

Family & Health Chronicles of Aframerica

From the areas of:

Marriage

Parenting

Lifestyle

Fathers

Mothers

Wellness

Fitness

Foods

Healing

The Responsibilities of Child Support

To all the brothers out there under the strong arm of the child support system, here is a bit of logic to use against the ill-logic of the system's policies. It may seem harsh, but is no harsher than the laws set against you.

First of all, if you are not married to the mother of your child, you have no rights to the child, by law. This is the first harsh reality of the system. They automatically take from you your child as well as your rights to that child, which in itself, is a cruelty that should be outlawed based on the simple laws of humanity. But we live in a feminist-led country.

In their reasoning, taking child support from you says that you are incapable of supporting the child on your own or you voluntarily refuse to so they take it upon themselves to collect money from you for the well-being of the child. Remember that. The child support system is in place for men who are neglectful of their children.

Now, if they take it upon themselves to collect money from you for the support of your child, and they have taken all rights from you as far as seeing and participating in your child's life, what need is there for you to exist any longer to that child. This is another harsh reality, but one constituted by the system itself.

Many mothers and other of the female species, (and some male-bashed men) believe it only right to contribute a little more to the support of the child on top of the child support payments, which supposedly shows that you are truly concerned about the well-being of your child. Also, spending a little more time with the child on the weekends is a show of good fatherhood also in addition to the payments.

However, the father does not have to do any of the above extras except pay the allotted amount in the order, or allow the system to garnish his wages. He does not have to spend anymore than what the state dictates nor does he have to ever see the child again, at least until the order is over. The father can go about his life as if he never had a child. The system has already deemed him unfit so why try to prove otherwise.

The main reason some men contribute more to the child's life is because they are concerned about the financial state of the child and the reason they spend time with the child is because they want to establish a relationship. Now if men are willing to do either, why does the child support system exist in his life in the first place? Here's why.

Because the child support system is not about developing a relationship between the child and the father, but about relinquishing all contact between men and their children. The child support system is a feminist system designed to raise a fatherless society. They want to disannul the role of fathers in society and allow for the role of alternative lifestyles, such as two mothers, 2 fathers, (which would have more rights to a child than the biological father), any gay couple and to increase single parent households dependent on the government, especially among Black women.

The logic behind the child support system is twisted logic, damaging to the traditional family lifestyle, and is a permanent force of destruction in the very child's life they seek to enhance. We live in a

materialistic society and they believe that monetary means are more important to a child than the natural parent-child bond. They devalue the family and value state-sponsored fascism in its most destructive form, by taking rights away from parents.

Any father today can, by reason of the child support system, have a child and simply walk away from the situation without ever looking back. Sure they will pay child support but if that is their only responsibility, what more should a man concern himself about; he is actually free from the responsibility of raising any children, ever.

Think about it brothers, if you have been tagged as a negligent father by the child support system and by the child's mother, and you are paying weekly or monthly through garnishment; but you are still contributing on your own and spending time with your child through an arrangement with the mother, you are actually a bigger man than the entire concept of the state.

In actuality, you have made the system out to be irrelevant and totally debunked their theory of you being neglectful, as well as the mothers claim to your supposed negligence. If you disagree with the analysis, and you believe that a man should contribute a bit more, then you have proved the point of the system's irrelevancy and proving you do have a genuine concern for your child.

On the other hand, if you agree that all you should do is what is required, then again, you are technically right and proved the system to be ill-logical and destructive because regardless if you do more or not, as long as you are doing what is required, then you cannot be wrong.

In the long run when the child reaches 18, or after the child support order is complete, and the child wants to know why you never tried to contact them or offered any extra financial help, simply explain to the child that the support system assumed all responsibility for their well-being and relinquished your rights and you had no control over that decision. By that time in their lives they will understand and maybe never turn in the direction of fascism.

Jan. 2008 by CR Hamilton

The Father Vs. The Government: Debunking the Theories of the Child Support System - Part 1

Here begins an extensive study on the ideologies and practices of the American Child Support system. By use of logic and all that is intellectually rational, this study will challenge the minds behind the design and function of the this system, question the overall objectives, and analyze the progress of Federal, State, and Bureaucratic agencies where it pertains to this system's involvement with children, mothers, fathers and families.

The study is based on information from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Administration for Children and Families, further sectioned off into the Office of Child Support Enforcement. Under the section called "Selected DHHS Fact Sheets," there is subsection entitled HHS Fatherhood Initiative," which is the focus of the study.

According to this section, the government - through the use of Federally Mandated Laws - is attempting to encourage men to be fathers to their children, which is by all means and under the laws of nature expected of men. No man should ever purposely abandon his children neither physically nor financially, but should make every effort to be a support for them both ways. Now we come to the challenge.

The HHS Fatherhood Initiative is simply one of many sections on the website that preach the obligation of fathers to their children and the policies involved in collecting money due the child(ren). Nowhere, however, through all the political jargon are there provisions or plans that address the responsibilities of the mother/woman. The question is why?

In the beginning of this study, we will address briefly the "overview" of the HHS Fatherhood Initiative, which is a type of summary or mission statement for the program. Throughout the rest of the study, which will be updated and published weekly, we will interject rebuttals and challenge the Federally mandated ideologies of this government's system of Child Support enforcement.

HHS FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

Overview: Committed parents are crucial to strong and successful families and to the well-being of children. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is determined to ensure that its programs and policies recognize the importance of both mothers and fathers and that we support men and women in their roles as parents.

Interjection

The first sentence makes perfect sense, and is true beyond dispute; on this we agree. But remember, what words used as policy must be recognized and honored as practice or else the practice is nothing more than mere words.

The second and last sentence, again, words on paper can enforce any law or will upon humanity when backed by an entire government judicial system. However, the goal is to "ensure that its programs and policies recognize the importance of both mothers and fathers and that we support men and women in their roles as parents." Indeed, the program is setup to recognize and support men as parents, but what the HHS neglects to explain why it has to assume this role in the first place.

Of course, the model citizen would never question this role of the government and suppose it a natural duty, thus giving the go-ahead for government intervention into the family, and now that there is intervention by government, the citizen has given over many "rights" unknowingly, to the rearing their own children and the capacity to manage their own personal and family relationships.

This study is going to prove beyond a doubt that the Child Support system is not only intrusive, but also biased toward men and inflexible. Please return for the continuation of this study when we introduce how

the Clinton administration - through advocacy with the Women's Rights movement - changed the meaning of being a father years to come.

Excerpt

In June 1995, President Clinton challenged all federal agencies to reach out to fathers to support their positive involvement in the lives of their children. In May 1996, federal agencies came together in a conference hosted by Vice President Gore, and sponsored by the Domestic Policy Council, the National Partnership for Reinventing Government, and HHS, to share lessons learned and innovative ideas about involving fathers.

President Bill Clinton strengthened the arm of the Child Support system not only in restructuring the system by incorporating Government power to make child support collection from non-paying fathers easier, but in the mist, this power created a permanent underclass of low-income men, Black men in particular.

The reconstruction of this system did more damage to the Black family than any government program has in the past 40 years. It made it easier for women with illegitimate children to sign-up for child support, which leaves little incentive for the mother or father to raise their children themselves. This, in turn, gave women all the more reason to be less tolerant of fathers who would not bow to their every demand for financial support.

If the mother asks the father for help and the father cannot give it at the time, the mother can simply show up at the local child support office and begin a case against him. The official policy of state child support agencies is "they are not suppose to turn down anyone who wants a case with us," meaning, they cannot say no to a woman who wants to take a man for child support, regardless of what the man wants.

With this kind of encouragement, a woman does not have to ask the father for anything, if they want support (a check every month) all they have to do is show up at the child support office. Because women have this convenience and guarantee of government backing, many have chosen to use this against men they regret having sex with.

In addition, once in the system, a man is considered "dead-beat" and subject to any and all government intervention where it pertains to his earnings and whatever professional licenses he uses to make a living or privileges afforded him as a citizen. They have involved every government entity from the IRS to the courts to the DMV to the credit bureaucrats to catch men who are late with payments, based on the word of a demanding woman.

The object of the child support system is not to decide whether or not the man is capable or even concerned with fathering the child, but where he is and how he makes his money. In other words, being a father is not important anymore, but the ability to pay is and this system will spare no expense in seeking out and punishing the father.

Followed by Clinton, Al Gore, in his contribution to the Clinton administration and their love for the soccer-mom constituency, "in June 1998, Vice President Gore released the report, "Nurturing Fatherhood: Improving Data and Research on Male Fertility, Family Formation and Fatherhood." This report, issued by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, is the result of a multi-year effort to

identify what we know about fatherhood and what additional government research could be undertaken to increase our understanding of how fathering and family structure affect child and adult well-being."

This program begun by Gore is nothing more than a cover up for the liberal government to empower women and mothers and decrease the powers of fathers, as well as reducing the structure of the family in America. Talk is cheap and all the rhetoric above and below about Fatherhood is mere words; the practice reeks of throwback women's liberation and an agenda of men-haters anonymous.

HHS is promoting responsible fatherhood by improving work opportunities for low-income fathers, increasing child support collections, enhancing parenting skills, supporting access and visitation by non-custodial parents, reducing domestic violence, and involving boys and young men in preventing teenage pregnancy and premature parenting.

If read carefully in the above, the government has taken it upon themselves to redefine fatherhood in order to indoctrinate the kind of fathers this society would like to have and control. It clearly describes the low-income crowd, which does not make up a large portion of society's fathers, but a fraction. In fact, child support stats claim that 62% of mothers are not receiving child support, which is worded carefully to deceive the reader.

The truth is, the majority of those women do not ask for child support or have a working relationship with the father that does not involve the government, and child support stats include these people into their studies. Only a fraction of child support cases are actually cases of fathers not paying child support purposefully, yet their neglect in this fact are not the stats they magnify to the public.

The harder the system hits, the more poverty it brings to men who cannot pay because of the punishing procedures of the system. There are no provisions for fathers at the onset of a case, only for the mothers. Unfortunately, men's rights are automatically waived to accommodate the mothers. Society has counted null and void the duties and responsibilities of fathers to appease the demand of selfish women, who abuse the system for their own interest, and to satisfy the agendas of women's rights movements.

Men, politicians, and leaders are afraid to address this problem to correct it because they fear being ostracized by feminist groups and humiliated in public. Yet when the system comes to their door, they have friends in high places that "take care of it." The brunt of this bias system falls on the under-privileged of men and fathers and in turn eventually destroys the structure of the family, and women have become dependent on this system instead of the fathers.

HHS is also working with private, public, and foundation partners to ensure that both fathers and mothers are fully involved in raising their children, not just the first day, but every day of their children's lives. In March 1999, the department launched a nationwide public service campaign challenging fathers to remain connected to their children even if they do not live with them.

The above brings in other institutions to be on the lookout for men in the system. They offer them the second-hand service treatment while looking down on them as "deadbeats." The father has been defined as trifling and lazy and irresponsible and this is how the government wants them. Though there are some men who willfully neglect their children, the majority wants to be fathers without government intervention.

BACKGROUND

Research shows that children benefit from positive relationships not only with their mothers but also with their fathers:

- Higher levels of father involvement in activities with their children, such as eating meals together, going on outings, and helping with homework, are associated with fewer behavior problems, higher levels of sociability, and a higher level of school performance among children and adolescents;
- Father involvement in children's schooling, such as volunteering at school and attending school meetings, parent-teacher conferences and class events, is associated with higher grades, greater school enjoyment, and lower chances of suspension or expulsion from school; and
- The father-child relationship affects daughters as well as sons. Girls who live with both their mother and father do better academically. In addition, they are less likely to engage in early sexual involvement and in the use of alcohol or drugs.
- Keeping fathers connected to their children and increasing fathers' involvement in the lives of their children poses significant challenges for our nation:
- High rates of divorce, non-marital child bearing, and the financial and emotional stresses of raising children with severe special health care needs increase the risk that fathers will be less involved in their children's lives; and
- As more families have two parents working outside the home, fathers need support in the work place to find ways to balance work and family obligations and provide children with the level of child-parent involvement and supervision needed for their healthy growth and development.

While government cannot make good fathers, it can support efforts to help men become the best fathers they can be.

Interjection

The above concepts undermine the ability of men and families and redefine them according to what the government believe a father and or family should be, never suggesting the failures and unwillingness of the mothers to cooperate. There are many women who are vindictive and spiteful and who purposefully restrict visits from fathers.

These mothers can say anything they want to this system and are believed and supported; this is not a medium for men, but women only. Men are nothing more than negligent people attempting to escape their responsibilities, which can never be proven by government, only assumed and then publicized for the nation to see and eventually believe.

From the above, it is clear the child support system has an agenda, which is to take control of the family, preferably, low-income families, which include many Blacks. The idea is to strengthen women and weaken men. This way, woman can always depend on the government, which in turn guarantees the

funding of government programs through liberal and Democratic policy. Black people who vote Democrat contribute to the destruction of their own families and children's future.

Once the government has defined and labeled what an insufficient father is and have convinced society that these men are horrible people, they proceed in intensifying their onslaught of fathers by implementing a system to seize money, licenses and other assets from them based on the labels. All regardless of what they do and or feel for their children.

Following this system of penalties, the government then realizes that it has created a new underclass and assumes the role of redeemer by enacting federally-funded programs to restore non-custodial fathers - prime victims of the system of penalties - to productive citizenship once again. Such is the programs below.

INCREASING FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Improving Child Support Collections. An important part of being a responsible parent is providing financial support. Research also suggests that there is a positive relationship between non-custodial fathers' involvement with their children and their payment of child support.

The Clinton Administration, in partnership with states, has made a strong effort to increase child support payments from non-custodial parents - mothers as well as fathers. In FY 1998, the federal-state partnership collected a record \$14.4 billion from non-custodial parents, an increase of 7 percent from 1997's \$13.4 billion, and an increase of 80 percent since 1992 when \$8 billion was collected.

In addition, HHS reported the federal government collected over \$1.1 billion in delinquent child support from federal income tax refunds for tax year 1997. This amount was 3 percent higher than the previous year and a 70 percent increase since 1992. Collections were made on behalf of nearly 1.3 million families.

The bragging rights to the above are for a small percentage of the people, those who suppose all men are dogs. On the flip side of the statement, there reveals the beginning of a new underclass of people, preferably non-custodial fathers. The more money the child support system collects, unjustly, from men who have not custody of their children simply means the system does not care who the fathers are or if they love their children, just as long as they get some money.

In the statement, "Research also suggests that there is a positive relationship between non-custodial fathers' involvement with their children and their payment of child support." The scientific field shows its total and complete ignorance on this because a more natural and positive relationship would be a child and the father period, and not simply based on financial support, but time spent; however, the system is clearly only concerned about non-custodial parents, fathers who have no right to their children after a court order that awards the children automatically to the mother.

So, one does not necessarily have to be a bad father to bring the wrath of the child support system on you, but merely a non-custodial parent created by the courts, and again, preferably a father. And though the statement mentions "mothers as well as fathers," the obvious applies in the minds of any thinking/living person that it is talking about men.

"The Clinton Administration, in partnership with states, has made a strong effort to increase child support payments from non-custodial parents."

This statement says it all: fathers are under attack for no other reason than they are fathers. Why is it necessary to increase child support payments from men willing to support their children?

To not appear bias or insensitive, the government began "Promoting Employment Opportunities for Low-Income Fathers." In this government funded program, "seven states are participating in Parents' Fair Share, a demonstration project that provides employment-related training, parenting education, peer group support, and mediation services to encourage low-income fathers to be more involved with their children and increase their payment of child support."

The child support system does not simply target low-income fathers to assist them in gaining jobs; they create low-income people by enforcement of their penalties. The penalties jail men, report arrears on their credit, [causing employers to reject them as new hires] suspend drivers license, [needed for employment and bank accounts] and take income tax checks, all, which contribute to becoming low-income. However, the logic behind this system's penalties reeks of being "out of touch" with the people, and of oppression of the poor by the rich.

HHS is working closely with the Department of Labor to implement the Welfare to Work program, which provides grants to states and communities to move long-term welfare recipients and certain non-custodial parents of children on welfare into lasting, unsubsidized employment.

Non-custodial parents on welfare? Meaning men on welfare, if not, women who have lost custody of their children to the system and have resorted to welfare. If this is so, it is a tragedy and is a reciprocal cycle of poverty created and maintained by liberal Democrats needing the poor in order to sustain their political base, nothing more, and nothing less.

The Administration's Work to Welfare reauthorization would help more low-income fathers work, pay child support and play a responsible role in their children's lives. In addition, HHS' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) recently released A Guide to Funding Services for Children and Families Through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, which provides examples of ways states could use their TANF funds to support responsible fatherhood efforts and employment of non-custodial parents.

Work to Welfare? If this is not an apparent act of containment what is. Who wants to go from working to being on welfare? However, after the system of penalties are applied to a man who started off working and wanting to support his child, only to be brow-beat and vigorously singled out by the government, the chances of going from working to welfare are absolute.

STRENGTHENING PARENT-CHILD BONDS

Encouraging Fathers to "Be Their Dad." In March 1999, HHS launched a new, nationwide public service campaign challenging fathers to remain emotionally and financially connected to their children even if they do not live with them. The campaign's tag line is, "They're your kids. Be their dad." and stresses the importance of fathers by showing the consequences for children when fathers do not have a positive role

in their children's lives. More than a quarter of American children - nearly 17 million - do not live with their father.

Not once does the above statement mention the fact that millions of women withhold children from their fathers, yet this system would have people believe that these "millions" of men are purposefully neglecting their children when more than likely, the mother is keeping the child from the father. This is deception and should be brought to the courts. However, judges and politicians are too afraid of the feminist outcry to bring this point to the light thus leaving the fate of fathers all over the nation to the system of unjust penalties.

If a man is sitting beneath a sign that reads "They're your kids. Be their dad." In a social service, government-funded program's office, any one would gather a negative image of that man. This is how the child support system, backed by the government, has pushed their propaganda and would like society to see men and fathers, as people who are simply considering supporting their children.

As stated earlier, politicians and leaders will not address this obvious injustice done to fathers who love their children by placing into affect a system that distinguishes a man who wants to support his children from one who does not, they would rather rely on assumption and practice paternalism [an early form of fascism] and suppose all men are dogs. What a waste of a vote and a boatload of biased, feminist bull.

After a brief interlude from this series, and more extensive research on the topic, an ultimate conclusion has been reached. The chances of fathers, men, and Black men in particular breaking even or rising above this gender controversy, or even obtaining the chance of a calm settlement is utterly unattainable.

Aside from Slavery and Jim Crow in the 400-plus year foundation of the United States Judicial system, never has the practice of injustice been so calculatingly and conspicuously unchangeable. The federal government has granted the wishes of many women's movements their wildest dream, which is to legally punish men without the slightest bit of recourse.

The Child Support system in cahoots with the alimony/family courts system is the most biased systems where it pertains to human rights in the country. Case in point, if a convicted sex offender or an illegal immigrant can obtain and keep the privilege to drive yet a non-custodial parent (father) has their privilege revoked based on the animosity of a female, this country has truly lost its ability to reason.

As stated before in the series, it is understandable that a man who knowingly refuses to support his child (ren) suffer the consequences pre-determined by the courts and natural law. However, when all men have to suffer regardless of their intent, the laws have overstepped the boundaries of God-given, civil rights and liberties.

The sad but real truth is that, through all of America's claims and programs geared toward "the children," the feed the children programs, child safety precautions, i.e., car seats, child proof this and that, rights for children and all, the one system that exist strictly for he benefit of children care not for the children at all, but care only about the money they collect.

Many children have been found wanting in the child support system. Many continue to go without, not because of the father, but because child support payments are not dispensed correctly or sometimes not at all.

Many women cannot live on child support alone and resort to welfare; however, once a woman applies for and receives welfare or Medicaid, their child support check then goes toward the repayment of what they received from welfare, thus the child once again suffers from a life of poverty, in addition, the father is not per se providing support for the child, but repaying the welfare system.

The prison system has set in place the practice of parole, whereby prisoners are assessed at least once a year to find change or remorse in the prisoner's demeanor. Drug addicts have rehabilitation centers all over the country to wipe clean their bodies from drugs to give them a second chance.

Murderers are released from prisons and allowed to restart their lives to a point and are forgiven by many; however, a non-custodial parent has none of the above systems set in place for reevaluation or reassessment of their ability or desire to raise their own children, furthermore, they are subjected to many forms of punishment from license suspension (professional and drivers), to arrears appearing on credit reports, which denies them employment opportunities to now many employers, to federal tax interception, and jail time.

The problem with the punishments is that if applied consecutively, the man's ability to survive is diminished greatly thus launching that man into a life of poverty regardless of his intentions and or abilities, in addition to lessening his means to support his child, and any children afterward.

Though the Bible says that a man who does not support his child is worst than an infidel, not all men are infidels, unfortunately, this is the way the child support system, backed by feminist organizations, view and treat all men, as infidels.

The strength of men's organizations is naught compared to the women's rights movements. Politicians and mainstream media ignore men's organizations that attempt to fight against this injustice and their efforts thwarted because of the lasting influence of women's groups.

Men in positions of power are afraid to tamper with the female interest groups in fear of losing their support or voting bloc. Lawyers refuse to touch any cases because they know and were taught in law school and from experience that such cases are losing cases. Male leaders and lawmakers have become feminized and immune to the needs and struggles of men on the whole issue.

As stated earlier, there are men who do not support their children but not all men are this way. The problem is there is no system in place to determine who is who, thus all men and fathers are lumped together as one huge deadbeat dad. To openly deprive a man of his God-given right and gift to support his child is the cruelest feat of humanity. In time, as always, society will learn that the hard way.

As the rate of husbands shooting their wives lawyers inside and outside of the courtroom rise, and wives come up missing and dead, and children are kidnapped and the whole family found dead, the message will become clearer. Love, life and death knows no gender.

Source From: <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cse/fct/fthr990621.htm>

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The Decline of the Father

The role of the father is definitely being challenge in today's society. If you ask some people, there is a question of whether a father is even necessary. On one hand, some say that a child does not need a father and that the mother alone can raise a child to become a productive citizen of society. On the other hand, there are those who believe that the absence of a father has a tremendous effect on the productiveness of a child. There can be only one correct and most accurate answer in this modern day phenomenon. If a woman alone can rear a child and that child operates emotionally, physically, academically, and cognitively sufficient, in addition to being a productive citizen once an adult, then maybe fathers are not needed. However, if a child grows without a father, turns to the streets and drugs, disrespects women, and ends up in prison, and then the fact of the child being fatherless is an attribute. Neither argument is valid because they are both based on assumption, yet, many people believe either one or the other simply because society refuses to face the common truth.

The situation where a child grows without a father is either in the single-parent home where the mother alone raises the child, or by a family member - preferably a grandmother, aunt, sister, or any other female role model. The absence of the male figure all together would constitute a child growing without a father figure in his or her life. If a mother alone rears a child and does it to the best of her ability without the help of a spouse, then she will work twice as hard to supply the child's needs sufficiently, developmentally and essentially. When a mother works she must have adequate day and/or after school care for her child so she can pursue a career and this places additional odds against the child. School is essential for children to attend because it helps them develop socially and academically, but day cares are another story. Childcare centers take in children as young as six weeks old, not even time enough for the mother to heal physically. When a child is separated from its the mothers side at a young age there are bound to be emotional deficiencies, whether any one wants to admit it or not. Unless, of course, another woman or even a man, voluntarily gives that child devoted attention. In the early sixties, when the traditional family began to break down, the question was, does a child need both parents, now the question is, does the child develop sufficiently enough in a day care?

There are actually two strikes against a child belonging to a single mother, 1) the absence of a father, and 2) suitable nurturing and attention. Analyzing the mindset of people today, when 2500 people were asked if they agree or disagree whether a preschool child suffers if his or her mother works, 46% agreed and 53% disagreed. When the same amount were asked if a working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work, 66% agreed and 33% disagreed. However, when asked whether a father is important in the life of a child, 79% agreed and only 20% disagreed. Although many people agree that a father figure is important in a child's life, because of the high rate of single parent families in today's society, the mind set is shifting to adjust to the single parent family. To justify the rise in single parent families, many excuses are developing. Even in the two-parent family, the paradigm of the traditional family is shifting to the new age family. When 2000 people were asked if women should take care of running the homes while leaving the providing responsibility to the men, 83% disagreed and only 16% agreed. All of the above surveys are most disturbing and contradictory and suggests that the values of today's parents are distorted by the role reversal mentality.

In an attempt to spare the feelings of single mothers because of certain situations they endure, mainstream society will speak in favor of single parent families and day care centers, despite whatever traumatic effect these two new establishments have on children. The future of children is not embedded in the mainstream media support of single parent families, only the feelings of the mother. What does this attention and whoopla do for the image of the father or any male figure? It distorts and waters down their role as men and fathers. Moreover, it gives a false sense of superiority and glory to the mother and woman, giving them more responsibility than they can and will be able to handle in the future. In so many words, society is leaving the rearing of our children to women; however, this time instead of the man and father playing an active role in the child's life, they are dismissed from or persecuted out of the duty.

Half of all children today will spend half of their childhood in a family headed by a woman. This is due to the high divorce rates and the socioeconomic stratification of women today. The entire blame of fatherless children cannot be put on men; women too, are to blame. Twice as many women enter the work force today than 40 years ago, leaving the child in another's care for the better part of the day. In addition, every ten years the children get younger and younger. As stated before, childcare centers take children now as young as six weeks old. The fact that more people agree woman can sufficiently raise a child without the help of a man, and those who believe that children can notwithstanding develop even if the mother is working, proves that all the blame cannot be on fathers.

2000 By Sound Doctrine Inc.

Killing James: The 30 Year War on the Black Family

Most Black Americans over the age of thirty-five can possibly relate to this study better than their younger cohorts, and most can vouch that during the early 70s and into the eighties, a slow decline in the traditional Black family began, though not noticeably. Using familiar Black memorabilia, we will analyze this decline and possibly reach a conclusion about today's current state of the Black family.

Growing up in the Black community during the seventies meant attending predominantly Black elementary, middle and high schools. Most can remember visiting friends' homes where there was actually a father in the house, and most fathers had decent jobs, be it in manufacturing or public service. Rare was the single mother working two jobs or long hours like it is today.

"As recently as 1960, three-quarters of African Americans were born into a family of a married couple." (Is the American Underclass Growing, 86). "Today only [one-third] of black children have two parents in the home." (New Realities of the American Family, 8).

One cause of the decline of the Black family was the result of the relocation of good jobs from urban areas, which threw many working men into unemployment causing stress on the family finances. Underground methods of earning money arose in urban communities and crime increased. Organized

crime by low-level street gangs began to take control as cocaine sales and use strangled Black communities all over the country.

The militant image of the seventies i.e., dashikis', the Black power fist, and the afro disappeared and gave way to Super fly-type pimping apparel, the hair perm, and a sense of individualism among Black men as opposed to unity. Books such as Donald Goines "Street Players, Daddy Cool, and Whoreson," sparked rebellion against Black unity in Black men and further destroyed any sense of community.

The treatment of Black women changed because of this pimp mindset and Black men began to disrespect his woman, which caused many homes to fall to single parent status as men sought to take on more than one family. As 70s drugs and disco dancing pushed many into a carefree lifestyle, families all over began to crumble and the Black family suffered that much more.

When at one time the Black family image was held as strong, such as in the television sitcom "Good Times," where James Evans held tightly together his family despite the urban poverty, there was a subtle changeover in "The Jefferson's" during the mid to later seventies that brought about another paradigm of life to the Black community and sought to raise their level of thinking economically. However, this change drove a wedge between lower and upper class Blacks that was not that noticeable or consequential before.

To consummate the changeover, James Evans was killed off and his family was left to survive on their own, eventually ending in prosperity when they finally left the ghetto and moved toward the suburbs. Again, this divide signaled a breaking away from low-income Black neighborhoods to more affluent suburban ones, yet the Evans family ended as a fatherless one.

Once the militant image was destroyed and the divide established between low and upper-income Black families was in motion, the Black community was ripe for an epidemic by which came crack cocaine to the streets. With an increase in crime and no real prospects in urban areas and no jobs, many well-off Black families and business owners sold out to a sudden influx of Korean and Arab immigrants so they could move to the suburbs, and afterward, the Black community was doomed to disintegration.

The eighties brought death, poverty, and hopelessness to the Black community that lingers and ever intensifies to this day. Crack babies were born by the hundreds and thousands in Black communities all over the country. Black men left their families to make quick money and so did Black women who became victims of crack addiction, prostitution and immorality. More children were living with relatives, grandparents, or ended up dead or severely mentally damaged by this tragic epidemic.

All the time, social programs were being cut unnoticeably by government lawmakers, which pushed Black women into the workforce forcing them to drop their children into daycares. Adding to that, during the late eighties and early nineties, government began passing stricter child support policies that the states enforced with vigor, and many Black men landed in jail adding a criminal record to their pass that employers frowned on more often.

The consequences of emulation seriously scared the Black community and we fell victim to suburban immorality as scandalous talk shows pushed into the nineties and Black people were seduced into partaking in and exposing their dirty laundry on television yet were further portrayed as seriously

dysfunctional, lacking morals, and ignorant. This image spread as true to too many Black people who could not decipher between reality and television and thus the prophesy was fulfilled.

As divorced rates rose and marriage among youth decline, the Black family suffered from the same ills as white families. "Today the number of children born into a black marriage averages less than 0.9 children per marriage. The birthrates of black married women have fallen so sharply that absent out-of-wedlock childbearing; the African American population would not only fail to reproduce itself, but would rapidly die off." *The Abolition of Marriage*, 120.

The Black family has yet to recover from the espionage of decades past. Though we struggle to and many desire to, the consequences of those times have taken a stronghold against us and we are in dire need of direction and most of all effective leadership. However, the Black leadership of today are nothing more than the consequences of that era themselves.

There remain a divide between the low and upper income Black community and a serious rivalry is gaining momentum via instigation of people like Bill Cosby, Jesse Lee Peterson, and Juan Williams and other so-called new-age conservative Blacks who point the fingers of Black community destruction at the Black community itself. None of these men or men like them has the wisdom or knowledge to look upon the past and see what has truly happened. They, in fact, are blind to it and would rather see what whites teach them in school and in theory about their own people.

Today, the state of the Black family is actually gaining strength. Though there are still many single women raising children, the growing number of people who desire the two-parent family is rising along with the actual statistics. According to a Blackpeoplespeak.com poll, 43% of Blacks are married and 30% are single, in addition, half of those polled say of their friends, more are married than single. A large, 89% of Blacks believe two-parent families are better for children than one, and 53% of Blacks believe children turn out better when the father is in the home.

So despite the immoral backdrop of American society, Black America has the desire to have strong families. However, the social circumstances make it almost impossible to maintain a family. A family today needs two incomes, strong community bonds, and religious values to stand up to all the destructive forces around. Black women and men must be strong minded with traditional values in order to win against such negative odds.

If the Black community would focus more on family and less on individual prosperity, we could be a stronger people. The new age mega-church movement has the ability to mend the Black family more than any social institution or government law around, yet the focus of the church is on the wrong things. It values individual prosperity over family values.

However, like the Evans family, the Black family should stand strong together despite economic setbacks and learn to overcome. The father in the family is a sure win for all members of the community and reality says if the Black man can withstand the attempts on his life by the greater society, that family will grow to prosper as well as possess values. Killing James is just an illusion, so let us live in reality that our children can benefit in the end.

Sources from: <http://www.divorcereform.org/black.html>

Sep. 2007 by CR Hamilton

Fathers, Do Not Raise Your Boy[s] to be Thuggish

It may be cute when your 4 year old son calls his little sister a bitch or when he turns up a bottle of beer from the coffee table, and it may be cool for your son to win his first fight in school or when he defends himself by bloodying some other little punk's lip, but never think these acts of "coolness" is beneficial for your child, in fact, they are leading in the direction of thug Ville.

Most fathers think that teaching their son to "be hard" in a world they suppose demands hardness is the first chapter in the making of an American thug. This "hard" image will become embedded in the child's mind, which will leave little room for true development such as the importance of knowledge, dignity, and compassion. When the child goes into middle school, where their personality is formed by peer pressure, if they think that "hardness" is the way and have no understanding of the other characteristics, they will surely be disillusioned about life from the get.

They will see the virtues of education and positive social development as wimpy and even as "white thinking" and the chance of re-educating them to the rules of real life is all but lost. By that time young men believe that rapping, sports, and manipulating women is the only key to success, especially for a Black man. Their respect for women will suffer as well as their respect for authority. Any dreams or hopes for their future will be far fetched because they have totally missed the point.

The best way to avoid raising a child thug is to raise a brainchild or "nerd" [so-called] from the start. Teach your son that fighting is an option and not a necessity. Teach your son that drinking, smoking, cursing and listening to and watching music videos is for people who have no other interest but to be entertained. Teach your son to create, initiate, and lead, not to imitate, emulate, or follow. Teach your son that appearance is not as important as dignity, which will teach them not spend frivolously on the expensive lifestyle but to be discrete and not care what people say about them.

These tactics are not proven but they will help in developing a better child than what is walking the streets and crowding the jails. The way to turn this effort into an almost definite one is to practice what you teach. A father who thinks it is cute to call a woman a bitch and who makes drinking a daily leisure activity and who lives in the material world will most likely stare into the mirror when they look their teenage son in the face. Do not make your son into what you are if you are not what you want to be, make your son into what you know you could never be.

2003 by C.R. Hamilton

Change in the Black Family

Biblical values and tradition gave rise to the nuclear family; where there is a mother and a father rearing the children. In the traditional family, the father worked and provided for his wife and children and the mother stayed home to nurture the children. Not only was this lifestyle a traditional lifestyle, but a biblical concept. Though it will forever remain biblical, the tradition has subsided and a new liberal form of family lifestyle has made its way into mainstream society.

Single parent families are increasing, especially among women and particularly among black women. It is no surprise that single parent families are rising, simply because of the high divorce rates, however, though single parent families are high among white females, the rate among black females are staggering. In 1998, 21 percent of white families were headed by females and 58 percent of black families were headed by females. Nevertheless, these stats are nothing new. The most disturbing point is that out of the two-income family bracket -where there is a father and a mother - 74 percent of white families are two-income and only 36 percent of black families are, while 64 percent of Hispanic families have two incomes. What does this say?

It says that there are more white families with both mother and father than there are black families. The leading factor among black families is the percentage rate among black female-headed households, which is nearly that of the two-income white family. Whereas, on the other hand, the leading factor among white families is the two-income family and the white female headed-household is the least as a factor. So, either there is a shortage of black men or the black male-female relationship is in danger.

First, we will speak to the theory of the black-male shortage. There is none. Black males are born everyday just like any other race-gender. (Most are in prisons). So, now we move on to theory two: the black male-female relationship being in danger. How do we speak to this issue? Why does it seem that there are more white families in tact than black ones? Could it be that black families divorce more? According to some institutionally biased scientific data, that could be the answer. However, before we conclude that black families divorce more than whites or that there is a problem among the black male-female relationship, let us pose a theory that many relationship psychologists do not approach or that marriage sociologist cannot prove. Black women think that every woman (specifically wives and mothers) has a job.

Go into any grocery store in any suburban or rural area at 11 am to 2 pm on any given weekday and one will see the isles littered with white women doing weekly shopping for her family. Look around hard and long for black women and there will be none, maybe one. The black woman seem either to have forgotten there is such a thing as the traditional family or they do not believe in them. As the theory suggest, black women have little faith in the traditional family and suppose that all women work. Someone has neglected to tell them that it is ok for a woman to stay home and raise her children.

The saying in the black community is that "it takes two to make it;" (meaning it is an economical necessity), or that it is culturally correct for both parents to work because the traditional family no longer exist, which is not true. Many white women stay home with their children while their husbands work. Out of all the black families that have both a mother and a father, 1 percent of them practice the traditional

family rule. This fact is both sad and deceptive. Sad because black children need motherly love and attention now more than ever and deceptive because black families believe institutional studies that encourage families to allow daycares to raise their children, falsifying facts that say day care children are as normal as children with parents at home.

Local church and community leaders should be the ones teaching black families that it is not strange if a black woman chooses to stay home with her children. Needless to say, church and community leaders are caught in the same trap, because they are the main ones who practice two-income families so they have no knowledge of the rule. Therefore, there is no one to teach the traditional family rule so the black family will never learn this. Many black families believe that it is necessary that both parents work just to stay ahead in this white regulated world, and this thinking has validity, but when a family must choose between sacrificing their family stability through biblical teaching, and supporting their family which is necessary for survival, it is no wonder many black families have two incomes.

In the struggle to stay economically alive in America, and to give their children a chance at a decent education to secure their futures, black families are sacrificing family stability. However, without a solid foundation of family morality, which consist of motherly love and attention and a father's strength and discipline, many black children's future are already at risk. Turning to God for the strength to rear children today is essential because the institutional theories and studies about how to raise a child in today's society cannot be trusted. The real problem with black families is that they trust too much in what society dictates and too little in what the Bible encourages: So caught up in striving for the American dream that their families cannot matter any more.

2003 by C.R. Hamilton

Why Breastfeed?

Abandoned by today's woman, the oldest and most natural form of feeding a child has been replaced by a byproduct of science. According to a survey by the Ross Formula Company, only 41.3% of African-American women attempted breastfeeding while in the hospital and only 14.5% of them were still breastfeeding at six months postpartum.

More pediatricians and nutritionists agree that the "breast is best" in providing for all of an infants dietary needs. Research has shown that breastfeeding transcends infant nutrition. Its benefits also include mother/child bonding and the prevention of many early childhood illnesses.

Why Breast Milk?

Breast milk contains just the right amount of vitamins, minerals, fats, sugars, proteins and enzymes that a baby needs for optimal growth and development. Its composition changes with each baby's needs. Colostrums, a clear, yellowish substance produced during pregnancy, is the first breast milk and best food

for newborns. It provides an unmatched level of immunity to disease and viral bacteria, creating a type of newborn armor that protects the baby. Infants who receive this "pre-milk" substance are said to be less inclined to suffer from milk allergies, hypoglycemia, jaundice and constipation. If a child nurses for the first 20 minutes after birth, he will receive more immunities than he'll ever receive from any other substance in his entire life. If a child is nursed just six weeks, he will receive a superior source of nutrients not found in any formula.

Afro Warning

Beware of doctors and nurses that suggest bottle-feeding a newborn right after birth and who discourages breast-feeding. Though many physicians will first ask the mother which she will do, there have been cases where the physicians assume that the mother will bottle feed. Not only is this irresponsible medical practice, but it violates the rights of the mother and the child.

Breastfeeding Has Many Benefits

Many mothers who breast-feed confess that their children are more healthier than their playmates and do not become sick as much as their playmates. The one thing that could increase the chances of a breast-fed child being sick is if the child is exposed constantly to other children who are sick, such as in a day care. But if a mother is breast-feeding the child, the mother would most likely be an at-home mother.

Breastfed babies tend to have fewer cases of Chiron's disease, ear infections, diarrhea, meningitis, tooth decay and childhood diabetes. Studies show that breast milk is important in developing the facial structure, oral make-up and brain growth of babies. In addition to the nutritional benefits of breast milk, there is an added emotional benefit as well. Eye and skin contact maintained while nursing gives babies the same sense of security felt in the womb, creating a loving transition into their new world.

Economical Benefits

Breastfeeding has important societal benefits too. Namely, breast milk is very cost-effective. One of its biggest conveniences is that it is absolutely free. Study after study has shown that if more infants were breastfed, millions of government and HMO dollars would be saved each year. Formula fed infants average \$200 more a year in medical expenses than breastfed infants.

If an additional one million babies a year were fed breast milk instead of formula, the U.S. could save over a billion dollars in healthcare costs. Imagine the money saved by families whose children are breastfed. Parents spend hundreds of dollars a year buying formula, money that could be put into a college or trust fund. Breastfeeding mothers have fewer cases of being absent from work due to child related illness, which saves companies money in healthcare costs as well.

Myths About Breastfeeding

Myth 1: Breastfeeding is too painful:

While there may be some initial pain as mother and infant get used to the process of breastfeeding, after a week or two, if mother is nursing properly, there should be little if any pain resulting from breastfeeding. Often, women experience pain because the baby is not latched on properly.

Myth 2: Breastfeeding will make the baby too dependent on its mother:

Babies who breast-feed are no more dependent on their mothers than any other baby. They do, however, enjoy the added closeness and security felt only through breastfeeding. In fact, breastfed babies tend to be independent and social.

Myth 3: Breast-feeding is unclean:

Breast milk is very sanitary and is the most perfectly balanced form of nourishment for babies. Moreover, its composition changes with the nutritional needs of infants and toddlers, something that does not occur with formula. Many pediatricians agree that as long as a child is receiving calcium from some source, cow's milk is not an absolute necessity.

Myth 4: Breastfeeding is not possible for a woman with small breasts:

The size of a woman's breasts have nothing to do with her ability to produce milk. Breast milk is produced by stimulation of the nipples from infant suckling, regardless of breast size.

Myth 5: Breastfeeding is too time consuming:

Women who nurse agree that breastfeeding is much more timesaving than consuming. There are no formulas to mix, nor any bottles to sanitize, clean and heat. Breast milk is always ready, the right temperature and the perfect amount the baby needs at any given moment. Mothers don't even have to leave the bed for those nighttime feedings.

Myth 6: Breastfeeding has to stop when a woman returns to work:

Many women enjoy the continued benefits of breastfeeding after they return to work. They can purchase or rent quality breast pumps to pump their milk during the workday. Expressed breast milk can be stored in a refrigerator or cooler (and for months in a freezer) for baby while mom is working. An added benefit of continued breastfeeding upon return to the workplace is that mother and baby have a special bonding time at the beginning and especially at the end of the day.

Consider Breast-Feeding

You are encouraged to strongly consider breastfeeding because of its many benefits. Successful breastfeeding requires support from a nursing woman's family. For more information on breastfeeding contact the African-American Breastfeeding Alliance at aaba@worldnet.att.net.

Kathi Barber, CLEC and Jenise Fonville-Noels, CLEC

Source from Black Woman's Health at www.blackwomenshealth.com

The Breaking Process Of The African Woman: What Every Black Woman Should Read

Take the female, run a series of tests on her to see if she will submit to your desires willingly. Test her in every way because she is the most important factor for good economics. If she shows any sign of resistance in submitting completely to your will, do not hesitate to use the bullwhip on her to extract the last bit of bitch out of her. Take care not to ill her, for, in doing so, you spoil good economics. When in complete submission, she will train her offspring in her early years to submit to labor when they become of age.

Understanding is the best thing. Therefore, we shall go deeper into this area of subject matter concerning what we have produced here in this breaking process of the female nigger. We have reversed the relationships. In her natural uncivilized state she would have a strong dependency on the uncivilized nigger male, and she would have a limited protective tendency toward her independent male offspring and would raise the female offspring to be dependent like her. Nature had provided for this type of balance.

We reversed nature by burning and pulling one civilized nigger apart and bullwhipping the other to the point of death - all in her presence. By her being left alone, unprotected, with the male image destroyed, the ordeal caused her to move from her psychological dependent state to a frozen independent state. In this frozen psychological state of independence she will raise her male and female offspring in reverse roles. For fear of the young male's life, she will psychologically train him to be mentally weak and dependent but physically strong.

Because she has become psychologically independent, she will train her female offspring's to be psychologically independent. What have you got? You've got the nigger woman out front and the man behind and scared. This is a perfect situation for sound sleep and economics.

Before the breaking process, we had to be alertly on guard at all times. Now we can sleep soundly, for out of frozen fear, his woman stands guard for us. He cannot get past her infant slave process. He is a good tool; now ready to be tied to the horse at a tender age.

By the time a nigger boy reaches the age of sixteen, he is soundly broken in and ready for life's sound and efficient work and the reproduction of a unit of good labor force.

Continually, though the breaking of uncivilized savage niggers, by throwing the nigger female savage into a frozen psychological state of independency, by killing of the protective male image by creating a submissive dependent mind of the nigger male savage, we have created an orbiting cycle that turns in its own axis forever, unless a phenomenon occurs and reshift the positions of the female savages. We show what we mean by example. Take the case of the two economic slave units and examine them closely.

Source from: The Willie Lynch Letter And the Making of A Slave, Published by Lushena Books: Chicago, IL

Afro Interpretation

Break the Black female by humiliating the Black male before her and she will subconsciously teach her children to see the Black male in a less attractive light. Do this for years at a time and soon you have a Black race run by women with a weakened Black male image.

Taking notice of the state of Black-America today and realize that this plot has worked to the point where the Black man is in tight competition with the Black woman where it pertains to economic status and success as well as in the educational spectrum. The overwhelming amount of Black single-parent families and female-headed households attest to this fact.

The hundreds of thousands of Black men being raised by Black women are either reluctant to stand against the white man and are rather programmed as workers or are too subservient and naive to see the ills being inflicted on him and his entire race.

Restrain any Black male (or female) from standing up and speaking out about these ills and the Black race has no means of learning what is happening. Pay off, bribe, and or compromise with any Black male that tries to enlighten his people and you have a modern day Uncle Tom who further adds to the destruction of the Black race.

2004 by C.R. Hamilton

Pro-Choice Support is Diminishing Among Blacks

Never in the history of the world, has there ever been a medical practice such as abortion - the premeditated killing of a child fetus within a woman's womb. The post-modern scientific United States has concocted and made law one of the most heinous acts of human sacrifice ever.

Of the people who subject themselves to this so-called legal act of Congress are women of the white persuasion. Though Blacks and other minority woman have dropped to this level of self-hating irresponsibility, most abortionites, 63%, are white women. Thirty-seven percent and falling are Black, and 2% other.

The statistics reveal how Black America has allowed the errors of Euro science to infiltrate their thinking. Black leaders are so concerned about equating themselves with white America economically and politically, that the moral philosophies of life have escaped them.

Despite the court decision of Roe vs. Wade, that pushed the act of abortion on society, today, people who considered themselves to be pro-life rose from 33% to 43% in the past 5 years, and people who considered themselves to be pro-choice declined from 56% to 48%. It will not be long before lawmakers who decide to actually listen to the majority of the people they represent overturn the court decision.

Black America must see this coming change in the near future and take steps to return to logical thinking on a moral base. Black leaders should speak to this issue with their people to persuade them to stop thinking abortion is a wise, or even vaguely moral answer to birth control. Contrary to the old adage "we do not have to live like the Romans while in Rome."

Source from: <http://womensissues.about.com/cs/abortionstats/a/aaabortionstats.htm>

2004 by C.R. Hamilton

Start With the Children

Many Black organizations, churches, and individuals toss in two to 4 cents of opinion where it pertains to giving back to and improving the Black community. Advocates come from various walks of life; race, income and educational levels; however, besides donating money to a cause or paying dues to fund a Black charity, in what ways can these humanitarians actually trigger change.

Let us begin with the children, familyless children that is. "As of September 30, 2001, there were an estimated 542,000 children in foster care. Thirty-eight percent were Black; 37 percent were White; 17 percent were Hispanic; and 8 percent were other races/ethnic origins." If the family is the root of the community, then this is where we should start.

There should not be ONE Black child without a parent, not with all these Black organizations, church and political leaders claiming humanitarianism. Not one of their voices should be heard nor respected if they cannot open their home to a Black child who does not have a family. If they have the resources and wisdom to raise a proper Black child, that would be 250,960 more Black children on their way to success.

The concept is the equivalent to a person not complaining if they do not vote.

A conglomeration of Black organizations can construct a system that could give each foster child a home and eventually an adopted family. And the parents of the foster child (if available) could attend programs to help them retrieve their children. This is a plan that if implemented seriously with the help of sincere Black leaders, would work for the good of the Black community and its future.

With the claimed success of Blacks today, by reporting Black mediums, there are more than enough Blacks able to give a one or two children a loving home. And with all the degrees, the elitist Blacks claim to have obtained through "opportunity." There is no reason the parents of these foster children cannot be taught to be successful.

We cannot depend always on the programs of the government, we must take things into our own hands, at least this is what we hear from those claiming to be Black leaders. Therefore, let us start with an actual effort and foster or adopt a Black child. The children are no doubt our future, and you can help make that future promising.

Below is information about becoming a foster parent. In addition, there is a foster care agency in every state so there is NO excuse. Selfishness is the only obstacle standing in the way of that child's future of which selfishness is sown not on their part, but on the part of the able-bodied Black activist who looks down on the low-income Black community and their lifestyles. Here is your chance to do something.

Becoming a Foster Parent

Ask and answer the following questions:

1. Do you have a strong support system of friends and/or family? This is important, as fostering can become very stressful at times. It is good to have someone who will listen, if you need to vent. If you don't have a support system already in place and go ahead with fostering, be sure to participate in support groups. Many agencies hold their own support group meetings if not consider starting your own with other foster parents.
2. Are you a patient person? Are you willing to continually give and very rarely get anything in return, except for the knowledge that you are helping a family?
3. Many people enter into foster care thinking that they are rescuing a poor child from an abusive parent. They believe the child will be grateful and relieved to be out of the situation. This is rarely the case. Abuse is all they know, the abusive parent is their only parent and what is a bad situation is that child's "normal". Be prepared for the child to be anything but happy about being in your home. In other words, examine your expectations. What are you expecting? Not only from the child, but from his or her parents, the state and the experience itself? High expectations can lead to a fall!
4. Aside from being neglected, know that these kids have sometimes been physically, sexually, mentally and emotionally abused. They can be angry, resentful and sad. They may take it out on their foster parents, usually the foster mother. Are you willing and able to deal with what they might put on you, and not take it personally?
5. Are you willing to have social workers in your home, sometimes every month? Can you work in a partnership with a team of professionals to help the child either get back home or to another permanent placement, such as adoption? This goal requires excellent communication skills on your part, and a commitment to follow the plan set forth by the social workers.
6. Can you say goodbye? Foster care is not a permanent arrangement. The children will move on someday. Permanency is what you want for them. However, you and your family will attach to this child, so don't fool yourself into thinking otherwise. Attachment is a good thing, for both you and the child. If the child can attach and trust you, they will be able to do the same with others in their lives and this leads to a healthier future. Goodbye does not have to mean for forever, either. In some cases, with permission from the birth parent or adopted parent, a relationship with your foster children can remain intact after a move. We have a relationship with a few of our past foster daughters and enjoy seeing them and receiving cards and phone calls. They even still ask us for advice.
7. If you have children of your own, how do they feel about doing foster care? It's important to consider every member of your family when thinking about fostering. Everyone in the house will be living and interacting with the foster child and his or her behaviors. Your children will have to share their home,

room, toys, and parents. They sacrifice a lot in becoming part of a fostering family. Ask your children how they feel and listen! Also, be aware that your child may learn or pick up whatever the foster child knows, both the good and the bad. Are you prepared to stand guard at all times, making your home safe for all who live there?

8. What ages of children can you parent at this time? Consider the ages of your own children and where another child would fit into your family. Is a baby right for you? While you won't have to deal with foul language, you will have to give up sleep and basically "start over" if your children are grown. Or would a school age child work better where you won't have to worry about day care? Also, consider the sex of the child. These are choices that are all up to you as a foster parent. You will also be given choices on what behaviors that you feel you can and cannot parent at this time.

9. Finally, do you have a lot of love to give? Are you ready to bring a child their first birthday party? Can you help him or her decorate a first Christmas tree or carve a first pumpkin? Help them to see that families are a great place to grow up in and show them an excellent role model of healthy family relationships? Give them an opportunity to heal and grow?

If you can say "yes" to most of these questions, then call your state foster care representative. You have an excellent chance of being a wonderful foster parent!

2004 by AfroStaff

Be Part of the Solution and Foster A Child

Why are there so many Black children in foster care? Because the Black single-parent family rate is twice as high as any other ethnic group in America and social service agencies make it their business to dissect the Black family brick by brick and child by child. It's not a father thing or a mother thing, it's a business thing.

Many people talk of how to change society but we know that a society begins with the family and the family is based on father, mother, and children all cohabitating in a loving home. If there are no good families, there is no good society. Churches, community groups, voters, the school system and local politicians talk of improving our way of life but how many will give time to just one child to make life better for people other than themselves?

Foster care homes are important for children that need a safe place to live. These homes are only provided temporarily and usually in an urgent situation. Children are often placed in a foster home because they have been removed from their family. Foster parents are then crucial to the welfare of the child, and often work closely with teachers, attorneys, social workers, doctors, and other agency officials.

Foster parents are not there to replace the child's family; however, foster children have crucial needs for which a foster parent must provide. These needs are not just food and shelter, but rather, the needs include support, encouragement, reassurance, self-esteem, self-worth, and most importantly, love.

Do you possess what it takes to help support someone else's child? Do you have enough love in your heart to give and enough time to spend in providing a safe and secure place for a child deprived of its family?

Foster parents provide hope to a child otherwise shadowed by issues that are dangerous to the child's physical and mental health. Physical abuse, neglect, abandonment, drug problems, alcohol problems, and sexual abuse are just some of the reasons that result in a child being removed from his or her home. Understandably the child is often afraid, angry, confused, and heart-broken from the events that led to their removal.

Also, some foster children have special needs, such as emotional, behavioral, physical, or developmental problems. But it is always the case that every child needs a loving home where in he or she can be safe and be on the road to a better life.

Is there some family or parent in your neighborhood who may be at risk for losing their child because of lack of proper support? Many people whom you would never imagine are not raising their children with what it takes to actually raise a child. Many parents could possibly be considered neglecting their child. Without the proper time spent, nutritional habits, proper medical treatment, or even proper discipline techniques, many parents fit the description of a neglectful.

Adoption is often a consideration for foster parents. In fact, about two-thirds of the children placed in foster care are later adopted by their foster parents. But the question remains, are you willing to do what it takes to be a foster parent?

There are several requirements that a foster parent must satisfy, and you should be familiar with them before taking on the responsibility of caring for a foster child.

Some problems that a foster parent needs to be able to handle include setting discipline in the home, dealing with bed-wetting, lying, and rebellion.

Foster parents need to act as any other parents, but with the added challenge of dealing with a child that has a troubled background and an already inflated fear of rejection. They need to provide a sense of belonging, acceptance, and love; however, these needs are usually met by the result of a small success following an enduring struggle with many early failures. And many times it is the case that after all this effort is put into a relationship with a foster child, the foster parent must be able to let go if the child needs to be relocated or placed back with his or her family.

General requirements

Requirements vary from state to state, and it is always best to check with your local foster care agency, but some basic general requirements are listed in the following:

- Be at least 21 years old

- Have a bed and personal area in which a foster child can keep his or her belongings
- Your home meets local fire, safety, and sanitation standards
- Be physically and emotionally capable to care for children
- No alcohol or drug abuse problems
- You must pass a criminal background check
- No record of child abuse or neglect
- An income providing for your own family, independent from the foster care reimbursement income.

Financial assistance

Depending on what state you live in, financial support will vary. It is best to consult with a foster care agency in your area regarding this matter; however, every state does provide financial support, and every state does require proof that your family's needs are currently met prior the additional income.

It isn't for everyone

Even after every class, meeting, and seminar required for foster parenting, there are many situations that will arise for which you have not been prepared. In some cases, foster parents with the best intentions and enthusiasm have found that foster care was too demanding on their household and family. Foster parenting is not for everyone, but the need is there for a child to have a blessing come into his or her life.

Interested?

The trials and challenges of foster parenting are things for which you need to be aware; however, they are incomparable to the rewards and blessing that becoming a foster parent will provide. If you are aware of the difficulties, and still want to be a blessing in a child's life, then foster parenting is for you.

Consider being part of the solution in today's troubled society.

2003 by AfroStaff

Protection From Child Protective Services

Some government services are needed in our society, those such as water filtration, garbage collection, and military protection, but there are other agencies that may mean well but sometimes overstep their

boundaries, such as Child Protection Services. Organized to protect children from abusive and neglectful parents, this agency is not beyond error, and sometimes to a devastating result.

Black families must especially be aware of the practices of the Child Protection Services because it is Black families that have always - over 400 years of family disruption - been targets of social and governmental legal abuse. From the time African families were portioned out on the slave docks to the times of selling off family members on plantations, to the times of murdering of Black fathers followed by state agencies that removed Black children from the mothers under bogus accusations and reasoning, to today, where Black families are targeted the most by such agencies as law enforcement and Child Protection Services.

On one call from someone who feels the parents are abusing their children, Child Protective Services is required to investigate the call even if the call is false. They have the right to obtain a warrant and enter your premises with law enforcement and to physically search you and your children and to question your children without you being present.

Little protection for the parents is given under current law thus the state can take children, have them looked at by a physician even if the initial call was not based on sexual abuse, and keep children in state custody as long as they want or until the investigation is complete. And there is nothing the parent can do to get their children back once in state custody.

Many parents have become victims of Child Protection Services based on phony calls, impetuous social workers, and incompetent agency policies and procedures. After such an incident children are effected psychologically for a long time as well as the parents. It is reported that more than 75% of reported cases are false allegations of child abuse or neglect.

However, some families should be investigated for the possible abuse and neglect of their children, but many times and all too often, reports to state agencies from other disgruntled family members and neighbors are followed up to an unnecessary extreme and many Black children end up in state foster care.

"African-American children make up nearly half of the foster care system. A 1997 New York study showed that of the 42,000 children in the system, only 1,300 were white. Similarly, 95 percent of the children in Chicago's foster care system are African-American."

Shattered Bonds

"Shattered Bonds", a book by Dorothy Roberts, a professor at Northwestern University School of Law and faculty fellow at the University's Institute for Policy Research, describes the racial imbalance in foster care; the concentration of state intervention in certain neighborhoods, including the alarming percentages of children in substitute care; the difficulty that poor and Black families have in meeting state standards for regaining custody of children placed in foster care; and the relationship between state supervision and continuing racial inequality.

Child protection policy has conformed to the current political climate, which embraces punitive responses to the seemingly intractable plight of America's isolated and impoverished inner cities, according to Roberts. In the past several years, federal and state policy have shifted away from preserving families

toward "freeing" children in foster care for adoption by terminating parental rights. Black families, who are disproportionately poor, Roberts says, have been hit the hardest.

"Black communities have become targets of stigmatized services designed to investigate and punish deficient parents rather than preserve families," Roberts concludes.

Neglect, usually linked to poverty -- not physical or sexual abuse -- is the main reason that most children end up in foster care. (There are twice as many cases of child neglect as cases of physical abuse.)

High rates of poverty among Black families, bolstered by stereotypes about Black parental unfitnes, create the system's racial disparity, according to Roberts. The racial harm profoundly affects the Black community, extending well beyond the obvious injuries to Blacks involved in the child welfare system, she argues.

"The negative consequences of disrupting large number of Black families and placing them under state supervision affects Black people's status and welfare as a group."

Most African Americans, Roberts says, are deeply aware that, whatever their individual character and efforts, their personal well being and chances of success are inextricably tied to the advancement of African Americans as a group.

Excessive state interference in Black family life damages Black people's sense of personal and community identity, and placing large numbers of children in state custody interferes with critical functions served by families, according to the book.

The Black community's social capital is weakened; its ability to form productive connections among its members with people and institutions outside the community is harmed.

Poverty has a lot to do with who is in the child welfare system, said Roberts. A "disproportionate" amount of African-Americans are at a higher poverty level, making them more subject to child protection agency investigations. Roberts said poverty creates dangers for children such as inadequate food, health care and higher crime rates.

Child protection agencies are more likely to place black children in foster care rather than with other family members, said Roberts.

"Most white children who enter the system are allowed to stay with their families, while most black children who enter the system are taken from theirs," Roberts said.

Agency Profile

It costs the federal government eleven times as much to provide foster care as to provide public aid to families. Throughout North America, social workers employed by children's protective services are hopelessly overworked. They are required to make judgments that will seriously affect families. They generate much animosity and family disruption when they take a child into protection. And they are seriously criticized if they leave a child in a family who is subsequently abused.

Many have inadequate academic background, and knowledge of cultures and religions other than their own. Some are unaware of the ease, with which a false memory can be implanted into the mind of a child. The results can be disastrous. Abuses and errors in judgment are common. Innocent parents are drawn into a system that is out of control.

Statistics show that 60 to 80% of ALL accusations of child abuse are unfounded. This high rate of false accusations devastates innocent families and it diverts the efforts of those professionals involved in real abuse cases, reducing the care and help available to children who really need it. Many times social workers, attorneys, law enforcement officers and self-appointed "child advocates" exceed their power, disregard the goals and intent of the laws, and thereby end up subjecting children to abuse.

The following components or activities are generally included as part of a "traditional" CPS system:

- The local CPS agency receives a report of alleged child abuse and/or neglect.
- The report is screened-in, or assigned, if it meets State policy criteria for defining a potential incidence of maltreatment.
- The screened-in report is investigated.
- The investigation determines whether the alleged maltreatment event occurred.
- The name of the perpetrator of a substantiated incident of maltreatment is placed on a central registry.
- Families may receive remediating services, and/or a child may be removed from his or her home.

This series of activities is questioned by a number of authors who suggest that it may not be appropriate for two reasons. First, over time, changing standards about what constitutes child maltreatment have made the range of family circumstances reported to CPS agencies too broad for a standardized approach. Second, it is hard for a standardized approach to accomplish two potentially contradictory objectives: sanctioning perpetrators of maltreatment or providing services to families to remediate the problem.

For example, Waldfogel (1998b) argues that one result of such practices is that some families are inappropriately subjected to invasive CPS investigations. Orr (1999) supports this argument by noting that the percentage of substantiated investigations has dropped from a high of 61 percent of all investigations in 1973 to 31 percent in 1996.

Waldfogel (1998b) also argues that some families do not get access to needed services because the investigation finds that their children are at low-risk of maltreatment. Such families may be referred later with more serious problems. If the system of response does not include adequate assessment techniques, some children may even be at greater risk of having inadequate protection with tragic consequences.

One suggestion for addressing this problem is that the CPS agency should increase its flexibility in responding to families with different needs. For example, agencies could implement a differential response system in which only families with the most serious cases or those at the highest risk are subject to a mandatory CPS investigation, while other families with less serious cases or at low risk would receive a voluntary family assessment and service-oriented response. The American Public Human

Services Association [APHSA] presents a more complex differential response schema in its model CPS system guidelines (1999, p.18).

The reviewed literature reveals that there is at least some aspect of CPS practice or policy undergoing change in almost all of the States. These changes are being undertaken at different levels. In some States, changes are occurring Statewide; in others, changes are limited to a specific locality; in still others changes are occurring at a number of demonstration sites. The literature clearly shows that change in the CPS system is being implemented throughout the Nation.

Solutions

Ever since the establishment more than 100 years ago of agencies that address the issue of child protection, there has been an ongoing goal of improving the service to children who have been maltreated. Private non-profit agencies as well as governmental agencies, communities, and advocates have sought to find the best means of assisting such children.

Although there has been general agreement on this goal, the appropriate response toward those who maltreat their children has been debated. Should parents who maltreat their children be helped with services that relieve the factors that contribute to their poor parenting; should they be ordered to accept services; or should they be prosecuted as offenders? Should all families receive the same response or should different families receive different responses?

Some types of initiatives are found in several localities. These include:

- Introduction of family assessment or differential response systems;
- Creation or support of community-centered service delivery systems;
- Clearer delineation of the relationship between CPS and law enforcement;
- Increased collaboration between CPS agencies and alcohol and other drug (AOD) agencies;
- Development of collaboration between CPS agencies and domestic violence (DV) agencies.

Given the mandate to conduct the first response to potential critical emergencies, much of CPS policy focuses on what conditions require a response and what types of response are required. Thus, the following key questions related to CPS mandates and policies will be addressed:

- What points of receipt of allegations from reporters are established?
- Who are the mandated reporters?
- What are the criteria for accepting an allegation of child abuse or neglect?
- What are the definitions of maltreatment?
- What are the criteria for screening-out allegations?
- What types of responses and time frames are required?

- What standard of evidence is used in determining the occurrence of maltreatment?
- Who is responsible for conducting these responses?
- What are the outcomes of these responses?
- What information is maintained on the responses to the allegations?
- What legal protections are provided to reporters, victims, perpetrators, and investigators?
- What are the requirements for interfacing with other child welfare units?
- What are the requirements for collaboration or coordination with other agencies?

Some Cases

Two recent court cases affirmed the 4th amendment right of the family to protection from unreasonable searches and seizures by Child Protective Services.

In both cases, the U. S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals found that Child Protective Services' entry into a home and forced strip searches of children when there is no emergency or without a warrant are violations of the parents' 4th amendment rights.

The first case, *Calabretta v. Floyd*, involved a Yolo County CPS worker who, accompanied by a police officer, forced entry into the Calabretta home without a warrant and demanded a strip search of their 3 year old daughter.

In the second case, according to the LA Times account, Escondido CPS with the help of local police seized two children from a home in the middle of the night and without a warrant. The seizure was based on a tip from a family member. Three days later, CPS had the children examined at a hospital without their parents present, and despite finding no evidence of abuse, kept the children for a total of 2 1/2 months. Upon the children's return, the family was billed for foster care.

Sources from: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/CPS-status03/#top>

http://www.childprotectionreform.org/defense/yourself/vocal_advice.htm

http://www.northwestern.edu/univ-relations/media_relations/releases/01_2002/childwelfare_text.html

2003 by AfroStaff

Planned Parenthood: An Enemy of Morality

The Planned Parenthood organization is the perfect example of dealing with a problem once it is too late. The initial problem is teen pregnancy and the logical solution is better parenting and or a lesson on simple abstinence. But, because society has become too indifferent to face problems head-on and instead take the easy way out, the consequences only adds more problems thereby ignoring any logic.

If a young woman decides to have sex, they must understand that there are natural laws that apply, such as getting pregnant, and now-a-days, contracting a deadly disease. But if they decide to do it anyway, they must face either of those consequences unless they decide to poison their bodies with birth control or God-forbid man's uncivilized answer to thwart birth, the abortion.

Because it seems to have become too difficult and too time consuming and requires too much brain consumption to actually raise a child gone teenager by explaining to them the facts of life, society's parents have simply given up and accepted the next best thing, never mind how psychologically or physically destructive. As long as they do not have to do too much thinking and disciplining of their offspring.

The result of this lackadaisical practice of child rearing has resulted in organizations such as Planned Parenthood, who have taken the reigns once the parent has given up on their teen or even on their own sexual self-control. This organization supposedly fights for the rights of teens and sexually active women to practice birth control and or have an abortion so not many "unwanted" children are birthed into this God-awful world.

The problem with these type organizations and personal philosophies is that they do not consider the fact that the whole problem could be controlled if people started actually practicing self-control. Alternatively, if parents had the morals to teach their children that it is better to maintain control over their own bodies than to give it over to the forces of man instead of the laws of nature.

So these organizations and social philosophers call themselves helping society by offering an alternative to "unwanted" children by encouraging teens and women to practice sex freely as long as they protect themselves and have the laws on their side to protect them regardless of their actions. Below is an article from the Planned Parenthood website that reports a study they conducted about why teenagers would rebel if the laws forced parental involvement in the child's sex life.

Young Women Would Stop Using Birth Control if Their Parents Were Notified

Ever since our founder Margaret Sanger was thrown in jail for providing information about birth control 86 years ago, Planned Parenthood has fought for access to confidential sexual health information and services for sexually active women of all ages, including women under 18.

The crucial importance of our fight has been borne out by a recent survey of teenage women in Wisconsin. The study, "Effects of Mandatory Parental Notification on Adolescent Girls' Use of Sexual Health Care Services," was published in the August 14, 2002, issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association. Nearly 1,000 girls younger than 18 who are using birth control and safer sex methods were asked what they would do if their states passed parental notification laws requiring health centers to involve their parents in these sexual health decisions. The answers these girls gave were clear:

- None of them would stop having sex. Nearly 50 percent would stop seeking sexual and reproductive health care.
- Nearly 30 percent would have unprotected vaginal intercourse.
- A similar number said they would rely on withdrawal for protection.
- The one percent who said they would give up vaginal intercourse said they'd rely on oral sex instead, which would prevent pregnancy but not infection.

It is obvious from these survey results that proposed parental notification laws for contraceptive and safer sex services can only lead to increased numbers of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections among teenage women.

That's why public health experts, including those at Planned Parenthood, have long opposed interfering with young people's access to these important and intimate services. Professionals, lawmakers, and caregivers who care about young people will not put their health and well-being at risk with misguided parental notification laws.

Forty-two million, or seven in 10 women of reproductive age, are sexually active and do not want to become pregnant. Nearly half of America's 6.3 million annual pregnancies are accidental. Unintended pregnancies result in 1.4 million abortions annually, as well as 1.2 million births that women either did not want to have until later or did not want at all (AGI, 2000). Eighty percent of teen pregnancies are unintended, and each year, one in 10 young women aged 15-19 become pregnant; more than half become mothers (AGI, 1999).

Widespread use of emergency contraception could prevent an estimated 1.7 million unintended pregnancies and 800,000 abortions each year (Glasier & Baird, 1998; Van Look & Stewart, 1998).

One of the most disturbing ideas in this article is this: "It is obvious from these survey results that proposed parental notification laws for contraceptive and safer sex services can only lead to increased numbers of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections among teenage women."

They base this conclusion on the answers of teenage girls who are sexuality active. This is like enforcing a law based on the petitions of bank robbers who want more cooperation from bank tellers during a robbery. How can any logic, or let alone a solution, come from a group of people who have started wrong in the first place? Who cares what these girls will do that they have not already done. The answer is not compliance with immorality, but prevention of immorality.

Another problem with this philosophy is this: "Forty-two million, or seven in 10 women of reproductive age, are sexually active and do not want to become pregnant" Well let's see, if they understand anything about the reproductive system they would not have sex. The problem is that they have become dependent on the sciences of man and have totally left off the natural laws of life and of God. This is not good and not a direction any parent should allow their child to take nor should they trust.

Black America should never fall victim to these philosophies and practices of the secular American culture. Millions of people in the world see American culture as immoral and ungodly and millions of

people and many nations hold contempt for America's values. This is not a Black ideology at all but a white one, and should not be adapted by any Black parent. Please fight against organizations of this sort.

2004 by C.R. Hamilton

America's Fascination with Dating

The singles scene in America has never been more fanatical. Not since the seventies when the bar scene, the mood ring, and the horoscope was the fad has America gone to such extremes to find the right soul mate or any kind of mate. Today there is the Internet, reality TV matchmaking and marriage shows, and the rise in personal ads. Could this exaggerated search for companionship be the result of an unwillingness to commit by the general public as a whole, or the need to fulfill the emptiness of a loveless society?

An easy connection could be made from the decline in marriage and the rise in divorce to this increase in the dating fad, but this is too easy and obvious. There is a deeper psychological reason that people are in such desire for romance. The decline in marriage and the rise in divorce are variables in the equation but the more prevailing and deeper reason would be the lack of love and the true willingness to commit. Even if a person stumbles on the one they believe could be it, the chances of the relationship being a lasting one are no different than the chances of any previous relationship lasting.

The fascination is the meeting part, the romance and the spontaneity of the moment. This signals an unscrupulous motive behind the whole romance scene. In other words, if people are looking for romance and companionship in droves the way they are today, then most likely a previous relationship failed. Whatever the reason for the previous one failing could contribute to any new relationship failing also. If a spouse cheated and the relationship ended, there is no guarantee that the new spouse or companion would not do the same. If a previous relationship failed because of a lack of communication, there is no guarantee that a new relationship would not fall to communication problems also.

If everyone in the current dating scene had similar problems with past relationships thus is the reason they are seeking a new one, then what possible solution would be effective enough to eliminate whatever problem there is in any relationship? With everyone having the same or similar problems, the problems only cycle through the relationship scene and people cycle through one another without end. This is the social equivalent of a disease without a cure. The longer the cycle continues without a serum to lasting relationships, the shorter the relationships will be and the more widespread relationship switching will be, thus giving rise to sexual activeness beyond control.

Internet Dating

Almost everywhere you surf there is a pop-up, or ad for singles and dating online. There are websites strictly for dating, web portals that offer a dating and singles section, and advertisements and articles that

offer people solutions and opportunities for finding the right one and keeping the right one. Some communities have pages and pages of photos of people seeking mates and dates. Pages littered with profiles, likes and dislikes, preference of income, religion, education, number of children, and even sexuality. People have their pick of the litter on the Internet.

Many sites with photos have people unashamed to show their bodies or talk about their sexual fantasies. Some invite others into their homes via web cams to watch them pose and live life. The opportunity to talk to one another long distance has advanced to the point that distance means nothing; people all over the world are finding each other online. What may seem like advancement in technology has many researchers baffled as to whether this is really a good thing or is it harmful. Many doors open to other areas of sexuality that are not for the good of old fashion romance, but alternative perversion.

Reality TV

Violence on TV is the lesser of the virtual evils now. Sexuality has taken a backseat also to what is now known as reality TV. Of course, Hollywood would not be left behind. They are sinking deeper into the world of reality instead of rehearsed entertainment. More shows are debuting that offers the viewing public a peep into the real lives of people and their dating habits and sexual fantasies.

Preferential marriages and the excitement of choosing your mate have boomed into a multimillion-dollar expense in the world of reality TV. The public has turned into snoopers, spies, and peeping toms thanks to Hollywood and the secret desires of American society. Monogamy is dying a slow death and giving way to rampant promiscuity. The moral values of America are rotting away, which will eventually open a large hole to a demon more powerful than we are.

The problem with the idea of virtual romance is no one ever knows what really happens after someone finds that special one. After the hot moments of giving the public what they want, who knows how long the relationship last afterward? No medium has ever offered the public a look into a successful match made on television or online one, 2 or 3 years down the line. The sociological game of studying human nature living life before millions of people is fun while it last, but what are the results?

The experiment of matching two people with the exact same preferences for a relationship is logical in a sense that this seems right, but what happens afterward? Did the relationship last or what? Of course the masterminds of these dating and reality games are not really out to offer solutions to society, but to capitalize on their lustful desires and sexual fantasies. This cannot be good. Society is turning into nothing more than a bunch of advertised and televised whores. And people wonder why the rest of the world hates America. It is because we lack morality and values.

2003 by C.R. Hamilton

How Slavery Has Effected the Black Family Today

Many believe that the effects of slavery have passed and that no issues or problems Black Americans face today can be attributed to the crimes of slavery, but nothing can be further from the truth. The truth being, the Black family structure suffered greatly because of separation of mother/father and child or husband and wife or by the tearing down of the pure African bloodline mingled with the blood of past Euro-rapist.

Black Americans have no genealogical blueprint from which to draw a family history or bloodline, no accurate records kept, and no way to effectively trace our roots without hitting a dead-end of red tape or a white family tree. Without these records, we have no way of knowing who our true relatives are in America or Africa.

From generation to generation of separation and rape, for all we know, each Black American has blood-related family in different states that we will never know of. There are parents, aunts, uncles, and cousins that were taken from distant relatives during slavery without a way to track the change on paper.

We have become a nation of illegitimate children not knowing who we are marrying or carrying on relations with. Sad and even scary, but true. For instance, if a child was sold away from its parents in 1812 and moved to a plantation in another state, and that slave bare children while leaving some behind, those children never knew of each other.

Eighty years later, they still do not know of each other and have born children and started families unaware of their blood relatives in another state. Fifty years later, that same family still having no knowledge of the other, one member chooses to move back to the former state, unknowingly, and has relations with their long-lost relative, can have damaging reproductive, biological, or developmental effects on the next generation.

Furthermore, without a source of wealth passed down to either generation, there has always been a lack of in nearly every Black family from the start. Now, we are expected to function as a normal people despite our years of financial setbacks and family dysfunction.

Without considering this truth, no scholar in their right mind or critic of the Black family - or even individual accomplishment - has a factual or cogent argument to stand on but are arguing from a completely fallacious point of view about the achievements of Black America.

The Black family structure (and individual psychological normalness) was damaged severely when children were taken from mothers and husbands from wives and forbidden to reunite. Families were destroyed by practices of slavery, policies of Jim Crow, and biased social, legal and institutional services and governmental amendments. And still today, our families are in ruins because we never really had a solid structure from which to build due to the purposeful dismantling of the Black family by America's so-called founding fathers.

If restitution ever becomes a serious issue, the reasoning should seriously include the travesty that hindered the Black family's ability to succeed in the United States. Without long-term research and an attempt to access and analyze the Black family condition, living blind to this reality leaves out an important part of Black development.

December 2005 By CR Hamilton

Own Up To Womanhood

What can society do to reduce the rate of single young women birthing illegitimate children into society, which in turn births deadbeat fathers into the child support system and millions of children into poverty?

What is the government's role in decreasing the amount of young Black women contracting HIV/AIDS, and what can ethical organizations such as churches and family planning groups do to encourage stronger families among a dysfunctional and growing number of young parents? The answer is - nothing.

These are surface problems: cause and affect because of a weakness within the female gender, and that falls squarely on one shoulder and one shoulder only. Once and twice single women must learn to say no by keeping their legs closed and many of these problems would go away.

If the woman said no, the man would not have the chance to implant his seed. It is no excuse to say the woman thought the man loved her and would be with her forever, which is the same as being ignorant of the law [the laws of life in this scenario.] There is no excuse for any woman to have fatherless children when the government has given women the laws of personal choice over their bodies.

There is no argument for the theory of women being the weaker vessel and that a man has some type of control over her body when personal choice is such a hot issue in America. Or that men have some suggested power over women, because women have gained their equality where it pertains to intelligence and the ability to do whatever a man can do and better.

There would be no child support system because there would be no fatherless children. There would be no high rates of HIV/AIDS because the disease would not have the chance to travel throughout the female gender, and there would be no need for family planning because it would come as a natural. Men would know that in order to get what they want from the woman, they would have to commit, and soon it would become a social given.

This problem can never be blamed on the personal responsibility practices of men because, though they hold the "keys to life", they are not the ones who can change the locks whenever they want.

2004 by C.R. Hamilton

Arguing In Front of the Kids

Many may not believe in the spiritual world and that daily we are all encircled about by spirits that influence our actions, if we allow them to. The husband-wife-children family bond is a spiritual union that evil un-relentlessly pursues to destroy.

When God developed the male-female union, and graced us with the gift of children, He knew exactly what he was doing. Children learn, grow and feed from the parents, all aspects of character traits, habits, attitudes, opinions, and much more, develops them into the person they will be.

Couples must understand this power they have over their children's growth and realize that the words they use, the actions they portray and the decisions they make in life are absorbed by their children to no end. If either the father or mother allows the evils of the spiritual realm to control how they treat one another, they will give over the power of their to children to that evil.

Many couples have healthy arguments because it is a natural way to relieve frustration and to remedy any differences between them. And many couples argue right in front of the kids without realizing they are there, or they forget, or they believe the kids cannot hear them. And when the debate gets heated, it's difficult to refrain from speaking too loud sometimes. Regardless, when the tensions run high, one or the other couple may say something extremely negative that effect the other deeply and the children who are listening.

The attitude it is said in, such as vindictiveness, spite, meanness, or even in jest, is a spirit that attaches itself to a child and that child will adapt that attitude against the other spouse, father or mother.

If the woman calls the father stupid, ignorant, or something worst, the child will register that information against his or her father and will begin to expect stupidity or ignorance from that parent, and vise versa. If the man calls the mother a slut, bitch, or whore, the child will be affected.

Depending on the bond between the child and either of the parents, for instance, the daughter is closer to and favors the father more than the mother, that child may lose respect for the mother because of her father's words, or could loss respect for the father, because he said those things about the mother.

If there is constant arguing in the home, the children are open to many evils and attitudes and will definitely come away emotionally scared with an attitude against one of the parents. Regardless of whether the father or the mother is right or wrong, arguing in front of the kids must be a disciplined affair.

Children love unconditionally regardless of their parent's differences. But it is important to know what things they hear coming from your mouth, as an adult. Especially when the words are directed toward the child's other parent. We often make the mistake of thinking if we can no longer tolerate our spouse, the children cannot either or that they share our feelings.

The best remedy for arguing between couples with kids is to go into a separate room and maintain a low voice quality. If that cannot be avoided because the debate is too heated, at least control what words come from your mouth and what actions you display in front of your children.

2005 By Cartel Q

American vs Islamic Family Values

The family is the oldest social institution in the history of humanity. The way different nations and cultures choose to regulate the family vary by tradition and throughout time. Mother and father and child coexist together interdependently and grow into a larger family unit as they merge with other families. Regulating this complex merge takes careful observation and discipline and should be overseen by one who is wise and possesses standards and values. And every individual within that family should be aware of the standards and values and be willing to uphold them, which also takes discipline. The recent decline of the American family is attributed to a lack of the latter, a willingness to uphold the standard of family values.

On the other hand, there are some cultures that still uphold family values in ways that American culture has let slip into a historical family album. The Islamic family tradition would seem basically oppressive to anyone recently raised into the American family structure. Apparently, Americans have strayed away from the communal style of family and adopted a more individualistic style, meaning, breaking off family ties is a normal practice today. This - breaking of family ties - is unheard of in Islamic tradition; in fact, Islamic families pride themselves on a more communal type family life, which they view as better for everyone in that family, and utmost society as a whole.

Allowing a family to break up and split off into many directions and believing and practicing different values means the destruction of that family. Families with no father figure, no mother figure, no extended ties, or that has no standards of living, behaving, or permanent plans or direction for the future is a family bound for disintegration. Islamic family ties are much stronger than American family ties and will prove to be that way for years to come. When America's social structure falls to the point of rampant sexual exploitation, families of Islam and many other countries that still value the family structure, will remain standing.

Below is a look at the structure of Islamic families as compared to American families. Written by a practicing Muslim woman, she gives insight into how Americans misinterpret the Islamic culture and why a misunderstanding of basic family structure has led the American family to decay.

Analyzing Marriage

The divorce rate is high in America even though the covenant and ceremonies of marriage remains a traditional past time. Out of 1,667,300 marriages performed in 1998 alone, more than half, 843,899 ended in divorce and almost half of those within the first year. Of course, the times are changing and the reasoning of many concerning marriage varies according to a persons needs and desires. People marry

for reasons other than love: this fact is evident according to the divorce rate. In other words, there is no other reason people divorce other than they did not love one another from the beginning. Some will say it began as love, but over the years - or the first few months - the love deteriorated somehow. Some say that it is possible to fall out of love, but if that is the case then falling in love is worthless. If two people are put together by God - who sanctioned the union of man and woman - the word divorce would never enter the couple's vocabulary. This theory is derived from the biblical concepts of promise and eternity. The relationship between a man and a woman is one of nature's most original and effortless commitments if pursued through the standards of the one whom created the union.

Women today appear to be having trouble finding a "good man", and men are having problems understanding what it takes to please a woman. There has not been a breakdown of the biological system causing both men and women to behave abnormally; on the contrary, the rules of society have changed to the point that the roles are confused. As humans, we can still love and care-for and commit, but the reasons for which we choose to do the latter have changed. In other words, there are good men, but today the definition of a man is blurred, and it really does not take much to please a woman. However, with the many particulars of romance being introduced into society today, many women have no idea what should please her. In the mist of confusion, both males and females fall short of society's meaning of what marriage is supposed to be. But if entered into by the natural laws of nature, a marriage can last a lifetime and thereafter: and this is how.

A woman cannot find a good man because, first, they should not be looking for one. Traditionally, the man finds the woman; or in a more modern, politically correct definition, they find each other. Although according to today's standards the former concept violates the new-age norm of the woman's right to choose, and her right to independence, but this standard must be violated if love is to be involved. Whether a woman chooses to live by the theories of the world or by the laws of love will determine her being espoused to the right man. If she looks, she will be looking in the direction of the world and according to the world's definition of what a good man is. Once she stumbles upon this societal-made, pseudo-definition of a man, he will be everything the world said he would be. Nevertheless, underneath all that the world said he would be is in fact, himself. When she discovers the real him and he is not what the world said he would be, regardless of who he really is, she will not be satisfied. He will not be doing what the world said he would do: buy her flowers, candy, wish her "Happy Valentines Day", buy her diamonds and pearls, and such like, but in reality, he will be the opposite.

The thought does not really count - by the standards of the world - money does, and gifts and dainties. It is at the point where sexual performance has made a tremendous debut in determining the authenticity of a "real man." This fact may not be true for all women, but its priority is beginning to rank high on the list-of-things he can do. Many women are truly happy with attention, trust, devotion, honesty, and such like, the mental and emotional characteristics of a man. Once they recognize that physical characteristics do not satisfy that inward yearning sought for, then, and only then, does the mental and emotional characteristics come into play. Nevertheless, the world defines even these in inordinately affectionate behavior. A man should be sensitive, is what they say; and willing to share the responsibilities equally. Able to respect a woman's decision to work and have a career outside of the home and to pursue her deepest desires and wildest dreams, if she chooses. All this in addition to raising his [their] children. In other words, a man should stop being a man, desiring manly things like respect, dignity, integrity, and responsibility, but should bow to the emotional needs and demands of the woman. A man knows his

responsibility and is willing to fulfill it, but if told how to fulfill it and how to be a man by the feminist of society, he will rebel.

When the roles of the man and the woman resort back to what a man and a woman really are, then marriage will reign once again, and love will be the force that binds that marriage.

2002 by Afromerica

The Mystery of Marriage

By C.R. Hamilton

In this article we challenge the traditional meaning of marriage and reveal a deep and profound mystery. The reason we are addressing this is that many religions uphold marriage as being sacred, but if the man-made laws of divorce continue to prevail in society and in churches, how will we ever know marriage in its true form? If you are not prepared to question tradition, do not read this article.

Many people do not know the true meaning of marriage. Men and women marry everyday somewhere in the world not understanding what they are supposed to be committing to or even why they are marrying. Marriage was the very first covenant of God between a man and a woman and if a person does not believe in the religious sanction of marriage, they should understand nature's purpose for man, woman, and love.

The divorce rate is at its highest in America although the covenant of marriage remains a traditional past time. Of course, the times are changing and the reasoning of many concerning marriage varies according to a person's needs and desires. People marry for reasons other than love: this fact is evident according to the divorce rate. In other words, there is no other reason people divorce other than they did not love one another from the beginning.

Some will say it began as love, but over the years - or the first few months - the love deteriorated somehow. Some say that it is possible to fall out of love, but that too, is a mere excuse to escape the commitment. If God puts two people together, the word divorce would never enter the couple's vocabulary. This theory is derived from the biblical concepts of promise and eternity. The relationship between a man and a woman is one of nature's most original and effortless commitments if pursued through, and by the standards of the one whom created the union.

Women today appear to be having trouble finding a "good man", and men are having problems understanding what it takes to please a woman. There has not been a breakdown of the biological system causing both men and women to behave abnormally; on the contrary, the rules of society have changed to the point that the roles are confused. As humans, we can still love and care-for and commit, but the reasons for which we choose to do the latter have changed. In other words, there are some good men, but today the definition of a man is blurred.

It really does not take much to please a woman. There is no particular order or correct way to court her, and with the many particulars of romance being introduced into society many women have no idea what should please her. In the mist of confusion, both males and females fall short of society's meaning of what marriage is supposed to be. However, if entered into by the natural laws of nature, a marriage can last a lifetime and thereafter: and this is how.

A woman cannot find a good man because, first, she should not be looking for one. The man finds the woman. Although according to today's standards this concept violates the new-age norm of the woman's right to choose, and her right to independence, the standard must be violated if God is involved. Whether a woman chooses to live by the theories of the world or by the laws of God, her choice will determine her being espoused to the right man.

If she looks, she will be looking in the direction of the world and according to the world's definition of what a good man is. Once she stumbles upon this societal-made, pseudo-definition of a man, he will be everything the world said he would be. Nevertheless, underneath all that the world said he would be is in fact, himself. When she discovers the real him and he is not what the world said he would be, regardless of whom he really is, she will not be satisfied. He will not be doing what the world said he would do: buy her flowers, candy, wish her "Happy Valentines Day", buy her diamonds and pearls, and such like, but in reality, he will be the opposite.

The thought does not actually count, by the standards of the world: Money does, and presents and dainties. It is at the point where sexual performance has made a tremendous debut in determining the authenticity of a "real man." This fact may not be true for all women, but its priority is beginning to rank high on the list-of-things he can do. Many women are truly happy with attention, trust, devotion, honesty, and such like, the mental and emotional characteristics of a man.

Once they recognize that physical characteristics do not satisfy that inward yearning sought for, then, and only then, does the mental and emotional characteristics come into play. Nevertheless, the world defines even these in inordinately affectionate behavior. "A man should be sensitive," is what they say; and willing to share the responsibilities equally. Able to respect a woman's decision to work and have a career outside the home and to pursue her deepest desires and wildest dreams, if she chooses. In other words, a man should stop being a man, and God forbid ask for a little attention and needed consideration, but should bow to the emotional needs and demands of the woman. A man needs support too.

Men carry with them future visions of well-planned lives and dreams for his family. Women carry visions but only throughout the next few weeks. A man [a real man] knows his responsibility and is willing to fulfill it, but if told how to by society and a bunch of liberal-feminist ideas of what and how he is suppose to do it, he will rebel. But so much for the characteristics of men and women, here is the correct procedure for marriage in the eyes of God.

First, there is no such thing as divorce. Divorce, from a biblical perspective was given to the children of Israel because of the hardness of their hearts. They were revelrous and lustful and were easily distracted by the opposite sex; therefore, Moses gave them the deed of the writing of divorce. However, from the beginning, it was not so. Men and women were not ever supposed to get divorced once God joined them.

In the Old Testament, men would go and choose a woman and that was that. Love came naturally. Nevertheless, when man took the concept of men choosing, and made it a tradition, that is when marriages were forced against the couple's will. It was never meant to be that way either. Love has a natural order and came about through what God knew would grow. If two people were not supposed to be together, God never put them together. There is not one marriage in the Old Testament that ended in divorce other than when the children of Israel began to request a writing of divorce.

Then, marriage became traditional, and many rituals were added, like the wedding ceremony. It became written law of the land when people were married and when they divorced. Then came the wedding day traditions and the wedding ring and the bride's maid and the bachelor parties and all other sorts of man-made rituals that did nothing more than cheapen the sanctity of marriage.

They made marriage vows that were to be recited before God as if he would honor anything other than love. Then they took the word "obey" out of the man-made marriage vows and changed the way a wife can or should love her husband. Moreover, the sanctity of marriage was more defiled when society began to consider that maybe it is ok if two of the same sex decided to commit to the covenant. Now, marriage is nothing more than a joke. Nevertheless, marriage in the eyes of God has never changed.

The problem is, no one really knows what a God given marriage is supposed to be. Yet, there is one theory that is close to what God requires in a marriage and that theory is in the following concept. Love, is the ultimate ingredient in a God given marriage. If neither of the two involved in a marriage is actually in love with the other, then the marriage will never last, as do most of them. God is love; therefore, if God, or love is not involved in the marriage, then the marriage cannot logically come from God.

Many people marry another under a false impression of love, and marry according to their lust. There are other reasons people marry such as money, security, tradition, or out of desperation, all of which have nothing to do with God. Another important characteristic in an idea marriage is trust. Yet, how many marriages end in divorce because of adultery. The word adultery is not even used in a conversation discussing marriage; the concept has been spiced up a bit to the term "affair." No one wants to confront the evil that is associated with breaking one of the forbidden commandments.

The written marriage that requires a priest, preacher, judge, or captain of a ship, has no actual recognition in the eyes of God, since it is love that constitutes a marriage before him. A marriage license is nothing more than a signed contract to keep records on who is living with whom. The actual paper is not a sufficient supplement for what God intended when he put a man and a woman together. In all actuality, no couple that falls in love is required by God to go and take the marriage vows then sign a piece of paper; that is not written in his word and it is not a traditional ordinance written anywhere in the Old Testament. The Greek and Roman government under the rule of modern advancement and the increase of world population first introduced this practice. It was only used for, as stated before, to keep up with who was living with whom.

So, how does an actual marriage from God work, and when does he acknowledge a couple as husband and wife? When the man and the woman first lay together they are considered married in the eyes of God, and that, only if they love one another. If there is no love between them then the act of lying together only constitutes fornication. However, if there is true love, the agape love that God sheds in the heart of a man for a woman and vice-versa, then God considers it a marriage.

Is there no vows exchanged or papers to sign or anything to consecrate the marriage? No, there is nothing more than the coming together of a man and a woman that consecrates a marriage in the eyes of God. Until they come together, and they know they love each other, this is considered espousal, just as Joseph was espoused to Mary, the mother of Jesus. They had not yet come together and Mary was found with child. Joseph then decided to put Mary away [divorce her] because he thought that she had been unfaithful before he had ever touched her.

Jesus confirms this when he says that there is only one reason to put away a spouse and that is for the cause of fornication, but a person cannot commit fornication when they are married, they can only commit adultery. The bible states that, in order to avoid fornication every man should have his own wife and every woman her own husband; therefore, one cannot commit fornication if they already have a spouse.

This confirms the fact that there is no reason whatsoever for anyone to ever divorce. As the scripture states, from the beginning it was not so. In the beginning of time, there were no divorces and there should be none now. If a couple gets divorced then the marriage could never have been from God. Many people get married before they know these rules and they divorce also because of ignorance of these rules, yet, pastors do not teach marriage in this manner because they themselves have not the knowledge of what true marriage is all about. If they did, they would know that just because a couple of people stand before them and they read a few scriptures out of the bible, and the couple kisses once, it does not constitute a marriage.

They would know that if a man and a woman has been seen together leaving the man's house early in the morning and they have never been to him to take the vows, that it is possible that they are married and not in a state of fornication. Yet, men desire the traditional marriage ceremony so that they can keep track of who is who. They refuse to search the scriptures deeper for the actual meaning of marriage because they are afraid they will find some truth and have to redo everything they have organized the past 3000 years.

Nevertheless, when a man comes together with a woman and they truly love each other, then they are considered married in the eyes of God. No paper can take the place of true love and what was meant from the beginning. Furthermore, the scripture also states that what God has put together let not man put asunder. Once a couple comes together, it is forever and no one can tear them apart no matter how hard they try. In addition, marriage between a man and a woman is a shadow and type of the church and its marriage to Christ. There were no papers signed or vows to take or ceremonies to attend, the only thing required from the bride of Christ is love, and that is the only thing required to have and to constitute a marriage.

2000 By Sound Doctrine Inc.

Rules for Wives and Husbands

Love, trust, and communication are essential elements in a healthy marriage. The words are easy to say and remember but how to practice the concepts run much deeper. Below these three essentials are second level concepts that a spouse must master. Love requires devotion, trust requires honesty, and communication requires a level of comfort that allows you to open up to your mate. To master the second level concepts one must practice the following simple rules, which will strengthen a marriage throughout to the essentials.

Rules for Devotion

1. Never risk what you have - temptation may come but if you have invested in a relationship already, why risk it only to begin another?
2. Reserve all that is special for the spouse - the special places the two of you go, the special movies, songs, and jokes all belong to the spouse; do not share them.
3. Always put them first - if you married them you agreed to concern yourself with them and them only, every minute of the day. Do not let them slip to third or fourth on your list.
4. Never accept gifts from the other gender - regardless of how innocent it is or how bad you feel you want or need it, it is not worth the risk.

Rules for Honesty

5. Never keep secrets - reveal all to your spouse and leave no room for doubt. They are number one now and mother and or father come second. Never be secretive.
6. Do nothing behind their back - spending money, talking to or meeting with people they do not approve of, going places without telling them are all argument starters. Avoid it.

Rules for Opening Up

7. Do not use fear to manipulate - constantly threatening your mate of leaving them, abusing them, or killing them, implants questions in their minds.
8. Never assume - make sure you understand each other and know what and how your spouse feels about something. If not, there is too much room for misunderstanding.
9. Always express your feelings - this may be controversial to some but talking does not always work. Use situations or even examples to get your point across.

10. Maintain a constant aura of happiness - if you love your spouse beyond anything you will always be happy. If you dread being in the same room with them there is a problem. Strive for the happiness.

2004 By Cartel Q

The Wedding Tradition

Major media channels glamorize wedding ceremonies and marriage with little regard for the sacredness of what marriage really means. When people today think of marriage, they think of extravagant weddings with all the added frills, large and socially successful receptions, showy diamond in engagement rings and exotic honeymoons for the couple. This is what the media portrays.

All the glamorization of marriage in this light masks the true meaning of marriage, which is supposed to be based on love, trust, and submission on the couple's part. The whole show in this light soon grows dim giving way to reality. People afterward discover that all the glamorization and attention added nothing to the substance of the actual marriage and years later they become statistics and a sad story covered by the same media channel that covered the wedding.

The wedding ceremony, the marriage license, and the wedding ring are actually all fabricated therefore can be broken by man. The true meaning of marriage, as stated earlier, stems from love and trust. However, love and trust are taken for granted increasingly and people now believe that the ceremony, the license, and the ring are stronger symbols of love and trust.

The diamond ring supposedly symbolizes true love for eternity, the marriage license symbolizes legality and security, and the ceremony symbolizes success. The tradition of diamonds as the engagement ring, started slightly over 60 years ago and was ironically the main result of a media advertising campaign. The first recorded diamond engagement ring was given in 1477 when Archduke Maximilian of Hamburg gave the ring to Mary of Burgundy.

The popularity of engagement rings in general, may be a result of Pope Innocent III's order (in the 12th century) that a wedding ring be included in the wedding ceremony. This same Pope also decreed that weddings had to be held in a church. The ancient Greeks started the tradition, as we know it today. The engagement ring was called a betrothal ring. In many cases, it was given before the marriage itself and was considered a token of affection. The word betrothed is derived from the word (Anglo-Saxon) "troweth", which means truth.

The role of government in marriage is a relatively recent development in American culture. In fact, there is no legitimate reason the government has to involve legalities in private marriages. In Western Europe before the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century, the Catholic Church presided over marriage. Under traditional pre-Christian practices, in some parts of northern Europe weddings took place in private homes, with elder family members or local officials presiding.

Honeymoons date back centuries to many different cultures. Though the honeymoon in other cultures were not called honeymoons, there were traditions that allowed couples to get to know each other and have a romantic interlude before settling down to daily life. Honeymoons in American society have taken on a more extravagant nature where couples and family members spend extreme amounts of money for the "right" setting.

All the extra frills and hype of the perfect wedding has led many people into marriages based on nothing more than the frills. People want to be married so they stage weddings that draw the attention and envy of friends and family. Government has become more intrusive into couple's lives, regulated tax laws, alimony laws, and now private intercourse laws that extend far beyond their moral jurisdiction.

As citizens in a virtual society, we must stay focused on reality and see things as they really are and not as the media portrays them to be. We must know our moral and human rights and resist all intrusion and trends enforced upon our lives by government policies, church traditions, and advertising campaigns. These things can easily draw us into a world where nothing is authentic but everything is disingenuous.

2003 by C.R. Hamilton

Develop Our Future by Fostering a Black Child

E. Franklin Frasier in his book *Black Bourgeois* often made reference to the fantasy mind-set that many moderately wealthy Black middle class people and families bragged about and showcased publicly through mainstream mediums, and much of the same mind-set and people still exist today.

Extreme competition among Blacks - families and individuals - regarding who has what or the most has created a tension in the Black community that fuels jealousy, envy, and spitefulness. In fact, people caught up in this game waste much energy fighting the war of social status instead of focusing on how to increase wealth for the whole as opposed to them alone.

Because we live in a self-centered society based on individual gain and prosperity, Blacks who claim success squander their so-called wealth on pretentious material goods for the sake of winning the status war instead of investing in the future of the race.

It is disheartening to hear upper-class Black people deride the lifestyles of the low-income when their own actions and character are in question. Tagging others as criminal, unmotivated or worthless from a mind-set based on selfishness, arrogance, and pretentiousness makes neither one any better than the other.

If so-called Black high-achievers desire to see no one underachieve, there are hundreds of thousands of young Black children waiting for them to open their doors to a better future.

In 2005 there were 513,000 children in foster care; 32% were Black children, or roughly 166,482 children. That is an average of 3329 per state, further reduced to at least 1664 per major city in that state. Whatever state or city a person lives, the numbers could be more or less.

Taking action to reduce negative lifestyles of the low-income Black community does not depend wholly on government policy, but on individual effort. If this is an individual-based society - where one should take personal responsibility of ones own actions - then putting forth an effort to better that society takes the effort of one person alone.

Fostering a Black child increases the chances of that child having a better life and growing as a productive and respectable citizen in addition to helping the some bourgeois Black family or person shed the negative stigma of selfishness and develop the character of giving-back. But as long as there are foster children in the system, it testifies to the inaction of so-called successful Blacks.

Of all the children, 236,775 were placed in a foster family home (non-relative), yet 311,000 more entered; a 74,225 increase in foster care cases.

As the numbers increase, so-does the testimony against Blacks who live to showcase their possessions. The hypocrisy stinks to high hell while Black children suffer the loneliness of this society.

Furthermore, Black mothers and fathers who lose their children to the system also need assistance. If a successful Black family choose not to take responsibility for someone else's children, then maybe they can assist the family who lost the children by giving advice, coaching them, or developing classes, programs or clubs that help young Blacks learn the responsibility of parenting.

There is no excuse for anyone to neglect their children to the point of the system assuming custody of that child. There is no excuse for a society to take children from parents undeservingly. But it is a sad day when there are people in that society that can help reduce the problem, yet do nothing.

Source from: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afcars/tar/report13.htm

May 2007 by CR Hamilton

Preparing Your Daughter for the Black Male Shortage

Theories suggest that the Black population in America suffers a lack of Black men, better described in the circle of single Black females as a shortage of good Black men. To address the theory directly, there is no real shortage of Black men, just a shortage of the marrying kind as defined by today's woman.

Black men are born everyday just like Black women. The problem is Black men are tied up in the justice system or considered unemployable to corporate America, thus lessening their mainstream worth. Also

contributing to this suggested shortage is the fact that Black men have been labeled as deadbeat fathers so Black women now come to expect a datable man to someday become unfaithful.

The crisis is reaction to an action. Black men end up leaving their families or neglecting their responsibilities more often because it has come to be expected of them.

So, what do you tell your daughter at age 13 about finding a good man? How does a mother, or father, define a good Black man in today's society?

Tell your daughter that there is hope. There are many Black men willing to support their families and care for their woman, however, this willingness has become dependent on a woman's expectation and definition of a man.

If a woman is looking for an educated man, there are many, but according to recent college enrollment stats, not as many as college educated women. However, educated does not necessarily mean good. If the woman is looking for a man with certain physical features, there are many of them also: Black men come in all shapes and sizes, but looks are deceiving.

If a woman is looking for a man who has the Bling, drives the Benz, or walks in Stacy's, there are thousands of them also, but substance soon fades. So depending on what a woman defines as a man would determine whether or not she would find a man for whatever purpose she needs him.

If a woman is seeking a lifetime of love and marriage, then she must understand what a man expects in a woman and what she has to give in return. She cannot allow mainstream stereotypes to dictate what she considers a man to be.

Many women turn down what they consider "geeky" men because he is not cool enough or has the rap and gangster style. When they base their choices on this type character, they will usually end up choosing from the dog-pile. If a woman is chaste enough, however, to get interested in a man who has character based on values, then she has a better chance of finding love.

A woman can find a man if she knows what she needs. If she does not know, then she will never find that man. Parents must explain to their children that character defines a person, not what they wear, drive, or the titles behind their names. Furthermore, if a parent lives this life before their children, this is what that child will grow to expect.

2005 by CR Hamilton

How to Raise a Child to Have Character

What use is baring and raising a child if the parent turns the child over to psychosomatic drugs such as Ritalin and Prozac? How can parents avoid the pain of seeing their child behind bars, homeless,

prostituting, addicted to drugs, or even suffering from more emotional disorders such as anger, bitterness, hate, prejudice, or plain devoid of cultural literacy? Raise the child with character.

Child psychologists have convinced parents that developing a child mentally via intelligence is the parent's only way toward having a socially acceptable child. Trends toward classical music to talking mobiles, dolls, and books have crept their way into baby cribs in hopes of stimulating the child's electrodes, thus bringing forth the next Einstein.

Because of society's rush to grow critical thinking skills and problem solving, experts have neglected the task of raising the normal child, one that possesses compassion, dignity, and self-respect, all needful for healthy social interaction.

A child is not a mental machine alone, though it is vital to stimulate the brain enough for comprehension. Children newly born are emotional machines instead. They need emotional stimulation, which develops the inner being of the soul necessary for satisfying the human need for love, acceptance, trust, etc.

When a child is crying uncontrollably, that child needs to be held and rocked and even sang to, not a motivational lecture on personal responsibility. When a child is angry and throws tantrums, that child needs firm handling at the moment, not Beethoven's 5th. When a child kicks the dog or cat - showing signs of abusive behavior - that child needs to realize that animals (and people for that matter) can feel, which appeals to the child's guilt.

A parent should yell back at a child when the child yells at them; this establishes humility and respect. A parent must appeal to a child's remorse when the child hits another, or lightly hit them back when the child hits the parent, this establishes compassion and respect. A parent must draw out self-reflection when the child does not want to share, by telling them exactly what they are doing wrong and what it is called, selfishness.

Shame must be taught. Children should know that their bodies are their own and not a public peepshow. Cover your eyes when they come from the bath. Make them aware of an authority figure such as God, the police or other, to assure them that bad behavior does not go unpunished, which institutes a respect for authority.

These things are realities of life that work and are not unproven experiments based on some Yale student's theory and thesis. Relating to children in any manner, whether emotionally or intellectually, should be done as if the child were a small adult. They must be taught the ways of social interaction and the consequences of their actions just like we all learn as adults.

Cutesy tactics that pacify the child only underdevelops that child and they are bound for an unstable life both mentally and emotionally. Character builds through exercising the various emotions and directing the child toward the proper emotion for the moment.

One sure sign of intelligence in any person is the understanding of emotions by having the correct control over them. Only life experiences can teach a person to master the emotions and if they can master the emotions in themselves, they can better relate to others. This knowledge not only makes a wise soul, but imparts unto that person a strong character.

July 2005 by CR Hamilton

The Day Care Generation

With all the controversy over the day care dilemma in American society - whether children are developing properly or not because of too much time spent away from their parents - there is a dilemma brewing that not many people have considered yet. Like most issues that are ignored until it is too late, such as national security and terrorism, the day care issue is one that could bring about a slow and declining change in American culture without anyone noticing until it is too late.

How can day cares change society for the worst, you ask. Simple, the environment of the day care breeds a sense of unity amongst the children, and with possibly millions of day cares throughout the nation, this unity is transformed into a type of communal mind-set. In other words, with millions of children emerging from the day care generation, the country is facing a future of unified social or communalism.

The day care environment is a uniformed culture. Unlike the individual child growing up at home with mom and maybe an older sibling awaiting kindergarten, the day care child is growing among others like him. Studies have shown that more than half of America's children are a part of the day care culture, therefore, only a small majority actually stay at home with mom or dad.

The children arrive early, some eat breakfast, and others go right to the waiting area to play. They play together during a specific playtime, they eat together, they sleep together and play again and they partake in the same activities throughout the day. The same instructors who hold various views and opinions about society's structure rear them and then at the end of the day the children experience the same feelings of relief mixed with suppressed yet simmering animosity toward their parents. Then they turn around and do it again the next day.

Some may say that this is the same as elementary school. However, the difference is substantial. Day care children begin this life from infancy. Infants and toddlers need attention and emotional nurturing from the parents, particularly from the mother in the first years of their life. This helps them to establish an identity and character. If fashioned by day care early on, that identity is fashioned by institutionalism and not maternal love.

There is no doubt that all these millions of children are growing and learning against the same psychological challenges. Eventually, this method of growth will form into a world view shared by them all, uniformity and submissiveness to a small majority of authority. Speculatively, this will lead to a generation who will naturally suppose that society should be run the same way.

Beginning in the late seventies early eighties, these children emerged. Now they are ranging in ages from 20 years down to 1 year old. When the old die-hard generation of the baby-boomers and generation X begin to subside, this new generation will take control and begin passing laws. Already we have begun to

see the seedlings of uniformed concepts of national laws in the making, such as universal health care and a overhauling of the social security system.

The purpose of these new concepts in social structure come from the parents of these children, the ones who deposit their children into these socialist centers and who have began the uniformed trends of, one-stop shopping, fast this and mega that, all which contribute to the uniformed social culture of the future. In addition to uniformity, society is passing laws on alternative living trends, such as for mixed family lifestyles based on what used to be disfunctionalism, multicultural and mass schooling, casual and shared work environments, cashless banking and a global form of electronic communication via the Internet.

The future looks uniformed to anyone viewing the world through a macro-scope of cultural change. Traditional family and individualism will soon give way to uniformity from every perspective. Group thinking will advance in a multicultural setting and anyone seeking racial oneness will be outnumbered. Society is merging into a communalized culture.

The day care generation will become full-blown in the year 2020. This is around the same time the prophesied New World Order will kick in. Not to say that little Jimmy who attends Little Angles Day Care will be one of the master minds of the New World Order, but he will be more than prepared to live as a citizen of it. These minds are being prepared as subjects for the anti-Christ who will structure the world according to oneness.

Because of the social-cultural upheaval of the 60s and 70s, society moved into independency for women who desired to live beyond the chains of child rearing and traditional family life. Soon the world will be a place where it does not matter what gender or role a person is, but whether they are willing to pay the price to live at all. Though America was built on the foundation of life, liberty, freedom and the pursuit of happiness, it will soon stand on the renovated foundation of subservience to central authority.

2003 by CR Hamilton

Before Becoming A Parent

At one time having and raising children was simply a normal part of life and everyone was expected to contribute to the world's population and furthermore to God's natural law of replenishing the earth. However, in today's society, having and raising children has become an option needing consideration such as choosing a career, a marriage partner, or even whether to give life to the child or not.

Not everyone chooses to become a parent. About 5% of fertile American married couples do not become parents. Some see parenthood as infringing on their career goals or as an unnecessary or unwanted addition to their intimate partnership. Some may have doubts about their psychological or economic abilities to nurture or support children.

Others may know or suspect that their children might inherit a genetic disease. Still others may feel that they do not want to contribute to an already overpopulated world.

Giving birth to and raising a child requires major adjustments in the parents' lives. The career plans of one or both parents and the distribution of family resources - time, energy, physical space, and money - may change.

First-time parents may feel overwhelmed by their responsibilities. The decision to parent should not be taken lightly. The years of parenting are often intense. However, you will never experience such responsibility, hard work, and intimacy as that involved in the growth and development of another human being.

Children do not ask to be born. Parents make that decision. Therefore, before committing to this decision, potential parents must be as certain as they can that their decision is appropriate for their life goals and that they have the means to care for their children.

Source from: Health and Wellness: Edlin, Golanty, Brown, 2002

2003 by AfroStaff

Fatherly Advice to the Single Black Woman

It has become common knowledge that a child needs a father or father figure in his or her life. Without one, many children grow lacking certain characteristics within their personality that would otherwise allow them to relate to certain people in certain ways.

For example, young girls who grow without a father tend to be attracted to the masculinity in young men their age, who are many times young men who lead a thuggish life, yet they reject the young men who display more discipline about themselves. Because they grow without a male figure 24/7 in their lives, they lack the knowledge of how to relate to a man in his normal character. Same difference with young men who grow without a father.

These young men lack certain masculine characteristics in a disciplined way and instead express that masculinity in aggressive ways. They do this because this is what they learn from society's male/female stereotypes. The core characteristics of men and women are of a natural type and should be rooted in each; such as young men growing disciplined enough to take responsibility for their actions.

All too often, young men and women lack structure of the family and therefore adapt a distorted view of responsibility. For instance, a young woman would grow to see her mother working twice as hard to provide for her and her siblings, if any, and she comes to expect this when she grows up. She has no knowledge of the fact that a man can do the same and should, thus she does not learn to expect that from a man.

A young man, on the other hand, grows to see his mother doing the same and would expect any and all women afterward to have the same capabilities as mom. This limits his knowledge as to what his total responsibilities are supposed to be. If he has no view of a man doing what his mother has done, he will not take that responsibility as serious as he could.

Many would disagree with this analysis because many people have grown in similar situations and came away with knowledge of their roles as husbands, wives, mothers and fathers, however, with the rise in divorce rates and STD's, there is reason to believe that the structure of the family is not working because the roles are not being fulfilled correctly.

According to recent studies from the CDC, the stats below show that the birth rate among girls ages 10-14 have dropped to its lowest level since 1946. This is a positive development, however, it does not speak on the development of the family among young women and men.

"The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the number of births among girls in this age group dropped 38 percent from 1994 to 2002 alone, even though the number of girls 10 to 14 climbed 16 percent during the same period.

The birth rate among girls this young has been declining since 1994, when 12,901 babies were born to mother's ages 10 to 14.

In 2002, the most recent year with complete data, there were 7,315 babies born to this age group, a birth rate of 0.7 live births per 1,000 females - about the same rate nearly 60 years ago.

The birth rate dropped among all racial groups, but it was still higher for black and Hispanic girls than for white and Asian ones. In 2002, the birth rate for black girls was 1.9 live births per 1,000 girls, and for non-Hispanic white girls it was 0.2 live births per 1,000 girls (ATLANTA (AP))"

Though the study attributes the decline to the efforts of parents and young girls, it neglects to mention other variables such as the rise in STDs that would act as a deterrent to sex. Other deterrents are abortion, the rise in use of birth control pills and contraceptives, and the simple fact that women are choosing to bare children at an older age and are teaching their daughters to do the same.

For the above reasons, young girls are not having babies as fast as they use to and young men are taking more responsibility where it pertains to safe sex, in other words, they use condoms more and make sure the girls are on birth control. However, young men and women are not withdrawing from sex more, and when mistakes do happen, the couple have no plans or intentions for family life.

It is easy to enforce upon a young woman the importance of birth control because she is the guardian of her virginity, but teaching young men responsibility is something different. The many young single Black women who have sons have to take a different approach but they do not know the way.

For a single Black woman to correctly raise a son, they should instill into their young men that the responsibility of a man is one that cannot be taken lightly. They must not transfer their anger toward men to their son because that son will develop a self-esteem problem and turn it toward the women he meets.

Black women should not invite men into their homes that will not last past the next two weeks or one that has not taken responsibility for his own family, if any. She should set an example for her son that

reinforces to him that she believes in the power and union of marriage and that any government system that targets Black men and women should not be included into his life in the near future, such as the child support, welfare, or justice system.

Education and innovation should be taught to the young man and not the unrealistic goals of basketball superstarism, rapping, or any other million-to-one shot at fame that does not include the knowledge of cultural literacy. Young men must become secluded from the greater society in a way that he can learn and grow without the corruption at hand.

Other creative alternatives must be placed before his face so that he can stretch his mind in other directions and not become narrow minded. A mother can expose many different skills and hobbies to him that will open his mind to something other than the going trends of society.

Raising a man takes the mind of someone who knows what a man is. Society's definition of a man is distorted and far from reality, and this is what most young men grow to become. This man is the one who has fallen to the mercy of a wider feministic society and fulfills the stereotypes given to him by that society.

A real man can see through the corruption of society and live life, as a real man should. He will choose his wife based on love and not match-making; he has great desire to raise children and see those children through to their adulthood, and he understands that the woman who rears his children is in need of great respect, care, and love.

He can resist the temptations of seductress women because he values what he has at home. He knows that drugs, violence, and crime are only hindrances in his walk through this life and that there is an entire justice system waiting to enter his name into their database.

His Black mother knows the challenge awaiting her Black son and she does all she can to educate him on these things. She does not live a high maintenance life because she wants to teach her son that material things will bring more temptation but she teaches him that the basics of life are all he needs, as long as he maintains the basics for the duration of his life.

2005 by CR Hamilton

A Generation Robbed and Cheated

The inner city then (40 years ago) and the inner city now are different worlds. Different because times have changed and people have changed. For every Black soul over the age of 40 who have escaped the inner city into the suburbs and have raised children beneath suburban stigmas, there is a Black child in the inner city who has no knowledge of the society in which he lives other than what he or she sees and hears each day.

The majority of Black children awake to only their mother; the father is either living somewhere else or unknown by the child. The child has one strike against them. The reason the father is not there is because he and the mother met and played the game for a while and out comes the child. Afterward, temptation and or lack of respect on either part drive a separation between the two. Thus is born the single-parent household.

However, look deeper. Why the temptation and why the lack of respect? The answer is lack of moral values on the part of one or most likely both. Now these parents are in their early twenties thus their parents must be in their late 40s early fifties if not more. Now we come to a dilemma. If these children have lost the value of respect in a relationship, where did they learn these values? From their parents of course. So 40-fifty years ago, what was the social atmosphere like?

First, there were drugs, war, promiscuity, and other immoralities that began to plague American culture. Afterward, when all hell broke loose and the devil was released from the pit of abomination the sexual revolution hit the scene in the 70s and then came the crack-pipe 80s. At this point, the parents of today's parents were well into their careers, which birthed the prosperity age and the day care generation. People simply did not have the time to spend with their children anymore.

The 90s hit and hard times hit, especially the Black community. But wait, the white community was thriving like crazy. The Internet boomed and overnight millionaires came to be. All this time and sudden wealth made life faster, which left virtually no time for the family values. Therefore, anything went. Children raised themselves and school shootings rose, and teen pregnancy rose, and illiteracy rose in urban schools and many Black children fell to special Ed classes.

Now, here we are wondering what the hell happened to our families and our children. While all the moneymaking was going on, young Black men and women discovered that people listened to what they had to say even though they hated what they were saying. So they said anything they wanted and called it Rap. Now we have a Rap Culture that has destroyed our children? No, parents of today's parents destroyed the family.

We have to sit and listen to those over 40 and 50 crowd condemn our generation because of their failures? Not so. If this is supposed to be the age of personal responsibility, why cannot the older "baby boomer" generation own up to their mistakes and how they totally neglected the family structure and gave birth to all types of immoral lifestyles and multicultural, politically correct stigmas and stereotypes. Rap music? I think not. The problem is much deeper and when the mirror is really placed before the generations, who's uglier?

Today, the children of today's parents are into their teens. They have turned away from drugs, crack, and blatant promiscuity, but there is no structure to hold them together as a family, and that is because they grew without a structure for themselves. These children express themselves with tattoos, tongue, nose rings (blacks and whites), and they speak and dress like they want, just as we did and the generation before us.

Overall, the problem is not what our children are doing to "throw away their lives," but what opportunities are left to them after the resources are drained from society by a generation of millions of confused and hung over hippie revolutionaries. Really, who is uglier?

2004 by CR Hamilton

More Children Living With Grandparents

Has anyone noticed the subtle rise of children living with grandparents? If you have children in school and sometimes attend school functions, you may have noticed that there are more people there that could be your parent than there are people your own age. This is because there is definitely a rise in children living with their grandparents instead of their parents.

Researchers first begin to notice an increase in the number of grandchildren living with grandparents in the early 1990's. The U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Report Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1992, noted that the number of children under 18 living in grandparent maintained households had increased from 2.2 million in 1970, to 2.3 million in 1980, to 3.3 million in 1992. In 1970, a little over 3 percent of all children under age 18 were living in a home maintained by their grandparents.

By 1992, this percentage had increased to nearly 5 percent. More recent data show that this trend has continued. In 1997, 3.9 million children were living in homes maintained by their grandparents - 5.5 percent of all children under age 18.

Between 1970 and 1992, the increases were greatest among children with only one parent in the household. Between 1992 and 1997, the greatest growth occurred among grandchildren living with grandparents with no parent present. The increase in grandchildren in these "skipped generations" living arrangements has been attributed to a variety of factors, including the growth in drug use among parents, teen pregnancy, divorce, the rapid rise of single-parent households, child abuse and neglect, and incarceration of parents.

The breakdown of the family in society is caused by many factors thus creating more social problems not only for parents but also for extended families and children. Society's lack of moral obligation mingled with the rise of self-gratification has won over the attempt by society to "save the children."

2003 by AfroStaff

Marrying to Avoid Poverty in Old Age

With new Social Security reform proposed, it is eminent that this will effect the Black community somewhere down the line, and where it pertains to Black single female-headed households, maybe getting married would be a better option.

Not to suggest that marrying for benefits is a wise choice, but understanding that marriage is always a better option than being single for many reasons. Raising children, companionship, even business and tax breaks, are all reasons for abandoning the "independent" mind-set and settling with a mate.

Because Social Security is a mandatory government garnishment from one's wages, when a couple marries, the system benefits the couple more than it does a single or divorced person because of prolonged benefits after a spouses' death, depending on how long they are married.

According to studies, "women are much more likely than men to live in poverty at older ages. Recent research show that increasing survivor benefits in Social Security would raise income for older and widowed women, but if these increases are not capped much of the additional resources would go to high-income women. In addition, these reforms would not benefit women who never marry."

Extending benefits to the surviving spouse would help keep more women - who have longer life spans - out of poverty at an elderly age, and vise-versa in a man's case. Plus, when there are two people sharing life, there is a better chance that more money can be saved in personal accounts instead of depending on Social Security at all.

Divorce, is another obstacle leading into old age. If a person divorces after years of marriage, there is a greater chance they will live in poverty unless they remarry or have a lucrative investment plan to fall back on. And since the divorce rate in America has doubled in the last two decades, there are more people as a whole falling to poverty in their old age.

More research says, "Fully one in five older divorced women lived in poverty in 2000. It is projected that the share of older women who are divorced will grow over time, rising from 13 percent for those born between 1931 and 1935 to 20 percent for those born between 1956 and 1960...One-third of divorced women in the younger group will not be able to collect Social Security benefits through their former husbands' employment, because their marriages will not have lasted 10 or more years. It is predicted that divorced women will continue to receive lower income in retirement than other groups."

In the case of single women it gets worse. Again, unless that woman has a sound financial plan for her retirement, as in savings outside of Social Security, it is a good chance she will end up in a state of poverty. "Single mothers face special economic challenges in old age, because they often have limited employment histories and cannot rely on husbands for financial support."

Young Black women who are single today and are confident in themselves, as their own sole provider should consider her options as to what would be reasonable in the long-term. As Black people, we must try harder to stay together not only for the sake of family, but also for the sake of the family's financial future.

Our children depend on us to lay aside a comfortable footing that would provide them with the financial means to meet life's challenges. To throw aside the future with the visions of independence and self-

sufficiency is a gamble. Marriages work better all around. Though the woman's movement was strong during its hey-day, time has proven through numbers that poverty has become the result.

"Research shows that women who spent at least 10 years raising children outside of marriage are five times more likely to live in poverty at older ages than women who were continuously married when their children were young. However, recent increases in employment among young single mothers are likely to improve their future retirement prospects."

Improvement in retirement for young single mothers is a situation unknown because only time can unveil what has happened in the past. And since now we are living on the onset of high rates of single mothers and new Social Security reform, no research can yet determine what the outcome will be. Marriage is always the safer alternative because companionship is stronger than aloneness.

Source From: <http://www.urban.org/>

2005 by CR Hamilton

A Mother's Plan for her Black Son

Bringing a Black man into this world, into this country, into this racist society requires an unyielding plan, a devoted strategy that will avoid the forthcoming hurdles set before him. Below is a long term plan that if put into place by the single mother raising a Black son, could help defeat the traps set for him by the social structure of this country.

From Birth to Age 6

From the womb, love your Black son, as he is your Black man, your King and successor to the Pro-Black throne. Spend as much time as you can with him despite the social stigmas of single parenting.

Do not spoil him or bribe him with gifts of material deceit or promise him the vanity of fame fortune and riches, by not doing these things you will teach him to appreciate what comes his way. We know that nothing is promised to us and that a humble life is better than vanity.

Stay close to him until he starts school and only leave him with people you trust. Introduce him to the concept and fear of God and he will always know protection is there and his faith will increase and his heart will bring forth good fruit.

From Age 6 to 12

His memories have begun, make sure they are good ones. Remain steadfast on teaching him to appreciate things as they come and never stretch yourself too thin, financially, to make him happy. He will appreciate it in time. Feed him good food and do not poison his young frame.

Begin to direct his thoughts toward goodness and kindness, for these things win in all the wars he will face in his life. Provide him a loving, friendly environment without the drama and street-tones and people. Introduce him to his family regardless of relations and constantly remind him of the positive people in his family's past, grandfathers, mothers, aunts and uncles, so he may have stories to tell and strength to draw from, subconsciously.

The only way he will learn to take school and life seriously is if he sees you doing positive things drawn from schooling and from life. Your example is the most persuasive that he can and will be able to use. And never, ever, talk down about the Black man in his presence, he will hate himself.

From 12 to 18

Despite American standards, this young man is a young man now and he has developed his character that will be either neatly or by dirt-molded by the days and years to come. Listen closely to his words and answer accordingly. Keep him in books that discuss his people and history and science and literature.

Allow him to explore his talents yet do not limit him to the usual: sports, singing and dancing, in fact, steer clear of those stereotypes and direct and develop his mind toward the academic, toward knowledge and wisdom. He is brighter than you think.

Teach him which women are good for him and which are not. This is important. Teach him to respect women, better yet, show and demand respect for yourself and he will realize what makes a woman happy. Most importantly, make sure he does these things:

- Graduate high school
- Start college
- Have a skill to earn money

Make sure he does not these things:

- Get a young sister pregnant
- Start using drugs
- Emulate rappers and thug lifestyle

From 18 to 24

Leave him alone and let him go. Trust in him; yet keep him close to you. Do not regulate or pry into his affairs. Suggest and do not demand. Explain instead of threaten. Encourage instead of discourage.

Invest in his ideas and partner with his innovations. Seek out a positive circle of people that he can learn from and who will strengthen him. Support him in his hard times and rejoice with him when he triumphs.

Conclusion

If he has made it this far he will do well. If at any time he has strayed from the path, direct him back and do not give up or let go or turn him over to the elements of darkness. Be his woman when he has no love. Be his friend when betrayal sets in, be his father when no man has words for him.

Teach your son to focus on his future by laying it out before him everyday of his life. Talk of the victory he will have in years to come. Discuss his future wife and children. Mention the day he walks across the stage into academic success and into the business of financial prosperity.

Love him hard and do not let up because he can feel you when you retreat from standing beside him. Tell him the truth about the world in which he lives and do not lie, sugarcoat, or pretend there will be no troubles. He will love you for this and remember you when he has taken hold of life's promise.

November 2005 By CR Hamilton

Reclaiming the Single Black Female

Brothers and sisters, the gender warfare between Black men and women must cease. This war is harming each of us including our children. The question after any argument has gone on for too long is, how did this begin, and who started it? The reality is that many disputes begin naturally but escalate via instigation, and the culprit in this war between Black men and women has been the United States government from the beginning.

Starting with the dehumanizing of male slaves to the disenfranchisement of the Black businessman, to today's escalation of the Black woman in corporate America and the incarceration of the Black male, personal battles take a back seat to the latter barriers. In other words, it is not that Black men and women hate each other, but we have been pitted against one another.

Not to discount the individual responsibilities of Black fathers and husbands, or Black mothers and wives, because all people fall short of perfection; Black men are not innocent, they have abandoned their families to start others, and they have played the field and sowed their oats one too many times. Neither are Black women innocent; they have looked beyond the boundaries of the Black front yard and into the white yard.

This study is not about personal habits and desires but about how to bind to one another despite the barriers against us. Let us look at how the Black male-female relationship has been affected by these barriers and come up with a solution to work pass them. These barriers include the welfare system and the child support system, and how these two bureaucracies have bred a continued cycle of poverty among Black men, women, and children.

The Welfare System

The first barrier as pertaining to government instigation is the welfare system. After the New Deal, Blacks latched on to welfare as pathological leaches. This caused the family to fall apart because both the Black man and woman viewed this system as a crutch and possibly a reason to rely less on the other. It was another source of income used illegally for other bad habits and vices also.

Welfare checks, food stamps, and medical insurance were given to Black females like crazy which lowered the standard of living among many of them. Many became dependent and started taking advantage of the system by having more children to increase the benefits. Black men were conspiring with many women and gave them children just for that purpose. However, more Blacks began to use the system as a crutch, which lessened their reasons for taking full responsibility for their children.

As the cycle grew, the more poverty among each group rose. More women relied on welfare, more fathers dodged their responsibilities, and more children became victims of poverty. Crime became more of a lifestyle in poverty-stricken areas and arrest and prison stats grew, especially among Black males. And the rates continue to rise to this day.

The increase of welfare cases and child poverty in the early 90s forced the government to enact Welfare Reform. It was only after they realized that welfare was a destructive system did they do this, however, and only after millions of Black families landed in poverty because of the impact of welfare.

Welfare Reform and Black Child Poverty

"There are 11.7 million Black children in poverty to date; however, the decline in poverty since welfare reform has been particularly dramatic among black children. For a quarter-century prior to welfare reform, there was little change in black child poverty. Black child poverty was actually higher in 1995 (41.5 percent) than in 1971 (40.4 percent).

With the enactment of welfare reform in 1996, black child poverty plummeted at an unprecedented rate, falling by more than a quarter to 30.2 percent in 2001. Over a six-year period after welfare reform, 1.2 million black children were lifted out of poverty. In 2001, despite the recession, the poverty rate for black

The Rise of the Single Black Female

The government became an advocate for Black females and children in poverty. It became imperative that these women get off welfare and into the workforce. Thus, the focus shifted from dependency on welfare to the dependency on self. During this time, it would have been more positive to implement Black family programs that could have strengthened the family structure.

Community groups, churches, and Black leaders were too distracted with political prestige to realize that the Black family structure was in pieces. Instead of promoting the Black family, society promoted independence of the woman. This, of course, left the Black man out of the picture and to the buzzards of the air, to rot away in prison cells and in the world of drugs being pumped into Black communities. In other words, provisions were made for Black women via government assistance but none was made for Black men to recover from the impact of welfare.

"Two and a half million nonresident fathers have family incomes below the poverty line and do not pay child support. These fathers generally face the same employment barriers that poor custodial mothers face. Few programs are available to provide these fathers with employment-related services, although such services are an integral part of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) programs that serve poor custodial mothers."

Child Support a Symptom of Black Poverty

Because more Black women and children were found in poverty, the government decided to begin enforcing the child support laws on the books. This led to an all-out manhunt for Black men of whom women and children were among the poor. The incarceration rates skyrocketed during the late 80s early nineties because of arrest of Black men who owed back child support.

The idea was to get as much money from these "deadbeat dads" as possible so they can foot the bill for these illegitimate children in poverty. Black women were once again an ally of the Federal Government in this battle. They collected on back child support as well as from the TANF programs: food stamps, employment assistance, welfare checks and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). In the meantime, Black men were entering the prison system twice as fast.

"Since the enactment of welfare reform and tightened child support collection, the drop in child poverty among children in single-mother families has been dramatic. Poverty was only slightly lower in 1995 (50.3 percent) than it had been in 1971 (53.1 percent). The poverty rate for children of single mothers fell at a dramatic rate, from 50.3 percent in 1995 to 39.3 percent in 2001. In 2001, despite the recession, the poverty rate for children in single-mother families was at the lowest point in U.S. history."

However, the government has determined another flaw in their efforts to assist Black women. They are finding that Black men who owe child support and who are recently released from the prison system are in fact, becoming a poverty statistic. People ask many times, how can a man support his child when he is behind bars? This question always fell on the deafened ears of intolerance during all the reforming.

Many lawmakers became insensitive to the plight of Black men and concerned themselves fully with only the Black woman and child. However, the chickens have come home to roost. The poverty rates of Black men are alarming.

"Further efforts to increase the number of poor children receiving child support should consider the limited potential of their noncustodial parents to pay support. There are approximately 2.5 million noncustodial fathers who are poor and do not pay child support. These fathers face many of the same barriers to work as poor mothers who do not receive child support.

In particular, 43 percent of these fathers have not completed high school, the same percentage figure among poor custodial mothers who do not receive child support. Nearly 40 percent of these fathers report a health problem and 62 percent of them do not have health insurance. About one third of them have not held a job for more than three years. Among those who work, their average annual earnings are only about \$5,000. These employment barriers and low earnings make it difficult for fathers to meet their own basic needs as well as provide for their non-custodial children.

One employment barrier that disproportionately affects poor noncustodial fathers is incarceration and having a criminal record. Nearly 30 percent of poor noncustodial fathers who do not pay child support are institutionalized. Most of these fathers are in prison. Once these fathers leave institutional life, their work prospects will not improve that much. Their criminal record and interrupted labor force participation make these men unattractive to prospective employers."

Where Do We Go from Here?

There is yet a solution for the Black male and there will probably not be any time soon, not from a government perspective. The government would just as well do away with the Black man altogether anyway. The only solution must come from within the Black community itself. This is where Black men and women must reconcile their differences.

We must acknowledge the problem at hand and deal with it justly without animosity. Our children and their futures are at stake. We cannot afford to allow this continued system of bureaucratic destruction tear apart the Black family. Though individual responsibility is always a solution, the problem is greater than any one person is. This government structure has interfered with the Black family for years.

Black woman must see that the system that appears to assist and favor them is the same one that has succeeded in helping to destroy their lives. This system is slowly annihilating the Black man, and will eventually become a hindrance in the Black woman's own son or daughter's lives. The solution is to renounce these systems and focus more on the family structure.

What is so ironic is that government workers - of whom Blacks make up a significant population - operate from within these systems. In so many ways, we have been trained to destroy our own selves and make money doing it. Furthermore, the money we make is not going toward the reestablishing of the Black community and family, but toward lining the pockets of capitalist corporations through conspicuous consumption.

The Appeal

Now that the government has discovered that more Black men are in poverty and thus cannot pay child support, get decent jobs because of prison records, or qualify for any government assistance as women do, will they admit to their shortsightedness and biasness toward Black men? Or will they forever turn a deaf ear?

We ask the Black woman to ponder this study and become proactive in the fight to regain their own dignity as well as the dignity and self-esteem of Black children and men. Since the Black woman has become the apple of the government's eye and not the brunt of their hostility, it is the Black woman who can do most to make change. Anything personal can and will be rectified naturally based on the simple laws of gratitude.

Source from: <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Welfare/BG1595.cfm>

2004 by CR Hamilton

The Expanding Cycle of Black Single Parenting

A cycle is an entity that goes around and around infinitely never breaking its loop. An expanding cycle is one that grows larger as it loops, such as a snowball rolling down a hill. The Black single-parent dilemma has become a never-ending expanding cycle due to a few reasons deliberately unconnected by current research. However, Aframerica will connect these reasons thus giving a more realistic reason why Black single-parent families are expanding.

According to recent U.S. Census Bureau reports, "Single parents accounted for almost two-thirds (65 percent) of all African American family groups with children present, compared with 35 percent among Hispanics and 25 percent among Whites."

The main reasons given for the rise in Black single-parent families, according to some scientific research by Mark Fossett and Jill Kiecolt, "higher welfare benefits lead to lower rates of marriage and greater numbers of children living in single-parent homes. In general, an increase of roughly \$100 in the average monthly AFDC benefit per recipient child was found to lead to a drop of more than 15 percent in births within wedlock among black women ages 20 to 24."

In essence, researchers would have people believe that the increase in single-parent families is mainly due to Black's role on welfare. This finding may be legitimate to an extent when pertaining to welfare, but there are other reasons not measured nor reported by researchers that give rise to Black single-parent families. The reason researchers do not reveal those findings is because it would reflect on the country's practice of racial discrimination.

Some other factors researchers use to justify the increase: "Research by former Congressional Budget Office Director June O'Neill shows that, holding constant a wide range of other variables such as income, parental education, and urban and neighborhood setting, a 50 percent increase in the monthly value of welfare benefits leads to a 43 percent increase in out-of-wedlock births." (Heritage Foundation, 2002). Though taking into consideration income, parental education, and living arrangements, the report still holds that welfare is the central factor.

However, let us look at factors gone unreported, such as the decrease of available Black men (and that reason), the decline of marriage in conventional society in every race, and the actual result of the "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996" passed by Congress and President Clinton.

First, the absence of Black men in society would be one logical reason why 3.2 million Black women head single-parent families in the U.S. The question "Where are all the good Black men" is echoed throughout urban and suburban communities around the country and the most ordinary answer is always "In jail."

For every 100 Black prisoners there is one Black male college graduate, and the numbers in that area is rising also. More Black men are being locked up for non-violent, drug related crimes than are being

educated. Of course, research behind this factor would presumptuously point to some phenomena of Black male resistance to conventional society other than to any other obvious factor, such as judicial and cultural racism.

Next, the decline of marriage values in society inevitably affects everyone, not just Black women. There are currently 11 million single-parent families in the U.S. Because about two and a half million people divorce each year, stable marriages have decrease tremendously since 1970. This leaves all people vulnerable to dysfunctional family life.

The introduction of birth control and abortion during the late 60s and 70s contributed greatly to the decline of marriage and family values. And over the last two decades, free sexual expression has demeaned personal responsibility inviting many other factors that lead to dysfunctional families. Thus, welfare cannot logically be the central reason of the rise in Black single-parent families because the social breakdown of the American family in general far outweighs the welfare factor as pertaining to cause and effect.

In fact, if researchers claim that welfare is the central factor in Black single-parent families, then they must ask themselves whether or not Blacks have been partitioned from the general American society as a deliberate act of welfare or if they themselves are not being racially biased. In other words, if the rise in Black single-parent families is mainly because of welfare then why is not the rise in single-parent families as a whole not contributed to welfare? The fact is that social morality is the major cause of single-parent families. But as pertaining to Blacks, researchers would rather attribute welfare as the reason for Blacks simply to undermine Blacks.

For instance, in another report on illegitimacy and single-parenting (as a whole in America) researchers claimed "The collapse of marriage is the principal cause of child poverty in the United States. Virtually all social and psychological problems are intensified by the absence of a father in the home."

What this says is that while the researchers will attribute illegitimacy and single parenting in America as a whole to "the collapse of marriage", it attributes illegitimacy and single parenting among Blacks to welfare, confirming the earlier fact that Blacks have been partitioned from conventional society based on nothing more than subtle bigotry. Furthermore, if fatherhood is essential in raising a healthy child, how can Black men be expected to raise their children if they are behind bars?

Finally, we will totally dissect the theory of Congress' and Clinton's "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996" and how many claim that it did wonders for the Black community in terms of getting them off welfare and into the workforce. The truth is, this act did more damage than good.

Many young Black women were pushed into the workforce but many lacked education and skills to compete for any decent jobs. Among the other millions of white women who were also kicked off welfare, employers were more apt to hire from the white women than the Black ones. Thus many Black women were caught in low-wage positions buried in urban cities while white women were enjoying suburban jobs paying more money from employers who offered more benefits.

When Black women saw that working and raising a child was harder than they anticipated, especially from the wages of six and \$7 an hour, they had to compromise many areas of their daily lives to make

ends meet. In addition, the shortage of Black men in urban areas and the low achievements of urban schools added more pressure to their already escalating dilemma.

Though many sought other alternatives, such as job training, education through community college, and the government programs that offered welfare to work assistance, others faced more stringent problems and turn to less productive means of survival such as drugs and crime. Thus causing the increase of Black women in U.S. jails and the rise of Black children living with grandparents and in foster care.

Measuring the successful ones against those that failed, the data is not positive in an overall since, but a negative one. Though at one time many Black (and white) women sat idol on welfare, the prison and single parent family stats were lower, there was a trade off for just the opposite. As far as gains, tax-payers may have seen a decrease in government spending for welfare but as a result saw an increase in the funding of more jails and prison inmates. Thus the trade-off gained nothing but shifted to another sector of social ruin.

Now there are more Black men and Black women in prison than ever before and the rise of single parent Black families continues. As long as Black women move from welfare to work and employers only offer them menial wages as compared to white women, they will face this dilemma for a long time, thus the cycle expands.

The only remedy for breaking the cycle would be to seriously investigate the judicial system and for whites to honestly report on their own racial prejudices. If Black men were more available and employers abandoned the "group threat" theory of "taking care of our own," the cycle of Black single-parent families could be broken and defeated. But how often does American society actually change its ways?

2003 by CR Hamilton

Stepfamilies

The stepfamily in today's culture has taken authority by pushing the traditional family aside. A single and looking person can barely avoid the stepfamily situation in America today so here are some myths to dispel and tips for surviving this new form of the American family.

The stepfamily comes in various flavors; the single woman with children who gets married, or the man with children that lives with his ex-wife or girlfriend, which are both the most common. However, there is the single woman with no children who marries a man with children that lives with his ex-wife or girlfriend, there is the single man with no children who marries a woman with children, and there is the man and woman who both have children from previous relationships.

Regardless of the situation, stepfamilies are families with ready-made problems. First, there is the issue with the ex. Is the ex a jealous ex who is also possessive about his or her children? Is the ex a decent person who sincerely desires the happiness for the new family? Or is the ex even in the picture?

Are there two exs' - one on either side - who are jealous-possessive or one who is and one who is decent? Are there other family members who favor the ex over the new spouse who may be a threat to the relationship? This is always a possibility and a nerve-racking one at that. A family member who chooses to be in cahoots with the ex is a family member best kept at a distance.

The ex situation is one that should be handled first. There has to be an understanding as to how the new spouse is going to treat the children, if it matters, and how they will treat the related spouse. Also, the ex has to give the new spouse a chance to show their responsibility toward their children. However, if the new spouse has as many issues as the ex, then there is another problem.

If the ex situation cannot be handled effectively from either the ex's side or the new spouse's perspective and neither one of them has any sense of compromise at all, then maybe the whole thing is a mistake, however, if both can come to a mutual agreement as to the children and any neutral grounds for respect at meetings, then give it a shot.

Then there are the children of the new and old family.

There are many sides to this story also. The new spouse can be a really nice person and very forgiving and has a good rapport with children, but if the children are bitter and resentful, this could cause a strain on the new spouse. And if the other spouse (the parent if the children) does not understand the difference between his or her disrespectful children and the tolerance level of the new spouse, then the whole thing, again, should be reconsidered.

People should not expect everything to go right by their new spouse and their old children. They must view the situation from a broad perspective and not be influenced from outside sources, such as a jealous-possessive ex or an indifferent family member. The person must see things for what they really are. Are the children the problem or is it the new spouse?

One cannot protect the guilty because the outcome will always be negative. The first thing to do is pinpoint the culprit and sit them down to a nice discussion about respect for people first off, then respect for your own decision. If that person cannot understand and does not want to comply, then more drastic measures must be taken, like ignoring their feelings and opinions because their feelings and opinions really do not matter if they are being unreasonable. What matters is how the relationship with the new spouse or old children will work out.

Another problem with stepfamilies and the children involved is a new baby, little (half) brother or sister. How will the old child take this news? How will the ex take the news? Will they accuse you of paying more attention and caring more for the new child rather than the old? Will they attempt to turn the old child against the new one, as they grow older? Or will the old child mistreat the new one?

The best remedy for this situation is to keep ex's at a permanent distance from the new baby and to draw closer to the old child as a family. If the old child does not want to draw closer it is either because of the influence from the ex or other outsiders or because you have offended them some way, form, or fashion. Take the time and discuss their feelings then. That is when their feelings really matter, when it comes to the affection they are receiving from you and the new spouse.

The following myths about stepfamilies can be stumbling blocks on the stepfamily journey.

Myth #1 - Love occurs instantly between the child and the stepparent.

Simply because you love your new partner does not mean you will automatically love his or her children; or that the children will automatically love you because their parent does. Of course, if we think about it, we recognize that establishing relationships takes time; that it does not happen overnight.

Even if we recognize the time factor involved, it is hard to accept that sometimes we are willing to have a relationship with someone who is not willing to have a relationship with us. That hurts, and when people hurt, they may become resentful and angry. That goes for new spouse, old children and exs'.

Stepfamily adjustment can be helped if we come to the relationships with our stepchildren and families with minimal, and, therefore, more realistic, expectations about how the relationships will develop. We may then be pleased when respect and friendship blossom and less disappointed if it takes more time than we anticipated.

Myth #2 - Children of divorce and remarriage are forever damaged.

Children go through a painful period of adjustment after a divorce or remarriage. Adults often respond to their children's pain with guilt. Somehow they feel they can "make it up" to them. This leads to difficulties in responding appropriately to our children's hurt and setting appropriate limits - an important part of parenting.

Myth #3 - Stepparents (mothers) are wicked.

This myth is based on the fairy tales we all hear as children. Because these stories tell about stepmothers who are not kind, nice or fair, women may be confused about their roles when they become stepmothers. They are nice people, wanting to do a good job, but the world seems to have another idea about stepmothers.

This negative concept of the stepparent role impacts men and women in a very personal ways and they may be very negatively self-conscious about step parenting. Research tells us that stepparents have the most difficult role in the stepfamily.

Myth #4 - Adjustment to stepfamily life occurs quickly.

People are optimistic and hopeful when they remarry. They want life to settle down and to get on with being happy. If your hope or expectation is that once the wedding vows are spoken life will return to normal (whatever that is), you are going to be disappointed.

Because stepfamilies are such complicated families, the time it takes for people to get to know each other, to create positive relationships, and to develop some family history that is significant, usually at least four years.

Myth #5 - Children adjust to divorce and remarriage more easily if biological fathers (or mothers) withdraw.

Children will always have two biological parents, and will adjust better if they can access both. This means they need to be able to see their nonresidential parent and to think well of him or her. Sometimes

visitation is painful for the nonresidential parent, but it is very important to the child's adjustment and emotional health, except in those rare instances of parental abuse or neglect.

It helps if the residential parent and stepparent can work toward a "parenting partnership" with all the adults involved. Sometimes this can't happen right away, but it can be something to work toward.

Myth #6 - Stepfamilies formed after a parent dies are easier.

People need time to grieve the loss of a loved one, and a remarriage may "reactivate" unfinished grieving. These emotional issues may get played out in the new relationship with detrimental effects.

Another problem is that it can be difficult to think realistically about the person who has died. He or she exists in memory, not in reality, and sometimes gets elevated to sainthood.

When people remarry after the death of a spouse, they may want a relationship similar to the one before. When people remarry after a divorce, they are usually looking for something very different. New partners may find themselves competing with a ghost.

Myth #7 - Part-time stepfamilies are easier.

Relationships take time. Stepfamilies where the children only visit occasionally are hampered by the lack of time to work on relationships.

If your stepchildren come every other weekend, there is less time for one-on-one time between the stepchild and stepparent, and less time for family activities. Since stepfamilies follow an adjustment process (stages of development), it may take the part-time stepfamily longer to move through the process.

Myth #8 - There is only one kind of family.

This is the myth that says you will be just like a first marriage (or biological) family. Today there are lots of different kinds of families, first marriage, single parent, foster, and stepfamilies to name a few. Each is valuable and has different characteristics. Just because there are two adults in the stepfamily doesn't mean that it recreates a biological family. If this is what you are hoping for, you will be frustrated when it doesn't happen.

2003 by AfroStaff

The Virgin Thief

Parents, teachers, and scholars vigorously search for the answer to preventing sexually active teenagers from teen pregnancy, disease, and from ruining their lives. They coordinate programs, both private and government, that will supposedly thwart this growing trend: they campaign over the television airways using pop stars and celebrities who blurt witty phrases and clauses they hope will permeate into young

people's minds so they can stop the madness. Scholars study families, students, and parents like scientist study lab rats, only to come up with a weak and exasperated solution that only gives consent to the problem, such as condoms, sex education, and safe sex courses.

Unfortunately, the answer is not in studies. Researchers avoid the root of the problem. Sex before marriage is a sin and many of those same minds that spend millions of dollars for these programs and campaigns commit the same sin. Unbridled sex is either fornication or adultery. Age does not matter when sin is in question, even if the person is only ten years old. If they have knowledge of sex and practice it purposefully, the moment they do they are committing an act of sin.

The most logical strategy society has come up with to combat premature teen sex - which brings about pregnancy, disease, and ruined lives - is abstinence, a strategy now gaining precedence among parents, some psychologist, and school officials. But before children can learn the concept of abstinence, the parents must first understand the concept themselves. This takes us to the issue of the Virgin Thief, which is at the root of the teen sex, consensual adult fornication, and adultery during marriage.

For anyone who has ever had sex before marriage, particularly at a young age, they are victims of the Virgin Thief. God intended for all, both males and females, to remain virgins until He placed them with their ordained spouse. The problem is that people do not have the patience to wait on God but they follow the trends of society. Society says that sex is cool, nothing to be ashamed of, and the new age thing to do. Now that there is a teen sex problem, a disease problem, and a so-called overpopulation of the world problem, this sex problem is an epidemic.

The Virgin Thief is a spirit that overshadows people, especially young virgins, and convinces them that sex is normal, everyone is doing it and at some point, they should too. This is where it all begins, at the point of virginity. Again, every parent should know the concept of abstinence and be able to answer any questions and give any explanations of its reasoning. Such as, why a young person should remain abstinent and what the benefits are of remaining a virgin. Well, here are the answers and the complete concept of abstinence and how to defeat the Virgin Thief.

We are all born virgins, and whether our parents attend church or not, we all belong to God in body and soul. Parents are responsible for instilling into their children the knowledge of God or a Supreme Being of any kind that enforces the laws of nature. The parent is responsible for teaching the child right and wrong and what is good in life and what is not. Sex before marriage is as a bad thing and a seductive trap laid for the innocent soul. It is seductive because we are to save our bodies for the mate God has made for us and the seductive powers of sex wants us to share our bodies with anyone our bodies desire, which is called lust.

Once a person gives their body to another before marriage, they no longer belong to God, but to the power of lust, and they can never return to God unless they are born again. In only that manner will they become virgins again. After lust has taken a body captive, that body falls into an abyss of sexual desire and promiscuity, which leads that body around from lover to lover. It is very difficult releasing the self from such a trap, unless the person regains control of their body. If they can once again regain control, they must stay abstinent for a period satisfactory to God before being cleansed again.

Cleansed again? Yes, cleansed again: if a person has sex before marriage, they have biblically committed fornication and have defiled the temple of God, which is the body. Their body is now joined to that of a harlot's body, which takes them into the abyss discussed earlier. "What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body, but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:16-20).

Once the temple is defiled by fornication, (premarital sex) the person has joined themselves to harlots and God no longer has complete custody of their body. This leads to other sins also. The servant is then slave to the master. If the master can convince the slave to give over their most precious possession to corruption, then the master can convince them to commit other sins. This is how marriages fall, by lies and deception. This is how relationships fall apart, by lust and obedience to seduction. And this is how we lose teens to many evil mentalities and immoral lifestyles, because they fall victim to the Virgin Thief.

Thus, we must address the root of the problem first, which is to defeat the Virgin Thief. Parents must convince their children, and themselves, that from birth and as long as they are virgins, they belong to God, but once they give over their bodies to fornication, they are the property of the Virgin Thief. As long as one remains a virgin, they belong totally to God and can follow the direction of God more easily. They are pure in body, heart and in mind and can think clearer and judge soundly. They can live a more secure life, free from disease, unwanted pregnancies, and possibly heart-breaking or abusive relationships. Maintaining control over the body is practical and more logical than government programs, condoms, and sex education, and not to mention, cheaper.

2003 by C.R. Hamilton

Death By Fast Food

The fast food industry is literally making a killing. More people are overweight and sickly because of diet than at anytime in U.S. history. No age group is exempt from this epidemic; from children to older adults, people are consuming more unhealthy fast food meals and the health risks are increasing.

Faster food assist in the hurried lifestyles of busy Americans. Everything has to keep pace with the schedules of economic gurus who place business before anything else, including family and friends. Everyone suffers, but children suffer the most because they are growing in a society that places less value on health and more on money.

According to a report by the Harvard School of Public Health, "consumption of fast food by children increased dramatically from 1970 to the mid-1990s-it's estimated that children now get 10 percent of their total energy intake from fast foods, compared to 2 percent in the late 1970s. That's in part because the

number of fast-food restaurants more than doubled between 1972 and 1995, and massive advertising campaigns were aimed at children and their parents. But it's also because fast food pervades virtually every segment of society, including public schools and hospitals."

The "mother" figure has diminished in society and given way to the soccer/working mom, and the simple act of cooking home meals for the family has become a dirty, oppressive stereotype. The glory and status of the working woman and the dual income family has, in effect, opened the door to industry who are now responsible for feeding our families.

Black Americans are at greater risk of health problems because of the inequalities in health care treatment and low family income. The catch 22 of the Black family is that the majority of Black families are made up of single-mothers, thus the mother does not always have time to cook for her child, and this is how the fast food industry stays in business.

A clever business for the Black entrepreneur today would be to open a home-cooked meal service in the community and offer healthy alternatives to fast food. In addition, Black physicians should offer more assistance to the Black community in terms of check ups and mainly information and preventative health workshops in schools and community centers. The health of our children and us must return to our own hands.

Source from: <http://www.healthinschools.org/ejournal/2004/feb4.htm>

2005 by CR Hamilton

Your Government FDA: Federal Deranged Asylum

It is a damn shame that a society of 300 million people is subjected to the demented minds of a scientific field gone completely insane. Like a bad sci-fi movie out of the twilight zone, the FDA are willing to force feed the people cloned animals even despite public objection.

There is a movie called "Soilent Green" where a disaster reduces the earth's population and the remaining population is fed three times a week by the government. The climax of the movie comes when a lone rebel, played by Charleston Heston, discovers that what the people are eating are in fact the processed bodies of the dead and dying, which are made into bread and crackers. Well America, learn to enjoy your crackers.

The same demented minds that confused brilliance with stupidity and believed that feeding people other people was a good idea and was for the best, are the same minds today that believe feeding people fake animals is good for preserving food resources. This is their logic; producing cloned animals is a way to preserve a food source for the future.

Never mind believing in the concept of reproduction by nature, raising farm animals and growing food from the earth, no, scratch all that natural God-given earth stuff, “Hey, let’s make animals and feed them to the people! Save some money.”

According to a report, “FDA to Back Food from Cloned Animals,” ‘meat and milk from cloned farm animals and their offspring can start making their way toward supermarket shelves.’ Forget asking the people who will be eating this stuff what they feel about it, or waiting for Congress to actually approve this drastic step of scientific madness, the FDA simply decided to do whatever the hell they wanted.

“The decision would be a notable act of defiance against Congress, which last month passed appropriations legislation recommending that any such approval be delayed pending further studies.” Washington Post.com.

But this message from Congress was flat out ignored and who knows if we have not been eating this crap already.

The public should be outraged about this sick and twisted matter and should demand that the FDA be disabled, torn apart, and scratched from the history books.

However, many do not understand why this is such a threat and trust the FDA and will eat anything as long as they can eat.

The FDA, an agency that completely ignored approval of children’s cold medicines, should not be trusted at all. “Child versions of cold remedies came on the market decades ago, when scientists thought that what worked in adults would automatically work in children. Scientists today know that is not always the case. In fact, FDA never formally allowed infant-targeted cold remedies in the first place; Ganley said they evolved through a legal loophole.”

Why should the people trust an organization that obviously had no concern about children? What universities are these people attending that they graduate unsure of scientific facts, and who the hell are hiring these people and entrust an entire nation to? What the hell is going on?

Why cannot science subject themselves to natural law instead of attempting to prove they can duplicate and possibly out-do the fantasy world of Hollywood? When humanity have progressed to the point that advancement loses touch with reality, are we in fact advancing, or simply losing touch with reality? Who the hell put these people in charge of our lives?

The FDA refuse to disclose the numbers of how many people are actually for and against eating clones, which suggest they have something to hide. Many people rejected KFC when it was reported that the chickens were not real but in fact genetic forms of birds without eyes or beaks.

The public will not eat fish if the fish have never actually swum in water but were produced by a bunch of science kids in a lab funded by eccentric European scientist. More people would be reluctant to drink orange juice if they find out that the juice is not from an actual orange but from a mixture of red, blue and green dye and rainwater even if the label on it says FDA Approved.

Research has also documented that actual live animals – mother cows and cattle – do not naturally recognize the cloned animals as being real, or as a part of the family. The clones are simply stuffed genetic carbons without feeling or soul.

According to the Bible and the laws of nature, only the blood gives true life and nothing else. Scientist have no clue how blood gives life or the details as to what and how the body is nourished from the blood, if they did, they would know that to replicate life can only be done properly by natural reproduction.

These are the same people who allow untested medication onto store shelves. Who agree with doctors and allow any possible side effects of various medications, which could amount to possible dizziness, diarrhea, vomiting, mental despondence, aches and pains, short term impotence, birth defects, memory loss, temporary lose of eye sight, possible loss of bodily functions in public, uncontrollable fits of rage, outburst of violence in children, increased sexual desires for little children in men over 50, the need to constantly have sex with strangers, uncontrolled breathing patterns, and a 50 percent chance of death if not taken according doctor's orders or technically approved by the FDA.

Regardless of the side effects, the FDA allow drugs to pass on to the public even if it means a growing population of sick and dysfunctional people. Of course the pharmaceutical and insurance companies are ok with unapproved or research drugs and foods, as long as they can make money. This is all the sick, greedy, demented result of a capitalist system gone completely ethically and morally bankrupt.

Suggestion: Learn to grow your own food, purchase a passport in case of emergency evacuation of this deranged country, invest in some farm land in South America or Africa, pray that you have not eaten and never will eat cloned garbage, and keep your faith in God, life, and the natural order of things, no more should you trust the FDA, and lastly, pass this message along.

Jan 2008 By CR Hamilton

Healthy Foods not an Option in Black Community

Recent studies confirm that grocery stores in lower-income Black neighborhoods offer less health food options than stores in more affluent, mostly white communities, making it more challenging for Blacks to maintain a normal weight and live a healthy lifestyle.

Trying to better eating habits and a change of diet for many Blacks under a doctor's care may require long drives to suburban neighborhoods just to get a decent variety of healthy foods. Foods such as fresh vegetables, whole grains and rice, various herbs and spices, and pasta are not as plentiful in urban grocery stores as they are in suburban stores.

This simply adds to the long list of neglect of the Black community. And contrary to popular beliefs, this shortage of decent food cannot be attributed to Blacks and their lifestyle, but to the practices of a capitalist system at work. How can any Black person be blamed for the distribution of goods and service

to their communities, and the choices of major grocery chains to choose whom they will cater to and whom they will not.

A statistical comparison was done by researchers with local health advocacy group Community Health Councils Inc., the University of Southern California and the University of California-Los Angeles. Among their findings, reported in the July issue of Journal of General Internal Medicine:

- 38% of the stores in the black communities carried skim milk, compared with 80% of white neighborhoods.
- 70% of the stores in the black neighborhoods had fresh fruits and vegetables, compared with 94% of the stores in the white communities.
- There was less variety of produce, and it was of a poorer quality, in the black neighborhoods: 13 fruits and 21 vegetables in a typical store in those areas, compared with 26 fruits and 38 vegetables in the stores in the mostly white communities.

Community members reported "finding unappealing vegetables and fruits such as brown bananas" in the lower-income neighborhoods, says lead author David Sloane, an associate professor of policy, planning and development at USC.

Another issue that comes to mind after gaining this knowledge is; are there any activist groups that are informing the Black community of what is good to eat and what is not. We cannot depend on HMO physicians to keep us informed of what new studies are done and their findings. We must get this knowledge for ourselves.

Black leaders who have access to this knowledge must take responsibility and relay this information to low-income community residences. The leaders must also gather formal petitions to demand better service in Black communities and not the substandard service we have been getting for too many years.

Source from: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2003-08-04-food-usat_x.htm

2004 by Afro Staff

America's Fascination With Humiliation

No longer is it socially acceptable to publicly humiliate Black people, or put women in their place - barefoot and pregnant; or question the homosexual's ways, but its OK to harass smokers and fat people. Who are these browbeaters who are not satisfied unless they have someone to make fun of?

The new, so-called study that has decided to make overweight people the brunt of public harassment and soon-to-be source of judicial welfare is yet another tool used by the supposed "angelic-American." One would now suppose that if you are not Black, a stay-at-home mom, a homosexual, a smoker or overweight, you must be an angel. This would leave who, non-smoking heterosexual white boys and career women, all skinny people with degrees in social humiliation.

Institutes of higher education in cahoots with politically correct activist and neo-liberal humanist sit together in conference rooms devising ways to tax the nation and this is what they come up with. From these people's perspective, the idea is to make people stop smoking and stop eating fatty foods so that they can live healthier lives. But the real reason is so they can find ways to drag big businesses into the courts.

In other words, they are funding their agendas at the expense of the very victims they are using to bait the corporate lawsuit hook. It's the game of a schoolyard instigator; talk about the fat kid really bad to get them upset and then put your arm around the fat kid and point to the one you hate the most and say "it's his fault, get him." It is the same game with the smokers and who knows whose next, probably Pepsi drinkers.

They complain that the nation spends billions of dollars every year on health care because of people who smoke and people who are overweight, and because of these two vile sins, the cancer rate is sky high, so if they can humiliate people into not choosing these unhealthy habits, the country would be a better place.

What they do not tell you is that the smoking campaign, which is suppose to keep children from smoking is not working like they expected, in fact, children (college kids included) are not only smoking like never before, they are doing other drugs like ecstasy and cocaine, and they are binge drinking on college campuses like crazy. They are having sex like crazy, contracting diseases like crazy, and committing other vile and disgusting crimes and immoralities that the media, scholars and activist are not reporting on or even care about. The point is to direct a crisis toward companies that make the most money.

Never mind that alcohol causes just as many deaths as smoking and obesity, or that marijuana and cocaine causes many other health defects that cost the nation billions. Never mind that STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) are costing the nation billions as well as Aids, the medically uninsured due to overpriced medical insurance, overpaid lawyers and judges, overpaid congress people and political demagogues, gluttonous capitalist CEO's, overpaid and over-praised scholars of higher education (the creeps who write these studies), and many more channels of greed that drain the country of unnecessary funds. They pick and choose their targets very carefully.

This country has become so pathetic in its practice of morality that it is no wonder American ethics are in question in many parts of the world. It is also a possibility that the twisted ethical standards in America were interpreted as a weakness, which caused terrorist to attempt annihilation. When fate and prophesy has its way, because this country has chosen to stoop to public humiliation to fulfill a political agenda based on simple greed, there will come a day when a plague will hit this country so vehemently that not only will all Americans be thin, but will be made a spectacle to the world.

2003 by C.R. Hamilton

ADHD and the Black Child

ADHD refers to a family of related chronic neurobiological disorders that interfere with an individual's capacity to regulate activity level (hyperactivity), inhibit behavior (impulsivity), and attend to tasks (inattention) in developmentally appropriate ways.

The core symptoms of ADHD include:

- a. An inability to sustain attention and concentration
- b. Developmentally inappropriate levels of activity
- c. Distractibility, and impulsivity.

Children with ADHD have functional impairment across multiple settings including home, school, and peer relationships. ADHD has also been shown to have long-term adverse effects on academic performance, vocational success, and social-emotional development.

Children with ADHD experience an inability to sit still and pay attention in class and the negative consequences of such behavior. They experience peer rejection and engage in a broad array of disruptive behaviors. Their academic and social difficulties have far-reaching and long-term consequences. These children have higher injury rates.

As they grow older, children with untreated ADHD, in combination with conduct disorders, experience drug abuse, antisocial behavior, and injuries of all sorts. For many individuals, the impact of ADHD continues into adulthood.

Afro Interpretation

The above description of this newly discovered scientific disease among youth is society's way of ignoring the fact that parents today cannot control their children and that they have poor parenting skills overall. Children who sit before a television set for hours at a time in addition to the mind-altering video games while their parent(s) work hours at a time, have changed the thinking and reasoning patterns of our children. Instead of going after the culture-killing companies that profit most from television and games, parents would rather drug the kids.

Symptoms of ADHD

- Inattention

People who are inattentive have a hard time keeping their mind on one thing and may get bored with a task after only a few minutes. Focusing conscious, deliberate attention to organizing and completing routine tasks may be difficult.

· Hyperactivity

People who are hyperactive always seem to be in motion. They can't sit still; they may dash around or talk incessantly. Sitting still through a lesson can be an impossible task. They may roam around the room, squirm in their seats, wiggle their feet, touch everything, or noisily tap a pencil. They may also feel intensely restless.

· Impulsivity

People who are overly impulsive, seem unable to curb their immediate reactions or think before they act. As a result, they may blurt out answers to questions or inappropriate comments, or run into the street without looking. Their impulsivity may make it hard for them to wait for things they want or to take their turn in games. They may grab a toy from another child or hit when they are upset.

How many children are diagnosed with ADHD?

ADHD is the most commonly diagnosed disorder of childhood, estimated to affect 3 to 5 percent of school-age children, and occurring three times more often in boys than in girls. On average, about one child in every classroom in the United States needs help for this disorder.

How are schools involved in diagnosing, assessing, and treating ADHD?

Physicians and parents should be aware that schools are federally mandated to perform an appropriate evaluation if a child is suspected of having a disability that impairs academic functioning. This policy was recently strengthened by regulations implementing the 1997 reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), which guarantees appropriate services and a public education to children with disabilities from ages 3 to 21.

For the first time, IDEA specifically lists ADHD as a qualifying condition for special education services. If the assessment performed by the school is inadequate or inappropriate, parents may request that an independent evaluation be conducted at the school's expense.

Furthermore, some children with ADHD qualify for special education services within the public schools, under the category of "Other Health Impaired." In these cases, the special education teacher, school psychologist, school administrators, classroom teachers, along with parents, must assess the child's strengths and weaknesses and design an Individualized Education Program. These special education services for children with ADHD are available through IDEA.

Afro Interpretation

Be careful Black people, this is just another avenue for the system to label your Black child as mentally incapable. They have support from the school board and the United States government to label your children this way. If ever this is tried on you and your children, never agree to the diagnosis and know that it could actually be an attempt to label your child. These labels do not go away easily. They stay with your child for life, making it harder for them to get jobs and recognition from accredited colleges if this is on their record as a special Ed student diagnosis with ADHD.

Is ADHD on the increase? If so, why?

No one knows for sure whether the prevalence of ADHD per se has risen, but it is very clear that the number of children identified with the disorder who obtain treatment has risen over the past decade. Some of this increased identification and increased treatment seeking is due in part to greater media interest, heightened consumer awareness, and the availability of effective treatments. A similar pattern is now being observed in other countries. Whether the frequency of the disorder itself has risen remains unknown, and needs to be studied.

Afro Interpretation

Of course it has risen. Do not allow media propaganda to influence your thinking. It has become a crisis because more white children are being diagnosis with this scientifically engineered disease. The breakdown of the family and the lack of discipline of children together with the spying eye of social services have caused a crisis when there actually never was one.

Can a preschool child be diagnosed with ADHD?

The diagnosis of ADHD in the preschool child is possible, but can be difficult and should be made cautiously by experts well trained in childhood neurobehavioral disorders. Developmental problems, especially language delays, and adjustment problems can sometimes imitate ADHD. Treatment should focus on placement in a structured preschool with parent training and support. Stimulants can reduce oppositional behavior and improve mother-child interactions, but they are usually reserved for severe cases or when a child is unresponsive to environmental or behavioral interventions.

Afro Interpretation

Never, ever allow doctors to label your child this early with something they cannot definitely prove beyond a reasonable doubt. This type of early diagnosis is mere speculation and should not be inflicted on a newborn or infant child.

What is the impact of ADHD on children and their families?

Life can be hard for children with ADHD. They're the ones who are so often in trouble at school, can't finish a game, and have trouble making friends. They may spend agonizing hours each night struggling to keep their mind on their homework, and then forget to bring it to school. It is not easy coping with these frustrations day after day for children or their families. Family conflict can increase. In addition, problems with peers and friendships are often present in children with ADHD.

In adolescence, these children are at increased risk for motor vehicle accidents, tobacco use, early pregnancy, and lower educational attainment. When a child receives a diagnosis of ADHD, parents need to think carefully about treatment choices. And when they pursue treatment for their children, families face high out-of-pocket expenses because treatment for ADHD and other mental illnesses is often not covered by insurance policies.

School programs to help children with problems often connected to ADHD (social skills and behavior training) are not available in many schools. In addition, not all children with ADHD qualify for special education services. All of this leads to children who do not receive proper and adequate treatment. To

overcome these barriers, parents may want to look for school-based programs that have a team approach involving parents, teachers, school psychologists, other mental health specialists, and physicians.

Afro Interpretation

Children with the above problems could simply be suffering from a lack of attention and/or parental neglect, not necessarily ADHD. If a child is having a problem in school or making friends, maybe the work is too easy or the other children are too bad. Every other reason should be studied before a child is diagnosed with this lifetime label.

What medications are currently being used to treat ADHD?

Psychostimulant medications, including methylphenidate (Ritalin) and amphetamines (Dexedrine, Dextrostat, and Adderall), are by far the most widely researched and commonly prescribed treatments for ADHD. Numerous short-term studies have established the safety and efficacy of stimulants and psychosocial treatments for alleviating the symptoms of ADHD.

NIMH research has indicated that the two most effective treatment modalities for elementary school children with ADHD are a closely monitored medication treatment and a treatment that combines medication with intensive behavioral interventions. In the NIMH Multimodal Treatment Study for Children with ADHD (MTA), which included nearly 600 elementary school children across multiple sites, nine out of ten children improved substantially on one of these treatments.

Additionally, antidepressant medications may also be used as a second line of treatments for children who show poor response to stimulants, who have unacceptable side effects, or who have comorbid conditions (such as tics, anxiety, or mood disorders). Tricyclic antidepressants have shown clinical efficacy in 60-70% of children with ADHD.

While the medications were extremely beneficial to most children, MTA findings indicated that medications alone might not necessarily be the best strategy for many children. For example, children who had accompanying problems (e.g., anxiety, stressful home circumstances, social skills deficits, etc.), over and above the ADHD symptoms, appeared to obtain maximal benefit from the combined treatment.

Afro Interpretation

First, tell kids to "say no to drugs" and then shove drugs down their throats.

How often are stimulant prescriptions used?

Data from 1995 show that physicians treating children and adolescents wrote six million prescriptions for stimulant medications-methylphenidate (Ritalin) and dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine). Of all the drugs used to treat psychiatric disorders in children, stimulant medications are the most thoroughly studied.

Afro Interpretation

This is a very bad sign. This says that more parents are not doing their jobs. However, the media would have you believe that this is a good thing since more people are relying on these drugs. This is reverse psychology and should be seen as just that, and then ignored.

Isn't stimulant use on the increase?

Stimulant use in the United States has increased substantially over the last 25 years. A recent study saw a 2.5-fold increase in methylphenidate between 1990 and 1995. This increase appears to be largely related to an increased duration of treatment, and more girls, adolescents, adults, and inattentive individuals (in addition to those individuals with both hyperactivity and inattentiveness/attention deficit) receiving treatment.

Are there differences in stimulant use across racial and ethnic groups?

There are significant differences in access to mental health services between children of different racial groups; and, consequently, there are differences in medication use. In particular, African American children are much less likely than Caucasian children to receive psychotropic medications, including stimulants, for treatment of mental disorders.

Afro Interpretation

This is because Black parents do not see every little disturbance as a psychiatric disorder. Only white people believe that if one is behaving contrary to what mainstream society expect, they are in need of a stimulant. Black people just go with the flow and if someone has a problem it is dealt with and there is no need to pay for counseling.

Will children taking these medications for ADHD become drug addicts?

Actually, it appears to be just the opposite. Although an increased risk of drug abuse and cigarette smoking is associated with childhood ADHD, this risk appears mostly due to the ADHD condition itself, rather than its treatment. In a study jointly funded by the NIMH and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, boys with ADHD who were treated with stimulants were significantly less likely to abuse drugs and alcohol when they got older.

Caution is warranted, nonetheless, as the overall evidence suggests that persons with ADHD (particularly untreated ADHD) are indeed at greater risk for later alcohol or substance abuse.

Because some studies have come to conflicting conclusions, more research is needed to understand these phenomena. Regardless, in view of the substantial, well-established findings of the harmful effects of inadequate or no treatment for a child with ADHD, parents should not be dissuaded from seeking effective treatments because of misconstrued or exaggerated claims about substance abuse risks.

Afro Conclusion

As long as Black parents raise their children according to mainstream rules, they are going to fall into the same conditions that whites fall into. Their children are at greater risk of using drugs (of any kind). Though the urban cities are not as elaborate as some suburban areas, at least Blacks are not susceptible to these high-powered evil spiritual forces that plague white society. Be thankful of where God has put you and live life with love toward your children and with love comes discipline, which is the key to maintaining a sound mind.

Source from: <http://psychology.about.com/library/weekly/aa100102z.htm>

Suspected Genocide: AIDS and the Black World

Understanding the theories and formulas of nuclear fusion takes a mind continuously focused on and dedicated to developing scientific advancements into the technological realm of time and matter, but to notice the shift of the AIDS virus from the white homosexual male population to the larger portion of the Black-American community and the majority of African nations over a time period of 15 years takes nothing more than simple common [damn] sense.

Making a connection between stolen money from your purse or wallet every other day and little Jimmy suddenly wearing brand new sneakers that you the parent did not purchase falls along the same lines of simple common sense. At some point anyone with any sense has to make a connection. But because little Jimmy has manipulated his parents into believing they are too suspicious and too paranoid that they misinterpret anything he does, and because the parents try so hard to win and maintain little Jimmy's love and acceptance that they do not want to appear foolish or unreasonable nor want to offend him, little Jimmy has now laid the foundation to get away with anything he wants.

Such is the case with Black and white America as it pertains to the AIDS crises. Have we been so duped by the power of integration that we should not suspect new and subtler forms of annihilation and destruction of the Black race? Are we to suppose that there is no real attempt to hinder or dispose of the Black population because all is well on the integration front and because Martin Luther King's speech and dream has supposedly completely and eternally ended the white conquest of racial superiority over Blacks?

We have patted ourselves on the head one too many times because the delusion of accomplishment has ruined our perception of justice. We cannot even see that over the past 15 years AIDS has shifted from the white male homosexual population to the larger portion of the American Black community and most parts of Africa, where we originated. We have not even attempted to take notice of how suddenly our people are being neglected medically allowing this deadly disease to choke us.

Let us be completely reasonable about this. How can a disease, publicly unheard of throughout the world before the 1980s, become the curse of men laying with men (beginning with white men) and end up traveling - some scientifically miraculous way - into the blood stream of millions of Blacks throughout the world without there being a control factor? What phenomena of time and space, all things natural and conceived, and by all means historically unrecorded as ever happening before, change its course from being a disease of immorality in one race to suddenly being the leading disease of the opposite race, in two countries?

Further along the lines of reasoning, ask yourself this question, why are Blacks contracting this disease faster than anyone else. Studies from the CDC and international study groups attribute the increase in

Black infections to one major factor, which is lack of proper medical care presumably because of poverty. So ask yourself another question. Why are so many Blacks - worldwide - in poverty? Those in the United States and in Africa. Again, theories of nuclear fusion aside, common sense answer these questions and more.

But first remember. Scientist first supposedly discovered that AIDS came from an African monkey. And somehow - by the phenomena of time and matter - incorporated itself into the sex lives of white males. Hmmm. how this happened scientist has yet to disclose therefore leaving a huge hole in the argument of scientific research and a big "Duh" in the logic of common sense. What still floats around in the minds of probably millions of people is, did some white male have sex with the monkey?

Africa is "ground zero" of the global AIDS crisis. Sub-Saharan Africa is home to just over 10% of the world's population, but more than 75% of the world's HIV/AIDS cases. Africa has been hit hardest by HIV/AIDS because poverty has left its people most vulnerable, and because racism has impeded an urgent international response. This year alone, 3 million Africans will die of AIDS. This is equivalent to the entire population of Chicago.

Here in the U.S., it is also Black people who have been disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. While the availability of anti-AIDS treatments has cut the death rate in recent years, infection rates remain especially high among communities of color. Though African-Americans represent only an estimated 12% of the total U.S. population, they make up almost 38% of all HIV/AIDS cases reported in this country. In 2000, the rate of reported AIDS cases among African Americans was more than twice the rate for Hispanics and 8 times the rate for whites.

It is the same factors that fuel the AIDS crisis everywhere. Poverty and inadequate access to health care leave particular communities vulnerable. Discrimination and racism enforce double standards that devalue the lives of people living with the disease and those at greatest risk. AIDS has become the Black plague. For while it is a global threat that does not differentiate by race or class, and is not confined by borders, the fact is that it is mainly killing Black people. And this is the simple reason why this disease has been allowed to develop into a massive global health crisis, when it can, in fact, be defeated.

Source from: www.blackvoices.com

The above quote is the mainstream American explanation and popular feedback on the matter. One can see that the reasoning behind the crises has been accepted as lack of health care and poverty in addition to racial discrimination against Blacks. Well sense we now actually realize that this is not just another coincidence or consequence of science gone wrong, we should see this for what it really is and not blind ourselves by any means of successful integration. Blacks are being targeted for annihilation by the use of the AIDS disease.

So what do we do? We watch how they [whites] handle it. If Blacks continue to contract and die from this disease and no efforts are made to medically treat our people, we can safely conclude that this at current conspiracy theory is actual practice. If science offers no other explanation other than poverty and lack of medical care then it is obvious that we are being kept in these positions of economic and social degradation simply for this reason.

Other studies will attempt to attribute the high increase of the disease to Black homosexuality (something they want to promote as normal among Blacks) and the growing use of drug needles (something they have used in the past and continue to use). They want the world to look upon Blacks and believe that we are a poverty-stricken people as a result of our own incompetence and depraved lifestyles and the AIDS virus is our own just reward.

They want the world to believe that we have no self-control or respect and that drugs and sex and homosexuality are our preferences in life. They will naturally attempt to free themselves from the guilt and blame for this matter by staging huge worldwide campaigns of medical aid and assistance for Blacks as doing all they can do but Blacks are beyond help because we are set in our immoral ways and cannot be changed. Thus, they can throw up their hands and say "we tried, Blacks are simply filthy people so let them die."

If they were truly a compassionate people they could stop this spread, but they will not until their quota of Black deaths has been met. When we have been reduced to the population safe for them to operate under, they will - by the miraculous discovery of the same scientist who orchestrated this madness - end the suffering. However, whites have an agenda and we, as Blacks are a part of it. Not to fulfill the will of Martin Luther King's dream, but as a means to an end of America's dream.

2003 by C.R. Hamilton

The Backlash of Immorality

Recently, health officials have discovered a new strain of AIDS/HIV that kills in less than 6 months. Once the news hit the mainstream press, many wonder to which American sector of people this unrelenting disease has struck; is it gay, white males or is it a "Black thing." So far, there is no mention of anyone Black being the carrier, thus we can conclude that it is a gay, white male thing.

If it had been a Black thing, rest assured, the press, science, and everyone and their mother would have proclaimed it loudly. Not to say so far, so good, because no disease that destroys mankind is a good thing, but good because the disease has leached on to its original bedfellow, the gay, white male.

Ironic however, because even though Blacks have become the most populous race on earth to carry the AIDS/HIV virus, fate, chance, and natural law will not leave the people ignorant and unprotected from the original targets of immorality and death.

Let us acknowledge the Supreme Creator and Judge of humanity. Let us acknowledge the one who is just and righteous and who rewards men according to their deeds, even if they are evil deeds. Let us pray that we - as Blacks in the world - are protected from the calculated evils of those who would that we die as animals.

According to the report below, this new strain is spreading in New York with new cases yet a racial make-up has yet to be disclosed. We will wait to see if the scientist will attach this disease to the behavior and lifestyles of Blacks. Also, we will wait to see how long it will take for this new strain to (God forbid) reach the Black community, through the use of scientific and health prevention actions.

"New York City doctors have discovered a man with a previously unseen strain of HIV that is resistant to three of the four types of anti-viral drugs that combat the disease, and progresses from infection to full-blown AIDS in two or three months, the health department said.

"We've identified this strain of HIV that is difficult or impossible to treat and which appears to progress rapidly to AIDS," said New York City Health Commissioner Thomas Frieden. "We have not seen a case like this before. It holds the potential for a very serious public health problem."

The case was diagnosed in a New Yorker in his mid-40s who reported multiple male sex partners and unprotected anal sex -- often while using the drug crystal methamphetamine."

Source From: <http://freeinternetpress.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=2948>

2005 By CR Hamilton

Beware of this Study on ADHD and Minority Children

ROCHESTER, N.Y., April 29 /PRNewswire/ -- Fear of social stigma, lack of knowledge, and fear of over-diagnosis probably inhibit many African American and Hispanic parents from seeking diagnosis and treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) for their children.

A recent survey by Harris Interactive(R) compared the experiences, attitudes and levels of knowledge of African American and Hispanic parents with other American parents. The survey found significant differences between them. The results strongly suggest that parental fear of social stigma ("being labeled"), fear of over-diagnosis and a general lack of knowledge are more likely to inhibit the diagnosis and treatment of minority children with ADHD than of other children.

"These results indicate the need for educators and health care professionals to make additional efforts to reach out to minority parents, to make sure that those parents of children who may have ADHD know to whom they should turn if they suspect their children may have ADHD and that they have sufficient access to both diagnosis and treatment," stated Humphrey Taylor, chairman of The Harris Poll, Harris Interactive. "They must also insure that the parents of children who do have ADHD are not inhibited from seeking treatment for them because of fears that they or their children will be stigmatized as a result."

Afro Interpretation

Be very careful about this so-called study. What it is essentially doing is attempting to manipulate Black and Hispanic parents into accepting this scientifically unproven disease for their children and to treat them with certain drugs. Just because white children have mysteriously contracted this mythical disease does not mean that Black and Hispanic children have to have it too.

The real situation here is that because white parents do not spend the appropriate amount of time with their children, the children are showing signs of rebelliousness that they cannot handle. They refuse to discipline their children correctly because of neo-liberal laws about spanking so they have resorted to drugging their children to keep them inline.

An attention-starved child will act out in many different ways, so instead of admitting that not spanking and proper discipline does not work they would rather have a doctor concoct a new disease that does nothing more than make badness a sickness, which requires a drug to control. Read carefully the doctor's words:

"These results indicate the need for educators and health care professionals to make additional efforts to reach out to minority parents, to make sure that those parents of children who may have ADHD know to whom they should turn if they suspect their children may have ADHD and that they have sufficient access to both diagnosis and treatment," stated Humphrey Taylor, chairman of The Harris Poll, Harris Interactive.

What this means is that physicians would empower state and government agencies to use additional authority to get children diagnosed with ADHD. In other words, if these parents will not come forth for ADHD treatment, we will give teachers and health care professional the right to attach this label to the children regardless of what parents say. This is an attempt to drug more Black and Hispanic kids people, do not allow this type of trickery to be forced on your child.

Article continued

Social Stigmatization

African American parents, and to a lesser extent Hispanics, are more likely than other parents to believe that a number of factors prevent children with ADHD from getting treatment. African American parents, in particular, are more likely to believe that their children's race or ethnicity and fears of being "labeled" are important factors preventing the treatment of children with ADHD.

Many more African American parents than Hispanic or non-Hispanic white and other parents believe that African American children are very likely to be misdiagnosed with ADHD when they do not have it. Hispanics also, to a much lesser degree, are more likely than non-Hispanic whites and others (but less likely than African Americans) to think that the misdiagnoses of Hispanic children is an inhibiting factor.

Hispanic parents are also somewhat more likely than African Americans, non-Hispanic whites and others to believe that language is a reason why some children cannot get treatment. Approximately half of all racial groups, but slightly more amongst Hispanics and African Americans, also see the cost of treatment as a major barrier.

Afro Interpretation

Be careful again. This is a psychological form of deception that will make non-thinking people believe that race discrimination is a factor. They are playing the race card to get people to think that their children are being discriminated against if they are not receiving treatment. This is one area of discrimination minorities do want. Do not think that it is discrimination because authorities are not providing special treatment and information about ADHD to you, your child's school, or your child. This is crap.

School systems and health care providers are already misdiagnosing Black and Hispanic children. More Black children have been diagnosed with ADHD (incorrectly) each year in an attempt to use these drugs such as Ritalin and Prozac - drugs that can truly affect a child on throughout their life. Millions of white children are taking these drugs because parents cannot handle the child's behavior. This is not an option for Black and Hispanic families, or even white families who still believe in a good ole fashion butt whipping.

Article continued

Lack of knowledge

African American and Hispanic parents are less likely than non-Hispanic whites and others to know anyone who has been diagnosed with ADHD. African American and Hispanic parents are also less likely than this group to have ever received information about ADHD. And they are also significantly less likely to say that they would know where to go for help if they were told that their children might have ADHD.

Afro Interpretation

This means that authorities are going to begin pushing ADHD information in the form of pamphlets and brochures into urban schools so that budget-seeking principals and educators can push this bogus information on parents and frighten them into thinking that ADHD is a real crisis.

Fearful parents will then begin to look at their children to look for signs of this disease, which are also bogus signs. The signs are basically everyday signs such as high energy levels, lack of attention span, and difficulty in concentration. But these are normal traits in all children and only require basic parenting skills to control, not a drug.

Take this advice and DO NOT fall for this intrusion on your child's life. In the long run a child diagnosed with this so-called disease have trouble getting jobs, into good colleges, into the military, and they are labeled for life. It also leads to higher chances of your child being diagnosed with some other more dangerous type of disease like schizophrenia and severe depression disorders, which call for more powerful drugs.

The study also suggest that Black and Hispanic parents are afraid their children will be over diagnosed and forced to take drugs regardless of whether they need them. Of course they would be over diagnosed and mislabeled; that is the purpose of this study, to pinpoint more minority children as much as white children. The old saying goes; misery loves company.

Capitalism at Work in Health Care

Taken from: Changing the Health Care System in Discovering Sociology (Stockard 2000)

Controversies over the reform of the health care system in the U.S. revolve around the issue of whether medical care is a right or privilege.

The traditional fee-for-service system of medicine assumes that medical care is a privilege, something that we can purchase, such as food, housing, and clothes. Those who advocate some type of government founded health care systems, such as those found in other countries, assume that medical care is right, the benefit that all people should be entitled to receive no matter how rich or poor they happen to be.

At present, the U.S. health care system embodies both of these viewpoints. The Medicare and Medicaid systems ensure health care for the elderly and the very poor, thus suggesting that it is right for those who are in need of it most. Most employers provide health insurance for their employees, indicating that these employers believe that health care is important for their workers-well beings.

Yet, there are millions of Americans for who health care is a privilege. Some work for companies that provide no health insurance; others may be unemployed and ineligible for Medicaid programs. Those who are self-employed often have trouble finding affordable insurance.

As noted earlier in this chapter, reformers and politicians in the United States have advocated changes in the health care system of much of this century, but these efforts have been strongly opposed by powerful corporate actors in the health care system. In the early part of the century, the American Medical Association spearheaded the opposition.

Beginning in the 1940s, the AMA was joined by private insurance companies. Both insurance companies and the AMA are very powerful lobby groups. They contribute huge sums of money to political campaigns and maintain very active lobbying organizations in the nation's capital. Those who have the most to gain from health care system reforms, such as the uninsured, have neither the money nor the resources to begin to match the efforts of these powerful political players.

Source from: Discovering Sociology (Stockard 2000)

2004 by Afro Staff

Bad Health is Big Business

WAKE UP! Black America. We are living under a conniving regime here in America. In many valuable areas of life, and American citizens across the so-called "fruited plains" are undergoing a slow and subtle death stemming from the "love of money."

The Pharmaceutical business wants us in the dark and filling the emergency rooms and doctor offices, using prescription drugs that cause side effects unheard of before the invention of the medicine. We must AWAKEN from this slumber and take care of ourselves, reaching back to the ancient wisdom of cures and health remedies.

Plants are brought forth from the earth as a natural healer and we must learn more about this healing. There are naturally occurring antioxidants that are found in plants. "You can find them in whole grains, nuts, seeds and a variety of different plants." However, the Pharmaceutical business would that we knew nothing of these remedies and depend on their prescriptions, even to the point of banning certain natural plant ingredients.

"These ingredients prevent chronic disease better than prescription drugs, without the side effects, and without the profitability of prescription drugs. If people really knew just how much they could prevent chronic disease with these plant extracts, medicinal herbs, vitamins, minerals, and supplements, the pharmaceutical industry would collapse overnight.

The defenders of "Big Pharma" and of organized medicine have realized that they cannot win the information war. They cannot prevent people from finding out how to be healthy. They have tried through censorship, oppression, influence, and even attempts to regulate medical information on the Internet.

They have tried to create a total blackout of information, but they've failed. Thank God we live in a (relatively) free society where the Internet still operates and people have access to independent information.

As people are increasingly finding out that prescription drugs actually kill you, while vitamins, nutrients, and plant-based supplements actually save your life, organized medicine had to go to Plan B. Plan B is to outlaw nutrition, which is what big capitalist businesses are attempting to do.

Source From: <http://www.newstarget.com/008269-02.html>

June 2005 by Afro Staff

HIV Conspiracy Study is Complete Speculation

The article about the HIV conspiracy theory spreading around the Internet and in local newspapers is based on nothing but supposition. The researchers who did the study attempt to connect the conspiracy theory to the use, or ill use of condoms among the Black population.

First, they imply that the only reason Blacks believe it is a conspiracy is because of the Tuskegee Experiment, thus undermining our ability to see beyond the past and into the now.

"This distrust is thought to have its origins in historical and current racial discrimination in the US healthcare system, with the Tuskegee syphilis experiment, when African Americans were deliberately infected with syphilis and denied treatment to examine the natural history of the disease, being a particularly well-known example. "

This is an insult because even if some Blacks did attribute their beliefs based on the Tuskegee Experiment, that belief could never have any weight over what is going on now. How Blacks in Africa and America have suddenly contracted the HIV virus at alarming rates.

Next, they contradict their own theory by saying, "Although the importance of addressing conspiracy theories in HIV prevention initiatives has been acknowledged by researchers, there has been very little research examining whether an endorsement of conspiracy theories translates into negative attitudes towards condoms and lower condom use."

However, the headlines read, "HIV conspiracy theories associated with poorer condom attitude and use amongst African American men." In other words, they will admit that Blacks believe there is a conspiracy, but they are not sure it has anything to do with condom use, which is a contradiction all itself.

There is no evidence that Blacks do not use condoms because they are afraid the white man has infected condoms with HIV, the researchers only assume this, try hard to make the connection, because this is what they want the rest of the world to believe, as well as gullible Blacks.

That way if Blacks believe other Blacks are not using condoms because there may be a possibility that condoms are infected, neither will those Blacks use condoms, because of the conspiracy. This means that without use of the condom, the virus could spread more around the Black population, which is what they really want.

Then they go on to admit it again; "the investigators note that the effects of HIV conspiracy beliefs between the models including and excluding condom attitudes was not large." This is completely unreliable and cannot logically be drawn as an absolute conclusion, but they will make it fact and magnify it in the press and word it otherwise to play on the Black mind, and others.'

They go on to suggest, "HIV prevention initiatives should address conspiracy beliefs... as well as to collaboratively work to address current discrimination within the health care system." Now they are ready to own up to their discrimination practices but they do not know how. It is like admitting to your victim that you intended to harm them after you have beaten them senseless. One will tend to look in every direction for an excuse or cause but will never look them directly in the eye.

The article concludes, "In this way, we can begin to overcome barriers, such as conspiracy beliefs, that are obstacles to the ready acceptance of prevention messages and the subsequent practice of safer sexual behaviors." There would be no reason for Blacks to fear had not the virus been spread throughout the Black community in the first place, or if there were adequate health care for low-income people.

The study is full of crap and is an extension of the same game pulled in Africa, and look at how many Africans have HIV. They too, were afraid of the health care system that was pumping the nation with a so-called prevention vaccine.

Now if the object is to get Blacks to refuse treatment so the virus can spread, they may succeed because they are feeding the conspiracy themselves, and because indoctrinated Blacks who read the study will also believe the study. However, if it is true that there is a conspiracy theory, then what does that leave us (Blacks) to think of white America?

Afromerica promotes abstinence and monogamous relationships. Leave the white man to his own immoralities.

Source From: <http://www.aidsmap.com/en/news/91A3674A-9B11-4287-9A15-8C0973D5A271.asp>

2005 By CR Hamilton

The Health in Health and Prosperity

We often here people wish others "health and prosperity" and many people assume that with one comes the other. Preachers and practicing Christians proclaim the scripture from the Bible that encourages followers to "be prosperous and in good health," and many people grasp the prosperity part but ignore the health part. As a result, America is the most prosperous country in the world and yet the most unhealthy. This enormous gap between the two trickles down throughout the social-economic structure of the country and reveals an even more interesting fact.

Epidemiologists have found that the relationship of social class to health is very strong. In the United States and throughout the world, people at the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder tend to be less healthy than those toward the top are. These differences occur at each stage of the stratification hierarchy. The working poor are healthier than then underclass, people in the upper middle class are healthier than those in the middle class, and those in the upper class are healthier than those in the upper middle class.

Health is also related to social mobility. Within any particular class group, the healthiest are most likely to have upward mobility and the least healthy are most likely to have downward mobility.

Sociologists have explored various factors that might help explain why the health hierarchy is so strongly related to social class. One major factor appears to involve stress and how we are able to deal with this stress.

People at lower ends of the stratification ladder experience more stress, and they have fewer resources with which to combat this stress. For instance, they are more likely to live in areas that are crowded and have poor sanitation, inadequate heating and cooling, and greater exposure to various environmental hazards.

They are also less likely to be able to afford healthy diets and tend to have jobs that are more stressful and dangerous. Another major factor appears to involve health-related behaviors. Those at the lower end of the stratification ladder are often less able to adopt healthy life styles or to have relationships with health care providers that promote the best health outcomes (Discovering Sociology, Stockard 2000).

One reason wealthier people are supposedly in better health is because they can obviously afford better medical treatment, which includes the use of the more expensive and highly developed technology. Health insurers are more willing to offer their services because they know they will collect the bill, but they are less likely to take risk on people of lower economic status. This is a sad but true fact, that money can buy better health. It should not be this way in a democratic society.

Researchers have concluded that work and environment, and the amount of related stress play a large part in whether one will be healthy or not. In other words, depending on how much a person makes and where they live has a lot to do with their health. Why it takes a team of researchers to figure this out lacks reason because any idiot can see this.

Access to decent health care is divided according to class. Practicing physicians would rather locate their practice in wealthier communities while inner cities must beg for government programs for neighborhood clinics. These clinics recruit inner city graduates in nursing and employ teams of doctors wishing to fulfill a personal humanitarian mission. The health care system classifies these clinics as high risk and offer substandard services and information about health.

The more money a client has and the more people they know will guarantee them quality health care. If one grows in the inner city and their circle of friends include only those they went to elementary and high school with, and then work with down at the plant or on the dock, they lack the connections to people in quality health care, thus they lack information and a chance at a healthier life.

Max Weber's analysis of social stratification can help us understand that one dimension of stratification is status, or prestige - communities or social networks of people with similar lifestyles and viewpoints. For instance, people in one status group might shop at upscale organic grocery stores, exercise at the neighborhood health club, vacation at ski resorts in the winter, take bike tours through Europe in the summer, and have regular exams from their doctor and dentist.

People in another status group, perhaps like those who go to the University Hospital Clinic, might depend on food stamps for their food, shop at the corner convenience store because they don't have transportation to go elsewhere, cannot begin to afford membership in a health club, and get their health care through the local public health clinic or from whatever doctor they can find who will take a Medicaid card (Discovering Sociology, Stockard, 2000).

If living environment has a lot to do with a person's health, the inner city is crowded, more prone to wider circulation of disease and is at higher risk simply because of the lack of resources and information. The stores in the community do not sell the best meats and vegetables and do not have the greatest selection of health food. There is no one to hold community and clinical seminars about the importance of health care and how to eat and live healthier, which things taught in traditional college courses. And there are not, if any, health spas, gyms, and or facilities that offer information health programs.

Dangerous working environments are not as plentiful to lower-class workers as indifferent employers are. The company a person works for has a lot to do with the amount of information about health care and the actual quality of health care one gets. Employers in the inner city know their workers and decide according to that on how in-depth they will be about health care.

If one works at the warehouse down on 4th avenue in the inner city, most likely the employer will not give a damn about your health concerns. They will not spend on information or hold community awareness programs about healthcare, and they will go with a health insurer who does not care and who will charge whatever they want for insurance.

In Black-mostly jobs, the employer will not offer extra information or services because they figure Blacks do not care and only care about their checks being correct. Sad to say, but this is the mind set that Blacks have established only because many are not exposed to an environment where health works in conjunction with prosperity. Even in the Black community churches, the trend is "being blessed" and health is not preached as often as it should be. Fast food joints litter the inner city along with free clinics - that pass out condoms - and liquor stores also, add to the deteriorating health environment of the Black community.

The suburbs are different, however. Larger corporations choose to locate in growing communities and townships and many graduating medical students choose to move into and practice in those type environments. All that is new and improved begins in those areas such as hospitals with the best medical staff and latest technology. And the inner city is left to deteriorate - who then has to beg the government for funds to set up programs.

So it is no wonder that Blacks have lower life expectancies and Black babies have the highest infant mortality rate and that Blacks have some how contracted AIDS faster than any other minority group in America. Not because Blacks are somehow cursed to hell for past sins or because they are naturally illiterate and undeveloped beings, but because in America, the poor - which consist of more Blacks than others - and inner city dwellers, which also consist mostly of Blacks, will deteriorate faster than other cultures all for the lack and love of money, and the make-up of America's class and racial structure.

2004 by C.R. Hamilton

The Rise of Scientific Medicine

In colonial times, herbalist, druggists, midwives, and ministers practiced the healing arts. But not all were effective. Unsanitary instruments, lack of anesthesia, and simple ignorance made surgery a terrible ordeal, and doctors probably killed as many people as they saved.

But by studying anatomy and physiology, doctors eventually established themselves as self-regulating professionals with medical degrees. The American Medical Association (AMA) was founded in 1847 and symbolized the growing acceptance of a scientific model of medicine.

Still, traditional approaches to health care had their defenders. The AMA opposed them by seeking control of the certification process. In the early 1900s, state licensing boards agreed to certify only physicians trained in the scientific programs approved by the AMA.

As a result, schools teaching other healing skills began to close, which soon limited the practice of medicine to those holding an M.D. degree. Accordingly, the prestige and income of physicians rose dramatically; today, men and women with M.D. degrees earn, on average, \$200,000 annually.

Practitioners of other approaches, such as osteopathic physicians, concluded that they had no choice but to fall in line and follow AMA standards. Thus osteopaths (with D.O. degrees), originally concerned with manipulating the skeleton and muscles, today treat illness with drugs in much the same way as medical doctors (with M.D. degrees). Chiropractors, herbal healers, and midwives still practice but have been relegated to the fringe of the medical profession.

Scientific medicine, taught in expensive, urban medical schools, also changed the social profile of doctors so that most physicians came from privileged backgrounds and practiced in cities. Furthermore, women, who had figured in many fields of healing, were scorned by the AMA. Some early medical schools did train women and African-Americans, but with few financial resources, most of these schools eventually closed.

Only in recent decades has the social diversity of the medical profession increased, with women and African-Americans representing 29 percent and 6 percent of physicians, respectively (Gordon, 1980; Starr, 1982; Huet-Cox, 1984; U.S. Department of Labor, 2002).

AI (Afromerica Interpretation)

The above article reminds us that Western science disregards any and all other traditional and ritualistic forms of healing. It is a wonder how people survived for hundreds of thousands of years and in many eras lived longer and were healthier than now. Though science has benefited society in ways of speed and prevention, it has yet to actually find cures to diseases that plague humanity century after century.

In fact, it seems that the more scientific humanity becomes, the more sicknesses and diseases spring up around the world. There are more health problems, less health care, and the prestige of the medical profession has all but eliminated people who cannot afford the schooling, and those who cannot afford the high cost of health care.

Believing in a form of traditional healing along side faith in God can lessen a person's chance of contracting the diseases being spread not only through natural causes, but also by modern medicine itself.

Source from: Society the Basics: Macionis, 2004.

2004 by Afro Staff

Water Heals

One of the most overlooked forms of medicine for healing natural illnesses and sicknesses is water. Non-life threatening illnesses such as fevers, colds, skin problems, including rashes, stomach aches and even some more serious illnesses such as liver, kidney, and even heart diseases can be prevented by the regular consumption of clean, wholesome water.

The way water heals the body is first of all it is one of the main ingredients in our bodies that make up 75% of our biological being. If we are 75% water then water has to be of major importance to our survival, at least from a biological aspect. The purification tasks of water operate everyday within us whether we understand what it is doing or not. It also provides other major organs with the substances needed to perform efficiently.

This biological analysis of how water supplies our needs may not be right on medical target, but very close. One of the things doctors or medical science will probably not reveal from beneath the theories of medical jargon. However, there is a psyche about the way water heals, which covers a totally different part of our being.

Simple faith in the natural can tremendously effect the way our bodies function. Despite science and the actual, physical realm, the human species is a combination of flesh and spirit. One cannot function without the other. If this were the case, there would be no way to differentiate us from machines. We function from the physical and the spiritual.

Water, as pertaining to the spiritual, helps us to know that what we put in our bodies makes a huge difference on how our bodies perform. If we were 75% dirt then dirt would be another alternative to modern medicine. Likewise, if we were 75% wine we would resort to wineries for natural healing. But we are 75% water thus we should resort to and consume as much of it as we can.

So the next time you or especially one of your children come down with a minor illness, drink water like you take a medicine such as cough syrup or an aspirin. You will be surprised at how the psyche takes control and allows the water to do what is natural. Perform preventative maintenance daily by drinking at least the recommended amount, which is 8 glasses a day. But 10 - 12 glasses could not hurt either.

2003 by Afro Staff

Little Known Facts about Black Hair Care

Black women cannot depend wholly on the products running in the mainstream for white hair, they must understand how to take care of their own Black hair. And if you have a tender headed daughter, here are some helpful tips on Black hair care.

When combing out tangles in your or your child's hair, start at the ends and detangle to the roots, not the opposite...a lot of people make the mistake of starting at the roots and combing outward, but this causes more pain and distress. Always detangle small sections at a time. And it's best to use a large tooth comb, in fact, you should have two handy. One should have more teeth than the other.

Stay away from strong chemicals on your child's hair, but rather braid, or have their hair pressed until they are about 9 or 10 yrs old. At that point it's okay to relax their hair, and take them to a professional don't do it yourself. Believe me, it's worth the fifty or so bucks to save the despair you'll face once the breakage starts.

Don't use heavy oils or grease on your hair. Instead, use a moisturizing spray that will make your hair easier to comb. Hair spray and splits will dry out your hair.

To stop hair breakage:

This solution works for very dry and damaged hair; use Humectress Moisturizing conditioner. Wash your hair with Nexxus conditioning shampoo, two times, rinsing well after each time.

Use as much as you need but in quarter size portions. Use a large tooth comb to disperse conditioner to the ends of the hair. Sit under a warm dryer for 20 minutes. Hooded dryers work better than shower cap type. Rinse conditioner and style as usual. Do this process every 4 days for 4 weeks. Then after 4 weeks once a week is fine but do it weekly.

Always use professional hair care products that are made for black hair.

If you want to grow your hair, keep the ends clipped every time you go in for a retouch, have the ends trimmed, by doing this you can eliminate one factor of hair breakage.

2004 by Shawn H.

Psychological Destruction of the Black Mind At Work

Why do you think Black America is constantly reminded of the negatives of Black life, such as the headline: "CDC Report Shows Increase of Syphilis, Chlamydia Among Black Women" published just recently by one of Black America's most frequented sites, BlackAmericanWeb. Is it for the purpose of information? Or humiliation?

Theory: A few years ago, there were constant reports flinging around the Internet of Black women infected with Chlamydia at contradictory rates, then suddenly things quieted down a bit. Then came the

CDC reports on AIDs and Black women who were at the greatest risk, now Chlamydia is back with even higher percentages.

Some headlines and stats below show interesting ambiguity throughout the years.

Chlamydia Infects One In Ten Young Black Adults -

In 2001, 75 percent of all reported cases of gonorrhea occurred among African Americans. Their gonorrhea rate was 782 per 100,000 population compared to 114 among Native Americans, 74 among Latinos, and 29 among non-Hispanic whites.

Experts estimate that more than 15 million sexually transmitted infections occur annually in the United States, nearly four million among teens and over six million among youth ages 20 to 24. Moreover, rates of curable STIs in the United States are the highest in the developed world.

One-fourth of all American women are African American and Hispanic/Latina, but more than three-fourths of all AIDS cases in the United States occur in African-American and Hispanic/Latina women. In 2000, 80 percent of new AIDS cases in women occurred among African-American and Hispanic/Latina females.

African-American women are 23 times as likely to be infected with the Aids virus as white women and account for 71.8% of new HIV cases among women in 29 US states, government research shows.

The Kaiser Family Foundation, a non-profit health organization, has found that in 2001 roughly 67% of black women with Aids had contracted the virus through heterosexual sex - up from 58% four years earlier.

History of STDs

- 11% of Black women reported ever having been diagnosed with a bacterial STD compared to 5.6% of White women
- 6.9% of Black women reported having chlamydia compared to 4.5% of White women
- 5% of Black women reported having gonorrhea compared to 1.1% of White women
- 1.5% of Black women reported having syphilis compared to 0.09% of White women

Marital and Cohabitation History

- 14% of Black women reported ever having been married compared to 29% of White women
- Of these, 31% of Black women reported having been divorced, separated, or widowed compared to 15% of White women
- 19% of Black women who had never been married reported having lived with a partner compared to 30% of never-married White women

Partner Characteristics

- 35% of Black women reported having had a non-monogamous partner in the 12 months preceding the NSFG compared to 22% of White women
- 62% of Black women reported having a partner three or more years older than themselves in the three years preceding the NSFG compared to 60% of White women
- 39% of Black women reported having a "casual" sexual partner in the three years preceding the NSFG compared to 35% of White women

The last report shows Black women at each end of the negative extreme, which would make anyone, obviously believe Black women are the vilest women on earth. Now, as a Black man or woman, do you really believe that Black women are the vilest women on earth?

Who wife swaps the most? Who operates illegal whore and cat houses in Vegas, who has the most orgies, who introduced porn into society, who introduced homosexuality, who are the most obvious pedophiles and convicted sex offenders, what priest raped the most young boys, what people do the most cocaine, LSD, and God knows what else. Who are the biggest crooks, who are the biggest liars, who...you get the point. So, who is the most likely to have the highest rates of disease? Please, Black people, do not believe everything you read but use common sense.

Our theory suggests that it is mostly lies. Though there is truth to the fact that more women are infected with STDs: however, the main objective is to lower the self-esteem of Black people so we can believe that we are some type of lower form of life as compared to other races.

Ask this question: why does race matter when the main control for the disease is women? It is to intentionally shed a bright light on Blacks as being lower than others.

Our theory suggest that white women and men are the most perverted in this world and Black people simply copy them and are infected just as much as anyone. The difference is that Blacks do not receive effective medical treatment, purposely.

Our theory suggest that if Black people continue to accept these stats as gospel, we will end up without any scruples at all and we will eventually believe the supposed deduction, that we are vile people. Also, as long as Black websites and magazines follow the lead of these reports and never question them, we will continue to believe them.

Not to say that Black women do not have the high rates of infection or that we do not need information on the subject, but there is some skepticism that arises with every research report that comes from the CDC (Center for Degradation Control) and those organizations in conjunction with the CDC.

Believe what you want but a wise mind will always seek motive.

November 2005 By Afromerica

Taking Responsibility for Your Health

Not so many years ago, people were subject to a variety of diseases over which they had little or no control. In the early part of the twentieth century, infectious diseases caused by organisms were the leading causes of death in the United States.

Modern public health methods and modern drugs such as antibiotics were not available. In 1918, millions of people around the world died from influenza, the cause of which was unknown at the time.

Today, the leading cause of illness and death are not due to infections, but to "lifestyle diseases." These diseases, such as heart disease and cancer, result from people's behavior, and the ways in which they choose to live.

The idea that lifestyle is a major cause of disease and death in modern societies is not new. A generation ago, Lewis Thomas (1978), an eminent physician and author, observed that our lifestyles were killing us.

There is no bacterium that causes heart disease. Heart disease results from today's lifestyles, which include overeating, cigarette smoking, lack of exercise, high levels of stress, and high blood pressure and cholesterol.

Cancer is associated with both nutritional and human-activity environmental factors. Improper nutrition, smoking cigarettes, and exposure to hazardous substances in the environment initiate biological changes that can result in cancer. An unhealthy lifestyle is also at the root of suicide and homicide (drugs, alcohol, and stress), accidents (alcohol use and stress), and cirrhosis of the liver (alcohol abuse).

Source From: Health and Wellness (Edlin, Brown, (2002)

June 2005 Afro Staff Research