HEALTH AND WELFARE

AIDS IN THE COMMUNITY

By Dr. Barbara Lyles

The inexorable march of AIDS goes on. The figures double in six months or so, and the number of deaths keep rising to the level which convinces us that the disease is almost universally fatal.

A recent NEWSWEEK article compares the AIDS epidemic with the plagues of the ages, with syphilis, Bubonic Plague and the 1918 influenza epidemic.

In the midst of all the recounting of the number of deaths from these earlier epidemics, there remains the obvious. There were epidemics and plagues which took hundreds of thousands of lives before coming to an end.

Dr. Baruch Blumberg of the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, PA. will narrate a PBS television documentary which tells the tales of epidemic death through history. The final thread is a positive note that says . . . "eventually the epidemic came to an end, probably because so many people had been infected and developed antibodies."

Is it possible to hope that AIDS will stop only when there are not enough "susceptible people remaining in the population to allow the spread of the virus" Dr. Blumberg has suggested in his discussion of these other epidemics?

I should hope that the epidemic of AIDS will not be allowed to get to that point. Deep in much of the research and reviews that I read about AIDS, I find a thin but present theme that suggests that not only do we not need to wait for us to get to the point where everybody is infected, it is possible to begin to do something about the infected before they infect others.

Finding the infected is like searching for a needle in a haystack and fighting with shadows. In order to find the people who are infected, there is going to have to be the one happening which is not apt to happen.

Large numbers of people are going to have to be tested. The panic, the concern about what happens to one's social, personal, sexual and professional life, will probably be the reason many people will not allow themselves to be tested.

Human beings are not usually inclined to expose themselves to possible harm for the good of the majority. People in the black community may be even less inclined to do so. Black people have lived with the odds stacked against them for so long many may see that this is just another Lotto.

The research in this area suggests that the social fabric of the black community is such that living with 50-50 odds may be a lot better than normal. Do we have such a negative notion about our chances that we are willing to engage in dangerous behavior assuming that our chances are good not to be infected? This is, to put it kindly, living in a fool's paradise.

Just to lay it on the line one more time and to take the chance of repeating myself for the hundredth time: IF YOU ENGAGE IN HIGH RISK BEHAVIOR YOU WILL SOONER OR LATER (PROBABLY SOONER) BEFORE INFECTED WITH AIDS.

Homosexual/bisexual unprotected sex, heterosexual sex which is unprotected and with random partners, sex with I-V drug abusers or sharing needles with other IV drug abusers . . . all of these are high risk behaviors.

These groups of people constitute 85.4 percent of all the reported cases in Maryland. Eighty and six tenths of the Maryland cases are male. Maryland also has a higher number of female AIDS victims in the nation.

While blacks make up only about 12 percent of the population of this country, prior to January 1, 1981, 51.2 percent of the cases here were black people. Since January 1, 1988, that number has risen to 56.1 percent blacks.

Does that tell you something? No, this one we cannot blame whites for our infection rate. We have seen the enemy and it is US. Since only we can control our personal and social lives, only we can stop this disease in the black community.

Time after time I have expressed the concern that people are not hearing or reading or believing the AIDS message. If we choose not to change the behaviors which make us at risk for the disease and if we choose not to understand that the disease is considered to be 100 percent fatal . . . than what?

I refuse to believe that we are becoming a race of suiciders. I refuse to believe that there is no way to get the message to the people who need to read it. I cannot give up and simply say . . . nothing can be done.

I think that I will attempt to approach this from another point of view. One of the major themes running through much of the literature has come out of the awareness that the highest rate of infection in this country is in Belle Glade, Florida.

Much is made of the fact that the heterosexual infection rate is higher in Africa in areas where there is endemic poor nutrition, poor hygiene, random sexual behavior, high levels of male and female prostitution and general poor health.

If we put these two pieces of information together, can we add it up so that we are able to reduce our chances of infection by changing our personal and social behaviors and improving our personal hygiene, our nutritional status and our general health?

There is some suggestion in the research that healthy people are not as easily infected. Does this make more sense when we realize the addicts, alcoholics, prostitutes and random sexual experimenters are probably overrepresented in the above "danger zone" categories?

Next week, let's look at the issue of the other factors or cofactors in AIDS infection.

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Health expert is globetrotter

By Alicia Benjamin
AFRO Staff Writer



EDUCATING AROUND THE WORLD — Dr. Denise Buntin, medical director of the Delgado Venereal Disease Clinic in New Orleans.

In the past few years people in the United States have been so fearful about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome that much attention has been detracted from other venereal diseases.

One sexually transmitted disease which many people are unaware of is chlamydia.

The technical name for the disease is Chlamydia trachomatis and it is the most prevalent sexually transmitted disease in the U.S.

Dr. Denise Buntin, medical director of the Delgado Venereal Disease Clinic in New Orleans, told a group of Eastern Shore physicians last week that Chlamydia strikes 4.6 million Americans each year.

Buntin tours the country and lectures on sexually transmitted diseases. Last week she addressed the Maryland Academy of Family Physicians in Ocean City. She has lectured for about five years in the U.S. and other countries.

"Only in the past 10 to 15 years has Chlamydia been characterized in laboratories," said the physician.

The disease is extremely difficult to diagnose. "Some people may harbor chlamydia for years and have no symptoms," said Buntin.

Buntin said a test for Chlamydia can cost from $25 to $40. Or in some cases, the test can be done free of charge.

"It's a small investment when you think of the long term effects," she added.

Chlamydial infections can be treated successfully with antibiotics such as minocycline and tetracycline.

"People tend to try to get the drug on their own," Buntin commented. "I want to increase home prevention but not home treatment."

"All who have the disease should do exactly what their doctor says," she continued.

Chlamydia, the most common STD in the U.S. today, strikes about 4 million Americans each year, an incidence approximately 2.5 to 3 times that of gonorrhea.

Anyone who is sexually active is at risk for contracting the disease. Women under 30 seem to be at particularly high risk for catching the disease, probably due to the increase in sexual activity, she said.

Other reasons women in that age category may be more susceptible to the disease may be ignorance about how to prevent the disease and poor choice of sexual partners, she added.

Use of condoms and the spermicide nonoxynol-9 during sexual intercouse will greatly reduce the risk of catching the disease.

Chlamydia is a more serious health problem for women because women have what Buntin referred to as "silent infections."

Women can have the disease for years and not know they are infected because of initial symptoms in woman are not as pronounced as they are in men.

Women with Chlamydia may notice a vaginal discharge. And may have a burning sensation when they urinate or discharge.

"We urge people who are diagnosed with the disease to come in right away for treatment," Buntin added.

Chlamydial infections can cause sterility in men, but the most serious complication of the disease occur in women.

If can cause infections of the cervix and Fallopian tubes. And untreated Chlamydial infections may lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), which can result in infertility or increase the risk of ectopic pregnancy.

PID is the leading cause of maternal death in black women. Chlamydia cuts across the economic and racial lines, said Buntin.

Women need to ask to be tested for the disease if they are in a high risk group, Buntin said.

To prevent the disease from spreading, Buntin said all sexually active people should strive for mutual, monogomous relations and if a person is not sure if their sexual partner is faithful, they should ask, she said.

"Ignorance never helped anyone," she said.

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Watts to be roasted



Judge Robert Watts

Judge Robert Watts will be honored and roasted on June 17, by the YMCA, at its second annual William "Box" Harris Memorial roast at Martin's West.

The award is given annually to a deserving public servant and exemplary citizen.

Watts has served the community as a lawyer, a judge, a civil rights advocate, a community volunteer, and a counselor to many individuals and groups throughout Maryland.

Watts, a native Baltimorean, benefit from the activities provided by the YMCA in his youth. He has continued to support the organization throughout his life.

Watts graduated from Frederick Douglass High School, and Morgan State College, as did many of Baltimore's prestigious blacks.

After receiving his LLB from the University of Maryland School of Law, he began his legal career in 1951 as assistant chief enforcement attorney, for the office of Price Administration.

Morgan

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W. and Ruthie Samuels, because I am the first in my family to attend college and graduate. I received a B.A. in telecommunications and graduated with honors.

There is nothing like making a dream come true.

Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke gave the commencement address and asked us to help strengthen the black community, especially through economics and education.

The university presented Schmoke and Reginald Lewis, owner of Beatrice Foods, the highest ranking U.S. black firm, honorary law degrees.

Dr. Earl S. Richardson, Morgan's president, told us to emulate these men so we too can make a difference for black America.

One of my proudest moments during graduation, was turning my black tassle from over my right eye over to my left and wearing my hood. What a feeling, I was now a graduate.

The proudest moment came when finally received my degree in my hands and showed it to my father. It felt good, real good.

Graduation was nearly an hour-and-a-half, with brief speeches and heart felt gospel music from the Morgan State University Concert Choir.

Telecommunications majors, Annette E. Bell and Wyatt Watson, were the highest graduates among our class. She graduated Suma Cum Laude and he graduated Magna Cum Laude. I was happy that my department graduated the highest students.

Graduation was a day I will never forget.

Mitchell

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Maryland, praised Mitchell Tuesday, for "The change of mind, heart and spirit on the campus . . . he had a wonderful gift of judgement — when to step forward, when to step back . . . he would rather light a candle, than curse the darkness."

"His true monument will last long after this building has crumbled," he concluded.

Former Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, who also had to file a law suit to do his graduate studies at Maryland, told the gathering that his late brother, Clarence, would admonish them "were be here today,— to never give up (in the struggle for freedom); and never give in to racism."

Judge Nathaniel R. Jones, credited Mr. Mitchell with urging President Jimmy Carter to appoint him judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit, and reminded: ". . . In no small measure for what he added to this state, nation & the world, will (we) see a Clarence Mitchell for a long time. We can all agree that one person can make a difference . . . Clarence made the difference!"

Juanita Jackson Mitchell, one of the first black women to graduate from the University of Maryland Law School, first to practice law in the State of Maryland, and widow of the honoree, remembered some of those in the audience who long distance runners on the road to freedom. Among them were Attorneys Oliver Hill of Richmond, Virginia and Joseph Raub; The Rev. Asbury Smith of Salisbury, Maryland, and Judge Robert B. Watts of Baltimore.

She also remembered the tragic death of renown attorney Charles Hamilton Houston, who was hospitalized and died while arguing for what became the successful admittance of the first black woman to the University of Maryland School of Nursing.

Mrs. Mitchell intoned, "If Clarence were here today, ". . . he would remind us to . . . be mindful that the struggle is not over. There are always those working in the wings to turn the clock back.

". . . Let this building stand for brotherhood, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea."

"We can change this nation to give all our children a chance to grow like flowers," she concluded, as a bright sun burst thru foreboding clouds.

"America the Beautiful" was one of the musical selections sung at the dedication by members of the University Choir, Dr. Paul P. Traver, Director. A reception followed on campus in the gardens of the Rossborough Inn.

The Mitchell Administration Building at College Park and the Baltimore City Circuit Courthouse, named in 1985, also in memory and honor, reflect the measure of the man on whom President Carter in 1980 bestowed the Medal of Freedom — this nation's highest civilian honor!

Frederick

Continued from Page 1A

ris not to come around anymore and a reliable source said that he killed the little boy as a way of getting to his mother.

Many young students witnessed the grisly shooting incident and a crises team was quickly called to the school to help them deal with the trauma. Collen Garrett, the principal of Waverly Elementary School said yesterday that the school was able to deal with the incident with the help of a book they got the previous week on resources available in the event of a life threatening accident or death.

Real estate offices interestedin having HUD staff address its agent should contact the office listed below and arrange for a presentation. Please specify in your letter the number of agents that would be interestedin learning about our program.

Garrett said that Jimmie, who transferred to the school in March from a North Frederick school, had many friends and was well-liked by all his classmates. She said that only a few moments before Jimmie was killed, one of his friends had called out to him, "Jimmie lets go," as they went to school.

She said that the school had a lot of traumatic experiences when the teachers told their classes what had happened. When he was told about the incident, Jimmie's instrumental music teacher, Tom Silliman knew him very well, because Jimmie was very good on the drums.

Because the 55-year-old Morris killed himself shortly after killing the boy, Frederick police has little to work on. As Police Chief Ashton put it, police has "a few details to wind up and the case is essentially closed." He said that autopsy report will show if Morris had been drinking before the shooting.

Police records show that Morris shot his wife January 1975 as they were having an argument in his car. In May of the same year, he was convicted of first degree murder, and sentenced to life in prison. But because of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in a similar case in Maine, the conviction of Morris was overturned and Frederick prosecutors sought a new trial.

When the case was re-tried in May 1963, a Circuit Court jury found Morris not guilty. Prosecutors did not have a strong case against Morris then, because a long time had elapsed and there were not strong witnesses to support the case.

After he was acquitted of all charges, Morris was introduced to Lyles by his oldest daughter Marietta Rollins. That was how his friendship with Jimmie's mother began.

As many letters written by other children about Jimmie were read at his funeral, many people wept bitterly at the story of a young innocent boy who was killed because of the differences between two adults.



Sam Lacy, AFRO Sports Editor, throws out the first ball at Jackie Robinson Day at Memorial Stadium, on Saturday. The Orioles beat the Seattle Mariners 3-1.

Dixon-Smith goes national

The May issue of **Black Enterprises** magazine lists Baltimore City Councilwoman Sheila Dixon-Smith, Fourth District, as one of 15 black Americans, "On the Movie" in corporate America.

Dixon-Smith, 33, was cited for her appointment as a trade specialist for the Maryland Office of relations with foreign firms and Maryland firms.

She reviews materials and determines which countries could become distributors and markets for the state firms.

Dixon-Smith has received calls far away as Arizona during her appointment.

She was elected to City Council in 1987.



Sheila Dixon-Smith

"On the Move" is a special section of Black Enterprise, which is published by Morgan State College graduate Earl Graves.

Policeman

body was found, an open window was noticed on the sixth floor. Officer Nelson went up to the sixth floor and found that the open window was in room 617.

Meanwhile, Mack was transported to Union Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 8:22 p.m. Mack's hospital room was searched by police but no suicide note was found. Mack's family did not have any indication about what could have lead him to jump from the window.

Official police report has not been concluded in the case because the medical examiner's report has not been released, but Agent Arlene Jenkins of the city police said yesterday that they suspect suicide.

Carter

Continued from Page 1A

Department. His account of how the 33rd Fighter Group shot down five enemy aircrafts over Germany in a single day was reported worldwide.

Upon completion of his World War II assignment, Carter returned to the United States, assuming a succession of editorial posts; national correspondent, assistant managing editor and managing editor of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, including Baltimore, MD, Washington, D.C. and Richmond, VA editions. He returned to his native home in Washington, D.C. in 1970 to become editor and publisher of the Washington AFRO-AMERICAN.

In 1972, Carter was named the first editor of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper chain's nationally syndicated Dawn magazine.

Over the span of 50 years, "Art" Carter, as he is known among professional colleagues, family and friends, has received "Editor of the Year" honors from the National Newspapers Publisher's Association (NNPA) and the Capital Press Club, an organization he helped found.

In 1985, Sigma Delta Chi honored Carter with its Meritorious Service award for distinguished service in journalism. And in 1986, the American Cancer Society honored Carter for "memorable contributions in increasing the public's consciousness about the importance of education to the society."

Carter twice served on the Pulitzer Prize jury reviewing submissions in the editorial writing category. He has served as a guest on numerous radio and television news programs and journalism conventions across the country.

Carter's dedication, foresight and wisdom as a journalist have touched many individuals and organizations throughout the Washington, DC community. He helped organize the city's first crime prevention committee under the leadership of former deputy police chief, Owen W. Davis.

He was named an honorary member of the 92nd Infantry. He was twice elected president of the Capital Press Club, the nation's oldest Black Press organization.

Carter was treasurer of Simpson-Hamline United Methodist Church, held membership with several professional and civic organizations including: Howard University Hospital Advisory Board; Shepherd Park Citizens Association; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; Area Committee, Boy Scouts of America.

Carter is survived by his wife, Callie S. Carter, son, Carlton A. Carter; two brothers, Joseph and Virgial Carter and one sister, Frances Gardner.

Hastings

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peached will be based on "whatever (the subcommittee) thinks."

Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich), chair of the House Subcommittee declined to comment, and instructed his staff not to do so.

The hearings are scheduled to end on Thursday, after which the subcommittee will report its findings to the House Judiciary Committee, chaired by Rep. Peter Rodino (D-N.J.).

The issue will then go to Congress who will vote on whether or not there should be an impeachment.

START SOMETHING GREAT IN PENNSYLVANIA



The Watsons are planning their summer trip to Pennsylvania. Teenage son Dan likes canoeing, whitewater rafting, R&B music and steam railroads, enjoyed between cheesesteak sandwiches and funnel cakes.

Daughter Crystal wants to ride Pennsylvania's roller coasters, eat cotton candy and pretzels.

Mom and Grandmom are thinking about all the Pennsylvania farmers markets, clothing outlets, super stores and shopping malls. They're also eyeing Pennsylvania's many restaurants, ranging from family-style to the most elegant dining.

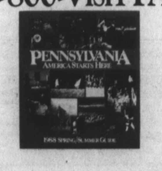
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