Sugar Ray Leonard may leave the boxing game

Sugar Ray Leonard, recuperating from eye surgery, is hinting he may retire from the boxing ring because the love he had for the sport has "died out."

"I don't even think about it (fighting)," the boxing sensation told the Washington Post just 2½ hours after he was to defend his welterweight title against Roger Stafford.

"I don't get the urge. I don't get edgy. I can relate to what they go through. But the pistons don't budge.

"I love boxing now as a spectator. I appreciate the talent," said Leonard, who has earned millions in his career. "The love that I had, it's died out."

Leonard, 26, who underwent surgery to repair a partially detached retina May 9, said he may announce in the next two to three months a decision on his future plans.

But his comments appeared to suggest his retirement.

"Every day I'm away from boxing, the chances are much slimmer I will consider going back," he told the Post.

"I thought the ultimate would be when I had to do color (commentary) for CBS which televised the recent Thomas Hearns fight. If I didn't get up for that, if I didn't get the feeling for Hearns, I said, 'I won't ever get it again.' I didn't get it," he said.

"I can walk away. I don't rely on boxing. In 1977 yes, I relied on boxing. It was mandatory, yes. I did it for love. The love is vanishing, diminishing. That's maybe a sign of retirement," Leonard said.

Leonard said his injury has given him time to reflect on life since his 1976 Olympic victory.

"It's given me time to lay back, see what I want and don't want. I'm in a place on the map. I have time off to say, 'This is okay, this is not.'

"I've been living at such a fast pace, I haven't realized what I've accomplished, what've put in the bank. I never knew the true significance of Sugar Ray Leonard."

But he noted his fans may not believe a retirement announcement.

"Whether I say, 'Yes, I will continue, or no, I won't, how much of the public will believe it? After the Olympics, I said, 'The dream is over' and I turned pro. They felt I contradicted myself. After (Roberto) Duran, I said, "This is it,' and I came back.

"My age has a lot to do with it and my profession. we're not supposed to rationalize, to be able to put things in perspective," he told the newspaper.

A HERO — Boxing champ Sugar Ray Leonard pauses to sign autographs for Kansas City, MO fans in this photo taken shortly after his cousin, O'Dell Leonard, defeated Tony Chiaverini, of Kansas City in December, 1980. Leonard is hinting he may leave boxing following recent eye surgery.

Project survival supporters to host Charm City Classic

(Photo by I. Henry Phillips)

PROJECT SURVIVAL PRESIDENT — Dr. Vernon Wolst chats with Coach Earl Banks, MSU athletic director (L) and Vernard Wynn of Winner Distributing Co. (R), who is one of 53 sponsors for the 77 project survival ball teams.

(Photo by I. Henry Phillips)

CLASSIC SUPPORTERS — "Dickie" Burke (L) Eastern District police community relations division and Evelyn Campbell (R), addiction prevention coordinator, Division of Mental Health, both attended the kick-off press conference for the Charm City Basketball Classic.

Dr. 'J' brings Magic to town

The stringy, ebony-skinned kid swallowed once, and then again, before approaching the feline man whose watchful eyes swept across a basketball court animated by youthful ballplayers.

"Dr. J" basketball camper George Johnson said, surprised by his own courage. "What can I do to learn how to dunk the ball?"

The child's courage was rewarded by patience, as Julius Erving took him aside to teach a simple drill intended to build both jumping ability and concentration.

About 200 participating area children got the chance to hone basketball skills at Erving's summer basketball camp, this week in cooperation with the Morgan State University Golden Bears association at Hill Field House.

Occasionally individuals had the opportunity to ask for pointers on particular concerns from the 76er superstar, or from guest legends that included Ervin "Magic" Johnson and Andrew Tony.

Although Erving says he has a keen sense of privacy, and is not always willing to respond to idolizing fans, it is apparent he is a warm and sensitive person.

A phenomenally talented athlete, one might expect it to be difficult for Erving to be able to instruct basic skills to younger, smaller and less gifted individuals.

But Erving's willingness to take the time and diagnose the problem another youngster was having with his jump shot indicates his skill as a teacher.

"He is great, with kids," European pro Mike Pyatt, a camp coach said. "Of course they are going to listen to him because he is Dr. J."

AFRO Photo by Martin Evans

THE DOCTOR J. WAY — Local children got a chance to shoot, dribble, pass, and even play defense under the tutelage of basketball superstar Julius Erving during the past week at his basketball camp at MSU. Erving, joined by an equally intent youngster, watches as a camper's shot nears the basket.

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First hand glimpse of Black American life

City hosts Third World medical professionals

AFRO Photo by Martin Evans

VISITING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS — Members of a group of health professionals visiting from French speaking African and West Indian nations leave a classroom building after a lecture at the Johns Hopkins University medical school.

Their mission is an important one, and the future of many black nations hangs in the balance. But health care has not been their only concern during their three week stay.

A group of 25 health professionals from French speaking African and West Indian nations convenedat the Johns Hopkins Hospital teaching facility in East Baltimore to study topics in family planning administration.

The 25 were selected for the three week seminar from a number of interested - applicants from their respective countries by the Johns Hopkins Program of International Education in Gynecology and Obstetrics.

A controversial topic among Christian and right-to-life groups in America, family planning is increasingly seen by third world health professionals as a vital response to problems presented by their rapidly expanding populations.

Although steady improvements in health care has reduced the infant mortality rate in the third world, lingering traditions continue a high level of fertility.

The result is expanding populations that threaten to overwhelm developing economies.

"A problem in developing countries is population growth which is a reaction to infant mortality rates," Dr. Mbuya Katenga, a physician from Zaire said through an interpreter.

"Some communities reject family planning so we have to show them what effect family planning can have," Katenga said.

Their visit to town has included much more than a series of dry, classroom lectures, however, and a number of Baltimoreans have augmented their learning experiences by showing them how the natives live here in America.

Quickly adapting to American music, they kicked up their heels on the dance floor at Gatsby's, a local night club.

Surprised by the relative absence of black medical professionals at Johns Hopkins, they went across town and toured Provident Hospital, where black doctors and nurses are found in an abundance.

And many were touched by a visit to the AFRAM festivities two weeks ago at Harborplace, and by a featured multi-media exposition on the history and culture of black Americans.

The exhibit, which included depictions of the slave trade and slave experience in the United States "helped us to understand the life experiences of black Americans," Dr. Bagnan Nee Fall Aissata, a physician from Niger said.

The exhibit was the most touching experience of her stay so far, Aissata said.

Several participants said warnings they had received from Hopkins orientation personnel had made them apprehensive about meeting members of the city's black population.

But a number of individuals from the black community here bent over backwards and gave the visitors a positive view of the Afro-American experience.

"If I learned one thing I have learned not to generalize about people," Aissata said.

AFRO Photo by Martin Evans

INTERNATIONAL CLASSMATES — Seminars on family planning and demographics were attended by students from 15 countries participating in the JHPIEGO program.

Park West welcomes new physicians

A pediatrician and a family practitioner recently joined the Park West Health Center staff, at 3319 W. Belvedere Ave. The center's goal is provide quality professional health care to the community it serves.

The new Park West physicians are Dr. Frank R. Claudy, originally from Washinton, D.C., and who now lives with his family in Northwest Baltimore; and Dr. Carol Reynolds-Freeman, a Virginia native, who now resides in the Catonsville area.

Both doctors received their medical training from Virginia, District of Columbia and Maryland schools and hospitals.

as the wheels turn
By Penny Brady

Baltimore Co. Model Work Center is a reality

"There is a major need for work centers in Baltimore County to provide work opportunities which progressively are complex and challenging for an estimated 2,007 persons who are disabled."

This was the highest priority stated among 18 found by the Baltimore County Coalition for Handicapped persons in a 1970 study.

With the diligent work of Fred Crawford, Model Work Center Subcommittee Chairperson, and Vince Klimas, community planner for the coalition, the realities of the center became a reality.

The coalition approved the Model Work Center proposal November, 1980 and submitted it for approval and funding to County Executive Donald Hutchinson.

Hutchison approved funding for $1.2 million the first year and $5,00,000 for each of the following two years from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Community Development Block Grant.

The county council adopted the proposal December, 1980.

Klimas has said the work center will have four functions, specialized job placement and rehabilitation engineering, projects with commerce and industry, and a factory division.

First, the specialized job placement will match handicapped people with employment opportunities by means of a computer. There will be terminals at 15 large employers and other placement sites.

Second, the engineering division will design and or redesign competitive placements in business and industry by combining industrial engineering technology and the individual's functional abilities.

Third, there will be rehabilitation projects at private commercial sites. The goal is to place nearly job ready or job ready clients into industry and business. Follow along supportive services also will be used.

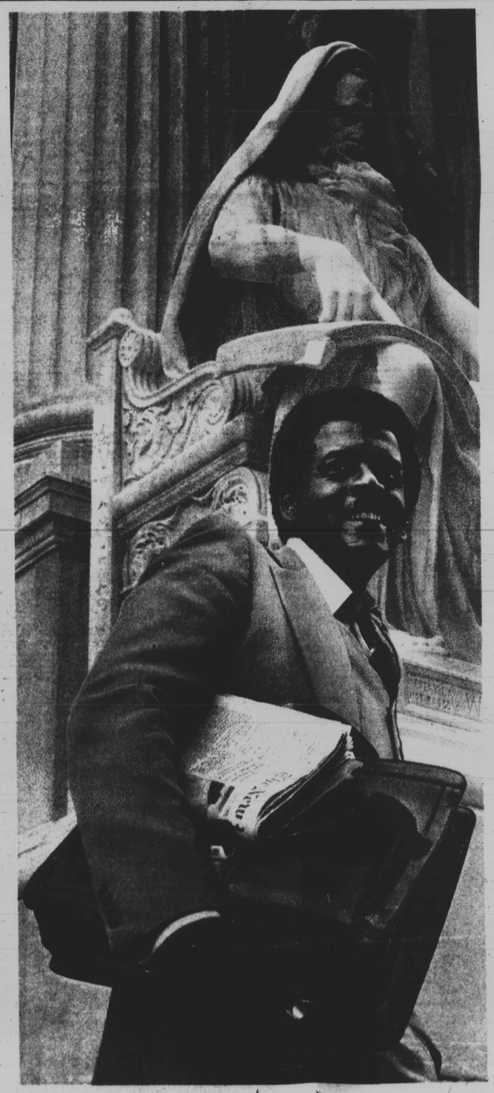
Finally, the factory division disabled persons will manufacture a variety of items onsite. Klimas said this will not be considered sheltered workshop considering the quality.

It is hoped this work will be in the area of microfilm, computer software and other modern day items and not the "nuts and bolts" workshop items.

The location of the model work center will be North Point Junior High School in the county. There is an estimated 9,200 people receiving disability insurance benefits and SSI disability funds in Baltimore County.

As more people learn of the services, the number should increase. When resources permit residents of other counties will be able to use the services.

I will keep you informed of other work by the Baltimore County Coaliation for Handicapped persons activities and the progress of the Model Work Center.



Lawrence Cumberbatch has a dream.
It's Anheuser-Busch's dream, too.

The Bedford Stuyvesant section of New York isn't exactly a breeding ground for corporate lawyers. But Lawrence Cumberbatch had a dream. And he beat the odds to achieve it.

His dream didn't start with a professional goal. It started with a commitment, a commitment to social change and civil rights. He'd seen enough growing up to know something had to be done. So he followed another man with a dream to Washington in 1963. And helped get out the votes in Mississippi in 1965.

By the time he entered law school in 1968, other people had taken their dreams to the streets. Lawrence Cumberbatch had a better argument. Change the System from within. To get the power, he felt, you had to work for it. Today, he's a David in the world of Wall Street Goliaths. A legal giant-killer, fighting for the civil rights of the little guy. He dreamed of making a difference. And he has.

Lawrence Cumberbatch is a part of our dream, too. At Anheuser-Busch, we're working together with successful law firms like Lawrence's in cities across the United States. Sharing their professional expertise as they represent us in New York, Chicago, St. Louis, San Francisco and Los Angeles. The result: a future where we all profit and grow.

We at Anheuser-Busch are committed to improve the community we live in. That's our dream. A future we can all be proud of.

Building a future.
Dream by dream.

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