

AIDS Myths Targets Blacks

This week in Daytona Beach, black publishers and editors will be briefed by officials from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on AIDS and the black community.

They will be introduced to CDC's new media campaign, designed to change the behavior of blacks and Hispanics in order to stop the spread of AIDS. CDC wants the black press to tell its readers that blacks account for 12 percent of the population, but 26 percent of the AIDS cases. Hispanics are eight and 15 percent, respectively.

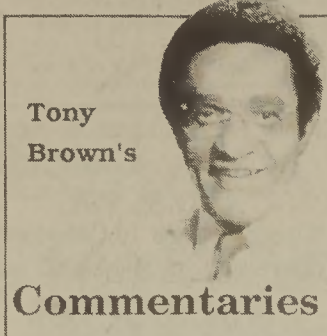
That leaves 58 percent of the cases for whites who are 80 percent of the U.S. population. While blacks and Hispanics are being targeted and warned that drug usage and sex should be avoided and regulated, some whites are using the same statistics to prove CDC's theory that AIDS in America came from Africa. Therefore, something should be done about blacks in America.

"AIDS is taking on a black face," declared editorial writer Bill Johnson in The Detroit News, a white daily. Johnson called on blacks to support mandatory AIDS testing and said the alternative may be a backlash of increased bigotry aimed at blacks.

If blacks allow themselves to be identified as the AIDS problem, they will be both miseducated and eliminated, in one form or the other, from American society.

This "black" number of 26 percent of the AIDS cases include Haitian and Central African immigrants. Both of these areas received the World Health Organization's (WHO) smallpox vaccine, which the London Times said triggered the AIDS epidemic in Central Africa and Haiti.

There is no doubt that any member of any group who is seeded with the AIDS virus is more likely to develop the disease. However, Americans of African descent have not been inoculated with the virus and are not at risk -- unless they are homosexual (57 percent of AIDS



Tony Brown's

Commentaries

cases); bisexual; drug users (13 percent); have sex with members of a high-risk group; or a homosexual/bisexual/drug user (6.5 percent). So being black does not increase the risk for AIDS and is no more reason for mandatory testing than being white -- unless you are white and in a high-risk group, therefore more likely to carry the virus.

If mandatory testing is to be based on statistical inference, then males -- black, white, green and polka dot -- who have an exposure rate 13 times higher than females, should be singled out. Ditto for hemophiliacs, young people and people living in San Francisco and in New York (the AIDS capital of the world).

For that reason, New York should be "destroyed for the benefit of the whole nation," wrote a man from Edmonton, Canada, in a letter to me. "Panic and fear" are not too far off, and black people, who he holds responsible for AIDS, will get their "heads blown off or incinerated." This man is a product of the current AIDS information programs, misinformed and misled, albeit not typical.

Maybe the black journalists should ask the CDC experts about the new and questionable focus of cancer research. The viruses being developed in the "war on cancer" are the same ones developed in a biological warfare lab: lethal viruses (maybe, the AIDS virus) that prefer humans, and against which humans have no immunity. That's a strange way to re-

search the cure for a disease.

Better yet, what about the announcement last week at the American Association for the Advancement of Science's annual meeting that biological weapons (which is what the AIDS virus may be) "can be targeted against specific ethnic or racial groups?"

There is overwhelming evidence that Russian agents could have infiltrated America's medical research facility at Ft. Detrick, Maryland, and caused contamination of the World Health Organization's smallpox vaccine, used later in Africa, Haiti and Brazil. You can read the details and the "scalar electromagnetic" healing cure for AIDS (a vaccine is not possible) the Russians allegedly already possess, in "AIDS Biological Warfare" by T. E. Bearden, 1-800-548-3198.

Most Americans and Africans who question the ridiculous African Green Monkey lie, because of society disinformation, are convinced that the CIA poisoned Africa and its own country. Before you settle in with that theory, read "AIDS Biological Warfare." Right or wrong, it is one of the most remarkable books I've ever read.

T. E. Bearden responds to the Green Monkey-business by explaining that the infection of AIDS in Africa had to be assisted and "vastly speeded up by some outside mechanism" -- something like an "AIDS contaminated vaccine and a mass inoculation program."

Warnings to use condoms and to not be promiscuous and to avoid drugs is good advice -- period. But good habits won't help much if we're being contaminated intentionally with biological weapons.

Twenty years ago, this kind of thinking would have been insane. Today, it is the new reality.

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL TV series can be seen on public television Sunday, Channel 42, 5 p.m. It can also be seen on Channel 58, Saturdays, 1:30 p.m. Please consult listings.



Will The Real Founder Of Black History Month Observance Please Stand Up?

Guest Editorial
By Laymon Herring

Robert Starling Pritchard, a black businessman based in Baldwinsville, New York, claims he is "the founder of Black History Month."

The Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow Society (a Society for the Unification and Improvement of African-Americans) has done extensive research in efforts to determine if Pritchard is indeed the founder of Black History Month. However, we have been unable to unearth even one thread of evidence that will support his claim.

In the course of our endeavor we interviewed a number of highly-respected, well-learned black individuals and organizations in the city of Syracuse and in other cities throughout the state of New York and across the United States; we also interviewed a number of black newspaper publishers and/or editors located in cities throughout the United States. However, only a few of the organizations and persons whom we interviewed have even heard of Robert Pritchard, and most of the persons we interviewed were flabbergasted when they learned that Pritchard was claiming to be the founder of Black History Month.

At the conclusion of our research we were able to put together the following:

Black History Month is an annual national observance in February of past achievements and current status of black Americans. It coincides with the birthdays of the great black American leader Frederick Douglass (February 14) and Abraham Lincoln (February 12).

Black History Month, an expansion of Black History Week, was originated as Negro History Week in 1926 from an idea of Dr. Carter Goodwin Woodson, a black historian known as The Father of Black History. In the 1970's "Negro" History Week became known as "Black" History Week. Its observance "is sponsored by the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH)" which Dr. Woodson founded in 1915.

According to Ms. Karen Robinson, Executive Director of ASALH, "In 1975 the ASALH," which is based in Washington, DC, "decided that it was time for National Black History Week to expand into National Black History Month. So the ASALH formed a committee to approach the President (of the United States) with the idea. The committee did approach the President, and in 1976 President Gerald Ford, in conjunction with America's Bicentennial celebration, proclaimed Black History Week as Black History Month."

"Robert Pritchard," according to Ms. Robinson, "was not a member of the ASALH committee, never was a member." Also,

according to both Robinson and a librarian at the famed Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, one of the largest and best known sources of black research in America, located in New York City, "Robert Pritchard is definitely not the founder of Black History Month."

It would be remiss of us if we did not mention that, in efforts to support his claim, Mr. Pritchard submitted the names of several prominent national black leaders; a national black organization; the names of 21 state governors, who recently issued proclamations lauding him as founder of Black History Month; and a clipping from a national magazine, *Modern Maturity*, which did a story on him, in its February/March 1988 issue, as founder of Black History Month.

We did not check all of Pritchard's references, but those we did check were consistent in their reply. Each of them told us that they could not document Pritchard's claim and the only information they had or used was the material that Pritchard himself or someone from his staff had sent to them. That information, we may add, is far from being sufficient or appropriate documentation.

The writer, Laymon Herring, is the Executive Director of the YTT (Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow) Society, headquartered in Dewitt, N.Y.

Make Congress Earn Its Pay Raise

Last year about 98 percent of the members of Congress who ran for reelection won.

Maybe that is why they think that they deserve the pay raise that they are going to allow themselves to receive this week. A 98 percent approval rating is pretty good.

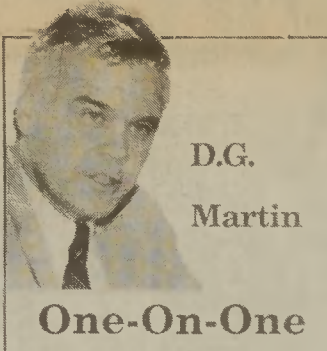
Doesn't Congress have a right to think it is entitled to a little more pay? Cost of living and all of that. Everybody wants a raise. You and I do, too.

So, why is this week's raise so unpopular?

There are a lot of reasons. Some people think that Congress is overpaid at the current salary, \$89,500 a year. Even those who think there ought to be some increase don't like the idea of paying anybody \$135,000. That is the proposed new salary.

It's a 51 percent increase. Wow. Wrong signal, wrong time.

The next congressional elections are almost two years away. Some people will forget, but not everybody. And I will bet you a nickel that some congressmen will lose the next election because of the pay raise issue.



D.G.

Martin

One-On-One

I have an idea that would let them get their raise -- and not make all of us so angry. Why not let them get their salary increase the old fashioned way? Let them earn it.

Let's give them incentive pay. We will give Congress an assignment, and reward them if they accomplish it.

What kind of assignment? Everybody is worried about the budget deficit, but nobody seems to be doing anything about it -- especially Congress. Why not say that Congress can raise its members' salaries to \$135,000 -- just as soon as the Federal budget is balanced? And why not let them keep the

pay raise as long as they can keep the budget balanced?

Don't laugh. I think that it would work. And it might be the only way we will ever get rid of the budget deficit.

Another idea. Pay them for each day that Congress is in session. Here's how the new system would operate. If they work five days each week of the year, that is about 260 days. So, if we paid them, \$500 a day, they could earn \$130,000 -- if they actually worked five days each week.

Truth is most congressmen are in Washington only three days a week -- Tuesday through Thursday. Other days they are back home running for reelection. Working only those three days each week, would get them about \$75,000 under my plan. If they stay in Washington and work more, they can earn more.

Good idea? I floated it by one of my friends. His reaction: "I'd pay them at least \$500 a day to stay away from Washington. This country is a whole lot better off when Congress is out of town. I would like to put Congress in a 'soil bank' and pay them not to produce."

I hate to admit my ideas are wrong, but I think that my friend might just be right.

Have You Read Dr. King's Letter Lately?

The following is an excerpt from a speech given by Charles A. Summers, pastor of Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church. This address was given at the Davidson College annual "Martin Luther King Jr. Gospel Songfest" on January 15, 1989.

I was born in Birmingham, Al. Not far from the city jail. And Dr. (Martin Luther) King once wrote me a letter from that very jail.

I am sorry to say that it was years later before I read the letter -- but it was addressed to me, and many like me. It was not addressed to bigots, or to the Klan. The letter was not written to Bull Connor, or the governor of Alabama.

The "Letter from the Birmingham City Jail" was written to white, southern, liberal clergy. It was a letter written to me, and many more like me.

It was written to people who count themselves on the side of civil rights, but who are reluctant to pay the price to see it established. It was written to the legion of Southern Christians who with their mouths confess the love of God for all people regardless of race, but keep their hands safely folded behind their backs. It was a letter written to me, and my kindred, who stand for principles of truth and justice, but are not willing to work for them; who pray for the coming of the kingdom of equality, but are not willing to get in the way of the juggernaut of injustice.

It was written to people who are afraid lest their principles prove too costly; lest justice come with too high a price tag; lest the price of our neighbors' freedom come at the expense of our privileges.

I am here today to acknowledge a debt to a great man who once wrote a letter to me and the many like me. Rather than write us off as hopeless, he wrote us an epistle of hope. Rather than condemn us for our blind eye, he wrote us a letter to enlighten us. And 25 years after he wrote that letter, I think we all, black and white, need to heed his words.

Dr. King still speaks to us about the cost of freedom and the price of justice.

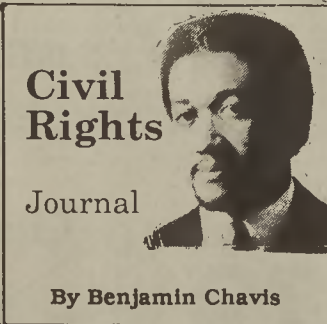
Martin Luther King Jr. wrote a letter. If you haven't read it lately, you should. It was years before I read it. It will take us the rest of our lives to answer it.

Racism Is Miami's Most Evil Vice

As millions of people in the United States and throughout the world celebrated the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., another case of police brutality and misconduct in the city of Miami, Florida, exposed the rampant, naked racism that continues to be all too prevalent in the nation where Dr. King's life was sacrificed for the cause of racial justice.

When Miami police officer William Lozano shot and killed 23-year-old Clement Lloyd, an African American who was driving his motorcycle through an African American section of Miami known as Overton on January 16, 1989, a full scale riot erupted. The next day, another African American, Allan Blanchard, 24, died from injuries he received as he was thrown from Clement Lloyd's motorcycle after Lloyd had been shot in the temple by Lozano.

There has been much national attention that has focused on the riot that occurred in Miami. Yet, the causative factors of the riot have not been dealt with sufficiently. This recent riot in Miami was not the first racial confrontation in Miami resulting from police brutality. We recall that back in 1982 a similar



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By Benjamin Chavis

case of police brutality where a Miami police officer shot and killed an African American which caused a riot. Before that, in 1980 in the African American section of Miami, known as Liberty City, the unjust killing of an African American by the Miami police caused a racial riot that left 18 people dead and over \$100 million in damage.

Although Miami Mayor Xavier Suarez has promised an investigation into these recent police killings, it is clear that the mayor's priority has been to protect Miami's image as a city for tourism and business trade at the expense of justice for the

African American community. In an interview published in the New York Amsterdam News, Leo Casino, a political activist in Miami stated, "The cops' actions shows the contempt Miami's 1,000-man police force has for the African American community."

Church leaders and civil rights leaders in Miami have all voiced their grievances to the power structures of Miami, but to no avail. Racism is a deadly evil. The fact that police departments across the United States maintain the proclivity to use unnecessary deadly force against African Americans and other racism and ethnic persons is an indication of just how dangerous it is to live in a racist society.

All citizens of this nation are entitled to be free from this type of persecution, yet, history teaches us that these kinds of atrocities are only prevented by the organized and mobilized will of the victimized community. We must not allow the African American community of Miami to stand alone in the face of this brutality. Miami's racist violence and vice must not go unchallenged.

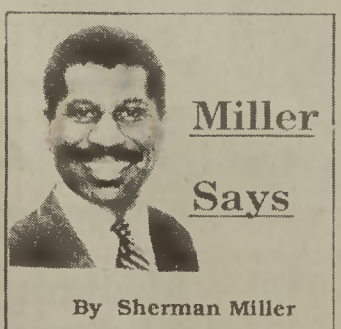
De Facto Ambassador Needs A Facelift

On a drive through Geneva, Switzerland, my host was anxious to show off his city. We drove through the heart of town where life radiated from every corner. But stress came into my host's voice when we passed an abandoned, dilapidated building. He was embarrassed and he scrambled for words to explain why this blight in the midst of an international financial mecca.

He claimed that building in Geneva had been at a standstill for many years, but development was once again underway. I could not appreciate his trepidation over one abandoned building until I got to my hotel. As far as I could see out of my bedroom window were construction cranes.

There were even cranes immediately in front and in back of my hotel. The number of these building cranes, dotting Geneva's skyline, were too many to count. I saw them as giant robots on a mission to reinvigorate Geneva's greatness.

The full weight of my Geneva host's embarrassment slapped me in the face when I recently rode through the Bronx in New York City. I was riding in a van with some friends from Philadelphia, when we looked up from U.S. Route 1-95. The abandoned, high-rise buildings with numerous broken windows,



Miller

Says

By Sherman Miller

were a very depressing sight.

We all commented on the blight. It looked as if we had just passed through a combat zone. I was sick to my stomach because these abandoned apartments were potential homes for homeless people.

My distress is exacerbated when I think that unseasoned travelers from Geneva or other nations could some day paint an erroneous mental picture of New York from this Bronx blight. New York City is a world class city. It is also an international tourist attraction. Thus, New York City is a de facto ambassador for the United States of America.

Would we expect our ambassadors to dress like homeless street people when they host foreign dignitaries?

What's On Your Mind?

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