Gathering highlights key issues facing black women

By Joy Tyler
Afro Staff Reporter

Black women of Baltimore have taken a bold step in a new direction. The first annual "Black Women's Gathering" was held June 24, at the Dunbar High School auditorium. The conference established a positive goal for women in the face of today's gloom and doom forecast of the future of blacks.

Issues dealing with information pertinent to black women and their attempt to flourish in today's society were the main topics of interest at the "Gathering."

The purpose of the conference was to promote discussion on the future state of the black woman. Workshops were held on encompassed five themes: Being A Black Woman, Black Women and the Human Rights Experience, Black Women and their relationships — Racist and Sexist, Black Women and Aids.

Local well-known civil rights activists led the discussions. The outspoken Madeline Murphy conducted the meeting on "Being a Black Woman."

Political activist Salima Marriott also held two forums on "Conditioning- slavery/post slavery, and on "Human rights- labor, civil,and feminism."

The endangered black male was also highlighted. The experts predict 70 percent of working-age black men will be jailed, dead, alcoholics or hooked on drugs by the year 2000.

The "Gathering" investigated what they perceived to be the factors behind the statistics — lack of a strong

Morning Sunday

family base, and the necessity to provide a strong and positive role model was the answer they found.

Men were not invited to participate in the discussions because the organizers felt the participants would not have an arena in which women could express their concerns without filtering or editing their feelings.

A focus on black women, and their role in history, and what impact on society they can have today, was the objective of the event, according to coordinator Morning Sunday.

"The public never hears of the success of the black woman.We are a spiritual people, and if we continue to permit negative images, our direction will stray off course."

"Education is the first step in changing the perception of black women and their lack of participation. A negative self-image is seen as the culprit.

The conference provided the opportunity to network within the Baltimore community, which does not have a base where women can convene and discuss subjects that have a major economic, political and cultural impact," Sunday added.

Participant Winona Dixon, mother of Fourth District Councilwomaman Sheila Dixon, expressed her support for the event.

"The whole event was superb. The women who conducted the workshops had good exposure to the topics.

I only wish that more black women knew about it. Morning Sunday has my support," Dixon said.

As a result of the "Black Women Gathering," a book club, support group , writing club, and newsletter is now offered. Those who are interested in becoming a member of the organization or submit writings can write to P.O. Box 19923 Baltimore, MD 21211.

"We need to tell about our experiences," stated Sunday. "We need this because most of us are isolated, we feel that we're the only ones experiencing problems. This tool gives us the medium to share our war stories."

Several community

Winona Dixon

women's organizations participated in the conference. Most visible were House of Ruth, Womens' Housing Coalition, Bethel A.M.E. Women's Center, Park Heights Street Academy, and Soul School.

Because the meeting proved to be such a success, the committee has paved the way for the "Gathering" to become an annual event. Next on their agenda is a dance and women's issues lecture series in February 1990.

Perjury of Grand Jury suspected

Williams calls on FBI to probe Habib death

By Hamil Harris
AFRO Staff Writer

Prince George's County State's Attorney Alex Williams has asked the Justice Department, the FBI and the Maryland State Prosecutor to investigate allegations that a county Grand Jury was not allowed to adequately investigate whether Gregory Habib died as a result of brutality by PG police.

In May Gregory Habib was killed and his brother was severely beaten after they were stopped on a routine traffic violation on University Boulevard here in Langley Park.

Residents of the Langley Park Apartments said that Gregory Habib and his brother Martin, both of the African Republic of Ghana were beaten severely by police in the incident.

As a result, the NAACP called for the resignation of the county's police chief amid further allegations that as much as 10 percent of the police force could be guilty of brutality against citizens in the county.

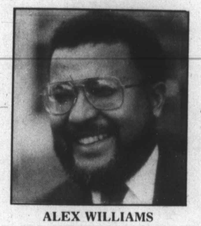
Despite eyewitness testimony that many officers participated in the incident, this week a Prince George's County Grand Jury handed down one indictment and Williams is not satisfied.

Although Corporal Steve Kerpelman was indicted for misconduct, assault and battery, the three other officers involved in the confrontation were not indicted.

"The facts as I interpreted them are not reflected by this Grand Jury action," said State's Attorney Williams who believes that possible obstruction of justice has occurred in preventing the Grand Jury from hearing the Habib case in an impartial manner.

Williams also said that he believed that, "perjury was committed," before the Grand Jury and there was an, "Intentional and organized effort by Prince George's police to shape the investigation.

PG police did not respond to AFRO inquiries, but in the past police officials have said that the officers involved in the incident only used enough



ALEX WILLIAMS

force to restrain Gregory and his brother, Martin Habib.

NAACP Vice President Cora Rice said she plans to take the matter before the Justice Department and the FBI, but Mr. Williams also said this week that organizations such as the NAACP could have possibly influenced the jury also.

Rice angrily denied the allegations and said, "as citizens of Prince George's County," it wasn't necessary to hold back because the citizens of the county have the right to know.

Williams said "I will absolutely not tolerate acts of the very few renegades who jeopardize not only the citizens but the integrity and reputation of all enforcement officials by exceeding the boundaries of reasonableness."

Fullwood confirmed

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The District of Columbia City Council unanimously approved Isaac Fulwood, Jr. as the city's next chief of police.

Mr. Fulwood, 49, will take over the 3,900-member force when Maurice Turner retires July 31. Turner has headed the city's police department for eight years.

Mr. Fulwood was the handpicked choice of Mayor Marion Barry. But he told a City Council panel he will not be swayed by pressure from the mayor or any city official.

"You have my commitment that if in any point in time as chief we're traveling in the wrong direction, I will come before you and say we need more people, at the risk of being fired," Mr. Fulwood said, when asked about reports that Barry had threatened to fire any police official publicly calling for more officers.

Druid Hill Y camper visits White House

Eleven-year-old Kamahra Ewing of the Druid Hill YMCA was among the select few to sit with Mr. Bush during the kick-off ceremonies of his new youth volunteer program known as YES- "Youth Engaged in Service to America.

Over 80 children ages 5-16 traveled from the Druid Hill and Howard County YMCA Day Camps to join with 3,200 other service orgnization youth for the South Lawn event.

While at the White House, they were entertained by musical guests Mike Love. Alan Jardine and Bruce Johnston of the Beach Boys.

Out of the 80-plus YMCA youth attending, Kamahra Ewing had the extra privilege of being in the special Presidential section. Judging from the cheers of the crowd, however, all the day campers enjoyed their trip to the White House.

Chesapeake Health

The Chesapeake Health Plan announces the signing of Security-Crossroads Health Center to their list of HMO-affiliated medical center locations. Security-Crossroads, an affiliate of the Garwyn Medical Group, will replace the Security Beltway Health Center and will provide a variety of adult, pediatric, and specilty services to Chesapeake Health patients.

The address of the new health center is 2 West Rolling Crossroads, Rolling Road at Johnnycake Road, Baltimore. Maryland 21228. The daytime phone number is 301-747-0800. Physicians include Dr. Joycelyne Swanson-Appallon, Family Practice, and Dr. Naseem Kahn, Pediatrics.

Wilder would take hard line on drugs

RICHMOND, Va. (UPI) — Democratic gubernatorial nominee L. Douglas Wilder is keeping up his attack on Republican opponent Marshall Coleman but concedes Virginia's drug problem has escalated in recent years.

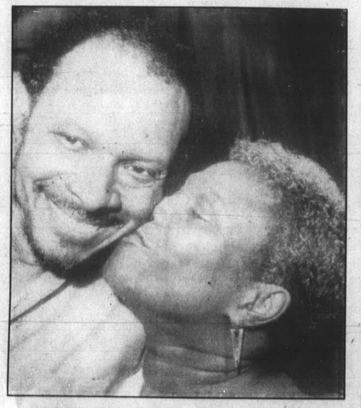
Mr. Wilder took pokes at former Attorney General Marshall Coleman while taping a public television program Tuesday.

But when questioned by reporters afterward about anti-drug initiatives the lieutenant governor unveiled a day earlier, Mr. Wilder said drug abuse is more prevalent than ever in Virginia.

The number of drug users is "higher now than they've ever been," he said.

When asked why, if the drug problem has reached such proportions, the past two Democratic administrations have paid so little attention to the crisis, Mr. Wilder tried to shift focus to criticism of Mr. Coleman's record as attorney general.

"He can't criticize anything" because violent crime rose record proportions in 1981, the last year of Mr. Coleman's term as attorney general, said Mr. Wilder.



A COOL $22 million — Barbara Pierce kisses her husband, Lee, after they claimed the Illinois Lottery prize of $22,665,467 from the July 8 Lotto drawing. The couple will share their winnings with their family members. The initial payment of $1,138,467 will be followed by 19 annual payments of $1,333,000.

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July 21-23, 1989
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The Baltimore Chapter invites you to participate and welcome Jack and Jill families to Baltimore with your support of the following activities:

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Boatride on the Lady Baltimore
8:30 p.m.
Contact: Gladys Bragg — 484-4642
Cost: $32.50

July 22, 1989
Luncheon and Fashion Show
11:30 a.m.
Contact: Joyce Brooks — 281-1041
Cost: $25.00

July 22, 1989
Banquet Dinner
7:00 p.m.
Speaker: Dr. George McKenna
Contact: Miriam Hutchins — 764-7404
Cost: $25.00

If you plan to support any of the above activities, please contact any member of the Baltimore Chapter and/or the named member listed above.

President — Gretchen Styles
Conference Chairperson — Gladys Bragg
Conference Co-Chairperson — Miriam Hutchins

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HEALTH care

Detox Unit offers many services

By Jane M. Stetz

"Chemical dependency isn't a weakness, not getting help is." This is the motto of the Bon Secours Hospital Chemical Dependency Unit, open since June 1988, in West Baltimore.

Admitting that help is needed can be a difficult first step for some addicted persons to take. Some may feel in control of their drug dependency and deny that there is a problem, while others may fear they will be judged if they seek help.

The staff at the Chemical Dependency Unit understands the special needs of people trying to recover from a drug habit. They are dedicated to reaching out and helping the surrounding community overcome its growing drug abuse problem — without making judgments.

Designed for short-term inpatient detoxification, the Unit is an important resource for adults, 18 years of age and older, who are taking the first steps to recovery from all types of chemical addictions, including prescription drugs and alcohol.

Noted for their longstanding mission of bringing "good help to those in need," the Sisters of Bon Secours, who founded the hospital in 1919, feel there is a need in the community for treatment of drug addiction.

"Because West Baltimore is a bastion for drug abuse, it was determined that establishing a unit of that kind could best meet the needs of those with chemical dependencies," states Richard Slaysman, patient care manager for the Chemical Dependency Unit.

Under the medical direction of Robert B. McDaniel, M.D., an expert in the treatment of patients with chemical dependencies, the 19-bed Unit is staffed by six registered nurses, one licensed practical nurse, and five counselors. Dr. McDaniel has been an attending physician at Bon Secours for more than 10 years and has served as a director and consultant for many recovery programs and treatment centers.

Admissions to the Unit are accepted 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Referrals to the Unit may come from various sources including addicted persons or their families, physicians, counselors, other treatment agencies and employers.

According to Slaysman, once patients are admitted to the Unit, they are given support through individual and group counseling, drug and alcohol education, and referrals from continuing care once they have been discharged from the Unit.

"We have six groups that meet each day, including self-help groups," says Slaysman. "Initially, patients can be evaluated over the telephone to get an overview of their medical and psychosocial needs. They're admitted for an average of five-day length of stay, and they can expect group counseling, education and referrals for follow-up treatment," he explains.

For more information on the Bon Secours Hospital Chemical Dependency Unit, or to make a referral, call 362-3424.

Health Department cites Childs

Francis Childs of Catonsville has been named Employee-of-the-Month for July by the Baltimore City Health Department.

On July 5, 1989, Jules Margolis, Associate Deputy Commissioner, presented Ms. Childs with a certificate of merit, a gold pin, and dinner for two donated by Velleggia's Restaurant.

Ms. Childs is employed as a Community Health Educator III with the Bureau of Community Health Nursing, High Blood Pressure Program and has been employed with the Health Department approximately 2½ years.

She operates a very successful Worksite High Blood Pressure Screening Program for city employees and for employees of other companies located in Baltimore City. Recently, she accepted responsibility for

Francine Childs

coordination of cholesterol screening services for the target groups.

Mrs. Childs is also a certified instructor for the American Heart Association for teaching "High Blood Pressure Control and its Measurement", and is certified by the American Cancer Society as a facilitator for conducting group sessions on smoking cessation.

High blood pressure, smoking increase risks for minorities

Next time you walk around the City take a look at the billboards you see. Many of them picture a beautiful setting where people are supposedly enjoying the good life with a cigarette. According to the American Lung Association smoking is linked to disability and death.

Smoking has especially serious consequences for African-Americans because of a tendency to develop high blood pressure. The nicotine in cigarettes makes blood vessels constrict and pushes blood pressure up even higher.

Most smokers today are aware of the health hazards associated with smoking, yet they still have trouble maintaining their will power once they decide to quit. This is often the first time smokers realize that they are hooked on an addictive drug. There are many harmful substances in cigarette smoke, but it is the nicotine that affects the brain and nervous system and makes quitting so difficult.

Although quitting is difficult, more than 40 million Americans have kicked the habit, and surveys show that most people who keep trying to quit are eventually successful. Throughout the world smoking causes one death every 13 seconds.

In the United States more than 350,000 Americans die every year from its effects. If smokers are not concerned about their own health, perhaps the health of family and friends may inspire them to quit. It is a known fact that non-smokers in a smoke-filled environment can develop cancer, and smoke is particularly bad for infants and young children.

For those individuals who need help quitting, Good Samaritan Hospital offers several "Freedom From Smoking" workshops throughout the year in conjunction with The American Lung Association of Maryland, Inc.

In addition, the Good Samaritan Hospital offers a free support group for ex-smokers on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Hospital. The program is ideal for people who have recently quit smoking or who are having trouble quitting for good.

For more information on these programs, call 532-3838.

Chemical Dependency Isn't a Weakness.

Not Getting Help Is.

Bon Secours Hospital's Chemical Dependency Unit, First Phase, is staffed with highly trained professionals, with expertise in treating chemical dependency. The patient care team is directed by a physician specializing in the medical treatment of chemical dependency, and includes nurses, counselors, and technicians.

Our professional staff can provide:

- Diagnosis of patients with chemical dependency.
- Planning for effective stress management.
- Short term in-patient detoxification.
- Ongoing support services, including nursing, patient education, and individual and group counseling.
- Referrals for aftercare and follow-up.

At Bon Secours Hospital, we understand that chemical dependency is a chronic disease. Our Chemical Dependency Unit is based on a medical model approach, using individual and group therapies, and comprehensive aftercare approach

The Sisters of Bon Secours have been providing "good help to those in need" since 1881, and continue this mission with the Bon Secours Hospital's Chemical Dependency Unit.

Take the first step towards helping.
Call 362-3424.

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- Ex-Smokers Support Group:
  3rd Wednesday of every month. 6 p.m.
- Health Screenings offered throughout the year:
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Programs offered at minimum charge throughout the year include:

- Arthritis Fitness Program
- Smoking Cessation
- Weight Control
- Cholesterol Education
- Breast Self-Examination

. . . and many more

For a complete program listing with dates and times, call 532-3838.

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