Baltimore Afro-American

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Baltimore City Fair

The City Fair may be a success this year, which is what the AFRO sincerely hopes, but the ingredients are there for failure. The fair has been moved from the inner harbor area, to what is called the, Market Center, which is really the old shopping district near Lexington Market.

The location is not a particularly good one, since there is street construction in the area and it is not the most spacious locale in the city to begin with. The fairgoers, combined with regular Saturday shoppers, are expected to create congestion of an unpleasant denseness.

Neighborhood groups, who originally made up the backbone of the city fair, will be relegated to putting displays in store windows instead of having booths as in previous years.

It would seem that the neighborhoods are being sacrificed for the needs of the merchants of Market Center.

The city's attempt to force Lexington Market merchants to extend their hours during the fair is another bitter ingredient in this concoction. The city unilaterally placed a clause in the leases of the merchants saying that they must extend their hours for the fair.

The maneuver is of dubious legality and unquestionable arrogance and insensitivity. Many of the merchants begin their work days before dawn and an extension of their work hours and work week can be considered brutal for them.

The City Fair, like AFRAM which was forced into cramped quarters this year also, will be diminished by stuffing it into an inadequate area. The fair planners have done a poor job and the way the affair has been handled smacks of isolated indifference to anything but the promotion of the Market Center concept.

Kurt Schmoke, candidate

The recent announcement that State's Attorney Kurt Schmoke is definitely planning to run for mayor, at the proper time, raises interest in the upcoming mayoral election in 1987.

Rumors ae rampant that the present Mayor, William Donald Schaefer will run for governor in 1986. If the rumors are true, this will leave the door wide open for a competitive race for the city's highest office.

City Council President Clarence Du Burns assumes the top job if Schaefer runs for governor, since it is mandated by the city charter, and he says that, barring ill health, he would then run for a full term in 1987.

A possible Burns - Schmoke election battle would be a most interesting one, because Kurt Schmoke would be a formidable candidate. He is a highly educated, Yale, Oxford and Harvard Law school graduate.

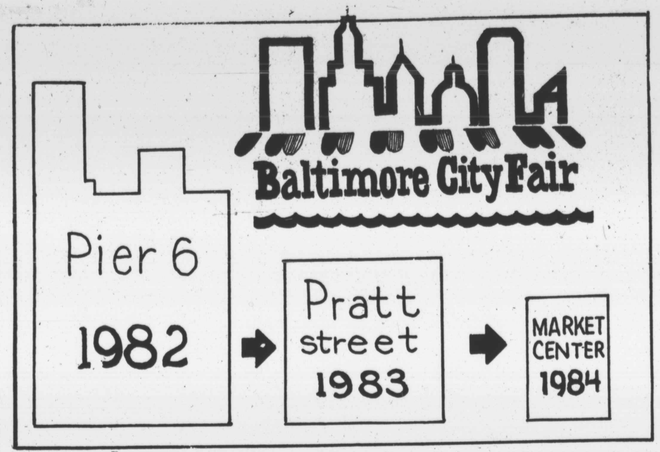
He has been successful, assuming leadership positions in athletics and areas of intellectual pursuit. In his first run for public office, he defeated a two-time incumbent with connections to some of the oldline political machines in the city.

Schmoke's candidacy bridged the racial gap in a way that was unusual for this city. He received a large portion of the white vote and an overwhelming portion of the black vote in a highly polarized city.

At present, Schmoke seems to be doing a competent job as state's attorney. However, an entrance into a mayoral election will bring to bear political pressures of a very different nature.

In this city, many blacks feel that their race is being shortchanged economically and politically. If Schmoke hopes to win the allegiance of a majority of the crucial black vote, he will have to make definite commitments to the black community.

It will be interesting to see if candidate Schmoke is up to the test.



Parren J. Mitchell
They continue to die in South Africa

When Henry Kissinger served as Secretary of State under Richard Nixon, a number of us met with him to discuss a U.S. foreign policy for Africa. No such policy existed then.

Kissinger pledged to develop a policy but did not do so, and the present U.S. Policy is bankrupt.

Under the leadership of (then) Congressman Charles Diggs, we instructed Secretary Kissinger to develop a policy which sought to destroy apartheid in South Africa; which recognized the right of black African Nations to choose any form of government they desired, and which would put economic aid to black African nations at levels comparable to aid given Asian and South American nations. Unfortunately, no such policy was ever developed.

Today, South Africa is again seething with tension and torment. Black South Africans, sickened and disgusted by the lies and chicanery of the Botha government are again taking to the streets to protest and are paying with their lives for the protests.

Last week the Botha government murdered a total of 34 Africans who stood up against apartheid.

Can black Africans expect any aid or support for their just cause from America? The answer, lamentably, tragically is "no."

Under the Reagan Administration, the American policy is to continue to give overt and covert aid to the racist South African regime; to pursue "constructive engagement" for the purpose of protecting American corporate investment in South Africa; and to uphold a public image of "concern" over the deaths of black South Africans, while retaining privately its colonialist views.

This is the Reagan Administration which rails against oppression in Russia, which denounces persecution in Iran; which condemns terrorist acts around the world; but remain either mute or soft spoken when it witnesses the oppression, persecution and terrorism of the apartheid government of South Africa.

When South Africa bombed Mozambique and Angola this year, America did not denounce the bombing but instead Mr. Reagan claimed those bombings were necessary for negotiations.

Reagan, and America must inevitably face the harsh truth, blacks in South Africa will never, ever accept apartheid. They will continue to die as they died in Soweto, Sharpesville and near Johannesburg.

The blood of those black men, women and children will continue to soil the so called fabric of American democracy. Belately, when America acts to achieve true democracy in South Africa, it may well be too late to win the friendship or respect of black South Africans who will have achieved power. -- Paraphrasing the poem;

The moving finger writes,
and having writ moves on
and all your piety can
not lure it back to
cancel half a line nor
all your tears washout a
word of it.

Anthony Armstrong
Common sense

If your son or daughter were going to be graduated from a public high school in Baltimore this year, could he or she hope to be admitted to, say, Harvard University?

Is the quality and quantity of their high school education sufficient to enable them to compete in a world that is obviously very much more competitive than the world was even a few years ago?

Do you, the parents of the sons and daughters, know enough about what is going on in your child's school to even be able to make a judgement about the substance and style of the education that child is receiving?

Or, like most Americans, do you depend almost solely on the expertise of professional educators to insure the successful education of your son or daughter?

I submit that most parents don't have the slightest idea what is going on with the education of their children. Thus to determine how effective that education is becomes almost impossible.

The result of so much unawareness is the continuing ability of educators to measure their own effectiveness in a vacuum, that will be filled with something that past years have indicated will serve the ends of the educators themselves far more than the education of anyone's children.

The situation in local education today is one that is not much different from a mythical situation where one snake ask another snake to judge how harmful he is. Chances are the two snakes are going to decide that neither is harmful.

The point, obviously, is that it makes little sense to allow something as important as the education of children to be measured entirely by the same people who do the educating. In an area such as education, where so much is a subjective experience, educators have proven themselves not to be trustworthy when it comes to honestly evaluating the quality and quantity of what they do.

The ultimate evaluation of the effectiveness of the education of students will be the marketplace of life itself. However, it is much too late to close the barn door after the horse has gotten away.

What has to happen, of course, is the constant monitoring of the barn door and, the horse. This job can only be that of the parents of every students.

And although educators have been among the most vocal people when it comes to telling others that only they, the educators, are competent to judge the quality of the education of children - you, as parents, just simply should not believe that.

Education is still largely a matter of applied common sense. Because it is, anyone with a reasonable amount of common sense can apply it to measuring the quality of the education of their child.

Ask yourself some simple questions. First among them might be, "can my child read at, at least, his grade level"? If the child is in the sixth grade, or ninth grade, or whatever grade; can that child read comfortably at that grade level or above.

Mr. and Mrs. parent, ask yourself, "can my child compute"? Simply, can the child add, subtract, multiply and, divide.

Can the child write the standard English language; does he or she know what a sentence is, a paragraph is? Just like learning to ride a bike by getting on the bike and riding it; people learn to write the language by writing it.

Finally, can the child speak the language in a reasonably standard fashion? Slang is fine, as long as the child knows the difference between "what's hapnen blood" and "hello Carl, how are you".

Reading, computing, writing and, speaking are the common elements in all education. Fortunately parents don't have to be education "experts" to measure these things. They do need to be experts in the common sense, that I hope will be more common this school year than it has been in the past.

Letters

The Diamond Jubilee

Recent developments on the national political scene remind us that the need for a strong civil rights organization has not diminished. We still need the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the NAACP needs you.

As the oldest civil rights organization in the country, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will celebrate its 75th Anniversary this year at a Diamond Jubilee Banquet, on September 22, 1984 at the Baltimore Convention Center. Three thousand participants are expected.

Are there 3,000 NAACP supporters in Baltimore City who will join us in this celebration? The population of Baltimore City is approximately 800,000. It would take only .38 percent of the population, less than 1 percent of us to fill the Convention Center on September 21st. Surely Baltimore can do nothing less.

None of us can forget that the NAACP spearheaded the fight against discrimination and racial injustices in employment, hiring, schools and public accommodations. While progress has been made, the struggle is not over.

Therefore, this Anniversary Banquet not only celebrates progress but launches a major fund raising effort to fund new initiatives and to help the Baltimore Branch to meet the expense of the National Convention which comes to Baltimore in 1986. Are there 3,000 of us who will help to keep alive the hope that is the NAACP?

Please join that committed .38 percent of Baltimore who will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the NAACP on Friday, September 21, 1984 at 8:00 p.m. in the Baltimore Convention Center.

Purchasing your table now is a contribution only you can make.

Hilda E. Ford

The split in BCARI

On September 4, 1984, The Baltimore Coalition Against Racism and Injustice (BCARI) officially separated into two distinct groups; one headed by Leo W. Burroughs, Jr. and the other by myself, Charles H. Brown.

This separation is the manifestation of differences which finally surfaced following the Baltimore AFRO AMERICAN August 25, 1984 edition in which it was reported that BCARI resulted from the split-movement in the Baltimore Rainbow Coalition.

BCARI was officially founded on July 23, 1984, by some 20 community-based social organizations after several steering committee meetings beginning July 2, 1984, to plan for massive city-wide march in protest of steadily declining life of black Baltimoreans.

It is true that some local Jackson supporters have basic differences with the National Rainbow movement and that they played a major role in the foundation of BCARI. It was never meant to suggest that they are more important than any of the other BCARI founders. It was only meant to point them out as just as important as the others.

Why is it important to let the community know that local Jackson supporters played as major a role as anyone else in the founding of BCARI?

I see this as an active attempt to bring Rev. Jesse Jackson's "lock-out" into the political process of economic development of Baltimore City. In this sense my efforts and those of other Jackson supporters within BCARI are consistent with Rev. Jackson's over-all political agenda.

It is for this reason that BCARI must become a means by which "lockout" black Baltimoreans can affirm themselves, politically, through their own voices and demand a return of the corporate wealth they need to lift themselves from the bottom of their misery.

My group which I shall call VOICE will focus, mainly, on getting black youth into the political process and preparing them for positive leadership roles in the community.

I, therefore, welcome this BCARI-split as a sign of future development of black people, as a whole.

Charles H. Brown

Attention Baltimore black gays

You have a unique opportunity to participate in Baltimore Share (Study to Help Aids Research Efforts). Baltimore Share is a study to learn more about the Natural history and perhaps the courses of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)

The Baltimore Black Coalition, in a joint effort with John Hopkin's School of Hygiene and Public Health. The study designed to carefully follow the health of over 1,000 gay males for a period of three years.

Out of 900 gay males to enroll only 10 percent are black. Black gays believe that AIDs is a white man's disease, but out of 58 cases of reported in Maryland, 28 were black.

Some of the benefits for participating are: you will receive free periodic health evaluations that will include a physical examination, an eye examination and a number of laboratory tests that will tell you whether you have Gonorrhea or Syphilis and will tell whether you are susceptible to Hepatitis B.

Continued on page 5

College presidents need more teeth

Do you, like thousands of other taxpayers, patrons, and parents, believe that higher education in America is in trouble?

Then, you may want to know the views of James L. Fisher, president of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. Writing in the "Reports" of the Association of Governing Boards, he starts out:

"I am convinced that it will be strong, assertive, and enlightened presidents who will lead us to a new and higher level of contribution in the difficult and potentially divisive period for American higher education."

It will not be faculty or key administrators, it will not be governments, it will not be education associations or scholars, and it will not be boards of trustees."

Dr. Fisher, past president of Towson State University, admits that all the foregoing groups are important, but he takes the stand that "our future rests on the bold, decisive leadership of college and university presidents nationwide."

Turning to the pages of history, he points to the fact that most of the great movements of the world are the stories of great leaders—movements like the Reformation, the French Revolution and the American Revolution. Then, taking the long look at American higher education, before 1960, he continues:

"The remarkable history of American higher education has been written around strong presidents, and institutions have been personified by those who led them:

Eliot of Harvard, Harper and Hutchins of the University of Chicago, Jordan of Stanford, Johnson of Howard, White of Cornell, ..., Wells of Indiana, Jenkins of Morgan; and recently Hesburgh of Notre Dame, Muller of Johns Hopkins, and Mays of Morehouse."

Today, however, according to Dr. Fisher and several other educators whom he quotes, college presidents are largely "faceless"—"a personification of compromises." They are put in a position of having to please too many groups, too many constituencies. As Dr. Fisher sees it:

"Students, faculty, and staff have been placed on trustee committees and on governing boards. State legislatures enacted sunshine laws that mandate public disclosure of board diliberations.

In public education, systemwide faculty organizations were created and given direct access to governing boards. Formally and informally, many trustees became closely associated with students, faculty, and staff."

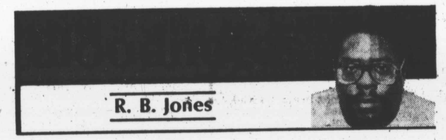
"Egalitarianism" is the term used by Dr. Fisher and not as a compliment. "Participatory democracy" is another much overworked name for it.

By the processes referred to, the educator goes on, "we have loosened the glue that held higher education together. Presidents continued to be responsible for everything, as they should be, but their authority became eroded so that most were powerless to channel conflicting campus currents.

Egalitarianism cost them the power of position; while we threw out hypocrisy, we also tossed out tradition, courtesy, respect, and authority. The new 'honesty' was not honesty at all really, but a fuzzy, selfish existentialism that left us almost with no form or structure ..."

those concerned need to unshackle college and university presidents. They need to give presidents the authority equal to their responsibility. There can be no leadership without the tools that make for leadership. One cannot make bricks without straw.

Or, perhaps egalitarianism is the wave of the present.



R. B. Jones

Follow the flag?

Merely by chance, I saw a commercial for the Reagan-Bush campaign the other night. The half-hour program featured enough flags to nauseate all but the most hyperpatriotic and the recurring theme of the propaganda piece was the resurgence of American military power and respect around the globe.

Over and over, military might was linked with esteem. According to Reagan, this country is no longer regarded as weak by its allies or its adversaries, because it now has strong leadership in the White House that will fight communism to a standstill.

That same night I watched a number of young black men standing on a corner talking. Several of them were of draft age and they were talking about career options and someone suggested that they go in the service since "there's nothing out here on the street except trouble."

As America faces the likely possibility of a second Reagan term and an even greater emphasis on militarism and threats against neighboring countries that are not pliant enough for the president, young black men should think long and hard about entering the military at this time.

Central America is an obsession of the Reagan Administration. It is closeby, unlike Vietnam, it has less population density than Asia. It appears to be a manageable military situation and the Reagan Administration is fresh from its so-called great victory in Grenada. El Salvador and Nicaragua are the prime targets for Reagan's Adventurism.

The young black men I listened to with sadness and trepidation who had very few job prospects seemed very much like some young men of my generation who volunteered for the service. They too saw the military as a job they could readily get with good benefits. Some of them died in Southeast Asia and others suffered traumas they were very difficult or impossible to overcome.

Reagan has the same fate in store for this generation of young black men who find it exceedingly difficult to find work that Johnson and Nixon had in store for the young men of my generation; a war of attrition against a hostile and united population. He offers war without victory and killing with no purpose or end.

During most of the Vietnam War, America fought with draftees, but Reagan's war will be fought with a volunteer force. Any attempt to ressurect the draft after the war has started will create too much draft resistance, so his option is to wave the flag.

Even the Democrats have joined in the orgy of flagwaving and the shrill chorus of militarism. The flag has become second only to the cross in this country as an emotion stirring, reason deadening symbol. Reagan waves the flag calling for a holy crusade against communism south of the border while young black men on Poplar Grove St. think of the military as merely a job when they can find no other.

Black America can not sustain losses of its young men again on the scale that it did in Vietnam. Our young men have bled in every war America has had. They have waved the flag and our young men have responded with valor, only to come home and find very little of their sacrifice has been appreciated.

Black people must say no to the coming war in Central America. When there is freedom, justice and equality for all in America and the flag of this nation stands for something other than hyprocrisy and the priority of profit over human life, then, perhaps black people can consider following the flag.

AFRO SURVEY

What attributes should a Miss America have?

Vera Carter

Robert Cockrell

Evelyn Orr

Thomas Cook

This week the question to the man and woman in the street was, "What qualities do you look for in a Miss America contestant?"

Vera Carter, 19, student, "She should be determined and at least honest. I imagine she should also be beautiful as well as intelligent and able to communicate well. I guess who might come closest to that image is Coretta Scott King."

Robert Cockrell, 45, metal finisher, "She should have high moral standards, be honest and intelligent. She should be somebody who got their head on straight, and you know it wouldn't hurt to be a Christian. As far as a suitable person to name, I think the present one, Suzette Charles, is good."

Evelyn Orr, 43, administrative secretary, "Most importantly, for her to represent me in America, she must be black. Afterwards, she should be attractive, intelligent and honest. These qualities are important only because they are the embodiment of the American woman."

Thomas Cook, 27, businessman, "Very, very attractive is my requirement. Of course, she should be intelligent and nice to people and be able to communicate well. Donna Summer, perhaps, comes closest to my pick."

William Kearney, 60, artist, "Intelligence and high moral classifications are more immediate requirements for Miss America. The job she'd be taking on demands such. Honesty is another important quality. She will be judged by America and the rest of the world and in fact become a role model for a lot of kids. My own pick would be somebody like Melba Moore."

Amber Briston, 20, model, "Miss America should be an honest woman. Mind you, her background up to this point should not be important as long as she is able to demonstrate best the classy, prestigious and responsible citizen expected to hold a title of the sort. The lady will be representing the country and must exemplify some of the best of its ideals. I think I am the best qualified candidate for such a task. Yes, me, Amber Briston."

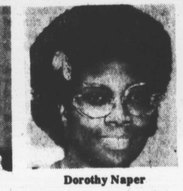
Walter Jones, 28, minister, "To be honest, I think the whole contest is a waste of time. There is no one woman who can represent the diversity of women or citizens in this country. There are a lot of American women, and each with their own style and heritage, and surely one cannot be selected to represent all fairly. I'm sorry, I can't name anyone who can fit the bill."

Dorothy Naper, 33, clerical worker, "Well, of course, she should be an all-American girl. Beauty should enter it, but by far her character should be interesting and she should be knowledgable and be quite diversed. You know, I don't know of anyone who fits the bill."

William Kearney

Amber Briston

Walter Jones



Dorothy Naper

Just Thinking
Black Caucus weekend reaches highest peak

By Al Sweeney

The fourteenth annual legislative weekend of the Congressional Black Caucus will be staged Sept. 28 and 29 in D.C.

On Friday, Sept. 28, the highly-related legislative panels will be held in the hearing rooms of the House of Representatives while the annual banquet will be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel, Saturday, Sept. 29.

The average person would have to mortgage his home to purchase a banquet ticket that goes for $200 per plate. If you could pawn your precious possessions, tickets have been sold out for weeks.

You don't have to get a pocket computer to figure what a gate of $200 per plate at an affair that will seat 2,100 diners will reap. Throw in the fashion show and some other events that will make the cost of a seat at a Michael Jackson concert penny ante.

Fourteen years ago, when Charles C. Diggs, a congressman from Michigan, formed the Black Caucus for the first affair, no one dreamt that the caucus weekend would become the biggest black fund-raising and social event in the nation.

To the black social world, the congressional weekend has become a Mardi Gras, Super Bowl and a quadrennial Inauguration wrapped up into a single event.

For the social strivers the caucus weekend is the place to be seen.

There are some critics who believe that the whole production has gotten out of hand. They will argue that black congressperson represent the poorest segment of the national electorate.

This "conspicuous consumption," as E. Franklin Frazier once wrote, is typical of the Black Bourgeousie.

I disagree with the detractors. There are always those sisters who want to wallow in mediocrity. They cry about everything and can find wrong in the most righteous event.

The whole struggle is for the better life. Our leading magazine trades on success stories and the glitter of the black superstars.

The so-called role models that black sociologists are seeking to find to inspire black youth are the successful professionals, businessmen, politicians and entertainers.

While the spotlight is on the social activities, much of the legislative program has been victoriously pursued in the House.

The role that John Conyers, the Michigan solon, played in the adoption of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a national holiday, was a tribute to his tanacity.

Baltimore's Parren Mitchell creative leadership resulted in the set aside 10 percent of each grant for minority firms to share in the largesse. His set aside effort was challenged many times in the courts and withstood the legal assault.

Congressman Mitchell authorized a similar provision in the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1983. He used the same approach for federal contractors to set specific goals for awarding sub-contracts of minority entrepreneurs.

A whole cadre of black millionaires were spawned by the Mitchell amendments.

The influence of black legislators is felt in nearly every area of the legislative process. In the area of health, education, agriculture, urban affairs, the judiciary, civil service, social security and foreign affairs you will find one or more of the 21 members of black caucus.

The 21 membership will lose Katie Hall of Gary, Ind., when the new congress is formed. There is a possibility that one to three more black congress members may be elected in the November election.

As for the 20 other members of the caucus they appear to have easy races in the upcoming elections.

They are:

William Clay of Missouri; Cardis Collins of Illinois; John Conyers of Michigan; George W. Crockett of Michigan; Ronald Dellums of California; Julian C. Dixon of California; Mervyn Dymally of California;

Walter E. Fauntroy of District of Columbia; William H. Gray of Pennsylvania; Augustus Hawkins of California; George Leland of Texas; Major Owens of New York; Charles Rangel of New York; Louis Stokes of Ohio; Ed Towns of New York; and Alan Wheat of Missouri.

Hawkins of California as chairman of the House Administration Committee and Stokes of Ohio, chairman of the House Ethics Committee, rank as powers of the House.

Several others with seniority head prestigious subcommittees, for instance Clay over the Post Office and Civil Service Committee. He ranks second on the committee.

Let's not go off on a tangent; the black members of congress are taking care of business. The glittering congressional weekend is producing the necessary funds for the group to hire a group of specialists to frame the program that they are supporting.

Up at Howard University, a new building is about to be unveiled. It will house the school of business.

You would think that James Cheek, the Howard president, would be beaming over his increasing enrollment and building program. He isn't satisfied.

One of Dr. Cheek's secret passions is to have a winning football team. He was told by his athletic advisers that they had hired a winning coach in Willie Jeffries. After two losses, Dr. Cheeks is getting the same old excuses.

Maybe the loss to Rhode Island might be acceptable, but to Hampton, hey, what's going on?

It is apparent to Dr. Cheeks and the other football fans that Coach Jeffries might be a winner, but lacks a creative offense. He uses the old bang, grind-it-out offense that fizzles like a wet firecracker.

Here is hoping that Coach Jeffries can get the Bison act together and erase that frown from Dr. Cheeks' brow. Even Leon Miles, who seems to survive the loud critics of his operation, can't be protected by his security blanket, Carl Anderson, if Jeffries doesn't spark the listless Bison eleven.

Wholesome movies?

My seven year old and I went to see "Gremlins" about three months ago. I thought the movie was for kids - that movie even turned my seven year old off. In my opinion, it was "gross."

This weekend we went to see "The Karate Kid." What a delightful movie (except for a couple of bad words, (why do we have to have them at all?). It was a movie for all ages - it was warm, funny; we even had a teenage hero.

There were a couple of lessons in the story as well - one of friendship; one of belief and confidence in oneself. My son and I have decided we want to see it again - next time, I'm taking my 15 year old and my dad.

In a nutshell, "The Karate Kid" was a wholesome movie.

"Gremlins" was not.

GAILE P. HYMAN

—Attention Baltimore black gays

Continued from page 4

Other clinical problems may be picked up though the evaluation process.

Share is not funded to provide total medical care or even categorical Medical care to its participants. However, there will be a physician in attendance during all study clinic session.

He will be available to help with the diagnosis of medical problems and will assist with appropriate referral for further care. They will be able to treat you for Gonorrhea and Syphilis and will make every effort to insure that you receive appropriate medical care for all medical problems that arise.

The Baltimore Black Coalition calls on the black gay male to take part in the SHARE Research Effort, call 955-7090, Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 9 pm.

Irvin Conway
Chairman