—Teen pregnancies

(Continued from Page A1)

and the relentless cycle of poverty that is so pervasive in the black community, is inevitable.

Teen mothers and their children augment the legions of the impoverished simply because these mothers, who are essentially children themselves, are not prepared to be parents mentally, emotionally or financially.

What is most unnerving is it seems many of us, who are harmed most by the ills of, "children having children" seem to be passive about the problem.

How many times have we casually discussed little girls who have babies, as though like this is an expected phenomena?

It seems as though this is a burden that we accept, if not readily, with little resistance.

Teen pregancy is a reality and it is understood that we have to do everything we can to help to insure productive futures for adolescent parents and their babies.

However, instead of concentrating soely on support and tolerance, we need to refocus our energies on prevention, if we want to contain the problem.

This is the problem.

Education. In 1982, pregnancy was one of the four most frequently cited reasons by females for dropping out of school.

Teens with poor basic academic skills are five times more likely to become mothers before age 16 than young women with average academic skills.

Employment. The lifetime earnings of adolescent mothers are less than half the earnings of a woman who gives birth to her first child while in her twenties.

Health. 12 percent of births to teen mothers are low birth rate babies.

National studies indicate that babies born with birth defects are more prevalent among teenage mothers.

Public cost. In the fiscal year 1986-87, 126 million dollars was spent for medicaid for teenage childbearing in Maryland.

44 million dollars in food stamps was spent for teenage births in Maryland in the same fiscal year.

A total public cost of 321.58 million dollars was spent on adolescent child birth in the fiscal year, 1986-87.

We have to stand up together and find answers now.

This is the first of a three part series that will examine the problems of adolescent pregnancy as it affects the African-American community specifically.

* All statistical information provided by, The Governor's Council on Adolescent Pregnancy.

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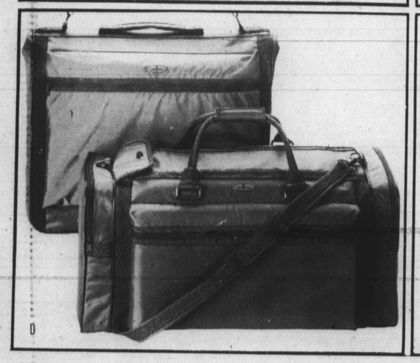

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FATHER'S DAY IS JUNE 18
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METRO PROFILE

■ Lifestyle B4
■ Kids Talk B6

Saturday, June 17, 1989

The AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER'S
Mayoral Report Card

Text by Helen Glover Cook
Statistial Computer Analysis By Charles H. Brown

Midterm grades for Baltimore's first elected black mayor, Kurt L. Schmoke are in and in keeping with his past records of accomplishment, the mayor's grades are excellent.

On Tuesday June 12, 1989 the AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS announced the results of the Report Card survey in an press conference held at the Eutaw Street headquarters of the AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS.

AFRO Publisher, John "Jakie" Oliver and President, Frances "Toni" Murphy Draper personally presented Mayor Schmoke with a framed report card, listing the averages of grades received in each category.

AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS Publisher, John "Jakie" Oliver and President, Frances "Toni" Draper present Baltimore Mayor, Kurt L. Schmoke with the results of the AFRO poll.

"I think that Mayor Schmoke is doing a superb job in most areas and I believe it is just a matter of time before crime will decrease and drug enforcement will increase if his idea of decriminalization catches on. The low scores I gave him are not his fault; it is a national problem!"

Mayor Schmoke thanked the AFRO for continuing its reputation of supplying accurate information with a black perspective. Mayor Schmoke said "The AFRO is continuing in the footsteps of its founders who pledged to supply the black community with an organ that will act as the voice of the black community."

Mayor Schmoke responded to his grades by saying "I am happy that my constituency is satisfied with the job I have done in the past nine months. I hope that next year's grades will be even better."

Averaging a near 90 (88.8) in 17 categories, the mayor received his lowest grade of 85.39 in the area of drug enforcement and his highest grade was awarded for the enthusiasm which he brings to the office.

The Report Cards were made available to a cross-segment of the population in several ways. They could be clipped from the AFRO or respondents could pick up Report Cards free of charge at commercial establishments throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area where the AFRO is sold or by visiting the AFRO offices.

The Report Cards were printed in all AFRO editions, throughout the duration of the survey, April 29 thru June 1, 1989. Survey participants were asked to grade the Mayor's performance during his first 9 months in office.

The AFRO received Report Cards from over 159 respondents. Several civic organizations, sororities, fraternities and churches collectively polled their membership in regular meetings where the Report Card was added to the agenda. The totals were then averaged and listed as the group's grade in a particular category.

The Report Card survey was not a scientific survey. Several factors contributed to this. Most respondents checked boxes listing their education levels as higher than average educational levels (for city residents as a whole), listing: Attended College, College Grad and Postgrad Work. This resulted in receiving replies from a cross section with several variations in educational levels.

Other areas such as income, sex and age also were not representative of a wide variety of respondents. Most respondents were female and listed their ages as between 35-44 years of age.

Another factor which contributed to the non-scientific aspect of the survey was its availability. Report Cards were not available to a control group whose age, sex and income levels were controlled by the AFRO.

Although respondents were asked to give their age,sex, and income levels there was not a marked difference in the opinions given (grading) by either sex.

Surprisingly no one in the $15,000 income range gave the mayor a failing grade in any category. All city residents in primarily the middle to upper income range gave the mayor high marks in drug enforcement, crime prevention, health and public housing.

Gender was most evident in the lower than average grades given to the mayor by the women who gave their addresses as public housing developments. These women felt that Mayor Schmoke should bring more attention to improving the deteriorating conditions of public housing as well as raising the living standard for public housing residents.

Comments written in the lower section of the report card reserved for such included remarks from those who applauded the excellent performance of Mayor Schmoke as well as those who felt that he is not fulfilling his mayoral obligations by taking such a controversial view of how drug-enforcement should be handled.

A brief sample of some comments written by respondents expressing their views on Drug Enforcement and the Mayor's Work habits include:

CRIME PREVENTION — "I work in Baltimore City where there are too many homeless on the streets — Drug abuse and crime has become out of hand — overall the mayor is an excellent administrator. I understand that it will take time for changes to show effect."

"I think that Mayor Schmoke is doing a superb job in most areas and I believe it is just a matter of time before crime will decrease and drug enforcement will increase if his idea of decriminalization catches on. The low scores I gave him are not his fault; it is a national problem!"

WORK HABITS — "Mayor Schmoke is working for the good of all people."

"I wrote to the Mayor some time ago and he responded promptly and accurately. He is always in the community, helping out wherever he is. He always attends some church in the neighborhood and I see him everywhere; parks, museums churches, community activities, etc."

"I wrote to the Mayor some time ago and he responded promptly and accurately. He is always in the community, helping out wherever he is. He always attends some church in the neighborhood and I see him everywhere; parks, museums churches, community activities, etc."

"If Mayor Schmoke had more money allocated for projects he would do better."

Mayor Schmoke's popularity was apparently not hurt by the Barclay school issue in which he supported Baltimore School Superintendent, Dr. Richard Hunter's decision to refuse adaptation of the Calvert School curriculum of instruction for use at Barclay Elementary School.

On the Mayor's theories on the decriminalization of drugs, respondents, in general, support the Mayor's positions.

Mayor's Grades Based On The Following:

96+ = A+
93 - 95 = A
90 - 92 = A-
86 - 89 = B+
83 - 85 = B
80 - 82 = B-

The Afro-American Asks YOU To Grade The Mayor

As students all over the city prepare for the final weeks of school, the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper would like for you to grade Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke's performance for the first nine months of this fiscal year (July 1, 1988 - April 30, 1989).

The results of this community report card will be published in the June 17 edition of the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN.

Blank report cards may be cut out of the AFRO each week or picked up at the AFRO office, 628 N. Eutaw Street, any day between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Churches, neighborhood associations, civic and community organizations are encouraged to pick up report cards from the AFRO for distribution to and completion by their members.

Completed report cards must be returned to the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper on or before June 1, 1989.

MAYOR'S REPORT CARD

SCHMOKE, KURT L. — Student's Name
July 1, 1988 — Grading Period Begins
Baltimore, MD — City and State
Apr. 30, 1989 — Grading Period Ends

Subject	Grade
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	A-
CRIME PREVENTION	B
DRUG ENFORCEMENT	B
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	B+
MINORITY CONTRACTING	B+
FIRE	B+
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY	B+
HEALTH	A
PUBLIC HOUSING	B
EDUCATION	B+
SANITATION	B+
APPOINTMENTS	B+
LEADERSHIP	A-
TRANSPORTATION	B+
SOCIAL SERVICES	B+
ENTHUSIASM	A
WORK HABITS	A

About The Grader

Circle the highest level of education you have completed.
Dropout — College Grad
High School Grad — Postgrad Work
Attended College — Postgrad Degree

Circle the age group into which you fall.
18 to 24 — 35 to 44
25 to 34 — 45 or older

Are You: (Circle one)
Male — Female

Circle your total household income.
Under $15,000 — $15,000 to $24,999
$25,000 to $29,999 — $30,000 or more

Baltimore City Resident
☐ Yes ☐ No

Race: African-American Hispanic Oriental White Other

Comments: ← For Comments See Article

Grading Scale: A B C D F

AFRO photo by P.A. Greene

MAYOR SCHMOKE proudly displays a framed replica of the AFRO Report Card with the high grades he received from Baltimoreans in the survey.