Exhibition features AFRO artist works

RICHMOND

Long time AFRO Newspaper national editorial cartoonist Thomas Stockett will have his paintings on exhibition at The Last Stop Gallery, April 7 - May 3. The public is invited to attend the opening reception for the artist which will be held Friday, April 7, from 8 - 9:30 p.m.

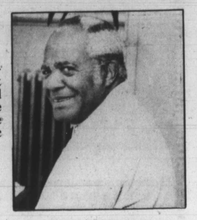
Stockett's affiliation with the Baltimore Afro-American has spanned 33 years as their editorial-page cartoonist. He has been a three time winner of the National Newspaper Publishers' Association and has won more than 200 first-place prizes in art shows along the Atlantic seaboard.

He grew up in Baltimore, MD, and went to Carver Vocational High School, which, while he attended it, did not have an art department. No matter, he studied interior decorating which taught him to apply paint in such a way so as not to leave brush marks, something he still does while capturing the essence of the African-American culture with photographic detail as well as with warmth and sensitivity.

After graduating from Carver in 1944, he went on to acquire his art-school training while working with Lindy Jordan for 10 years. Mostly they were engaged in doing large outdoor displays, illustrating scenes from movies for the old Carver Theater on Pennsylvania Avenue.

As an illustrator, he has contributed to wildlife conservation when he designed a stamp/prints entitled "Great Blue Herons—1988-89" in conjunction with the Wildlife Conservation Stamp and Print Program which was created as a partnership between the State of Maryland and private businesses for the public benefit.

The Last Stop Gallery is located at 1719 E. Main St. in Shockoe Bottom. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 12:30 - 5 p.m.



Thomas Stockett

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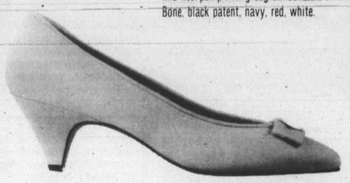

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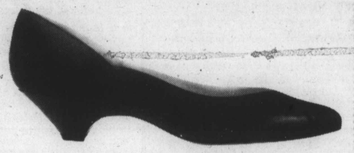

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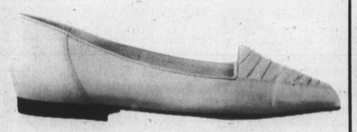
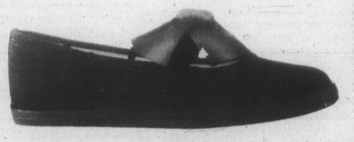


$47
DYAN BY 9 WEST.
Spectator moccasin in white/black patent, white/brown, taupe/white, pink/white.

$22
BEND BY 9 WEST.
Casual flat with detachable bow. White, black, white/black stripe, hot pink.



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The Afro-American Section B

METRO PROFILE

■ Lifestyle B4
■ Kids Talk B6

Saturday, April 8, 1989

AIDS and Black America...breaking the silence

Not just a white,gay problem

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

Not enough has been said. According to National Public Radio's week-long series entitled "AIDS and Black America: Breaking the Silence," the black community has been tight-lipped about the immune-crippling and fatal disease-AIDS.

More than 13,000 blacks have died and blacks are twice as likely than whites to contract AIDS said the report, which is being aired on local NPR affiliates— WEAA-FM 88.9 and WJHU-FM 88.1.

Connie Hansell, NPR's publicist, said the comprehensive series which began April 3 is the first of its kind. The series can be heard on NPR's news magazines "Morning Edition," "All Things Considered" and "Weekend Edition" between 5-10 a.m. and 5-6:30 p.m. until April 9.

"I do it to a lot of girls. I don't brag and lie. I do it to a lot of girls...never had no virus or disease," said a young black man who was interviewed during the two-month investigation piece.

The young man's comments about his promiscuity and need-to-be-proven-masculinity paired with general AIDS misconceptions in the black community including: "AIDS is a gay man's disease" have caused the disease to balloon in the black community.

Black AIDS workers interviewed said black politicians, civil rights leaders and clergy have been reluctant to address AIDS, which has killed nearly 50,000 Americans.

In the series, one of 150 ministers who gathered at an unprecedented AIDS conference in Philadelphia, Pa. said giving condoms to people is saying it is okay to be sexually active.

"The church's position has always been to flee from fornication," the minister said.

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, who was also interviewed, said black leaders have been addressing AIDS but there "was not much of a platform for a hearing, but there is now and it must be addressed...."

AIDS workers also said the U.S. government has been quiet and slow to educate the black community. Gay whites, who seem to have the disease in check, have also not been willing to help blacks fight AIDS in their community.

AIDS "slipped up on everybody" catching people by surprise, including black leaders, said one civil rights leader.

Locally, the Maryland AIDS Commission reports 391 people have died from the incurable disease that attacks the body's immune system. AIDS is spread sexually and through blood.

More than 800 blacks in Baltimore have contracted full-blown AIDS or the human immune deficiency virus, compared to 667 whites, the Maryland AIDS Commission spokesman said.

And many cases go unreported.

Askia Muhammad, one of three black reporters on the five-man team, said earlier this week the series intends to alert people of the crisis and spark action.

Reporters travelled across the United States stopping in numerous cities, including Philadelphia, Pa., Washington, D.C., and Chicago, Ill. to investigate and do the series.

The series' segments are eight to nine minutes long.

Brenda Wilson, another black reporter, said the black community is beginning to talk about AIDS and its "second wave" but the silence will probably have a devastating impact on blacks.

AIDS experts said AIDS' "second wave" now ripples, threatening women and children, most of whom are black.

Alphie Williams, WEAA-FM's newest program director, said the non-commercial station aired the series to help educate WEAA listeners.

"Unfortunately, people who need information on AIDS, don't listen to stations like WEAA and other NPR affiliates," said Williams.

"...For the people who will be listening to our station, the series will help keep them up to date on the AIDS crisis and let them know how serious the problem is in the black community," Williams added.

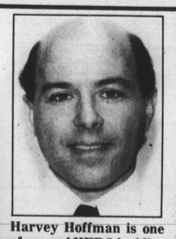
NPR's Hansell said more than 500,000 of the network's listeners are black. Most are educated and professional people.

NPR editor Larry Abramson said there was a lot of reporting on AIDS before the NPR piece, but all the reports focused on the white gay community and not on the increasing AIDS cases in the black community.

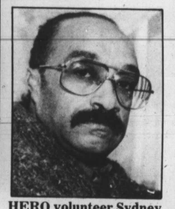
"We hope this report will make up for the deficit," Abramson said.

"It's not a crusading effort," said his NPR co-worker Hansell. "But we want to bring the situation to the public."

WEAA-FM's new program director, Alphie Williams said, the station aired NPR's latest AIDS series to educate and inform local listeners.



Harvey Hoffman is one of several HERO buddies who brightens AIDS patients' lives.



HERO volunteer Sydney W. Jackson finds a quiet moment at home before he leaves to "buddy" patients with AIDS.

Victims have feelings,need support

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

When L.B. and Harvey L. Hoffman met in August, the two men had no idea they would become close friends.

Back then 38-year-old Hoffman had volunteered to support L.B., a 25-year-old AIDS patient who had just learned he had contracted the fatal disease. (L.B. chose to use his initials to protect his identity and his family.)

L.B. and Hoffman are two of the "buddies" in the Health Education and Resource Organization's five-year-old AIDS Buddy Program.

"I'm a friend he can call when he is in need," said Hoffman, who takes L.B. to his AIDS-support groups weekly.

"Harvey is like an A-1 brother to me," said L.B., who is black. "He is always there for me."

HERO buddy volunteers, like Hoffman help PWA's -people with AIDS- by cooking, shopping, providing transportation and conversation and other little deeds that mean a lot.

"Before I met Harvey, I wanted to give up," said L.B., who has since learned to cope with his disease to help comfort and support people who have tested HIV positive. He has had two occurrences with pneumonias, symptoms that his health is worsening.

But the 5-foot-nine, 147-pounder says he "will not let the disease get the best of him."

Joyce Kramer, director of HERO's volunteer services, said the buddy program is seeking 40 new volunteers, particularly blacks and former IV drug users. She has already interviewed 30 people for the next training schedule this month.

"Everyday we are getting calls from AIDS patients who want to take advantage of this program. But we just don't have enough volunteers, particularly minority buddies or those with IV drug experience," said Kramer.

She said the program differs from other HERO programs because it provides "one-to-one patient care."

Beginning April 14, HERO will sponsor a three-day Buddy training course at Morgan State University. The 16-hour course will teach volunteers how to cope with AIDS and AIDS patients.

Kramer said volunteers need only be big-hearted and willing. They do not have to be AIDS experts.

For AIDS Buddy Program information call 685-1180.

Volunteers are asked to commit four hours a week for at least six months. They visit approximately 60 PWA's at home and in nursing homes, hospices and hospitals.

"I've been a buddy for four years now," said Sydney W. Jackson, a retired computer worker.

He has three PWA's.

"I help them emotionally and provide foot transportation for them," said Jackson.

The director of volunteer projects said there are 100 volunteers in the program that is funded by fund-raisers and private donations.

Kramer, a former Baltimore City schoolteacher, said when HERO was without a director of volunteer services for several months the volunteers "held it together".

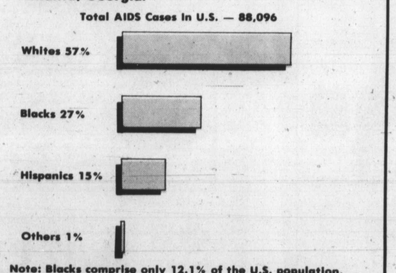
In other HERO activities, on June 18 the AIDS group, the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Patuxent Publishing Company and WJZ-TV will sponsor AIDSWALK '89 to help raise $250,000 for several non-profit Baltimore AIDS organizations.

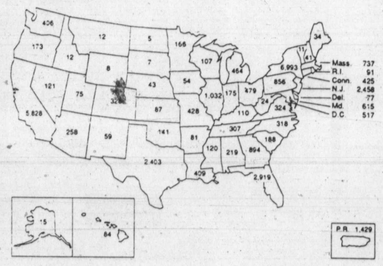
Last year, $65,000 was raised in the city's first AIDSWALK. AIDSWALK '89 starts 9 a.m. at the Baltimore Museum of Art on Charles Street.

For AIDSWALK details call 685-1230.

Nearly 50,000 Americans have died from AIDS since the first case was reported in the U.S. in 1981.

Percentage of AIDS cases by race in the U.S. According to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia.



Note: Blacks comprise only 12.1% of the U.S. population.

Adult/adolescent and pediatric AIDS cases, United States, reported March 1988 through February 1989.