HEALTH AND WELFARE

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

By Frederick Scott

Mayor Kurt Schmoke deserves the gratitude and attention of everyone for his outspoken call to examine the epidemic of drug abuse as a public health problem.

The call is long past due, but the intensity and inanity of much of the response to date indicates the courage it took for a public official to propose an examination of drug policy and the consideration of possible decriminalization.

Some of the arguments pro and con about the possible effects of eliminating the profit motive from the drug problem and the implied approval of drug use by decriminalization have been presented in the media. Several more important aspects have been totally ignored, however.

For one thing, the call was for a study of the present policy on drugs not a call for their legalization.

For another, decriminalization does not necessarily mean complete legalization; it means removing criminal penalties, usually for transactions conducted under controlled circumstances.

In many areas in the USA, "playing the numbers" and other games of chance have been decriminalized IF THEY ARE PLAYED UNDER RULES APPROVED BY THE STATE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Morphine and methadone, for example, are decriminalized when administered under approved conditions.

In addition, decriminalizing an act does not extend to associated acts.

Burglary, robbery, and other illegal acts committed in connection with or under the influence of any substance would be less criminal.

More importantly, there is considerable evidence that the abusive use of drugs, including alcohol, is truly a public health problem in the sense that nutritional, genetic, and social factors significantly influence addictive behavior in the user.

Alexander Schauss, a criminologist writing in the book *Diet, Crime, and Delinquency* in 1981, summarized the findings of several research reports linking vitamin and mineral deficiencies to alcohol and drug addiction.

Studies at drug treatment centers sowed that even limited attention to vitamin supplementation was a cost-effective, convenient, and safe way for narcotic addicts to detoxify.

Withdrawal symptoms produced only minor discomfort and relapses did not occur in the term observed. Similar results were reported for alcohol addiction. The programs included dietary changes, counseling and other support.

More recently, medical doctor Janice Keller-Phelps has treated over 5,000 cases of addiction using similar approaches.

She conservatively estimates her long-term (six to eight years after outpatient treatment) cure rate at more than 50 percent, about twice that of conventional in-patient treatment centers.

Her book, *The Hidden Addiction and How to Get Free*, explains her belief that all addictions, whether for one hard drug or another, alcohol, tranquilizers, or other substances, are essentially the same.

The craving that links them is driven by an inborn physiological hunger, often intimately related to depression, reflecting both biochemical and genetic components. Those components seem to be connected with disturbances in the metabolism (digestion and assimilation) of simple carbohydrates (starches and sugars).

Hormones produced by the pituitary, hypothalamus, and adrenal glands are involved as are neurotransmitters such as serotonin that control the subjective desire for carbohydrates.

Endorphins, natural morphine-like chemicals produced by the brain, are also implicated in both addiction and depression. (They are responsible for the "high" of vigorous exercise; recent work at Johns Hopkins is said to suggest that eating sweets also stimulates endorphin production.) Thus, while saying "no" to drugs is necessary, it is by far not sufficient to avoid the craving and addiction.

Further light has been shed on the biochemical/genetic connection that may underlie that inborn hunger. Dr. Chris Reading, a psychiatrist, has shown that a genetically transmitted inability to metabolize some components in carbohydrates such as wheat or in milk, for example, can lead to massive deficiencies in the absorbance of some vitamins and minerals.

These deficiencies can eventually result in a number of different diseases. Here, then, is another link connecting the inadequate digestion of ordinary food substances to physiological malfunction. In addition to his scientific papers, reading has summarized his findings in a book, *Relatively Speaking*.

While drug addiction is clearly a public health problem, any hope of progress in dealing with it will require the enlistment of more than the public health professionals. Local communities and organizations, agencies, parents, and government at all levels will necessarily be involved.

That is nothing new, we all are now. The question is how should that involvement be structured. It is simply amazing that a call to examine the question should generate such rabid reactions.

There's Oprah Donahue and then there's CHUCK AND THE MID-DAY

RADIO/1360 WEBB

24 HOURS

YOUR DOCTORS

By Drs. William Craven and Debra G. Carlton

Dear Doctors,
I'm so upset. My 16-year-old nephew was recently shot and killed by a classmate while at a party. There seems to be an increase in the number of Black murder victims, Do you consider this a threat to the health of our community.
A.C.

Dear A.C.,

You are right to be shocked and upset. Homicide now represents one of the greatest threats to the African-American community.

According to the 1983 FBI crime report, homicides accounted for more than 19,000 deaths in the U.S., a rate of 8.2 deaths per 100,000 population — significantly higher than any other industrialized nation. That same year, although African-Americans constituted only 11.5 percent of the U.S. population, the death rate from homicide accounted for 43 percent of all homicide deaths.

The death rate from homicide among Black men was more than six times that of white men. The homicide rate for Black women was three times higher than that for white women. The death rate from homicide per 100,000 live births is nearly three times higher for Black children under one year than for white children.

As the newspaper headlines indicate — homicide is the leading cause of death for African-American males between the ages of fifteen and forty-four and for Black females between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four.

National data reported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services show a consistent annual trend of increases in homicide rates in minority communities.

The lifetime chances of becoming a homicide victim for white people in 1980 was I in 240 and for Black people was 1 in 47.

The FBI has reported that the lifetime chance of a Black male becoming a homicide victim was 1 in 21 whereas for white males the chance was 1 in 131. Black females had a 1 in 104 lifetime chance of becoming homicide victims and white females 1 in 369.

In 1980 in Baltimore, the overall risk for being murdered was 28.6 per 100,000, for African-Americans the risk was 40.6 per 100,000. Most homicides are committed by persons who are of the same race as their victims.

In 1983, 94 percent of Black victims were slain by Black assailants. Indeed, us killing us does equal genocide, or put another way; we have met the enemy and he is us.

The reasons for this rise in homicides are many and complex and research in this areas has revealed some interesting patterns: 1. an increase in the use of handguns, 2. a large percentage of victims and assailants who are related or well-acquainted, 3. the occurrence of most homicides during the weekends and between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m., 4. the use of alcohol and/or drugs by a large percentage of both victims and offenders at the time the crime was committed.

(A study by Goodman showed that at least 50 percent of convicted murderers were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the crime.) 5. most frequently, altercations stem from motives of seemingly trivial proportions.

What can be done to help end this alarming situation?

1. Guns — Avoid having guns in the home. They can easily be used by irresponsible people or in a moment of rage. The question of why there are so many guns in our community needs to be addressed.

2. Alcohol and drugs — The African-American community is now under a state of siege by alcohol and drugs. A very high rate of abuse of these products exists in the Black community.

Why is there a liquor store in almost every block of Pennsylvania Ave., yet few grocery or clothing stores? Who owns these stores? These and other serious questions need to be addressed.

3. Discuss the homicide problem with family members and friends. New strategies must be developed for dealing with family violence and child abuse. It is especially important to open discussion regarding this problem with the young people in the community.

4. We can obtain and generate more detailed information about homicide in the Black community. We can also work on strategies to solve the problem. One can form or join existing community groups now dealing with solutions to this problem. Write or call our public officials to determine what they are doing about this devastating problem and to generate ideas on what more we can do ourselves.

Your Doctors

PROPHET

I am here from the deep South to give Spiritual Healing. Help on all matters of life. Monday thru Saturday, 9:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday Divine Service, 11-3 p.m., bring the sick, 2148 Division St., Baltimore, Maryland 21217, **Prophet E. T. Johnson.**

BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN
628 N. Eutaw Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
(301) 728-8200

Circulation audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC

John J. Oliver, Jr
Chairman of the Board/Publisher

Frances M. Draper
President

Benjamin M. Phillips, IV
Secretary-Treasurer

Charles K. Taylor
General Manager

Thomas K. Goines
Director of Marketing

Robert W. Matthews
Executive Editor

Baltimore Editorial Director:
James M. Abraham
City Editor

National Advertising Representatives: Amalgamated Publishers, Inc., 45 W 45th Street, New York, New York, 10036.

Affiliated Publications: Dav Magazine, 295 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017, (212) 679-5152; **Washington Afro-American**; 2002 11th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, (202) 332-0080; **Richmond Afro-American**, 301 E. Clay Street Richmond, VA 23219, (804) 649-8478; **Afro-American (National, Philadelphia, North & South Carolina)**, 628 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, (301) 728-8200. **New Jersey Afro-American**, 628 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, (301) 728-8200.

Newsstand Rate: 1 Year (Tuesday & Saturday) $52.00, 2 Years $92.00, 3 Years $116.00; Checks for subscriptions should be made payable to the Afro-American Company, 628 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

EVENINGS AND SATURDAY TELEPHONE NUMBERS
News Room 728-8200
Circulation 728-8206

The Baltimore Afro-American (USPS 040-800) is published Tuesday and Saturday for $52 per year by the Afro-American Company of Baltimore, Inc., 628 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. Second class postage paid at Baltimore, Maryland and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Baltimore Afro-American, 628 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS
"THE VOICE OF BLACK AMERICA SINCE 1892"
SUBSCRIPTION FORM
CHOOSE FROM TWO PLANS

PLAN A
(Tuesday & Saturday Editions)
For: (Check One Box)
☐ Baltimore
☐ Washington

For: (Check One Box)	Price
☐ 6 Months	$ 26.00
☐ 1 Year	$ 49.50
☐ 2 Years	$ 87.00
☐ 3 Years	$115.00

Mail Your Subscription and Payment To:
THE AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS
628 N. Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
or Call
(301) 728-8200

PLAN B
(One Edition Only)
For: (Check One Box)
☐ Baltimore-Tuesday Edition
☐ Baltimore-Saturday Edition
☐ Washington-Tuesday Edition
(The Afro-American)
This edition includes national and international news, as well as news from New Jersey Philadelphia, North & South Carolina.
☐ Washington-Saturday Edition
☐ Richmond-Saturday Edition

For: (Check One Box)	Price
☐ 6 Months	$13.00
☐ 1 Year	$26.00
☐ 2 Years	$46.00
☐ 3 Years	$58.00

SELECT THE MOST CONVENIENT PAYMENT PLAN
☐ CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD
CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____
Authorizing Signature _____
NAME (Please Print) _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE( ) _____
Offer Good In Continental United States Only • Allow Two Weeks For Delivery
SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENT MUST BE INCLUDED WITH ORDER

THE AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS
Baltimore Richmond Washington New Jersey National
John J. Oliver, Jr. Chairman of the Board
Frances M. Draper President

WHY REPLACE . . .
REFINISH Your Bath Tubs • Sinks & Tile
We match ANY Color or White On Porcelain Fixtures and Kitchen Appliances . . .
• ALL WORK DONE IN YOUR HOME
• COMPLETELY GUARANTEED
"Home Of The Happy Tub"
CALL 566-0800
24 Hours A Day
PORCELITE OF BALTIMORE
Showroom and Warehouse 111 Wheeler Ave.
(MHIC #7601) Balto., Md 21223

Handguns

Continued from Page 1A

for those things are Saturday Night Specials," said Hughes.

Meanwhile, the Maryland Committee Against the Gun Ban claims the law would ban the use of all handguns since the words "Saturday Night Special" are not included in the law.

"This is an outright ban on handguns," said Dick Minard, spokesperson for the Maryland Committee Against the Gun Ban.

"The proponents of this legislation are totally deceiving the citizens of Maryland," Minard continued.

But Hughes said the state gun group is telling "out and out lies, trying to panic people into siding with them."

The Committee has circulated a petition to citizens in the state for the opportunity to recall the law in a November referendum.

Hughes said proponents of the law, such as Attorney General Joseph Curran, legislators who support the law, Marylanders Against Handgun Abuse and other supporters of the legislation, have met and will continue to meet to determine how they will fight the MRA and opponents to the law.

Technically, the law will be effective in July 1988 but persons cannot be penalized until July 1990, said Hughes.

The law also would require a nine-member commission to use such factors as weight and ballistic accuracy to determine which guns can be made and sold in Maryland.

Gun manufacturers who ignore the list of guns prohibited by the law face a maximum $10,000 fine for each gun made. Gun dealers could be fined up to $2,500 for each violation.

Opponents of the law must collect 33,000 signatures on their petition to put the legislation before state citizens in the November election.

Minard said his group currently has about 10,000 signatures.

"I feel confident we will get the signatures we need," he said.

"The legislation allows them to ban all handguns and they should not be given the authority to do that," said Minard.

"We believe that such sweeping legislation ought to be put before the people of Maryland."

James Brady, White House press secretary who was seriously injured by a Saturday Night Special in a 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan, joined the governor in the signing of the law.

Brady and his wife, Sarah, who lobbied to get the law passed, said they would work with other states seeking to adopt such legislation.

Death sentence

Continued from Page 1A

the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Booth's death sentence because of victim impact statement. The court said that the submission of statements from the victims family during the trial was unconstitutional.

It was believed that the statement may have biased the minds of the jurors, and removed their attention from the facts of the case.

That ruling cleared the way for the just ended re-sentencing.

Shortly after the jury's verdict, Judge Edward A. Angeletti signed Booth death warrant. A stay of execution is already in place until the Appeals Court reviews the case.

Timothy Doory, one of the two prosecutors who handled the case said, "It is not pleasant, but justice was done." His colleague Ara M. Crowe agreed when he described the verdict and the sentence as "appropriate."

Tammy Clark, 20, one of the jurors who deliberated for nine hours before reaching the verdict said that all the facts in the case proved that Booth deserved the verdict.

Clark said that the verdict affected all the jurors because it was a capital punishment. She said, "As soon as we reached a verdict we all stood up and offered some prayers."

Phyllis Bricker, daughter of the slain couple said the jury had a very difficult job to do, "but they did it satisfactorily."

She said that not only has it been a very difficult five years since her parents were murdered, but that it has also been a very difficult week because the re-sentencing began on the same day five years ago, that her parents were murdered.

The leading defense attorney, Stanley Reed was disappointed with the verdict. He said, "I'm very confident that the death sentence will be overturned on appeal." The other member of his team, Richard Bar and David Levine agreed with him.

The defence team accepted the State's appointment to defend Booth in the re-sentencing, which began over two weeks ago, with a week-long jury selection. Roger Brown, who lead the defense team during the first trial in 1984, is now a judge at the Baltimore City Circuit Court.

Reed and his team brought in 11 witnesses last week in their bid to reduce Booth punishment to life imprisonment. Among the witnesses were members of Booth's family, correctional officials and an expert witness, Dr. Robert Johnson, who testified that John had become a model inmate at the prison and had really turned himself around.

The correctional officials echoed what Dr. Johnson said, while the family witnesses tried to show that while he was growing up Booth as an abused child who had no protection or shelter. They impiled that it was erroneously instilled in him to fight for whatever he got and that was how he learned to do what he did.

During his opening argument at the re-sentencing, State prosecutor Doory had said, among other things, that nothing anyone said could change the fact that Booth was a killer. Apparently the jury agreed with him.

The jurors really had their work cut out for them during the re-sentencing hearing. All they were asked to do was recommend either life imprisonment or the death penalty for Booth, who already has two life sentences and 80 concurrent years from other charges in the same case and other related cases.

But it was not a fun session for them, as they had to look at some gruesome pictures of the murdered couple.

Bill Pulley, 51, an ardent court observer who has followed the case from 1984 when Judge James Murphy presided over the trial described the resentencing as "a re-run of a horrible horror movie."

The whole session was particularly gruelling for relatives of the Bronsteins who had to sit and listen as witnesses re-counted evidence in the case.

Most people were relieved Friday that the re-sentencing was over and done with. But it may not be long before the appeal court reviews the case, thereby bringing it into spotlight all over again. Moreover, Booth's co-defendant, Willie "Sweetie" Reid is yet to face his own re-sentencing.

Parks

Continued from Page 1A

Liaison officer of the State General Services Administration.

For its financial stake in Parks, estimated at 5.6 million, Sara Lee gets the 45 percent of the company's stock and a seat on the board. William G. Hardison is Sara Lee's representative and this has caused concern over who may be actually running the company.

"It would be ridiculous for our 55 percent to be outvoted by their 45 percent," said Haysbert.

In regard to the presence of William Hardison on the board of Parks, Evans said, "He is there to give advice and to represent the minority (Sara Lee) interest. He has one vote," said Evans.

One area of concern that has drawn special attention is Sara Lee's five-year 30-day notice option to buy the remainder of the stock

Haysbert says he is confident that Sara Lee is not seeking to take over the Baltimore sausage maker and has special clauses in the agreement that ensure that in the event that anything happens to him his share of the company stock will automatically go to his family.

"It will remain a minority-owned company," said Haysbert.

Parks is not the first company in the area to add an equity partner who is not a minority. As black firms prepare to move into the next tier of commerce the resources necessary to compete often become costlier.

The Maxima Corporation, a Rockville based high tech and defense contractor, is part owned by Martin Marrietta the high tech giant.

The Chapman Company, the states largest minority investment brokerage sold a 25 percent equity position to various investment firms not only as a way of financing the firm but also to gain a level of credibility in the investment community.

On the national level investor-entrepreneur Reginald Lewis, a native of South Baltimore's Cherry Hill, has steered his TLC Group into an equity position with the financial behemoth Drexel, Burnham and Lambert.

The deal gives Drexel 45 percent of what Black Enterprise Magazine has recognized as the top black owned company in the nation.

The firm made headlines recently when Lewis engineered the $965 million buyout of Beatrice Holdings International.

Lewis speaking of the arrangements in Black Enterprise magazine said, that it was an excellent method of allowing minority businesses to enter onto the larger playing field of the Fortune 500 company.

As a result of the buy-in Parks gets the benefit of Sara Lee's expertise in the food industry as well as the capital necessary to put that expertise into play.

"This allows us to focus on business and expansion," said Haysbert. "We had intended to expand all along but this infusion of capital, rather than loading us down, says, 'go out and get all the business you can get cause we can handle it.' "

Haysbert is in the midst of plans to possibly lease the Howard Johnson building on Reisterstown Road as an alternative to a costly short term addition to the Camden Yards site or the future relocation to Park Circle.

"I've got the inspectors in there now to see how it looks," he said. "It would be great because they already have a refrigeration and the correct systems for food processing.

Civil rights

Continued from Page 1A

he told a gathering of 600 people at the Urban League's 74th anniversary banquet, the Civil Rights movement is over "for the same reason that World War II is over. We won it, and the things that remain to be done have less to do with discrimination than with preparation," he said.

His views mirrow those of Clarence Pendleton, the Reagan-appointed chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Pendleton has always maintained that "anybody can succeed in the marketplace," and has charged that civil rights legislation "was an unwarranted federal invasion in private domains in areas where there is no discrimination."

But Congressional Black Caucus member, Rep. Charlie Hayes (D-Il.) said, "How can we stop the Civil Rights Movement? We have enough of a fight keeping the Reagan Administration from stopping it."

And it is a view that is plainly not shared by presidential candidate, The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who according to spokesperson, Eric Easter, feels that "though a lot has changed, and we have made many advances, the Civil Rights Movement has a long way to go. The movement is strong and still must go on," Easter said.

Rec. centers

Continued from Page 1A

parks, who will now oversee the services once offered at Health Palace.

Jones said, because of tight budget times, recreation and parks could not afford to rent the East North Avenue and Harford Road cite. It would cost $38,000, he said.

"In order for us to keep the services going, we can't keep it at the cite," said Jones.

His department has had to cut programs, like Adventures in Fun, which lost $78,000 to avoid closing rec centers and job losses, Jones said.

Recreation and parks is looking at three rec centers to house the body building services and equipment. The new site should be open by mid-summer or late summer, said Jones.

Martial arts and nutrition are expected to be added to the new format, the rec director said.

Drug hearings

Continued from Page 1A

drugs, as a solution to the U.S. drug problem.

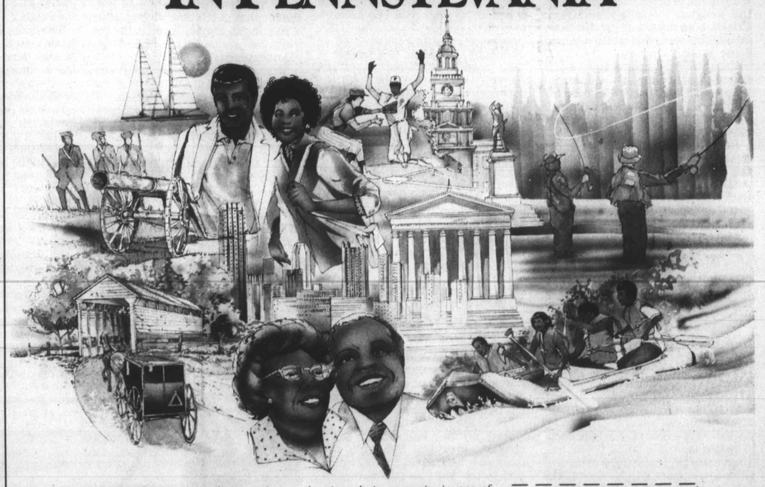
Both Rangel and Schmoke will call people to testify against or in favor of the concept at the tentatively scheduled Sept. 26 or Oct. 3 hearing.

Rep. Kewisi Mfume, D-Seventh District, and Rep. Benjamin L. Cardin helped to arrange the debate.

Mfume plans to testify with an open mind, said his press secretary, Keith Colona, although he opposes decriminialization.

The hearing was scheduled late this year to allow for details to be worked out and to fit many schedules.

START SOMETHING GREAT IN PENNSYLVANIA



The Watsons are planning their summer trip to Pennsylvania. Teenage son Dan likes canoeing, white-water rafting, R&B music and steam railroads, enjoyed between cheese-steak 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.

Will Dad find the best jazz music in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, or somewhere in between?

Grandpa knows a quiet pool on the Clarion River that has a big, brown trout with his name on it. And not far, there's a choice campsite in one of Pennsylvania's national forests or 115 state parks.

Join the Watsons in planning your summer trip to Pennsylvania. Order your 1988 Spring/Summer Pennsylvania Guide today.

For more information, call:
1-800-VISIT PA

Yes, I'm planning to visit Pennsylvania! Send me the 1988 Spring/Summer Pennsylvania Guide.
Name
Address
City State ZIP
Special Interest
Return coupon to Division of Travel Marketing, Pennsylvania Department of Commerce, 230 South Broad Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19102-5816. AFR

PENNSYLVANIA
AMERICA STARTS HERE
Robert P. Casey, Governor,
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania