and dancer Sherrie Webb as Our Ancestral Spirit. Singer Edgar Davis will appear as Cab Calloway.

The pageant is a benefit for The Thelma B. Cox Education Fund, a local tax-deductible organization which gives annual scholarships to Baltimore students. Dr. Thelma B. Cox Education Fund, a local tax-deductible organization which gives annual scholarships to Baltimore students. Dr. Thelma B. Cox, founder of the Fund, is executive producer of the pageant.

The director and writer of the pageant is Samuel A. Hay, Morgan State professor and author of the forthcoming African American Theatre: A Critical History.

The performance is free and open to the public.

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# Drunk driving measure backed

House leaders say they will introduce a resolution calling for a task force to study legislation on drunken driving and driving under the influence of drugs.

House Speaker Clayton Mitchell, D-Kent, said Wednesday task force, which would meet once the session has adjourned, would include representatives from all three branches of government as well as groups such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

"It's time to get everyone in the same room and see where we're going to go in the future," said Mitchell.

Delegate Bill Horne, D-Talbot, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said the task force would not interfere with his committee's study of legislation on drunken and drugged driving in this session.

Horne said the concept for the task force was prompted by the recent rash of drunken-driving deaths and the range of bills that have been introduced this session.

The task force would likely develop a package of bills tackling drunken driving and driving under the influence of drugs to be introduced in the 1989 session, Horne said.


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# Coppin presents MLK symposium

The Seventh Annual Martin L. King, Jr. Symposium sponsored by Coppin State College will explore "Martin L. King, Jr. as Black Moses, Revisited" on Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 2 p.m., Tawes College Center. Addressing this topic will be the Rev. Peter W. D. Bramble, rector, St. Katherine of Alexandria Episcopal Church.

Rev. Bramble stated, "Blacks have not capitalized on the true meaning and significance of the life, work, death and now the elevation of Martin Luther King, Jr. . . . Using the Jewish 'Passover myth' as an operational paradigm, I will argue the need for making King's life-event serve as the 'before/after' interpretive historical happening that will set the stage for the introduction of a new beginning and self-description of blacks — something I believe must happen before true 'people-hood' can be established."

Rev. Bramble added, ". . . like the Jews who 'did' their Passover in and through a 'story' before they left slavery in Egypt, so blacks must 'do' their 'overcoming'/passover' through the life-event of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Responding to Rev. Bramble's presentation will be Dr. Richard McKinney, distinguished scholar in philosophical theology at Coppin State College and professor emeritus of philosophy at Morgan State University.

Others making responses will be Dr. Elias Taylor, professor of sociology and chairman of the social sciences department at CSC and Dr. Abner Lall, a research scientist in the biology department at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Loretta Richardson, dean of Coppin's nursing division, will preside at this symposium. The public is invited to attend.

The Martin L. King, Jr. Symposium is being coordinated by the college's philosophical theology program. The philosophical theology program was developed to accommodate those students involved in the ministry and/or those who desired to pursue graduate studies in philosophical theology.

Philosophical theology is the non-sectarian study of God or the divine from a strictly philosophical perspective.

It considers among others, problems such as the proofs for the existence of God, the nature of faith and religious language, death and immortality, the problem of evil and the relations of God's creation.



# BL-EWS set presidential forum

Dr. Calvin Burnett, president of Coppin State College, is president of the BL-EWS. Rabbi Donald Berlin, president of the Baltimore Jewish Council, cosponsor of the forum, is past president.

The Council is an agency of the Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Fund and one of the founding organizations of the Baltimore BL-EWS.

For further details concern the forum, call the Baltimore Jewish Council, 753-2630.

A Public Presidential Forum, featuring the democratic presidential candidates, or their designated representatives, and a panel of well-known journalists, will be held by the BL-EWS, Baltimore's Black-Jewish Coalition, Monday evening, Feb. 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the James Weldon Johnson Building auditorium of Coppin State College, 2500 W. North Avenue.

The panelists will include: Ray C. Jenkins, editorial chief of The Evening Sun; Gary Rosenblatt, editor, The Baltimore Jewish Times; and Ted Venetoulis, political analyst, WBAL-TV.

The purpose of the forum is to give Baltimoreans the opportunity to hear the views of the individual candidates on the critical issues of the times.

Each candidate, or his designated representative, will make an opening statement. This will be followed by questions directed to the candidates by the panelists, then a general question-and-answer period.

The forum will conclude with closing statements by the candidates.

The Baltimore BL-EWS was founded in 1978 in order to strengthen relationships between the Black and Jewish communities. It is committed to a close working relationship between the two groups on topics of mutual concern and on issues of concern to all Americans.

# Career begins, ends in a week

by Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

One of the quickest and short-lived careers in the Baltimore City Council ended Monday, as reading clerk Eric Brown was replaced and promoted to legislative clerk.

Brown, 30, began reading the Council's agenda, messages from the mayor and the consent calendar on Feb. 1. Feb. 8 was his last day.

Brown's friend and political mentor, Sheila Dixon-Smith, Fourth District, asked by Council President Mary Pat Clarke last month, if he could be the reader. They all agreed.

Clarke told him the first four or five weeks would be rough, Brown said. He had no prior training reading before people.

His first day began with a rocky start.

The West Baltimorean often stumbled and mispronounced words, but the job was his.

That is, up until a week ago, when he was "promoted".

"I was surprised," he said of the promotion.

As a legislative clerk, he still earns $2,000, but now has more responsibilities, Clarke said. Now he will compile and research bills.

There are no set requirements to be clerks. According to Clarke, Brown's full-time position as a municipal administrator, was interfering with his reading duties.

Brown said he is happy about his new position.

"He's a good person," Councilwoman Dixon-Smith said. Brown and she had met during Kweisi Mfume's campaign for Congress.

"She hinted she'd run for (councilmanic) seat, and I told her I'd help," Brown said.

In Jan. 1987, he became her volunteer campaign coordinator.

"Lots of people said she was arrogant....I learned she was a perfectionist," Brown said.

Gren Whitman, a Clarke staff member, read during Monday's Council meeting.

Clark said Iris Reeves's clerk may become the new reader, but nothing is guaranteed.

Before his promotion, Brown rated himself as a "7", on a scale of one to 10, regarding his reading abilities.

"I'm a novice," he said.

He is probably the first minority to hold that position.

He graduated from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, where he received a B.S. in Business Administration.

Brown, who may run for political office one day, is a member of the Impact Democratic Action Organization, which was founded by Mfume to educate minorities on the political process.

Eric Brown

# —Free school

Continued from page 1

and street repair, Del. Howard "Pete" Rawlings (D-40), stated.

The provision in the gasoline tax bill allotted enough money to fund school bus transportation to children for one year.

"I think the public should have been notified that it was only a one time thing," Senator Troy Brailey (D-24) said.

"It's terrible to give people something and then take it away from them," Brailey continued. "If they never had it, the situation wouldn't be as bad."

When former Baltimore Mayor Clarence "Du" Burns was in office Brailey was told at a Baltimore City school board meeting that Burns would try to permanently fund school transportation for students in Baltimore if the truancy rate decreased.

"He was saying it would be an incentive for kids to attend school," Brailey said.

Next year students are expected to pay for their transportation to school unless the city receives additional funding for school transportation.

Baltimore receives substantial funding from the state for school transportation but most of that is used to transport handicapped students to school, Rawlings explained.

Del. Rawlings and Del. Anne Perkins (D-44) introduced a bill which would require the requirement for school children to pay bus fare to be eliminated.

Young has also introduced a bill which would amend last year's school transportation bill and extend funding for school bus transportation for Baltimore City until 1990.

"There is an imbalance between what Baltimore City students have and what the rest of the state has," Rawlings said. "It seems unfair."

Before the 1987-88 school year the Baltimore City delegation had two options regarding the school transportation issue.

One option was to hold the price of the bus fare to 35 cents and have the state examine the transportation issue. The second option was a portion of the gas tax increase for school bus transportation to allow children to ride to school for free for one year with an increase in fare the second year.

The Baltimore City delegation chose the second option with the understanding that students would revert back to paying for bus rides for the 1988-89 school year with a fare increase, stated Rawlings.

Rawlings voted for the special provisions in the gasoline tax bill but thought it was misleading to the public and an inappropriate public policy decision, he said.

To take money out of the transportation fund that was needed for street repairs and bridges was a bad policy decision because no other county has to do that to pay for their children to ride to school, he continued.

But Rawlings said he was caught in a "Catch 22" because if he did not vote for the provision, he would be accused of not wanting to allow school children to ride to school for free.

# Open housing still an issue

By Alicia Benjamin
AFRO Staff Writer

Four young men led off a panel discussion on open housing in Baltimore with a song.

The four black men, members of the group To Be Continued, sang a song which included the words, "We are neighbors whether we want to be or not."

Their song set the tone for the discussion Wednesday about open housing in the city by David Glenn, Retired Executive Director of the Maryland Commission on Health Relations; Enolia McMillian, National President of the NAACP; and Rabbi Murray Saltzman, former member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

All three panelists agreed segregation is a large part of the housing problem in Baltimore and other states.

McMillan discussed the history of housing for blacks from slavery until the present.

"Housing for black people has been a problem since we reached America," she said. "There was plenty of room on plantations for cropping but little space for living."

Most of the black people who were freed did not have money to go anywhere so they stayed in the little shacks they were given as slaves.

The blacks that migrated to urban centers in the north continued to experience housing problems. They were given homes to live in that whites had discarded because they were no longer livable, she stated.

McMillan told the audience how blacks were stuck in the ghettos because they were prohibited from living in white neighborhoods and did not have the money to move.

"I remember in Baltimore when blacks couldn't go west of Fulton Avenue."

Blacks had to room with relatives and pay high rent prices because there were not enough homes in black communities to house each family, she said.

"Segregation was a badge of inferiority," she asserted. She told of black families who lived with rats, roaches and outdoor toilets.

Many blacks in Baltimore have acquired better homes in the suburbs but they moved outside of Baltimore which lowers the tax base of the city, McMillan explained.

Rabbi Saltzman talked about the housing problem of blacks as a national issue.

"Why is it that anything dealing with minorities, the poor and the vulnerable is identified by the (President's) administration as a special interest problem?" he asked.

The well being of the minority community is an American interest, he explained.

He asked why farming problems and middle class issues are not identified as special interests but as national interests.

"The fact is, integrated communities should be a crucial priority for our nation," he continued.

"We know as an historic truth that isolation produces deprivation," he said. He said any people who are isolated from the mainstream would emerge from their community as a deprived people.

He pointed to Jews and Irish Catholics in Northern Ireland who were isolated from the majority population.

Some of the same descriptive phrases used for the Jews and Irish Catholics are used for blacks, he said. The Jews and Irish people in their ghettos were referred to as lazy, dirty people who had rhythm and great sexual potency, he related.

"Our people need integrated neighborhoods and people who are educated," he said.

Glenn remembers the segregated days of Baltimore.

"If you were black you had to be careful when walking in certain areas," he said.

Not only were blacks not allowed to live in certain areas, they were also not allowed to work in white neighborhoods.

"You had to use a magnifying glass to find a black person working downtown," he continued.

The only jobs blacks had were as elevator operators. There were no blacks in the grocery stores, departments stores or driving cabs."

"We have made advancements but we have a long way to go."

The panel discussion was held at the Baltimore Field Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

# Hollis to speak

Meldon S. Hollis, Jr., Esquire, newly appointed President of the Baltimore City School Board, will be the guest speaker at the Baltimore Urban League's Equal Opportunity Awards Dinner, Thursday, February 25, 1988. Mr. Hollis is Senior Attorney with Semmes, Bowen & Semmes.

The Honorary Chairmen for this year's event are Governor William Donald Schaefer, Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke, and Baltimore County Executive Dennis F. Rasmussen. Honorary Co-Chairmen are H. Lee Boatwright, III, president, Equitable Trust Bank; Frances M. Draper, president, AFRO-American Newspaper; Osborne A. Payne, chairman of the Board, Associated Black Charities; and Henry A. Rosenberg, Jr. president, Greater Baltimore Committee.

The 1988 Equal Opportunity Awards Dinner will be held at The Palladium, 2900 Liberty Heights Avenue.

The 1988 Honorees are David L. GIenn former Director, Maryland Commission on Human Relations and Rabbi Murray Saltzman, Religious Leader, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation.

# —Black Engineers

Continued from page 1

the president and chairman of Unity Broadcasting Network in New York.

Other winners included: Dr. M. Lucius Walker, Jr. Howard University's Dean of School of Engineering; Dr. W. Lincoln Hawkins, of the Plastics Institute of America in Montclair, N.J.; Cordell Reed, senior vice president of Nuclear Operations, Commonwealth Edison Co. in Illinois; Donald Watson, of the Division of Highways and Programming, Caltrans in Sacramento, CA; Alvin Cooper, of Northrop Defense; Monsetta Blackmon, of Mitre Corp.; Donald Washington of 3M Corp, and Milt Fletcher and Sally Fernandez of General Motors.

The communications group also awarded students for their engineering excellence.

Brian M. Argrow, an aerospace engineering graduate student at the University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma and Paula Wellons, the past president of Student National Technical Association in Gainesville, FL were awarded for Student Leadership.

# Omegas

(Continued from Page 8)

keeper of property; Benny F. Short, asst. keeper of property; Colden Brown, chapter editor; James M. Griffin, parliamentarian; Osborne B. Dixon, keeper of peace; and Donald Atkinson, chaplain.

Joseph Obey, Donald Patterson and Judson B. Wood are members-at-large, and George K. McKinney is immediate past basileus.

## Pets on Wheels plans annual meeting

On Saturday, March 19, Pets on Wheels will be holding the Third Annual Statewide meeting for volunteers. The Howard County Pets on Wheels program will host the meeting at the Florence Bain Senior Center in Columbia, Maryland from 9 a.m. Call 396-1762.


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