You & Your Health

A Black Perspective

Drug Overdose

We have already discussed drug abuse and some of the medical and social problems that accompany the problems. We have also discussed the proper way to take prescribed and non-prescription medications. Now we will take a look at one of the major complications of drug use, abuse or addiction, that is the possibility of overdose.

Let me remind you first of all that drug addiction and drug abuse does not necessarily mean the over-use of heroin, cocaine, etc. Drug addiction is defined as a desire for and excessive involvement with a pharmacologic agent, usually leading to physical de-pendence. An addict feels that he is unable to function in performing any activities of daily living without the agent. Notice the use of the term pharmacologic agent. Yes, narcotics, used frequently, can and does very often lead to addiction. But there are also drugs that are not narcotics that are not bought on "The street" that one can become addicted to or dependent upon. These do not have to be prescription drugs. One can become addicted to or dependent upon drugs that are bought "over the counter."

Overdose is most frequently caused by either prescription medication or drugs that are bought over the counter. Many times it's,



Brenda Kennedy BSN

the Valium abuser that overdoses, as opposed to hard street drug users. Some persons are not aware that if one pill makes you feel fine, two pills will not necessarily make you feel better. Usually it increases the tolerance or need for the medication. Once the need increases the person begins to take more and more than the prescribed dosage of the medication and this is how he gets into trouble. The problem is then complicated when persons who use sedatives and barbituates, etc. also uses alcohol. Sometimes we forget that alcohol is a drug too.

Overdose is a very serious problem. The major problem is the change in level of consciousness and the great affect that some drugs have on the respiratory system. This makes breathing very difficult. What happens is that with the respiratory difficulty often time the brain is deprived of enough oxygen and brain cells die. Brain cells can not be replaced so the person may not die but have to live with often severe brain

One should be careful about the amounts of medication that he takes. Also one should be careful not to mix medications or medications and alcohol. If you have questions about medictions - prescribed or non-prescription - contact your physician's office or pharmacist.

Cable TV Beckons Minorities

CHAPEL HILL-Paul Gold of Chapel Hill, a graduate student in the department of radio, television and motion pictures at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has received a grant to study public affairs programming by black-owned radio stations.

The \$1,000 grant was awarded by the National Association of Broad casters for research into the public interest service to the community by black-owned commercial

"The Federal Communications Commission has said that diversity of program content is in the public interest," Gold said. "The FCC and the courts have said that minority ownership of broadcast media will result in diversity or program content."

Specifically, Gold said, he wants to know if black ownership of commercial stations has resulted in more diversity or if the stations are more interested in playing music than in public affairs

programming.
"If black ownership of these stations has resulted in diversity, then it would appear that one

public interest service has been met," he said.

The study is expected to be completed by next spring. Gold's advisors in the project are Dr. Loy

A. Singleton, assistant professor of radio, television and motion pictures, and Dr. Fred Lee, assistant professor of political science.

Talk about dreams coming true!! Many people would say that super songstress-composer Cheryl Lynn has been living in a dreamworld since first appearing on the campy "Gong Show" over two years ago. But the great thing about this beautiful young lady's dreamworld is that it's now as real and down-to-earth as she is. (Prov-

Cheryl Lynn's Back And

This Time She's "In Love"

ing, for once and for all, that fairy tales can come true.)

1979 was as real a year as any newcomer in the music industry could possibly have. Her debut self-entitled LP became a gold smash and yieled a smash gold single ("Got To Be Real"). She went on to win numerous awards such as No. 1 Top Female Vocalist (singles, No. 1 Top Female Disco Crossover, No. 2 Top Female Vocalist (albums), No. 3 Top Black Contemporary Female Crossover and No. 4 Top New Female Vocalist (pop singles). And those are only the awards bestowed upon her by Cashbox Magazine.

Record World saw fit to honor this multi-talented lass with No. 3 Top New Female Vocalist, No. 8 Top Female Vocalist and No. 20 Top Solo Artist (all within the pop category).. If indeed there were honors handed out for "Music Industry's Rookie Of The Year" there can be little doubt that Cherl Lynn would be a hands-down contender

Now all of Cheryl's immense talents and energies have been captured on her second Columbia LP, IN LOVE. And all that really needs to be said about this new LP is that it's exactly what it should be - a natural progression in a career bound for superstardom.

Produced by Barry Blue (producer of Heatwave's smash hits "Boogie Nights", "Always & Forever", "Groove Line" "Mind Blowing Decisions" and "Party Poops"), IN LOVE features nine scrutinously selected powerpacked tunes (ranging from seductive ballads to uptempo dance numbers) that stand out both individually and collectively. Cheryl helped make the selection a bit easier by penning "Chances" and collaborating with George Bryant on "Keep It Hot". In addition, she and Blue elected to work with such



SUPER SONGSTRESS CHERYL LYNN ...Her fairy tales came true

stellar sessionmen as James Gad-

son, Andy Newmark and Barnard "Pretty" Purdie on drums; David Shields and Chuck Rainey on bass; Jeff Lee, Paul Jackson, Jr. and Bobby Caldwell on guitars: Paul Griffin and Richard Tee on keyboards; Michael Brecker on horns and Bobbye Hall on percussion.

By now there really is no need to rehash Cheryl's well-worn "fairytale" story that starts with a starring role in the road production of "The Wiz", moves on to her celebrated "Gong Show" appearance and, from there, straight to the attention of Columbia Records. (Cheryl's unique beginning turned her into one of 1979's music media favorites with stories appearing in publications ranging from Record World to The New York Daily News, as well as major features in such prominent national periodicals as People and Newsweek magazines.)

Those many great reviews have produced such memorable quotes

as, "...her voice is an incredible instrument and you can't keep talent like that under wraps for long." (Leonard Pitts-Soul Magazine); and "...not your typical flash in the pan disco artist. She's a gifted singer with an incredible range which she seems to be able to accelerate to the outer limits.' (Fred Murphy-Variety). Chervl was without question media's choice as well as people's choice.

But perhaps Cheryl herself said it best: "I want to be about being real. It's got to come from the heart. It's all about love and caring for people. That's what I want to

And IN LOVE offers all those things and much, much more. It's about loving and caring, it's coming from the heart, and most importantly, it's definitely for real. Just like Cheryl Lynn.

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