

Durham AIDS Conference To Focus On Medical Updates

Participants at North Carolina's largest AIDS conference will hear medical updates as well as testimonials from sufferers in a meeting organizers hope will inform the average person about the deadly virus. The goal is to try to reach all kinds of people in North Carolina — not just health educators — to help prepare for the next century," said Jane Falkowski, public information officer for the North Carolina AIDS Control branch in Raleigh. "There are still a lot of misconceptions, and a lot of fear."

The conference, called "AIDS in the 1990s," will be held June 6-8 at the Durham Omni Hotel and Convention Center.

The AIDS Control branch has enlisted health professionals and counselors from the Triangle and around the country to speak and to conduct workshops at the conference.

Those workshops will cover the latest medical information, intravenous drug use, AIDS and the minority community, AIDS and gay or bisexual adolescents and children; and AIDS and the media.

The conference will feature June Osborn, head of the U.S. National

Commission on AIDS and dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan Hospital, and Jacob Gayle, a special assistant for Minority HIV Policy Coordination at the Centers for Disease Control.

Some Durham residents involved in the fight against AIDS will also be on hand, including John Barlett, clinical research director of the AIDS unit at Duke University Medical Center.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with people from across North Carolina," said Barlett, who will be conducting workshops on clinical trials. "I'd like to develop a perspective on North Carolina's role in the advances of HIV treatment."

Those advances, he said, began at Duke, with the discovery of the drug AZT and its effects against HIV. The drug AZT is manufactured and distributed by Burroughs Wellcome Co. in Research Triangle Park south of Durham.

HIV is human immunodeficiency virus, the microbe that leads to the development of the AIDS disease.

"The original phase-I study of AZT was done at Duke and the National Institute of Health," Barlett said. "Duke has been involved since the very inception."

Current research is at a bit of a plateau, he said, but there is hope for the future.

"I anticipate that in the next two to three years we will move up to another plateau," he said. "People will be living longer, and will be more successful in the delaying of asymptomatic HIV into full-blown AIDS."

Ms. Falkowski said there will be some special speakers on hand to share experiences of living with the disease.

"There will be people on the conference who no longer hesitate about the fact that they have AIDS, (and to share) the kinds of things these people face — they lose jobs, housing, and sometimes family members shut them out," she said.

North Carolina AIDS Control is a mostly federal-funded branch of the Centers for Disease Control. It is nonprofit, and offers a variety of services to people with AIDS or HIV. Those services include counseling, HIV-testing and keeping records of AIDS and HIV cases, as well as offering to contact sexual partners for those who have just found out they have the virus.



CAIRO — Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela (l) and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat greet each other in Cairo recently. Both leaders were in Cairo for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. (UPI Photo)

News Briefs

IS NEW YORK CITY HEADED FOR RACE WAR?

NEW YORK, N.Y. — As summer approaches, New York City officials are growing increasingly concerned that the nation's largest and most complex city may be headed for an upsurge in racial violence.

Within the last two weeks several incidents have taken place involving conflicts between blacks and whites and blacks and Asians. The chief irritant was the verdicts in last year's killing of 16-year-old Yusef Hawkins. Hawkins was black. One of the whites charged in the unprovoked death was found guilty and another was found innocent of the more serious charges.

Meanwhile, the city's first black Mayor David Dinkins has made two highly publicized condemnations of racism in recent weeks. Last week he told a rally of 6,000, "We will never get ahead by fighting each other for crumbs falling from the table of opportunity."

FLORIDA PASTOR SAID TO CALL FOR REVENGE KILLING OF BLACK

BROOKSVILLE, FL. — A white minister in this small Florida town was quoted last week as calling for revenge in the beating death of a 19-year-old white youth during a brawl with a group of young blacks.

The Rev. Vern Gardner denied calling for revenge but several of those present said they heard him demand "eye-for-an-eye justice" in the killing.

According to police, a confrontation involving 16 whites and 17 blacks led to the brawl which resulted in the death of Russell Coats.

RICHMOND CALLS FOR COOL AFTER BLACK-WHITE FIGHTS

RICHMOND, VA. — City officials in Richmond, Virginia recently vowed to "keep downtown safe" after several whites were apparently attacked by roving gangs of blacks. However, the most serious injury was that of a white youth who suffered a broken jaw.

Ironically, the incidents took place following a religious rally against drugs.

FRANCE STEPS UP EFFORTS TO COMBAT GROWING RACISM

PARIS, FRANCE — After years of increased immigration of brown-skinned Arabs and dark-skinned Africans, France is said to be facing an explosive racial problem.

Thus, last week Prime Minister Michel Rocard called upon opposition parties to join his socialist government in coming up with a non-partisan effort to combat the growing racial tensions before they explode. However, he probably will not get much help from the right-wing National Front Party which has been accused stirring up anti-minority sentiment with slogans such as "France for the French."

France has long been viewed as one of the most open and racially tolerant countries in the world. Black U.S. soldiers, accustomed to American racism, often commented on how well they were treated by the French during World War II. But the National Front won a surprising 14% of the vote in recent elections.

BOSTON TRIES TO HEAD OFF BLACK GANG WARS

BOSTON, MASS. — The city of Boston is bracing for an upsurge in violence as various black gangs are expected to "war" this summer. With fewer than 4,000 gang members, Boston's problem is small when compared to a city like Los Angeles where an estimated 200,000 youths are involved in gangs. Nevertheless, gang violence has driven up the city's homicide rate as gangs battle over the drug trade. Thus, far 71 deaths have been attributed directly to gang violence.

ANDREW YOUNG LEADS IN LATEST POLL

ATLANTA, GA. — A recent public opinion poll shows former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young leading his Democratic Party primary opponents in his bid to become the first black governor of Georgia.

However, 29% of those surveyed were undecided. Observers believe most of the "undecided" tend to vote against the black candidate in statewide and national elections.

Nevertheless, 29% of those giving an opinion favored Young while his nearest rival's support came to 23%.

NEWS NOTES:

• NEW YORK — When black South African leader Nelson Mandela comes to the U.S. on June 20, he is scheduled to visit seven cities. They are New York, Washington, D.C., Boston, Atlanta, Miami, Detroit and Los Angeles.

• PHILADELPHIA, PA. — A special hotline has been set-up for young ladies interested in entering this fall's Miss Black USA/World pageant. Application and information can be had by calling 800-237-2270 and leaving your name and address. Organizers say this fall's event will be the largest black beauty pageant in U.S. history.

• A get-out-of-debt plan devised for black consumers is available from the Chicago's Better Life Club. The free guide is yours by writing Better Life Club 117 W. Harrison Building, 6th Fl., Suite B-457, Chicago, Ill. 60605. Include \$2 to cover mailing costs.

Gantt Challenges Easley In Tuesday's Democratic Primary

Harvey Gantt is running against Mike Easley in this coming Tuesday's primary run-off for nomination as the Democratic Party's candidate for the United States Senate. Gantt can win the run-off if enough voters registered as Democrats vote for him on Tuesday, June 5.

Gantt is considered a formidable candidate whose victory would be a victory for all fair-minded voters who want more responsible government exercised by the Congress. Gantt was the first black to graduate from Clemson University and the first black mayor of

Charlotte. As Charlotte's mayor, he demonstrated concern about all Americans.

Gantt received the highest number of votes in the May primary, but the rule of having to receive 40% plus one vote meant that Easley could call for a run-off, which he did. Consequently, the determining factor now is how many voters cast their votes on Tuesday.

Gantt has promised that if he is elected to the U.S. Senate in November, he will work to improve educational, health, housing and other relevant concerns of many citizens. He believes that the federal government should

play a greater role in ensuring the well-being of Americans.

A large number of political pundits believe that if Gantt wins next week, he can defeat Senator Jesse Helms in November, and contend that as one very good reason for voting for Gantt in June. If Gantt wins, he would be the only black in the U.S. Senate.

Each person eligible to vote in the run-off on Tuesday has the civic obligation to do so. Each also has the responsibility of encouraging all eligible voters to vote on Tuesday, June 5.

African-American Heritage Festival at Brown Memorial June 9

Exhibitors, vendors, music and dance will highlight the African American Heritage Festival at Charlotte Hawkins Brown Memorial Saturday, June 9.

From 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., visitors to the campus of the former Palmer Memorial Institute will see all kinds of exhibitors and vendors with wares of African-American nature, as well as food vendors.

At 11 a.m. center stage performances begin, featuring the Harris/Mintz School of the Arts Dance Group; the Black Child Development Choir; and the Fruit of the Spirit Gospel Choir.

Other groups are the Capital City Five of Raleigh; the Brown Memorial Community Choir; and string ensemble of Durham.

Admission to the festival is free.

The memorial, at the first North Carolina state historic site dedicated to a woman and a black, is on the campus of the prestigious prep school founded by Dr. Brown in 1902. The state historic site opened in 1987.

When fully completed, it will include restored historic structures, audiovisual presentations and permanent exhibits on Dr. Brown and North Carolina black history.

Other weekend events planned include Palmer alumni and friends remembering Dr. Brown's birthday with the annual Maroon and White ball, Friday, June 8; and graveside services Sunday, June 10.

For details on the African-American Heritage Festival and the birthday observances, call Jeanne Rudd at the site in Sedalia, 912-449-4846.

Charlotte Hawkins Brown Memorial, an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, is located on the Palmer Institute campus, Highway 70, Sedalia, 1-85 exit #135.



ANHEUSER-BUSCH CONTRIBUTION PROVIDES COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS — Ronald F. Smiley (center), corporate affairs central region manager for Anheuser-Busch Companies, presents a contribution to members of the Durham Housing Authority during its annual scholarship banquet held recently at the Omni Hotel and Convention Center. Accepting the contribution, which will be used to provide college scholarships to residents of public housing in Durham, are: Jack Preiss, chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the Housing Authority, and Joyce Nichols, board member.