SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

Teen parent fights adolescent pregnancy

Jeralyn Grandison

By Jill P. Carter
AFRO Staff Writer

Imagine trying to do homework at night. Imagine the piercing screams of an unattended baby crying. Mother cries as the child rips up the parent's homework.

Imagine the teachers face the next day when the teenager says "I don't have my homework because the baby ripped it up."

That's one scenario that Jeralyn Grandison doesn't have to imagine.

She had a son at age 16.

Now she's 19 and he's three, and she tried to alarm others about the hardships of her life.

"when I entered the Lawrence G. Paquin School for Teen Mothers, I never talked, I was evil. I was mad because I was pregnant," Jeralyn said. Now, she's talkative, friendly, and madly in love with her son, Stephan.

She's also very concerned about teenage pregnancy, so she founded STOP TEEN PREGNANCY (STP).

Two years ago, Jeralyn and some other girls decided to try and talk other teens out of premature sex and pregnancy. They began speaking at schools. churches, and community organizations to talk about the things teens can rarely discuss with parents.

"We talk about the way you feel in the beginning of sex, becoming aroused, lines people give you and peer pressure. We try to start at step one and take it from there," she said.

The work of the six girls in the group was so impressive that in March, they acquired a board of directors.

Vivian Washington, founder of the Paquin school; Dr. Albert Bedell, director of the National Institute of Health; Joseph Leake, Health Curriculum Coordinator for Baltimore City Public Schools; Vincent Thompson, Associate Minister of New Shiloh Baptist Church; Douglass Miles, pastor of Brown's Memorial Church and Ruth Simms, representative from Kweisi Mfume's office, and Richard Rowe, director of the office on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention.

The board formed primarily to provide funding for the project, which the girls had been funding themelves.

They also have the support of Vera P. Hall, city councilmember (5th district). Hall has been trying to get more funding for the project, and is attempting to have Grandison appointed to the Mayor's Task Force on Adolescent Pregnancy.

Grandison believes she had come a long way from an angry teenager to a competent mother due to the support she received from the Paquin School, church and her mother.

Jeralyn's mother was also a teen mother, and she believes that there is some truth in the idea that patterns evolve in families of teens where adolescent pregnancies exist.

Jeralyn stresses that her group has a difficult task before them. They are all volunteering, and all have children to care for.

She also works at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall as an usher, Memorial Stadium as a cashier, The Lyric Opera House as an usher, and independently as a promoter.

She has an internship at WJZ-TV and is a junior at Morgan State University. Jeralyn plans to get a doctorate and plan a career in education.

She will appear as a panelist on June 16, on "Donahue" to talk about her STP and overcoming the hard stopping teen pregnancy.

Valedictorian scores first at Patterson

Rachelle Harris

By Jill P. Carter
AFRO Staff Writer

"It's definitely a big deal. It was hard because there were a lot of obstacles and a lot of jealous people," said Rachelle Harris, the first black valedictorian to graduate from Patterson High School.

"There was a lot of favoritism at my school," she said. "It wasn't that bad at first, but in the last two years, the pressure started coming on."

"I was in competition with a girl who was white," Rachelle explained. "They tried to pull strings to make her number one, but no amount of pushing could make her grade point average as high as mine."

Rachelle was one of 51 valedictorians and salutatorians honored at a luncheon, June 9, at the Omni Hotel. The luncheon was sponsored by Legg Mason to reward the city's top graduates.

The valedictorians were those with the highest overall averages, salutatorians had the second highest.

Rachelle is going to Virginia Union University to major in Business Administration, concentrating in Computer Science and Accounting. Her career goal is to become an independent businesswoman.

She lauds her parents for their suppor.

"My parents helped because were are very religious, and they did a lot of praying for me," she said. "They would say, 'Shelly, if you don't make it, don't let it discourage you because you tried,' but I wasn't satisfied with being number two, I was determined to be number one."

One of the high points of Rachelle's experience at Patterson was her relationship with her favorite teacher, Raymond Taft.

All the honorees acknowledged their favorite teachers, many of whom accompanied them at the luncheon.

On an impromptu video tape, students presented their accomplishments, and their reasons for selecting the teachers they did.

Principals, education administrators, businessmen, and distinguished graduates from past years joined the students and favorite teachers.

School Board President, Meldon Hollis, congratulated the students and told them things would soon change.

"When you go to college, you'll find out that your experience here is more the average than the unusual," he said. "My generation is the last generation that can expect to have more than our parents."

Hollis continued, "My future lies in your hands...I wish you the very best. don't hesitate to call on me."

Hollis also said that he is interested in creating a Gold Card for students performing within the top ten percent of their class. The card would enable them to buy things at area stores at discount prices.

Some city school graduates from the past were also awarded for distinguishing themselves in the community. Among them was France Draper, former graduate of Douglass High School, who is president of the AFRO.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters to hold bash

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Maryland will host its 3rd Annual BIGGEST LITTLE BASH IN TOWN on Thursday, June 16 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Walters Art Gallery.

A special tribute will be given to Henry Koellein, Jr., Maryland Commissioner of Labor and Industry, for his 20 years of service on the Board of Directors of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Maryland.

The BASH is a celebration of the positive effects on the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program on children in need of adult guidance, companionship and role modelling.

The public is invited to attend. Providing refreshments and live entertainment, the BASH also allows an opportunity to enjoy the newest addition to Baltimore's cultural scene, the newly renovated 1904 Gallery. Tickets are $25.00. For reservations and ticket information call 243-4000. Proceeds will benefit the programs of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, a United Way Agency.

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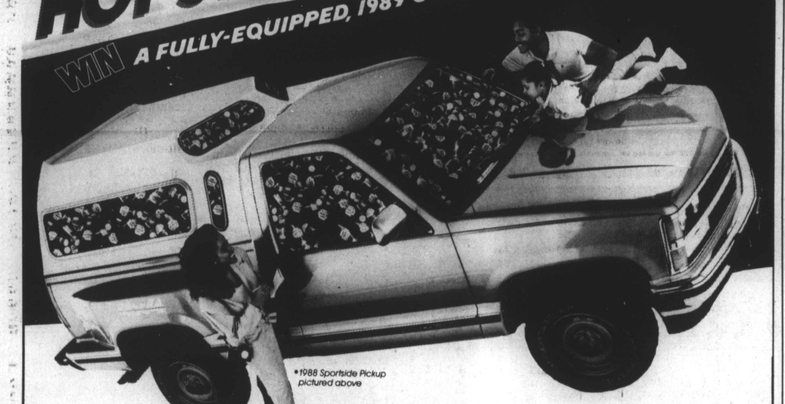

*1988 Sportside Pickup pictured above

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Here's a game that's easy to enter and fun to play, and the prizes are fantastic! Besides the 1989 Chevy Sportside Pickup, you could win one of two Honda Motor Scooters with helmets, one of 20 good-cooking Char-Broil® Gas Barbecue Grills, or one of 100 handy Cool Sounds™ AM/FM "Radio Coolers"! So check the rules below or look for the "Hot Stuff II" display at participating retail stores where tangy KRAFT Barbecue Sauce is sold and enter today!

*1988 Sportside Pickup pictured above

*Camper top may vary

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1. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. 2. Guess how many 18 oz. bottles of KRAFT Barbecue Sauce we put in the 1988 Chevrolet Sportside Pickup. 3. To enter hand print your name, address (zip), telephone number and your guess on the official entry blank or use a 3" x 5" sheet of paper as your entry form. Include 1 UPC code from any variety of 18 oz. KRAFT Barbecue Sauce or KRAFT Thick 'N Spicy Barbecue Sauce or 1 additional 3" x 5" piece of paper with the words "KRAFT Barbecue Sauce" along with your guess. Also, on the left-hand bottom corner of your envelope, write your answer clearly. 4. Entries must be mailed to: KRAFT Barbecue Sweepstakes II, P.O. Box 2241, Libertyville, IL 60048. Enter as often as you wish, but each entry must be mailed in a separate envelope. The game begins June 1, 1988. All entries must be received by July 31, 1988. Kraft, Inc. is not responsible for lost/late/misdirected or illegible entries. 5. Winning Entries. The entry which correctly identifies the number of bottles stuffed into the pickup wins. The odds of winning depend on the number of correct entries received. If multiple correct entries are received, winners will be selected in a random drawing from all correct entries received. The first two correct entries will be awarded the Grand Prize. The next two correct entries will win First Prizes with the drawing continuing until all prizes are awarded. All prizes will be awarded provided a sufficient number of entries is received. Limit one prize per household. In the event no entry identifies the exact number of bottles, or if an insufficient number of correct entries is received, prizes will be awarded on the basis of the closest guess without going over the actual number. In case of a tie, a drawing will be conducted to determine the winner. All drawings will be conducted by H. Olsen & Co., an independent judging firm, whose decisions are final on all matters relating to sweepstakes. 6. By entering, winners consent to use of their names, addresses, likenesses and prize information for promotion purposes without additional compensation. Winner will be notified by mail by September 16, 1988. Winners may be asked to sign and return an affidavit of eligibility and release within ten (10) days of notification. In the event the affidavit is not returned within the allotted time, an alternate winner will be selected. 7. Grand Prize: A fully-equipped 1988 Chevrolet Sportside Pickup (Automatic transmission, power steering and brakes, air conditioning, AM/FM radio with cassette. Includes taxes, title & licensing. Manufacturer's suggested retail price $18,500.) 2 First Prizes: Honda® 80 Elite Scooter with safety helmet (includes taxes, title & licensing. Manufacturer's suggested retail price $2,060) 20 Second Prizes: Char-Broil® Gas Grill (Wh.) (swingaway warming rack, Broil-View™ window, dual burner ignition, steel cart and 20 lb. fuel tank. Manufacturer's suggested retail price $300) 100 Third Prizes: Cool Sounds™ AM/FM Radio & Cooler with headphones. (Insulated nylon, waterproof/sandproof speaker. Large capacity cooler holds 3 six packs plus lunch & snacks. Manufacturer's suggested retail price $39.95). (Retail value of all prizes $33,595) Entries become the property of KRAFT, Inc. None will be returned. No responsibility acknowledged or entered into. No transfer of prizes or rights to prizes would except of Kraft's option. In the event a prize is not generally available as described herein and, Kraft will substitute a prize of equal or greater value. 8. Sweepstakes is open to residents of legal age in the USA, Puerto Rico, and APO/FPO addresses. Employees of Kraft Inc., its affiliates, advertising and promotion agencies, judges and immediate families living in the same household are not eligible. Sweepstakes void where prohibited or restricted by law. All Federal, State and local laws and regulations apply. All income taxes are the sole responsibility of the winners. 9. For a list of major prize winners, send a #10 stamped, self-addressed envelope to "Kraft Barbecue Sweepstakes II" Box CC, Libertyville, IL 60048. List available after October 15, 1988. Note: Barbecue Sauce is not included in the Grand Prize

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Complete and mail to above address

ROP-88-4036

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Basketball Camp offered for boys

Loyola College will offer two sessions of a week long basketball school this summer for boys. Sessions begin on June 27 and August 1, and the school runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Emphasis is placed on skill development of each individual. Breakdown drills, lectures and organized team games highlight the daily schedule. In addition, special insturction will be stressed.

Loyola head coach Mark Amatucci and assistant coaches Rich Zvosec and Mike Edwards will team up with other college coaches from around the country and professional players (both NBA and European) to provide quality individual and group instruction.

Call 532-5014.

USA holds Jobs Fair

Urban Services is bringing employers and applicants together, in a Job Fair, linking them with counselors who will assist both with information and screening.

The Job Fair opens Thursday, June 16 at 12 noon, at the Urban Services Neighborhood Center at 1873 N. Gay Street and closes at 6 p.m.

IN THE STARS / STRICTLY PERSONAL

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your new found high energy level has you involved in travel and socializing. Your charismatic personality and sense of humor put you in the spotlight. The aspect of your chart this week suggests prudence and practicality is the best approach. Monday and Tuesday find your lunar aspects squared to Pluto, possibly causing a flair in relationships. Take heed.

CANCER (June 21-July 20): Try to keep your balance as you ride the roller coaster of life. Concentrate on talks which will increase communications among all family members. With Venus conjuncting your chart and trined in Pluto this week, there is certainly likely favorable for moods on Wednesday.

LEO (July 21-August 22): Your intuition is functioning well,so trust it when it comes to business dealings. Your ideas will play an important part in big affairs. Romance is prominent. Your aspect this week is free of any cosmic stress, this should carry out your plans. There could be also a boost in your finances.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22): You feel decisive and ready to take action; however, you must pace yourself. Invest some quality time concerning your romantic situation. Take a break. With Venus, Jupiter and Mars well aspected in your chart, you should find it at least favorable for business and romance.

LIBRA (September 23-October 22): Your complacent attitude is becoming bear-like as your hurried and frenzied life starts to get the better of you. Take care of your fragile nerves now. Delay and disillusion could be the cause. The weekend leading into next week could be to your liking.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21): That overly optimistic attitude concerning investments could lead to disaster, so be cautious. Avoid negative confrontations at all costs now. Saturday and Sunday are the only days this week that are unfavorable. These days could lead to misgivings.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21): Your emotions are at their most intense level. Proceed with caution. Use your passion to your advantage - get ahead with some creative work. The days ahead are very mild compared to the last several days of stress. Mercury in your sun next week adds mental quickness for important decisions.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19): You are focused on your goals now, so keep on track. Financial cooperation is vital for current transactions. Put off party time until the weekend. Saturn and Uranus in opposition to your chart between Wednesday and Friday could find your plans blown out of proportion right about now. Next Monday and Tuesday are your really favorable days.

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18): The planets in your sign emphasize improved communications with business allies, as well as with those in your personal life. Keep your eyes open. This week could find you in a cosmic limbo especially between Wednesday leading into Friday.

PISCES (February 19-March 20): Your creative imagination is soaring! Use this to your advantage. The new circles you are traveling in promise to bring refreshing, intelligent faces. Jupiter and Pluto trining your chart this week makes it favorable involving large and physical endeavors.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your creativity and self-expression is high now, so get your new ideas down on paper. Stay motivated. Brainstorming with friends will pay off later. Aspects of Jupiter is likely to make things extremely stressful between Wednesday through Friday.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The cycle is about to begin again, and your focus is in finances. Profitable results from collaborations with adventurous people can prove delightful. Pay special attention to Wednesday into Thursday and Friday as well. Saturday and Sunday are the least favorable days for anything worthwhile.

Lonesome Hearts

DBF, outgoing, affectionate, lady of 48 years, seeks a tall, BM who is intelligent, employed, outgoing, affectionate, sincere, with a great sense of humor who is looking for a commitment, possible marriage. If possible, send telephone number with first letter. Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area. CC 44.

— —

Sensitive, intelligent black lady, 32, with good qualities, willing to meet respectable, verbal, honest, hardworking black and white males, 30-45 with same qualities. For more, write to CC 45.

Handsome black male, 40, 5'10", 200 pounds, likes church, sports, would like to meet someone pretty much the same. Send photo and phone number, if possible. For more, write to CC 46.

— —

Sincere, honest black male, 21, would like to meet sincere, considerate lady, 17-25, for long-term relationship. No "yo" girls. CC 47.

— —

SBM, 40, 5'10", 177 pounds, body-builder-health enthusiast, seeking same qualities in a vivacious, business-woman desiring a mate. Write to find out more. CC 48

— —

Sincere, 38-year-old black man, 6' 11", 180 pounds, with brown eyes, interested in corresponding with sincere ladies, 25-40. Hobbies are dancing, music and art. If possible, send phone number and photo with first letter. CC 38.

— —

Sincere, caring, somewhat attractive 46-year-old black lady in Northwest Baltimore, would like to meet attractive 5'5" or taller gentleman, 40-47 with similar qualities for friendship or possibly serious relationship-marriage. I enjoy church, movies and some sports. A response with phone number and photo if possible would be appreciated. No inmates, alcoholics, drug users or playboys. For more, write to CC 39.

— —

Sincere, understanding lady would like to meet Christian, brownskinned gentleman, 65-75 who is also sincere and understanding, and lives in Baltimore City or in county. Absolutely no smokers, drug users or gambles. CC 40

— —

53-year-old black lady, heavy-set, sincere, honest, affectionate would like to meet black gentleman who is sincere, considerate, honest, affectionate, understanding, for lasting relationship. No phonies. If possible, send photo and phone number with first letter. For more, write to CC 41.

— —

Tall, handsome black male, 35, would like to meet tall, ivory complexioned black lady who is hippy with small waistline who is marriage-minded. To find out more, write to CC 42.

— —

Hardworking gentleman in 60's, home improvement field, would like to meet sincere, honest, Christian lady in 50's for compatible relationship. CC 43.

Searching

Anyone knowing whereabouts of Susie White, Mary White, Patricia Gale or Lisa White, contact P. J. Hairston, SSgt., USAF, PCS Box 3368, APO San Francisco 96399-0006.

"GOD BLESS MONNIE AND DADDY AND GRANDMA MAUDE AND GRANDPA CLAUDE, AND AUNT JILL AND UNCLE PHIL, COUSIN HANK AND COUSIN FRANK AND...."

STRICTLY PERSONAL

Lonesome Hearts
Pen Pals
Searching

To have a notice published in the Strictly Personal section, write the message you want printed clearly in the space below. Enclose five dollars ($5.00), check or money order for 25-word notice. Additional words will cost 20 cents each.

would like my Strictly Personal notice to read:

_____

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To answer a Lonesome Hearts notice, enclose a check or money order for $1.00 for each letter you wish to have forwarded. Be sure to include the box number of the person you wish to contact. All letters, queries and notices should be sent to:

Strictly Personal
Box 1857
Baltimore, Md. 21201

If you have a problem you feel our counselor Jan might be able to help you with, why not write to her. All letters will be answered in this column.
Write: Tell it to Jan, AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21201.

Tell it to Jan

Dear Jan:

There's a girl next door whom I love very much. I wrote two letters and she hasn't answered.

When she sees me, she acts like we are married. I told her I like everyone.

When I talk about another girl, she thinks I am playing her. We are both 14.

Jimmie

Dear Jimmie:

You mean you have to write letters and she lives next door? If she wants to be as jealous as you say, then both of you would be better off just being friends.

You'll have to explain to her that just because you like her doesn't mean that you intend to retire from the world - that having friends has nothing to do with the affection you have for her.

— —

Dear Jan:

I am 17 years old and very much in love with a young man, 21.

The trouble is he is ashamed to talk. What can I do to stop him from being that way.

G

Dear G:

This is a pickle! It's not easy to make a fellow talk if he doesn't want to. But, maybe you should clam-up, too. You don't talk TOO much, do you? Do you give him a chance?

Try just smiling sweetly. Perhaps the quiet one you love so well prefers "silent meditation" as a means of communication.

— —

Dear Jan:

I am 32, have been married 17 years and up until two years ago, I was relatively happy.

We have five children. Two years ago my husband joined some kind of church which caused him to change completely.

He has been constantly pursued by some of the women in this church and his entire attitude is different. He has sin confused with good. He says we were not joined together by God, etc.

Although we have always been of different faiths, it didn't matter until this last switch he made.

Now he has left me and the children. His excuse is he doesn't love me anymore. I am deeply hurt and don't know what to do.

Can you help me?

Gloria

Dear Gloria:

This is an extremely delicate situation that unfortunately logic won't help. Religious fanatics refuse to listen to anything except their own personal beliefs.

However, in a great many cases, time brings them to their senses. Sometimes, the waiting period can be shortened by bringing them back to reality through a shock.

In your case, the shock should be making sure he supports his family by taking him to court, if necessary.

— —

Dear Jan:

I am 16 and love a boy at school who is also 16.

He plays around and talks with me in school, but I don't know if he loves me.

Does he?

M. L.

Dear M. L.:

No, he doesn't love you or anyone else. He has the right idea, just kidding but not serious.

You should be the same.

— —

Dear Jan:

I am 16 and have dates. A young man introduced himself on the street and I gave him my phone number and address.

Was I wrong?

Velma

Dear Velma:

Yes. Beware of passing strangers in the street. Have only friends you or your parents know very well.

Pen Pals

Black, Italian male, 28, 5'10", 180 pounds, incarcerated, soon to be released, not afraid of commitment, seeks mature lady for honest, meaningful relationship. Willing to relocate when released if compatible lady responds. Photo appreciated, write to: Tony Steele, N-34362, Post Office Box 711, Menard, IL 62259.

— —

35-year-old gentleman, brilliant and sincere, presently confined would like to correspond with "Miss Right." Would like to exchange potographs with first letter. For more, write to: Arsell Lewis, Jr., Box 9104, Camden, NJ.

— —

40-year-old confined male seeks correspondence from Jamican females of any age. Will answer all letters. David J. Marner-El, 165222, MCI Rt. 3, Box 2000, Hagerstown, MD 21740

— —

Need a friend? Single male, 40, 5'11", 185 pounds, presently incarcerated, but will be free in near future. College education, vast interests. Immediate goal, pursuing career in journalism, seeks correspondence from career oriented females. Willing to write regularly for possible future friendship. Can send photo upon your request. Write soon. Darius Marcus, 167-831, MCI-H, Rt. 3, Box 2000, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

— —

Black, handsome male, 32, 5'11", 185 pounds, athletically built, intelligent and presently incarcerated. I am very much in need of sincere communication from people in society who could possibly see me beyond my current geographically boundaries. Your sincere friendship and honesty are very important. Will answer all letters. Ernest Riley, C-62990, Box 711, Menard, IL 62259.

55-year-old gentleman, sincere, sensitive, understanding and positive thinking, would like to meet lady, 30-55 with same qualities. I am seeking happiness and a meaningful relationship. For more, write to: Leo Taylor, 921 Harlem Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21217.

— —

Black male, 23, confined, seeks friendship through correspondence. Jerry Lowe, Y-6110, Rt. 3, Box 500, Hunlock Creek, PA 18621 .

— —

Incarcerated male, 31, seeks correspondence from sincere, understanding females. Keith A. Blue, 196-964, Box 57, Marion, OH 43302.

INTERESTING PEOPLE