HEALTH AND WELFARE

AIDS IN THE COMMUNITY

By Dr. Barbara Lyles

The picture of blacks as victims of history and slavery and unequal access is beginning to have a hollow ring. We have seen the enemy and it is us.

A case can be made for a racist society of the kind that is best demonstrated by the events in Hampden where the young Boyce-Beys are being harassed for no reason other than their blackness. A case can be made for housing discrimination that is hidden behind all sorts of disk[illegible]

There is also a need for an [illegible] all sides of the issue in which a single [illegible] must take responsibility for at least so[illegible]ences of a failure to achieve. Let us first [illegible] is a ugly racism in America.

The other side [illegible] the fact that no matter whether or not we can ju[illegible] blame the white man for what we have not done or accomplished when the opportunity is available...blame placing does nothing to change the picture.

If we fail, we fail, no matter whether there is a reason or not. It is small comfort, for example, to not have anything to feed our children, if we can find a way to blame racism for making us so frustrated that we use the food money for Lotto or for booze or drugs.

Small comfort that the hopelessness of unemployment and dead end jobs result in drug abuse. The black underclass...the nine million souls that are apparently headed toward that special brand of extinction called AIDS.

While we bewail the fact that 25 percent of the AIDS victims are drug abusers 77 percent of the pediatric cases of AIDS (kids less than 13) are children born to women who are themselves drug abusers or the mates of those who are.

It cannot be allowed to continue. The numbers cannot be allowed to keep on increasing.

Screaming about black genocide has a ring that is as hollow as the assumption that blacks must forever remain victims of history.

How likely is it that we'll take the hot air that fuels the claim of victimization at the hands of white men and band together to stop AIDS in black community from dividing and subdividing the underclass of blacks into yet another underclass.

An underclass of infected, fatally ill blacks who would like very much to be able to have a chance to live...on any terms. For some reason, there does not appear to be any AIDS data which discuss the statistics of social class and AIDS infection. WHY?

The researchers are predicting that AIDS is rapidly becoming a disease of the poor and minority.

Anybody for charter membership in the AIDS underclass? The real screamer is that it is suggested that the whole mess got started in this country as a result of prostitutes for male homoxsexuals of the affluent vacationing in the Caribbean.

Now isn't that a shocker. Haves and Have Nots once again.

There are about twenty-nine million blacks in America. Nine million of that number form what has come to be known as the black underclass.

It comes as no surprise that this underclass of blacks lives in the center of the ghettoes of poverty, welfare dependence, alcohol abuse, crime, drugs and illiteracy.

Pete Hamill, syndicated columnist, author and magazine writer, identified this group as the "single most dangerous fact of American life."

This underclass represents, in human terms, a loss of work, a loss of family, a loss of safety and loss of law. In short, a loss of about 30 percent of the value of human resources among black citizens.

One can discount the words of white columnists...if we will. Anyone can blame the los of opportunity on the lack of access. How can one account for the fact that between 1977 and 1982, black owned businesses increased nearly 50 percent...from 230,000 in 1977 to 340,000 in 1982?

During the decade between 1970 and 1980, we saw the number of elected black officials increase from under 1,500 to over 6,000. We now have eight black mayors in major black cities.

We have even managed to elect a mayor of our own who manages to be a bright, well educated...yet humble man who scares white people to death.

White folks have always preferred to have blacks who would do as they were told because they didn't have brains enough to do otherwise.

Recall if you will the "spooks who sit by the door." How many of you have seen yourselves as the "token n. . . r?"

How many black people believe that we have come within a hair's breadth of having a black man as a Democratic presidential nominee? Jesse Jackson was once a member of the black underclass. Has one not heard it said that he was illegitimate?

If the answer to our woes is indeed racism, explain how these advances could be made by blacks in a climate which does not accept black success? It might well be time for us to look at the way things really are.

It may be time for us to stop hating and killing and blocking the efforts of Orientals who are building businesses in the black communities.

They are not, by the way, taking opportunities from blacks. They are filling in the places where blacks have failed to put in the work and profits back into the business. They are about the business of building and growing and not screaming about the lack of opportunity and racism.

An example of what this point is can be observed by an account of a recent visit to a recently opened black florist. The time was 11:30 A.M.

A note on the door read: "BE BAKE IN 1/2 HOURE PLEASE WAIT". The time that the note was written, was.....10:00 A.M. Needless to say, the flowers that would have contributed to the florist's profits, bought by someone who wanted to patronize black business were bought at the shop of a florist who had his shop open and was working, pleasant and grateful for the business. At any rate he was there.

One could go on and on with examples of what blacks do that is self defeating, but the excuses we may have once have had are growing stale.

Since the late sixties there have been a lot of black generalizations about black people that sound awfully much like white generalizations about blacks since the 1600's.

The sentences begin...Blacks are....Blacks do...Blacks do not.....This has always seemed rather odd. It is almost as though everyone who is black is to be considered a part of one uniform ball of black wax.

Remember the sentence that started..."I don't usually like Blacks, but you're different..... Well, guess what? There are as many different kinds of blacks as there are different kinds of other people.

We are not all alike. We do not all look alike. God knows that we do not all act alike.

In short, we exhibit a tremendous amount of cultural heterogeneity...(that dear friends is a twenty-five cent word for difference).

It's possible that we're helping along the white perception that we're all alike by lumping ourselves into one big ball of the same old wax.

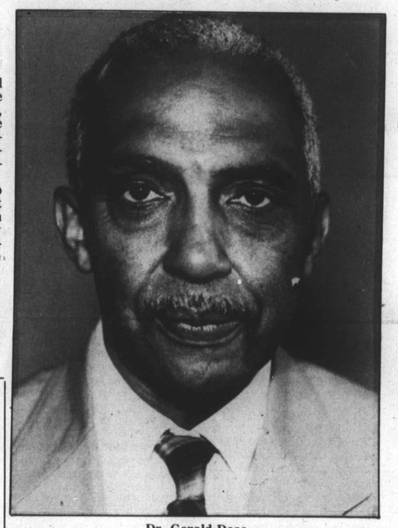
We will indeed "overcome" if we have the will to escape the burden of all being just like everybody else. Face it, we have the God given duty and responsibility to be somebody special, somebody that's just us.

Podiatrists honored

Drs. Neil Scheffler and Paul Sheitel, co-founders of the Baltimore Podiatry Group, were honored recently by the Maryland Podiatric Residency Program for their contributions in teaching and continuing medical education.

Awards were presented to Drs. Scheffler and Sheitel at an awards banquet, which was part of a four-day seminar celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the residency program.

Both Dr. Scheiffler and Dr. Sheitel are Fellows of the American College of Foot Surgeons and are Board certified in foot surgery by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery.



Dr. Gerald Deas

Smokers seek 'freedom'

By Alicia Benjamin
AFRO Staff Writer

Many Americans are looking forward to the Fourth of July to celebrate the independence of the country, but the American Lung Association, along with ex-smokers and smokers who want to quit will celebrate the fifth of July as NonDependence Day.

The ALA of Maryland is sponsoring NonDependence Day from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Harborplace in downtown Baltimore in an attempt to encourage smokers to stop smoking.

NonDependence Day was created in response to the recent Surgeon General's Report on Nicotine Addiction.

"Nicotine addiction is a continuing process from the very first puff, and quitting is an ongoing and difficult process," according to Dr. Norris Horwitz, pulmonary physician and ALA board member.

Dr. Gerald Deas, a New York physician who practices internal medicine, is touring U.S. cities to speak about NonDependence Day and the significance of high lung cancer rates among blacks.

The ALA reports that from 1973 to 1984, the lung cancer death rate among black women nearly doubled from 11.9 per 100,000 population to 20.4.

And in the same period, the death rate among black men rose 25 percent, from 64.3 per 100,000 to 80.3, increasing three times faster than the death rate among white men.

Deas and the ALA teach that the best way to avoid lung cancer is to never start smoking.

About 300,000 people die from cigarette related disease each year, Deas said.

"That number is much greater than AIDS and people are afraid of catching AIDS, but they are not afraid of a cigarette."

The New York doctor believes prevention and the practice of wholistic medicine is the best approach to stopping lung cancer from forming.

But many doctors are not taught how to prevent diseases in medical school, said Deas.

Black doctors are not as active as they should be in teaching their patients about the dangers of smoking and methods to stop smoking, Deas continued.

"I think black doctors need to provide educational information to their patients," Deas stated.

"The black population has not readily accepted smoking as a bad habit," said Deas.

For many blacks, smoking is a way to boost their self-esteem and allow them to feel important, he added.

Liquor and cigarette advertisements are the main thrust of advertising in black communities, he said.

Many black males smoke, because they feel it gives them a macho image, he said.

"It makes them feel like they are somebody. It adds to their self-esteem. Nobody can take it away from them."

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Laws

Continued from Page 1A

alcohol level for a driving-while-intoxicated conviction.

The law, which brings Maryland in line with 48 states with 1.0 levels, also reduces the level for the state's lesser drunken driving charge, driving under the influence, from .08 to .07 percent.

Other new driving laws place an alcohol restriction on licenses for drivers under 21, increase fines for a third DWI conviction from $2,000 to $3,000, and reduce from five to three years the length of time driving records may be made public.

Midnight also signals the start of Maryland's higher education reorganization plan. The state's board of higher educaton and the board of trustees of state universities and colleges will be abolished to make way for a new stronger board to oversee all public and private institutions.

The six institutions supervised by BTSUC will be merged into the University of Maryland System, giving the University's Board of Regents expanded powers.

The BTSUC ended its 25-year tenure on a controversial note. The board drew the ire of legislators by instituting substantial pay raises, including several of $9,500 and $10,000, for 16 of the system's administrators.

In a minor concession, the board later trimmed the 12 percent $10,000 raise for executive director Edgar Schick to 8 percent, but refused to rescind the others.

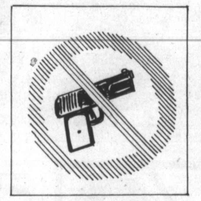
"We don't want the board to go out under a cloud," said Schick

The state's new controversial handgun law, the target of a referendum battle by groups including the National

Rifle Association, requires setting up a nine-member board that will create a list by Jan. 1, 1990, of guns that may be made and sold in Maryland.

Other laws which took effect after midnight Thursday also include:

-Laws requiring retail stores with 20 or more employees to ban smoking in public areas, and requiring restaurants seating 75 or more people to create no-smoking areas.



-Health-related legislation that requires doctors to inform emergency workers such as firefighters and medical technicians if they have been exposed to a patient with AIDS. Laboratories administering AIDS Test also must make monthly reports to the State Health Department.

-Requiring tests every two years instead of annually for Maryland's Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program. The law, which affects cars in Baltimore and seven Maryland counties, also is expanded to include medium-size buses and trucks up to 26,000 pounds, and adds an anti-tampering check to the screening test.

-Creating the Maryland Port Commission to run ports in Baltimore and Cambridge

more like businesses than state agencies. The commission will have access to a contingency fund and will change its procurement and personnel operations.

-Counsolidating licensing for day-care operations under one state agency to eliminate a patchwork of local ordinances. The state also will create a revolving loan fund to help day-care operations finance construction or expansion.

-Creating an office of recycling that will help Baltimore and the state's 23 counties draft recycling plans to reduce trash by 1990.

-Changing the procedure for disciplining the state's doctors to place the state in a stronger investigative and enforcement role for handling patient complaints.

Voodoo

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"In this case she (Cowan) dug out someone's eye and that's a crime."

But Cowan's attorney John Calmes argued that the "true story will never be known because there were only two people in the room."

"No one knows what really happened except her and the boy," he said.

Cowan, 26, claimed that Washington was possessed by demons and quoted Biblical passages for her defense throughout the trial.

"And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee," Cowan stated, "for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."

Cowan also told the jury that she removed Washington's eye in March of last year at the urging of the teen-ager's family — who demanded that she cure the youngster of demonic possession.

City police said Washington had a history of attempting to rid himself of demons through fasting and specialized rituals, and was hospitalized after experiencing convulsions only hours before Cowan removed his eye.

"He was diagnosed as having an anxiety attack and sent home that afternoon," said Assistant District Attorney Sue Bernie.

She said family members then called the Cowans— Andrea, her husband Kevin and his brother David — at the Rock Creek Church after their attempts at a home exorcism failed.

"They felt that someone with more experience was needed," a city police official said. Cowan reportedly bragged of her participation in at least six earlier exorcisms, according to police reports.

At the time of the Washington ritual, Cowan told the arresting officers that, "she was not of this world because Jesus had taken over her body," and attempted to pray first — but later "beat the demons out of him" prior to the exorcism.

"These were powerful demons who just wouldn't budge," she said.

When the prayers and beatings failed to banish Washington's "demons," Cowan said she stuck a finger into his left eye and plucked out his eyeball from its socket.

"This freed the demon," Cowan said. "I recognized the devil as he was being released when the boy spoke in the devil's voice and vomited a mucus matter."

Speaking in her defense, the Rev. David Cowan told jurors that "God had acted through his sister-in-law during the exorcism" and called Washington's demon "very stubborn."

"It was a very stubborn demon because there were more than one in him," Rev. Cowan said.

After the ritual, all three Cowans cleaned the eye and put Washington to bed as his family weeped with relief, police said.

Authorities said Andrea Cowan was arrested two days later, after a nurse from Baton Rouge General Hospital called the Washington family home to check on the teen-ager's anxiety attack and was informed of the eye injury. Hospital officials then notified city police who later placed him under protective custody.

He was taken to a New Orleans hospital for treatment of the removed eye and incoherently repeated "God did it, God did it," when questioned by police, authorities said.

Appearing calm and composed at the trial, Washington said he held no anger or remorse toward Cowan."His family is very religious as well," said Bernie. "Maybe, that's where all his anxiety stems from —his upbringing."

"What seemed to be uncommon about this act was the violence in the taking of the eye. This was the first case of its kind, here."

"Usually with these exorcisms people just pray and lay on hands."

Sabers

Continued from Page 1A

penetrate and he can pass. I am confident that Marlon will be a major factor in what CCB plans to do next year."

Admitting that he needs to be on a weight training program, Quillens has the skills to become a Division 1 player.

"Marlon is an outstanding guard," said Terry Leverette, assistant basketball coach at Southwestern," but he will have to change gears. He will need to realize that he has to take charge on the floor. He averaged only two assists per game, but because he is such a great passer, it should have easily been eight to ten."

"Last year, "there was a lot of pressure on him and that could have weighed on his statistics," Leverette said. "He was a first year starter and we had a first year coach. However, no matter the situation, I think Marlon will be a lot better at CCB."

CCB's signing of Quillens is an important step in the progress of it's men's basketball program as it will try to get back on the right side of .500 after an 11-14 season.

"I'm sure that Marlon is going to help us," Dickens said, "and we hope that we can keep more Baltimore City kids at home by offering them a quality program."

Peanuts

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plans to study engineering in college. He attended the Community College of Baltimore, but had to drop out, because of financial problems.

"I plan to go back to college whenever I have enough money," "The Peanutman" said.

His mother was pleased when he first got the job at Konstant, because Graham said, "she was happy I wasn't running the streets and sticking up people."

"And once in a blue moon I will bring some peanuts home to my family," said Graham.

Konstant, started in 1986 by a Greek family, gets its peanuts from Suffolk County, Va. The firm purchases about 400 to 700 pounds of peanuts every six or seven months.

And each day, hundreds of people stop by to buy shelled peanuts.

When asked why so many people come to Lexington Market to buy Konstant's peanuts, Rosenberger said, "because our product is good."

Two big roasting machines are on site to roast the nuts, allowing for hot and fresh peanuts for the customers.

"I see them so much I get tired of peanuts," Graham said. He said he never sneaks a bite of one or two.

"Briscoe is a good worker," his manager said.

Happy customers make his day, Graham said.

"I like to wait on happy customers, because they can bring you out of a bad mood."

Richard Holland, 52, of east Baltimore said he has bought Konstant peanuts for 33 years. "The peanuts here are fresh and the quality is good, " he said as he bought another bag from Graham.

Graham said he plans to continue selling the nuts until he can get a better job, preferably a "desk job."

When asked what was his favorite nut, Graham said, "the unsalted peaput. Salt is bad for the heart."

Pinderhughes

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well.

Richard Hunter, soon to replace Pinderhughes as superintendent, while he has a long history in urban education, is totally new to Baltimore.

"I think they offer a fresh look, their different experiential backgrounds and current approaches to the solution of problems will even itself out," she said. "They have no ties or connections with anyone that will put pressure on them in any way."

"They also have the benefit of school board members who know the system and have been there," she said.

Lack of funding in the school system has been the problem receiving the most notoriety under Pinderhughes reign. She believes it will still be a problem and is the result of less than favorable circumstances that existed since she came to office.

"Spending coming from the city decreased, at the same time, you had inflation with its rising costs," she said. "We were right in the middle of a crunch and it required some cut backs in services to the students."

Although she does not wish to predict the future and anticipate problems for Hunter, Pinderhughes believes funding will remain his major obstacle.

"I hope he doesn't have any problems, I want to help him," she said. "He's got the support of the mayor, and that's a big plus."

Pinderhughes also came into office backed by former Mayor William Donald Schaefer who a number of groups blame for destroying the school system.

"You can't place blame entirely on one person," Pinderhughes said. "There were those other severe obstacles.

Over the past five years, while Pinderhughes headed the school system, the dropout rate increased to an all time high of fifty percent.

While she believes the school system is partly responsible, she also feels there are some problems which reach beyond the realm of the school system.

"Schools can address low motivation and failure in school, but the problems of crime cannot be solely addressed by the schools," she said. "I believe people have to realize that the drop out rate can decrease, but it can't go from fifty percent to zero overnight."

Pinderhughes began her career in elementary education. She became assistant superintendent of elementary education, and plans to continue doing work in that field.

She is going to work with the same group as David H. Hornbeck at Johns Hopkins University, addressing social concerns in elementary and secondary education.

Pinderhughes' daughter, Alice is an attorney married with three sons.

Her husband, William, a former superintendent candidate died before she took office. She believes he would be very proud of her accomplishment.

With an empty house, Pinderhughes plans to get a lot of rest, spend time with her grandsons, and become reacquainted with her community and civic organizations that she has neglected.

Pinderhughes has no regrets and her vision for the next superintendent is a positive one.

"I think I've done a good job and had a lot of success in adding some good programs to the schools," she said. "I hope it will be easier for the next superintendent now that the community is more aware of the need for funds."

"I want them to believe in their next superintendent and his efforts to make this the number one school system in the country, and provide financial and moral support."

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