

# Editorials & Comments

## Calmness In A Stormy Sea!

The Rev. Coleman W. Kerry Jr., minister, former school board member, counselor of political candidates, civil rights leader, and most of all, a spiritual leader has departed this life at age 58.

Stricken with cancer, Kerry died last week in Charlotte Memorial Hospital. Yet, even there while he was in great need of comfort, Kerry sought to carry on his ministerial duties serving the 1,300 members of Friendship Baptist Church where he pastored for 33 years.

Thus, in facing death, Coleman Kerry labored just as he did in facing life in an effort to preach and teach in a manner that has helped to make our community - black and white - a little better than most.

It was because of these and similar efforts that city council member Ron Leeper said, "Coleman Kerry has been a solid rock in this community." Serving for two and one-half years on the school board its most tumultuous period of school desegregation beginning in 1968, Kerry voted his convictions - sometimes to the displeasure of both black and white liberals - as he pursued a moderate course. While often not appreciated for such a position at that time, history has shown that Kerry's moderating influence made him a symbol of calmness in a stormy sea of often emotional opponents in the school desegregation struggle.

In an even more quiet and unassuming manner, Coleman Kerry has been a major influencing force in public policies involving the reduction of poverty, public housing, voting rights, urban redevelopment, public health and law enforcement. In all of these areas of public service his influence will be evident through the decades of the 1980s and 1990s.

The Rev. Coleman W. Kerry Jr., a man of quiet dignity, unquestionable character, and resourceful restraint has served the Charlotte community well. Therefore, it should be our prayer that in God's infinite wisdom He would send us other men with the qualities of Coleman W. Kerry.

## Hope For 1982!

Many theologians, philosophers and historians are in agreement that the greatest crises in the whole span of human history are engulfing the current generation. These crises are equally awesome in that each of them has the capacity to destroy civilization as we know it.

Evidence of these self-destructive forces are abundant: crime, sexual promiscuity, political conflict, drug abuse, atomic weaponry, alcoholism, the population explosion and the disintegration of the family as an institution, are only a few.

Having to face the overwhelming sense of helplessness that these crises have created many people feel in both their private and public lives that they are losing control of their own destiny.

Considering the universal nature of such feeling, people must begin to think positively about the future or we will self-destruct simply by negative thoughts. We can begin this process by renewing our commitment to a faith and hope that things will get better. In the Biblical Book Hebrews 11:1 we find these words: "...faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

In writing about these dangers facing mankind, Hal Lindsey says, "Man can live about 40 days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air...but only about one second without HOPE." Therefore, if we truly want a permanent peace, a lower out-of-wedlock birth rate, less dependence on drugs, stronger family ties, diminishing political conflict, less joblessness and more racial understanding, we must begin to have hope.

With hope we can begin to believe Russia won't invade Poland, we won't have an atomic war, affirmative action programs won't die, the Voting Rights Act will survive, the poor won't be abandoned, the cities will be revived, cancer will be cured, the Middle East will find peace, the President and Congress will temper their budget cuts with mercy, and God will give us a better year in 1982 than we had in 1981.

All it takes is a little HOPE.

## The Agenda

When gunshots are fired at midnight to signal the entrance of another year, they should also signal the beginning of a new cohesiveness within the black community. No cohesiveness in general, but with a specific agenda that demands an end to the annual school crisis, that lobbies to create more jobs for its unemployed, that votes against those who don't have its best interest at heart, that fights against black-on-black crime, but seeks justice in the courtrooms, that inspires pride in sweeping the streets to keep a neighborhood clean, that makes the young respect the old and that promotes parental guidance and interaction with children.

These are just a few of the resolutions that should comprise a total New Year's agenda for the black community. It's an agenda and commitment that should be made; for it is time that we as a people start developing as a collective rather than an incongruous body of individuals.

# SUBJECT CRIME



Let's Work Together For A Safe Community



Tony Brown's Comments

## Homosexual Diseases, Herpes, Winners And Losers

In one of those typical after-work happy hour discussions, the subject got around to a recent report in the New England Journal of Medicine which described a spate of diseases, some new and terrifying among homosexual men.

The general reaction of the all-male and Afro-American parley was a kind of relief that "they" are the benefactors of this nasty epidemic of a rare and lethal cancer, offbeat viruses, numerous venereal diseases, intestinal disruptions (gay bowel syndrome) usually seen in the tropics, mononucleosis and a particularly virulent form of pneumonia.

These health problems of the last five years join some long standing disorders common to homosexual males. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that Hepatitis B is already at runaway levels among them and nearly 50 percent of males with active syphilis are homosexual. That is especially alarming when you consider that only about four percent of all males are homosexuals. However, that statistic pales against the numerical facts if you live in New York, Los Angeles or San Francisco, where the alarming toll of diseases among male homosexuals is now concentrated.

The aforementioned medical journal report also describes another disease among this group: PCP or pneumocystis pneumonia, a deadly lung infection, occurring mostly among those using "poppers," drugs like amyl nitrate and

### First in a series

butyl nitrate (in the body, these drugs produce nitrosamines which are known carcinogenic substances) which are said to enhance orgasm.

What we know for sure, however, is that 85 percent of the homosexual patients with cancer or a parasitic lung infection that kills 60 percent of its victims in the CDC's study admitted to inhaling these drugs.

Promiscuous sexual behavior among this group is definitely a factor also. Doctors believe that the immune system is suppressed in these cases because it is besieged by a large number of exposures such as bacteria, fungi and off-beat viruses - a physiological condition caused by a lifestyle - and becomes overtaxed and ceases to perform.

And the danger of this nationwide epidemic is exacerbated by the distinct possibility that bisexuals will transmit diseases, now only seen in this sexually active country among male homosexuals, to the mainstream heterosexual community.

The fulminant herpes infections are already a shared burden of both groups. And because this parasitic virus is most opportunistic when the immune system is weak, it suggests that caution about sexual or social contact should be especially exercised during a period of a cold or other bacterial or viral attack.

Homosexuals are not alone in terms of new and frightening venereal diseases. There is also the

epidemic proportions of the appearance and contagion of Penicillinase-producing Neisseria Gonorrhoeae (PPNG). This new strain is completely resistant to penicillin and has escalated in the last 11 months by more than 350 percent in New York City alone.

Chlamydia, the most common venereal disease in the nation and much more common in black women than white women, strikes as many as four million men and women each year. A leading cause of infertility, Chlamydia was found in 23 percent of a group of pregnant black women, most of whom were unaware that they had it.

Just as my all-male black, barroom friends were wrong about homosexual diseases not affecting the rest of us, their belief that herpes is mostly "white" disease infecting only a small number of people was equally inaccurate.

Few Americans escape herpes infections at some time in their lives. Between 50 and 150 million people in this country are infected with herpes simplex I, a non-venereal herpes, and herpes simplex II, the venereal type. The CDC estimates that one in 10 adults is now a carrier of the venereal herpes which is spreading so rapidly that there are 500,000 new cases each year, with 35 percent of the U.S. population being exposed at some time. Herpes II is recurrent among about five million; herpes I among about 50 million.

Once inside the body, the

Walk Your Talk



Rev. Perkins

## The Local Church Impacting Community's Needs

The local church in the black ghettos of American is the most logical agent for social change in the black community.

A few weeks ago I was in Chicago speaking and serving as a consultant for some organizations. These organizations are trying to address many of the serious problems that afflict our people there - health, legal and housing needs, hunger, drugs, crime and prostitution.

I could see that the groups that are most effective are the ones that aim first of all to be the church, the people of God within their local community.

The many problems that confront the black community in every part of the country are becoming more urgent every day. There is already a severe housing shortage in most of our cities. It's going to get worse because we're using up our existing housing. And now middle class people are beginning to move back into the inner cities, renovating old buildings to live in, and moving out the low-income residents, who have nowhere to go.

Another problem is teenage prostitution. This problem seems to arise from a person's basic need for economic survival. But while economic need may be what keeps a girl on the streets, I don't believe that it's what drove her there originally. I believe that the basic human need for affection was what first put her there, and this need was then turned into a means of making money.

These desperate emotional needs were first created by the broken family structure of our black community. We as the church need to reach out in care to help these girls, provide the love and sense of community that they so desperately need and rescue them from their cycle of destruction.

The local church can provide the energy, motivation and resources for creative programs to address the deep needs of our communities. Each local church needs to commit itself to addressing the needs of our people within their particular community.

Right now, a major problem is that church members don't know how to deal with these problems. We need to learn.

Within each church, small groups of people can unite around the various issues that they feel are most urgent. For instance, one group would deal with prostitution, another with employment needs, another with school drop-outs.

These people would all be tied together not by the issue but by their commitment to Jesus Christ. They would draw their guidance and inspiration from the Bible, the word of God.

Each church needs to give the people a Biblical vision of how the resources of the whole church - skills, prayer, and finances - can be brought together to impact the needs of the local community. The bond of faith will unite each group with the church, enabling them to strengthen one another.

Through this love, commitment, and perseverance, as the Apostle Paul says, "We will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." (Ephesians 4:15-16).

## From Capitol Hill

# President Ronald Reagan Loses One Important Round

By Alfreda Madison  
Special To The Post  
President Reagan has been able to use his charisma and other means to get just about all of his proposals passed by congress. However, recently, he lost his very important round in the House. The Administration has been putting immense pressure on both houses of congress to repeal the Clark Amendment. This amendment was authorized during the Ford era to prevent the President from using either covert, overt or para-military methods in Angola, without the consent of congress. The Republican control senate passed the repeal amendment.



Alfreda L. Madison  
gan's staff along with the staff of Congressional Black Caucus, put on a telephone blitz to citizens, asking them to contact their representatives and insist that they vote against repeal. The black church, which has a strong hold on blacks also went into action.

Through the intense and extensive lobbying efforts of black organizations, letter writing and telephone calls from individuals to congress persons with large black constituencies were pressured to take a stand against repeal.

The House Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs, under the dynamic Chairmanship of Howard Wolpe of Michigan,

Mr. Derwinski, who was supposed to introduce the repeal amendment on the House floor and advised against introduction. This means that, for the present, the Clark amendment repeal is dead, but it is sure to surface again, so opponents can't let down their guards, but must continue to be watchful and prepare to prevent repeal measures whenever they arise.

It seemed significant that Savimbi, the guerrilla leader in Angola and Mobuto Seko, President of Zaire were in the United States, at the crucial moment when repeal of the Clark amendment was at stake. Both of these Africans favor the amendment's repeal. Naturally, Mobuto Seko greatly favors overt actions, since it was the CIA's involvement in the murder of Lumumba, ruler of the Congo, which elevated Seko to President of Zaire (originally Congo).

Representative Shirley Chisholm sent Mr. Zabolich, Chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee, a letter signed by 31 colleagues urging that his committee would

put human rights first in considering foreign aid. She urged that no military assistance be given Argentina, Chile and Zaire because of their human rights denial. Mrs. Chisholm said that withdrawal of the amendment to repeal Clark was a victory for human rights, and she has pledged to lead the fight against the amendment's passage if and when it is brought up in the House again.

Representative William Gray, member of the House Subcommittee on African Affairs emphasized strongly that the notion that the Clark amendment restricts the President's ability to affect foreign policy is not true, but on the contrary it only reaffirms the role of congress in formulating foreign measures. He stated that repeal of the amendment would have a devastating affect on Black African nations who are friendly to the United States. Reagan's refusal to recognize the legitimate government of Angola, condemn South African raids into that country and his having high level American officials meet with

Angolan rebel Savimbi are all seen by Black Africans and Black Americans as the Administration's tilt to apartheid South Africa. The entire Third World views these actions as interference in the internal affairs of another country, says Gray.

Gray continued that Angola has played an important role in connection with SWAPO, in trying to affect a settlement of the Namibian question. American commercials and businesses that have had investments in Angola for five years, relate that the Angolan government protects their businesses. The United States import-export bank has aided in financing the Angolan government. A large number of projects have been financed in Angola by these businesses. The House African Affairs Committee has learned that our western allies are against repeal of the Clark amendment. All of these nations recognize the Angolan government and they have full diplomatic relations with it. Yet, the United States, not only fails to recognize the Angolan

government, but instead considers the rebel Savimbi faction as legitimate.

Congressman Gray says the Administration's actions are seen by Black Africans and Black Americans as an appeasement policy with racism.

## Vehicle Safety

### Inspection Fee To Increase By 25%

RALEIGH - Effective January 1982, the fee charged for the annual vehicle safety inspections will increase from \$4 to \$4.25, the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicles Division (DMV) has announced.

The 1981 General Assembly authorized the 25-cent increase to cover rising costs to administer the program.

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