



"OUR CHILDREN WERE HUNGRY AND YOU SERVED THEM THE MOON"

## Many Blacks Unaware Of Sickle-Cell Dangers

By ROOSEVELT MCPHERSON

What would your reaction be if suddenly you discovered you had the inherent traits of an incurable disease?

Well, many blacks can only bemoan the shocking fact when they learn they are afflicted with traits of sickle-cell anemia--an often fatal blood disease predominant among blacks.

Medical authorities reveal that one out of four blacks who have the traits ultimately is stricken with sickle-cell anemia.

If two persons who have the traits marry, chances are high their children will have the same tendencies toward the disease. Just as one plans his educational goals and career, doctors also urge that he think about planned parenthood.

Sickle-cell anemia cripples or kills, doctors explain. The sickle-cell shaped red blood cells caused by the disease, clump together to cut off blood circulation in knees, ankles, shoulders,

stomach, brain and other parts of the body.

If a sickle-cell anemia victim has had one or more attacks, he is likely to have recurrences commonly referred to as "strokes."

A recent television documentation maintained, "a lack of knowledge prevents the complete story of sickle-cell anemia from being told."

Sickle-cell anemia is a threat to pregnant mothers and unborn babies. It is the leading cause for deaths among infants in black communities.

The documentary film further revealed that although most mothers survive, still one out of four babies die during pregnancy or after delivery, due to the disease.

According to Dr. Ronald B. Scott, a Howard University professor who has researched sickle-cell anemia for more than 20 years, "about one out of every ten American blacks carry the trait."

Surveys further showed that seven out of ten blacks have never heard or know anything about sickle-cell anemia. Yet this disease involved some 2,500,000 American blacks.

An article in Ebony magazine revealed that America's black communities are mounting a counter-offensive against the killer disease.

In 1970 the Sickle-Cell Society Inc., in Pittsburgh was organized by a man who has had the disease for 54 years. He is Nathaniel Murray, who was able to organize the foundation with the help of community groups and doctors.

Another organization based in New York City, the Foundation for Research and Education in Sickle-Cell Disease, was instrumental in setting up a city hospital, the first of five centers devoted to the treatment of sickle-cell anemia.

## Cop Out

Got so-o-o high  
off of Colt 40-five  
Thought I saw Black Moses  
coming down from the sk-eye  
Went to sleep and dreamt a dream,  
seem like I was doing every-thing  
Caught myself from crashing  
tripping out on Boones Farm  
rationings  
Tried to glue myself back together,  
but my sinuses were clogged  
with weather  
Thought I felt my Black man  
come, figured out he'd had  
too much Bicardi Rum  
Couldn't function right in this  
society, thought I'd split the  
scene with L-S-D  
Couldn't hang with the group  
cause I didn't use the diaphragm  
or loop  
Thought I'd buy myself the Pill  
figured out it wouldn't do no  
good still  
Don't know what I want out of

life, makes me sick all this  
trouble and strife  
Bought a gun to shoot myself,  
thought that wold blow my  
mind--so now what's left  
Put my head in a plastic bag  
got scared of the fog so I  
yelled for Scag  
Heard my name on the television,  
stayed out of sight to  
avoid apprehension  
Couldn't get caught with my mind  
on the ground, felt my whole  
world spinning 'round and round.  
Went in a hole and stayed for  
a week, all that Black darkness  
was o-oooh so sweet  
Left existence, sort to speak,  
found out that dying ain't like  
what we seek  
Tried to come back, but he  
wouldn't let me go, so now  
I'm staying in my hell below!!  
EVERNA GWYNN

## To Become Aware

By OTIS CURRY

Not so long ago, as a matter of fact, two editions ago, this reporter wrote an article in this paper with the intention of "maybe" awakening Blacks, young and old, to a new thing called "Black Consciousness". There were those who felt the comments were "Right On", but many students on this campus missed the message, for to the deepest regret of many January 15th, the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. one of the greatest Black men of our time, passed by without any type of commemoration on the "Black" campus whatsoever. There was no rally, no memorial service, no comment.

Oh, but we are so Black. How Black is your Blackness Brothers and Sisters?

There were rallies in Detroit, Newark and Washington, D.C. The schools were out in St. Louis, San Francisco and Atlanta. Fort Bragg had a memorial service at one of its chapels and

even the Fayetteville Observer found a place way back on the Want Ad page to comment. But the "Black Folks" at FSU must have just forgot about Dr. King's birthday.

The white establishment newspaper, radio and T.V. remembered, but those black fist-clenching Liberation-minded, freedom-seeking students at FSU just plain forgot the man that started the ball rolling for Civil Rights that so many of us enjoy at the price of the blood, sweat, tears and even lives of others.

Administration, you wake up also; many Black People would not be holding a lot of the jobs they have if it had not been for the demonstration, sit-ins and jailing of black students during the civil rights movement. You too forget.

January 15th will come again and many of us will still be here at this Black university. Let us hope that it will not pass as this one did without some sort of commemoration for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## Black Journal Spotlights "Racism"

"Jesus was a Black revolutionary messiah who was trying to lead the people in a revolt against the white gentile oppressors."

So says the Reverend Albert Cleage, pastor of the Shrine of the Black Madonna in Detroit, during Black Journal's "Black Paper on White Racism". This two-part investigation of institutional racism by six Black scholars and philosophers was presented in December.

One investigative team included Cleage; John H. Clarke, as associate professor of African and Afro-American history at Hunter College and author of 11

books including "Harlem USA"; and Preston Wilcox, head of the education workshop of the Congress of African People and president of the educational consultant firm AFRAM Associates. They discussed the roots of white racism in the fields of history, education and Christianity.

Tracing racist patterns in Christianity, Rev. Cleage, an advocate of Black Christian Nationalism, takes issue with the church's concept of Jesus as a white man. According to him it is "historically false and theologically absurd, part of a debasing institution that enslaves Black people."

He views Christianity as having its beginning in "an African religion." A basis for his conclusion is the patriarch Israel's journey to Egypt with 70 people and his emergence with a nation of more than two million. The Reverend sees Biblical Israel as Black nation and, therefore, Jesus as a Black messiah. He feels that Apostle Paul was an "Uncle Tom Black Jew" who contributed to "destroying the Basic African Background of Christianity."

Professor Clarke points out that a root of white racism, which also served as a basis for the slave trade and colon-

ialism, was the Papal Bull of 1455 authorizing the servitude of all infidel people, most of whom were non-white and non-European. He also notes that up until the 16th and 17th centuries Black Madonnas were the images that prevailed in the European Churches and that one may still find them in some churches in Europe.

Preston Wilcox feels that the "clearest evidence of racism is the essential control over Black education" which he says deceives Blacks and whites about such historical "realities" as the religious interpretations by Rev. Cleage. He also notes that

although whites keep Blacks out of their communities they still exercise influence over the education of Black communities.

Register  
And  
Vote!