

Fifty youths and parents attend program on teen sexuality

KAREN M. HANNON
Chronicle Staff Writer

Approximately 50 teenagers and adults attended a program on sexuality on June 1 at Dellabrook Presbyterian Church.

Phoebe Beal, assistant director of the Division of Health Education at Reynolds Health Center, discussed the problems and consequences of teen sexuality with those present. The Rev. Carlton A. G. Eversley, pastor of Dellabrook, was present to discuss the topic from the church's point of view using scripture selections.

Beal's presentation included a film entitled "When Teenagers Get Pregnant" which focused on the couples who were faced with the problem of an unwanted pregnancy.

Following the film, those present had a "Values Auction," a discussion on values that the



Karen Hannon

teenagers thought were important in a relationship. Groups were then given play money and told to bid on the three most important values, including trust,

honesty, love and God. This game illustrated the different values each person considers in a relationship.

Participants were then asked to write anonymous questions that they wished to have answered.

The main issues covered throughout the program included the decisions that must be made in a sexual relationship among teenagers, the problems of an unwanted pregnancy and the myths and taboos on the topic of sexuality.

According to Dorothy Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) who wrote an article in last March's issue of *Ebony*, statistics show that "in 1981, 65 percent of all births to black women were out of wedlock. Among black women under 20 the proportion was over 86 percent."

These statistics, as well as

others gathered in recent years, prove that the numbers of teens with problems related to teen pregnancies are growing as more and more teens are becoming pregnant.

Beal discussed several ways to combat the problem of teen pregnancy:

- Teens, as well as their parents, need more education about the prevention of teenage pregnancies. It is also important for churches to educate their teens.
- Teens should also have easier access to birth control.
- Activities for teens to participate in to get goals and aspirations should be available.
- Better education for males is needed.
- The media needs to show a more realistic portrayal of sexual relationships.
- Sex needs to be "taken out of the closet."

Garrett Crosby, a sophomore at Mount Tabor High School, attended the program to get a better insight on teenage sexuality, a growing concern among teenagers.

"Teenagers need to become involved in discussions like these in order to become more aware of the consequences that could come about if they are not careful," said Crosby.

Rachel Crosby, the mother of Garrett Crosby said, "A lot of the teenagers' questions were answered from a better viewpoint than one they might get from their peers."

Darryl Brown, a junior at Reynolds High School, said he attended because he knew it would be "rather interesting."

"The best part of the program was when our questions were

answered by Mrs. Beal and Rev. Eversley," said Brown.

Mazandra Spigner of Hill Middle School, and her mother, Irma Spigner, also found the program to be interesting.

"The whole presentation was enlightening for both the teens and the adults," said Mrs. Spigner. "I think it was better for the younger people, whether male or female, to learn the straight facts from someone who is educated in that area, instead of learning off the streets."

Teenage parenthood is obviously a growing problem in the black community. Awareness programs like these for teens and their parents would give teens a better insight on the concerns as well as the consequences of irresponsible teen sexuality.

Local blacks get token share

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company based in Chesterfield, according to the report. The largest amount spent with a white woman-owned business was \$1.6 million with P & H Construction, headquartered in Lexington.

Locally, the largest amount spent with a black business was \$1,635 with Cartwood Construction Co. The least was \$12.60 with Photo First.

The average local minority-owned business contract was \$203,203 during the period compared to an average contract of \$1,341 with out-of-county minority-owned businesses, city figures show.

The report says that the average local white woman-owned business contract was \$32,699 compared to an average white woman-owned out-of-county contract of \$191,753.

According to the report, those businesses solicited included 45 local minority-owned companies, 40 out-of-county minority-owned businesses, 20 local white woman-owned businesses, 10 out-of-county white-woman owned businesses, 587 local white-owned businesses and 1,428 out-of-county white-owned businesses. The average spending with local white-owned

businesses was \$40,866. The average spending with out-of-county white-owned businesses was \$35,714.

City contracts went to companies as far west as California and as far north as Maine, according to the report. Approximately \$55.5 million was spent with businesses based out of Forsyth County. Only \$26.4 million was spent with businesses based in the county.

Farmer said the reason for so much out-of-county spending is that much of the goods and services the city needs are manufac-

tured by companies based out of the county.

"Ninety percent of our goods and services are purchased within our market area which lies from Raleigh to Charlotte," he said.

The amount spent with local minority-owned businesses is as follows (rounded to the nearest dollar):

- Acoustic Clean, \$2,644
- America's Best Janitorial, \$3,868
- Contract Furnishings, \$33,963
- Deck the Walls, \$712
- Gadson Electric, \$515
- William Hopper, \$1,740
- A.D. James Co., \$478

- Fred Lowell Signs, \$3,364
- Miller the Printer, \$7,976
- Robert L. Millner and Son, \$102,935
- B.D. Murrell Construction, \$70,292
- Photo First, \$12
- Printing Place, \$243
- Rice & Ingram, \$480
- SBR Associates, \$8,913
- Southern Fasteners, \$3,324
- Starr Office Supply, \$231
- Laughlin Sutton Printing, \$1,077
- Twin City Chrysler-Plymouth, \$33,106
- Washington Concrete, \$96,982
- Jerry Watkins Cadillac, \$112
- Window World, \$750
- Winston-Salem Chronicle, \$9,118
- Woodcraft Builders, \$106,832
- George Salley Cleaning, \$175
- L & A Cleaning Service, \$18,307
- WAAA Radio, \$1,975
- Aamco Transmission, \$7,081
- James Branch, \$169
- Accent Travel, \$3,611
- Servepro, \$170
- Associated Consultants, \$55
- Burch Construction Co., \$48,141
- Cartwood Construction Co., \$274,635
- Benjamin Construction Co., \$150
- Adams Services, \$750
- Cox and Evans Concrete, \$10,164
- Brown Oil Company, \$12,350
- B.M. Kiger, \$5,000
- Grace Masonry, \$60,352
- Amos Hickman, \$1,270
- William Thompson Concrete, \$2,812
- Samuel Branch, \$3,500
- Triad Heating and Air Conditioning, \$13,000

Brown

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be lost from lack of identity," the interrogator said. He clearly suggested that had Malcolm lived, blacks would have no identity problems today and Aziz, as "one of his killers," by virtue of this convoluted case, responsible for the pathetic black condition as observed by Kirkland.

Kirkland was also obviously bothered by Aziz's outstanding performance as a prisoner: a master's degree; a calming force in the Attica prison riot in 1971; at Sing Sing in 1983; a counselor to other inmates; an imam for the American Muslim Mission in prison and an excellent record on a nine-month work-release program in which he lived in the community, held a job, paid taxes, fed his family and reduced society's burden by the amount of production.

As a result of Aziz's record, support for his release came from all quarters, including black politicians, New York's black justice commissioner, Jewish leaders and journalists. But, surprisingly, this support infuriated Kirkland: "Would the Congressman and all the rest of them recommending your parole if you had killed a white person of a similar status?"

"I didn't kill him," Aziz offered and added, "I think it was Malcolm's murder" was a "mistake." But that didn't satisfy Kirkland.

The CIA, Kirkland said, is suspected of killing Malcolm, and it represents the law enforcement establishment. "Why do you think they (law enforcement officials) look so favorably upon you?" Guilt, Kirkland seemed to have made Aziz a model prisoner.

Kirkland's cohort on the panel establishing guilt by association was Commissioner Samuel Beale, a white man. He was interested in proving Aziz's association with minister Louis Farrakhan's alleged anti-Semitism than in establishing Aziz's fitness for release.

Anyone with a working knowledge of the black com-

munity understands the difference between the beliefs of Farrakhan's Nation of Islam and the American Muslim Mission, of which Aziz is a member. But this parole board member, like Kirkland, could not hide his bias.

Instead of a parole hearing based on the facts and rules as established by law to determine Aziz's return to society, Kirkland conducted an inquisition into blackness and Sherrid into rumors of anti-Semitism. The result is that the parole board was tainted by these acts of impropriety.

He took this point of view, Kirkland says, because of his "uniqueness" as a "victim of racism." That may be more of a statement of fact than a reason to diminish the system of justice. While there is some merit in his attempt to help black people, he has harmed them by his example.

It seems that in his rush to judgment, Kirkland is more interested in enforcing his perception of blackness than being fair. Neither does he seem to understand that the objective of placing blacks in these sensitive positions is not to defend blacks that they approve of philosophically and persecute those with whom they disagree, but to make the judicial system work for all.

Kirkland should be particularly sensitive to this issue because he now is the subject of an investigation of the New York State Crime and Correction Commission. "I was accused of releasing an inmate after reading a confidential letter that was allegedly in his folder outlining his crime plans upon release." Two policemen subsequently were killed as a result of the convict's plans.

If Kirkland goes to jail (highly unlikely, but possible), would he want his successor, a black named Veronica Thomas, to spend her time at his parole hearing discussing her perception of his blackness or the merits of his fitness to return to society as a productive citizen?

And what would Kirkland, as a responsible black parole board member 35 years ago, have said

to Malcolm Little, the pimp, the drug pusher and convict? Would he have compared him then to Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass and Marcus Garvey?

No, Kirkland, I suspect, would have been overwhelmed by his own black-blindness and Malcolm Little would never have become Malcolm X, the "statesman ... leader ... and

pillar for the poor," as Kirkland calls the man whom he now idolizes so much.

African-Americans in prison and outside need justice -- not self-appointed overseers.

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Marable

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Washington, Atlanta, Newark and Detroit. Ernest Morial, mayor of New Orleans, was named president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors this January.

These numbers seemingly indicate black empowerment within the system. But the reality of the situation is more complex than most observers admit. Of the 6,056 black elected officials, 1,368 (22.6 percent) are only members of local school boards. Another 2,189 (36.1 percent) are members of municipal governments or councils.

Blacks comprise only 1.2 percent of the 490,800 elective offices in the nation; they are grossly underrepresented in federal, state and regional bodies. Only four state administrators, 90 state senators and eight judges on state courts of last resort are Afro-Americans.

If democracy really functioned in this country, blacks should have roughly a proportional share of political power. Afro-Americans account for 12 percent of the population, which translates into 58,900 elective positions -- not the 6,056 offices which are currently held.

Blacks comprise substantial voting blocs in Alabama (23 percent of the voting-age population), Arkansas (14 percent),

Florida (11 percent), Georgia (24 percent), Louisiana (27 percent), North Carolina (20 percent) -- but not one black person is currently in Congress from these states.

The great illusion of the American political system is that each voting bloc and social class has an "equal opportunity" to express its views at the polls and to elevate its representatives into public office. After 20 long years, blacks have begun to exercise their democratic rights, but the barriers to full proportional representation still exist at the federal, state and county levels.

The immediate task ahead is to develop strong coalitions of progressive voters who share our goals -- full employment, civil rights, affirmative action, universal health care and decent housing -- and to build a political movement which will redefine the structures of democracy. This demands a conscious effort to increase the numbers of black elected officials who have a genuine commitment to the aims and aspirations of the black community.

Dr. Manning Marable teaches political sociology at Colgate University. His column appears in more than 140 newspapers internationally.

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