—Agent Orange vet

(Continued from Page 1A)

physically exhausted from seeking justice, but he has also exhausted his meager savings. "I have lost everything fighting this," he said.

"I lost four children because of exposure to Agent Orange while fighting in Vietnam, and I am now separated from my two living children in order to survive."

After sorting things out with the local VA office, it was decided that independent doctors would evaluate Bailey to determine the extent of his disability which would help to determine the monetary rate for his monthly benefits.

The VA had cut Bailey's benefits by 50 percent, citing improvement in his disability as confirmed by medical examination.

But Bailey alleged that the doctors, who were hand picked by the VA, were not qualified because they knew little to nothing about Agent Orange.

"Neither of them is a toxicologist," Bailey said. He said that the local VA had agreed to pay the medical bills he had incurred by having himself examined by doctors of his choice.

Bailey said that the local VA refused to pick up the tab as they had promised and as a result, the collecting agents for the medical facilities have indicated that they will take him to court.

As if that was not enough trouble, Bailey is about to lose his home because he cannot make his mortgage payments. Bailey said that he is unable to make the payments because of the reduction in his monthly benefits.

Carliss D. Parker, who works in the Collection Department at Bancsmiths Mortgage Corporation said Friday that foreclosure action on Bailey's home will begin as early as this week.

Bailey's problems are well known to Maryland lawmakers. He has written to all the congressmen he can think of. U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski has written the VA on behalf of him. Bailey has even written to President Ronald Reagan about his case.

VA chief of staff, James E. De Wire replied on behalf of the President and told Bailey that the Baltimore VA office will review his appeal and if no change occurs, his appeal will be certified to the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, D.C.

Because of the Privacy Act, which prohibits Government Agencies from disclosing personal information, the regional VA office and the Maryland's Veterans Commission, both in Baltimore, could not comment on Bailey's case.

But speaking generally, William B. Creager of the Maryland Veterans Commission said that if veterans show improvement in health, their benefits are reduced.

"The greater question of impact to the veteran is left for Congress to deal with," he said.

Creager also said that the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta could not find scientific evidence that the exposure to Agent Orange has long time effects.

The Veterans Services Officer at the regional VA office in Baltimore also spoke generally when he said that if a Vet has a VA guaranteed mortgage, the VA will be involved in the matter.

Bailey's mortgage is VA guaranteed, but he said some tax problems are trying his case up at the VA office, and he does not have any money. "My health does not permit me to hold down a job," he said.

Without the services of a lawyer, as he was told that he was not qualified for legal aid, Bailey is seeking to have a higher court overturn the district court's decision and order the VA to pay his medical expenses.

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—Barbara Jordan

(Continued from Page 1A)

Sunday afternoon, Dr. William Deaton, a pulmonary specialist, said, "Her biggest concern this morning . . . was that she knew she had an appointment and she kept spelling out the word cancel. . . . We think she has a dental appointment that she wanted us to cancel. She obviously had pretty good mental recall."

Dr. James Little, a neurologist, said doctors do not know what caused her to lose consciousness in the pool. The most likely causes are a sudden change in the heart rhythm or a seizure, but monitoring equipment in the intensive care unit has turned up no evidence of either condition.

Once every four hours, Jordan is visited by either Nancy Earl, the housemate who discovered Jordan floating in the backyard pool at their home in the South Austin suburb of Manchaca, or by one of Jordan's two sisters from Houston.

The only other person allowed at her bedside was Texas State Treasurer Ann Richards, the now-celebrated keynote speaker at the Democratic National Convention, who sat with her once on Saturday.

Vice presidential candidate Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, whose nomination Jordan seconded at last month's Democratic convention in Atlanta, called the hospital and left a get well message Sunday, Hinckley Boyle said.

Earl said Jordan, who is confined to a wheelchair because of a degenerative condition, often swims as therapy.

Doctors said Jordan suffers from multiple sclerosis.

Earl on Saturday went to the store for 10 minutes and returned to find Jordan floating in the pool. She called for emergency help and then jumped into the pool and administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation in the water.

Emergency crews, who arrived within eight minutes, pulled Jordan from the water and restored her pulse and assisted her breathing. She was taken to the hospital by helicopter.

Deaton credited her recovery to the prompt arrival of EMS workers.

"I would say that within four or five minutes, 10 minutes at the most, if it had been that much longer she would not most likely have survived with her mental functions," Deaton said.

"She has no memory of the incident, which is probably fortunate," Hinckley Boyle said.

Jordan jumped to the forefront of Texas politics when she won a congressional seat in 1972 in a sional district in Houston created by reapportionment, becoming the first black woman elected to Congress from a former Confederate state.

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee in 1974, her contralto voice and fiery oratory on the Constitution catapulted her to prominence during the impeachment proceedings against President Richard Nixon.

She made a stirring keynote address during the 1976 Democratic National Convention, becoming the first black and first woman to make the address.

Jordan dropped out of politics to assume a professorship at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in 1979.

Doctors ordered a curtailment of visitors to former Texas congresswoman Barbara Jordan, saying rest is now the key to her recovery from a near drowning.

"They're trying to curtail and to get her to rest," said and to get her to rest," said Marsha Walker, Brackenridge Hospital. "The biggest problem right now is she takes her oxygen mask off to talk with people that are around."

Walker said Jordan's chief complaints were a sore chest from the cardiopulmonary resuscitation and a sore throat from a breathing tube that was removed Sunday.

"Other than that, she's in good shape and good spirits," said Walker.

Jordan, who was pulled unconscious from the pool Saturday, will remain in the intensive care unit of Brackenridge Hospital, for 48 hours. Walker said she would probably be released in a week.

A respirator was removed Sunday after doctors determined that fluid in Jordan's lungs had cleared enough to allow her to breathe on her own.

Doctors said Jordan, a professor at the University of Texas and former Democratic congresswoman, appeared to be feeling fine.

—City and County join

(Continued from Page 1A)

residents in openings in either facility.

The two centers offer training courses in automotive mechanics, machine tooling, clerical office skills, electronics and computer-aided drafting, as well as provide vocational counseling, G.E.D. preparation and job placement assistance.

In return the county will be allowed to tap availabilities in the wide variety of occupational training opportunities provided by private vendors under contract to the city.

The agreement also called for Schmoke and Rasmussen to cooperate in locating jobs in their respective jurisdictions for workers displaced by mass playoffs and to assist in the location of qualified employees needs for mass hirings.

In addition, transportation problems which have in the past restricted employment opportunities, will be tackled under the agreement as will increased cooperation between the respective employer-based Private Industry Councils.

"I see it as further evidence that our politically separate subdivisions can work together effectively in many areas of mutual concern," said Schmoke."

The agreement takes effect immediately.

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Child abuse & neglect

PART III

By Dr. George G. Musgrove

This series of articles on child abuse and neglect tries to point out some of the deep rooted problems that cause family dysfunction resulting in abuse. We would be remiss, however, if we did not at least discuss measures that we as a community can take to relieve these problems.

The solutions fall basically into two categories, i.e., those negative activities that we should prevent and those positive actions that we should promote.

We should prevent drug and alcohol abuse. Obviously, this is an enviable goal; but, one that has been extremely difficult to realize. While there are no magic answers, increased efforts to stop the import and distribution of drugs must be a starting point.

The proliferation of the drug problem will continue unabated, unless we act forcefully and wisely. There are basically only two ways to take the financial incentives out of drug distribution. One is to legalize and tax their use and the other is to make the penalty for their distribution so high, it is no longer profitable.

If our focus is to protect children within our society, we must reduce the use of drugs and alcohol by the adults responsible for their care and development. If other pressures such as poverty were not so destructive to people's lives, alternative solutions might become more attractive, but we must deal with our current crisis as it exists.

Finally, we must continue to effectively educate our youth about the dangers of drug abuse and to offer them positive life options that allow them a chance at the American dream through means other than drug distribution and illegal activities.

We must prevent teenage pregnancy. The City of Baltimore — the City with the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the country, cannot afford half measures in addressing this problem. Children, having babies, with no parenting skills and no family support mechanism, end up destroying those children they seem so desperate to have.

Many attempts at ameliorating this problem have met with mixed results. There is, however, one proven model for addressing the issue of teen pregnancy, on a community-wide basis, that seems to be working. That model is based on the creation of school-based health clinics in every middle and high school.

Saint Paul, Minnesota, which piloted this model, is the only major American City that has dramatically and consistently reduced the incidence of teen pregnancy. We must rise above the moral issues involved and think about the generation of children who are ruining their lives and that of the next generation. Learning self-control and constructive behavior in their teen years will enable our children to become better adults.

We also seem to forget one important fact — while teen pregnancy itself, especially for younger teens, is unwise, it is teen pregnancy out-of-wedlock that is our real problem. I offer two suggestions.

The first is a serious attempt to insure that these young men, who are potential mates for the young women they impregnate, have jobs. The second is promoting marriage as the most viable institution for raising children. This implies no moral judgment, rather recognizes the economic realities of two-parent families and the need of children for both male and female role models in their childhood.

If the two-parent family is the ideal structure — why have we slipped away from promoting its occurrence? Why don't we have courses on marriage in our school system? Why don't we further encourage it through our tax system and other systems of government-drive financial support? If the federal government wishes to ignore its role in this area, perhaps the State can take the lead through tax and other incentives.

We need to prevent dependency and promote self-sufficiency. Maryland's and our nation's many welfare-to-work initiatives are a major step in the direction of offering all citizens a place in our economy. We are faced, in fact, with a real potential shortfall in our labor force, by the year 2000, if we do not turn our dependent citizens into productive employees.

Project Independence in Maryland is at the cutting edge of the national welfare reform effort. The citizens of Maryland need to write our elected officials and encourage expansion of this initiative. We must, however, insist that it be designed to include young men as a target population.

Getting women off the welfare rolls is politically popular; but, short-sighted, if it is not linked with a political commitment to employ our young men. This commitment to young men, as well as young women, is vital if we are to address the real issues surrounding long term dependence; building healthy family structures; and, resolving problems of racism in this country.

We can no longer afford to write-off or to discriminate against any segment of our society. This has become an economic issue as well as a moral one.

Welfare reform also needs to address several other major program areas. The first is the expansion of available quality child care, especially for mothers of young children entering the labor force. Nationally, 54% of all women with a child under one year old are working.

As more and more women become part of the labor force, we must insure that children are offered developmental activities that will insure their growth. This issue is one where the employers themselves have an obligation to assist in making child care options available to their employees.

We should strongly encourage the provision of child care as an employee benefit — offered in conjunction with or as a substitute for existing employee benefits.

We must address the entire issue of increased child support payments. Both parents have a financial responsibility for raising the children that they bring into this world. The absent parent cannot be allowed to shirk this responsibility.

Failure to enforce an adequate level of child support further erodes the family structure and puts millions of children at a serious disadvantage in the struggle to become productive members of our society.

We would be remiss in this article if we did not point out that completion of high school is vital to the future, not only of our young people, but to the children they are sure to parent. We must continue to promote educational excellence and prevent children from dropping out.

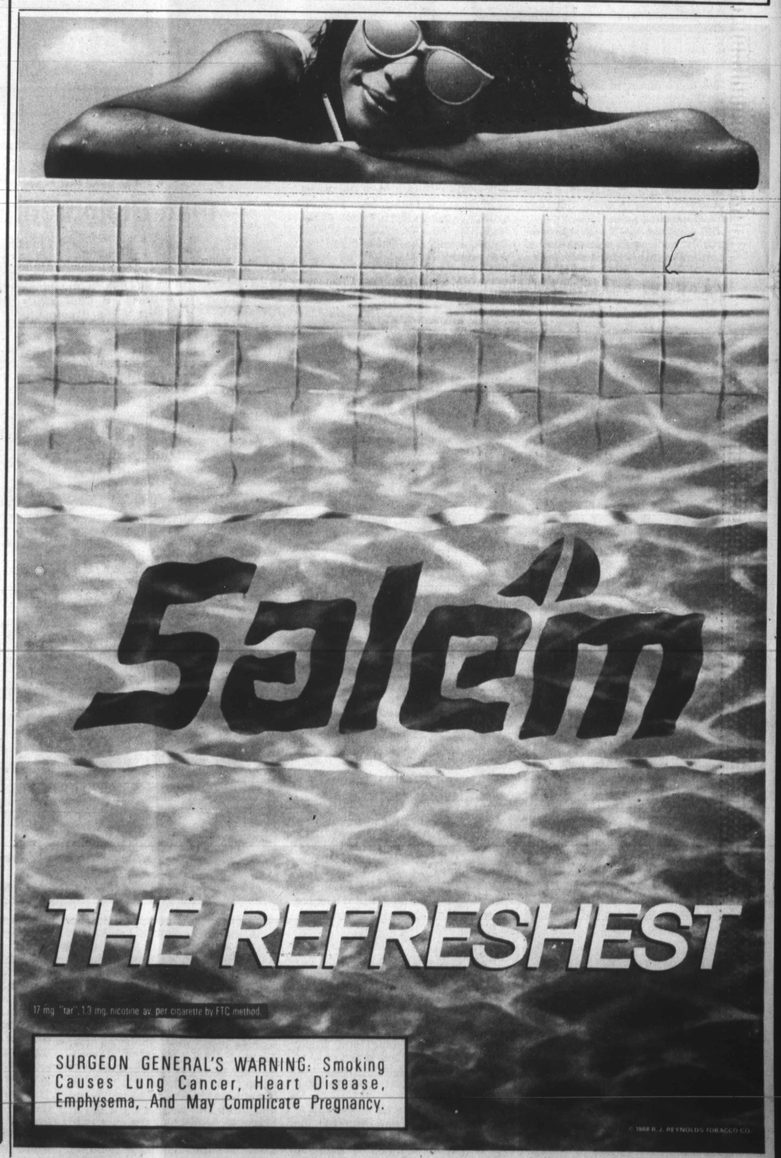
All of the initiatives listed above can be viewed as essential for addressing the problems of poverty and restructuring and rehabilitating our communities. Many of them already exist in Maryland, but need additional support from our elected officials.

Douglass class of '33 holds 55th reunion

Over 200 class members and associates celebrated their 55th year of being graduates of Douglass High's class of 1933.

Guests were kept on their feet until 12 a.m. with oldies and goodies played by the Dennis Fisher band.

In the midst of all the entertainment, the spotlight was on Mrs. Mattie Ashton, 97, a long time teacher who taught most of the members of the class of '33.

Presenting a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Ashton was Mrs. Anna Christmas (photo at right). The Class of '33 has awarded scholarships continuously for 30 years to worthy students of Douglass High School. This year, they gave $500 to the top female student in the class of 1988.

Top picture is the committee which put the affair together.