—Spa faces new charges

(Continued from Page A1)

Division, which alleged that more than 40 Holiday Spas in the metropolitan areas of Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia, attempted to discourage blacks from purchasing club memberships.

A group of former Holiday employees are involved with two new suits which revive the issue and center the focus on the Baltimore/Washington clubs.

In the justice Department suit Holiday was charged with telling blacks who called for appointments to see the facilities there were no open slots on the day they wanted to visit. If they did manage to obtain an appointment, blacks were quoted higher prices than whites who requested membership information.

The Justice Department also found that blacks received rude treatment in the hope that this would discourage them from applying for membership and were not offered the type of membership which would allow the use of more than one facility.

Sharon Chambers, a trial attorney for the Justice Department, says the suit was settled with certain provisions. These provisions entitle suspected victims of Holiday's alleged discrimination varying types of recourse.

Present members will be allowed to cancel or restructure their memberships. Those who elect to cancel will be reimbursed according to the amount of unused time on their membership.

Those who feel they were discouraged from membership will receive compensation which may include tours to make up for the tours they were allegedly denied.

Martin's case was referred by the Montgomery County Branch of the NAACP to the Washington Lawyers Committee, which is handling a separate membership suit and Covington and Burling, which is handling a second suit on the behalf of Martin and other employees.

In the membership suit the attorneys are seeking $50,000 damages and other reparations.

The employees suit charges Holiday with denying professional opportunities and discrimination and is expected to be filed within the next two weeks. The employee suit is seeking additional punitive damages.

After repeated attempts Holiday officials were unable to respond to the charges as of AFRO presstime.

"The worst part is people think that since Holiday settled with the Justice Department it is finished," Martin said. "That is not true. People come up to me and say 'I'm happy to hear that you guys won that suit and it's all over'," Martin says. "I tell them 'it's not over yet'."

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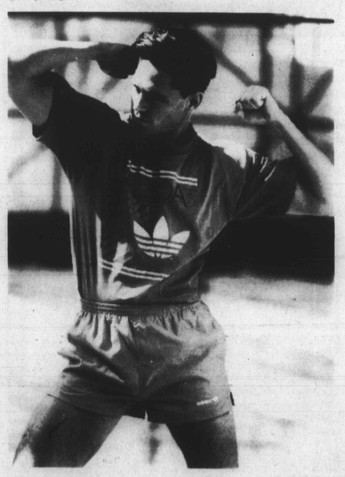

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Saturday, May 20, 1989

"CHOICES OR CHANCES"

Teenagers Facing Real Life

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

No, this game does not test players' abilities to gobble property and dollars like "Monopoly," nor does it test their mental finesse as in chess.

Instead, "Choices or Chances" tests teenagers abilities to make good, common-sense decisions in real-life-pubescent situations.

The nine-year-old L.A. YWCA - spawned board game offers teenagers opportunities to discuss and role play issues facing them, including sexuality, education, drug abuse and peer pressure.

Teresa A. Hawkins, Baltimore YWCA coordinator, said there are no losers, because everyone benefits from the discussions.

The game came to Baltimore in 1984 and has been played at the YWCA's Madison Teen Center on West Franklin Street and other city groups under the guidance of a YWCA professional called a facilitator.

But today because of a lack of staff and money the game has not been played regularly. Hawkins said she hopes that will change soon.

She said the YWCA is looking for a new facilitator to run the game that has made a difference to so many young peoples' lives.

"This is an important life options program where teens are presented with real life situations," Hawkins said.

"I find teens really don't possess decision-making skills. They usually make decisions care-freely," she said.

But "The girls are definitely more mature, although so many of them are looking to be loved and made to feel secure. They think they can find that in a love relationship with the opposite sex," said Hawkins, a past facilitator.

Many times in real life, the girls' desires to be loved, leads to other complicated roads, such as pregnancy and abortion.

In the game, for example girls may select a choice card that explains she has missed her period for the last two months and she must decide on her own, what she will do.

Does she go to a doctor and take a pregnancy test? or Does she decide to have an abortion when her pregnancy is confirmed? or Does she tell her parents?

After verbalizing and explaining her decision to all, the group has a discussion and makes recommendations on how she could have handled the situation better.

Hawkins said usually the male teens make decisions, especially becoming sexually active, because of peer pressure.

The game also pairs boys and girls in couples and they must together make decisions.

Will Bob and Mary who have been dating steadily have sex or will they not?

On the lighter side, the players also are confronted with humorous and embarrassing moments, like this one: "My next door neighbor likes to sunbathe in the open .... I like it when she rubs oil on her body."

That person must decide to keep watching or stop.

Hawkins said the decisions tend to get harder as the 14 players roll dice and move their female and male-symboled wooden figures around the board. The game takes about two-and-a-half hours to play.

At the top of the boards are eight columns entitled: embarrassing situations, self-identity, relating with others, new couples, steady couples, sexually active, consequences and resolutions.

Here is a typical and tough scenario for a player: A teen is on a date and he or she is with people who are smoking marijuana. Will he or she give in to peer pressure and take a puff? The teen decides.

Because Hawkins wanted to protect the identities and confidentiality of the participants, she decided to not give players' names.

But Hawkins said she noticed changes in the teens when she oversaw the game.

"It's usually pretty hard for them at first, but after the ice breaker they feel comfortable and are willing to discuss issues openly and honestly," said Hawkins, who has worked at the YWCA for almost 15 years.

Hawkins has been a past teen programs assistant and director. She studied psychology at Towson State University, but did not get a bachelor's degree.

At the end of the game, teens have a wrap-up conversation and discuss the decisions they made.

Usually church and civic groups request the game and the YWCA responds.

Before teens can play, their parents must sign a permission slip, understanding sexually explicit language may be discussed.

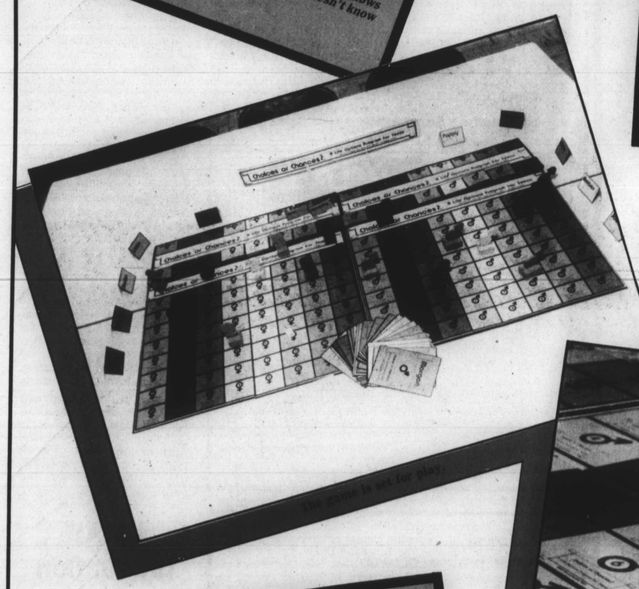
Teens are told to not discuss the game's conversation with outsiders.

Choices or Chances is a part of the YWCA's Life Options Educational Program and was created as an outlet for teens to discuss and share real issues, because many parents failed to do so.

For information on Choices or Chances call 685-1460.

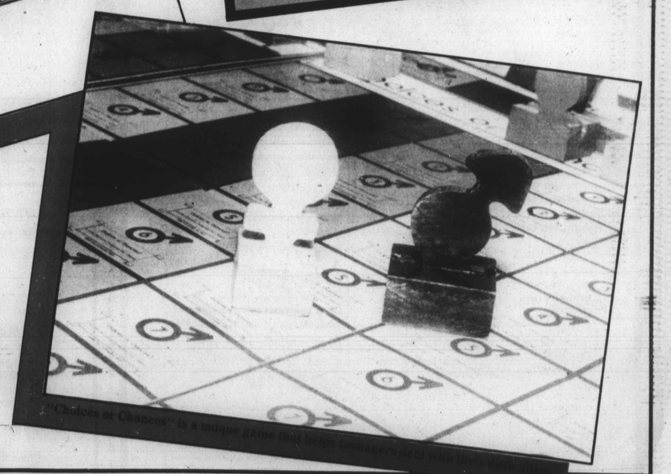
What I would like is to be able to just be friends with a guy, you know, pal around together and talk about things like I do with the girls. I'd really like to find out what guys think about different things. Do you think I can find someone like this?

You know something that really bothers me is when a girl puts on a "smart" act using long words and acting like she knows everything. I'd like to show one of them that she doesn't know anything at all.



My girlfriend does just about everything possible short of penetration. Neither of us wants to get into the possible problems of getting pregnant.

I'm not sure about this women's lib stuff. I enjoy being pampered and taken care of. I really like getting made up and all dressed up for fancy dates. Some girls would even go to the senior prom in overalls.



I've never gone out with a girl, and that bothers me. I'm shy, but I think I could overcome it if I knew there were some girls who liked me. Then I could probably ask them out or something, but I haven't been friends with a girl enough to give her reason to like me. What should I do?

"Choices or Chances" is a unique game that helps teens [illegible]