

Black colleges promoted

by Nicole Threadgill

On Saturday morning, October 13, the Fifth Annual Black Colleges Conference was held at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion Inn. The theme was "The Need Continues."

The conference was sponsored by the Black Colleges Committee. Pearl Spears Gray, founder and chairperson of the Black Colleges Committee. Gray currently is employed as assistant to the president of Oregon State University.

An estimated 400 students and parents attended the conference. Students from Tacoma and Seattle, Washington, attended.

Colleges represented were: Clark College, Fisk University, St. Augustine's College, Spellman College, Texas Southern University and Tuskegee Institute.

The keynote address was given by Mr. Melvin Bradley, special assistant to President Reagan. Black self-reliance was the message of Bradley's address. He began with childhood memories of growing up poor



MELVIN BRADLEY

in a loving family in the presence of a nurturing mother, who was his first example of strength, unity and self-determination. Later successes were also influenced by Black teachers, Black colleges and knowledge of contributions of Blacks made to the world in science, math, music and technology. It started with ancient Egypt up to the present. He concluded his talk with a reminder that Black business should support one another instead of majority businesses for success in the 80s. Luncheon music was provided by Patrick Minner, a student from Jefferson High School.

NAACP begins local election

As must happen every two years, the NAACP will begin its biennial election process October 21 when the Portland Branch will elect a nominating committee. On November 18 the Nominating Committee will bring in its report and an Election Supervisory Committee will be elected. The election itself will be held on December 9 at the Hughes Memorial Church at 111 N.E. Failing. Anyone who has been a member of the Portland Branch for more than 30 days or who is over 17 is eligible to vote in these Branch elections.

At the October 21 meeting at the Mount Sinai Community Baptist Church, 602 N.E. Prescott Street, at 4:00 the invited guest speaker will be candidate for Secretary of State Barbara Roberts. Mrs. Ro-

berts will speak before the Branch election takes place. As a candidate Secretary of State Mrs. Roberts espouses views on the election process close to the NAACP policy, which is to keep the election process, particularly registration, as uncomplicated as possible. Mrs. Roberts also favors keeping the primary election according to the Oregon system in which only voters registered in one party or another may vote for their candidates.

NAACP asks people interested in attending the meeting to note that NAACP's recent bulletin was in error in stating the place of the meeting as Hughes Memorial. The October 21st meeting is at the Mount Sinai Baptist Church at 602 N.E. Prescott.



Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey N.D.

When I began this series on the immune system, I cited the recent report on antibiotic resistant bacteria in cattle whose feed contained antibiotics common to the cattle industry. I went on to question the current level of antibiotic use and mass immunization programs common to the United States and other western nations. In parts two, three and four, I attempted to provide a base of information on the white blood cells and their functions, the protection and function of resident bacterium, and the inflammatory process and how it augments the other components of the immune system. This article will incorporate this information in a discussion of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

In the early stages AIDS often resembles many other illnesses, with diarrhea, irregular fevers, swollen lymph glands, frequent infections and wasting (excessive weight loss) as common symptoms. On a clinical level there are abnormalities in the white blood cell populations, with an overall reduction of T-lymphocytes and a shift in proportions in two subgroups of T-lymphocytes. While the blood test to measure T cell populations is accurate and relatively inexpensive, positive findings do not necessarily constitute the diagnosis of AIDS, as these shifts may occur in other conditions. As AIDS progresses the compromised individuals become the victims of opportunistic organism or neoplasms (tumors) which eventually lead to death. The term opportunistic refers to microorganisms that would not be injurious to a healthy individual. Since the early stages of AIDS are so similar to many other conditions. The diagnosis of AIDS is generally withheld until a particular neoplasm (called Kaposi's sarcoma) or one of a variety of opportunistic organisms is identified.

We now know that AIDS is not restricted to homosexuals, IV drug users, Haitian immigrants and hemophiliacs. While these groups continue to constitute the majority of U.S. cases, more and more cases are being identified in individuals with no relationship to these affected groups. There have been a number of cases of AIDS reported in men and women from central Africa, with no homosexual tendencies or IV drug use found in this population.

Since AIDS follows a pattern consistent with other communicable diseases, a major effort has been directed toward the identification of the responsible organism. A few months ago a virus was identified in close association with AIDS. Researchers hope that this is the first step in the development of a vaccine. The initiating cause of AIDS remains a mystery. And while the search for the responsible germ continues, I pose the following question:

Could the initiating cause of AIDS be the dysfunction of the immune system through the overuse of antibiotics, compounded by the effects of anti-inflammatory drugs? To answer this question I must divide the question into two parts: 1) Do the populations at risk use more antibiotics than is common in other segments of our population? 2) How could antibiotics and

anti-inflammatory drugs injure the immune system?

Question 1: Homosexuals as a group are not equally at risk for AIDS, it is among the highly promiscuous individuals that the dramatic increase in AIDS is found, and it is clear that having numerous sex partners is associated with increased incidence of venereal diseases and non-specific urine tract infections. IV drug users probably suffer many more illnesses than the population as a whole, with hepatitis being an extremely common ailment. The gross malnourishment associated with the excessive use of stimulants certainly adds little to their immune competency. Haiti, like many third world countries, allows Penicillin and other antibiotics to be sold over-the-counter, which results in frequent self-diagnosis and the use of antibiotics for colds and other common maladies. As with the Haitian immigrants, the central Africans diagnosed with AIDS all showed significant histories of numerous diseases including T.B., herpes, syphilis, gonorrhea, hepatitis, etc.

Question 2: To answer this, let us return to part 2 in which I introduced the function of the T-lymphocytes. As you may remember there are a number of different T-cell groups. One type the memory cells act as scouts to identify invading organisms. Upon identification these cells contact T-helper cells which in turn mobilize B-cells to produce immunoglobulins specific to the particular organism.

Similar to the story of the "boy who cried wolf," if our cells respond to the chemical cries of "wolf, wolf," might they too question the validity of the source of the information if antibiotics have already removed the offending organism. In AIDS the helper suppressor ratios invert, resulting in a predominance of suppressor and a decrease in the numbers and ratio of helper cells. While the effects of antibiotics might disturb the normal communication network between cells, and most probably kill many of the resident (friendly, and protective) bacterium, the effects of the use of anti-inflammatory drugs would be of a different nature. As we discussed last week, the exact mechanism of action of the anti-inflammatory drugs is NOT known (typo last week), the use of anti-inflammatory drugs significantly reduces the ability of white blood cells to reproduce, and therefore decreases swelling and temperature due to a decreased cellular component to the inflammation. While we note a total decrease in the T-cell populations in AIDS, which is consistent with some effects of anti-inflammatory drugs, a more important concern may lie with the common practice of using these drugs in treating AIDS, which may act to worsen the prognosis as decreased white blood cell function is a hallmark of AIDS.

While I have no proof of the above hypothesis, I offer it for people and science to consider, as I have found no material in the close to a hundred articles I've read on AIDS that negates the possibility of this factor existing in the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. Next week: Conclusion — Things you can do to stay healthy.

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