

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Prostitution Continues to Erode Livability of Northeast

Recently a panel of five consultants from out of state told business owners in the Union-Vancouver-Williams (UVW) business district, that in order for the community to prosper, the following must first occur: Rid the community of prostitution and street crime; remove or redesign the median strips on Union Ave.; clean up the trash; work with owners to upgrade the appearance of blighted storefronts; know local financial institutions; and hold a community-wide forum.

Of all the recommendations made by the panel to the business owners, the panel stated that getting rid of prostitution should be of the highest priority and one of the first steps in transforming the area. The panel's assessment of the devastating impact of prostitution in Northeast is correct. Prostitution is a cancer growing throughout the community. Not only does prostitution prevent economic development in the Union-Vancouver-Williams area, prostitution also degrades those living in the area. Adult females and young girls walking or waiting for the bus along Union Ave. are often approached by predominantly white men, who think they are prostitutes.

The majority of them reside outside of Northeast

Portland. Prostitutes and their customers conduct business in parked cars and engage in sex acts in full view of people's homes. Despite the seriousness of prostitution in the community, city officials have done little to eradicate it from Northeast Portland.

Mayor Clark and Chief Harrington have only given moral support to the community efforts to rid their neighborhoods of prostitution. The mayor's plan to read the names of those arrested for soliciting the services of a prostitute was found to be unconstitutional by a local judge. Some say that the mayor knew this would occur and that the reason he announced the plan in the first place was for publicity.

As warmer weather approaches, the prostitution problem will only get worse. Portland is known as a city which allows prostitution to occur without fear of being arrested by the police. Community and business leaders must continue to assert pressure on city officials to come up with concrete solutions to address the problem of prostitution in their community.

The longer the problem continues to escalate, the livability of Northeast Portland will continue to erode.

Letters to the Editor

To The Editor:

The matriarch concept is a concomitant of the non-feminist image. Essentially, this concept holds that the Black woman is the dominant figure in the Black family. This deviation from the "Amerikan patriarch" standards, of course, led, it is suggested, to the psychological castration of the Black man. This resulted, it is implied, in negative consequences for the Black man, such as low educational achievements, and the inability to earn a living for his family, personality disorders and delinquency. This myth as well as its subsidiaries, the myth of Black female education and employment, have been thoroughly refuted by research. For example, most Black families whether low income or not, are characterized by an egalitarian pattern in which neither spouse dominate but each shares in decision-making and the performance of expected task. In 87 percent of poor Black families, husbands out-earn wives. Consequently, the husband is the provider in the overwhelming majority of the cases. Notwithstanding the refutation of the stereotypes, the Black woman still bears the brunt of the negativisms associated with such images.

The fact that the matriarchy myth was popularized and widely accepted in this country by all segments of society, is a reflection of the depth of the cruelty that Amerika from its inception has inflicted upon the Black woman. For this myth, if carried to its logical conclusions, tends to make the Black woman responsible for the creation of the social, educational, economic, and politi-

cal institutions in this country, which, historically, explicitly and implicitly, have been structured to deny equality in all of these areas to all Black people. Another inference of the matriarchy notion is the exemption of caucasoid Amerika responsibility for the oppression of Blacks and the conditions that inevitably resulted from this action. Instead, the Black woman who is at the very bottom of the economic scale, is blamed for the consequence of caucasoid Amerika systematic efforts to dehumanize Blacks. The absurdity of this myth is astounding, superseded only by its cruelty. After all, matriarchy in its historical usage denotes a position of power which, of course, neither Black women nor Black men have secured in Amerika. Politically, then, in addition to permitting exploitation of Black female labor and shifting responsibility for oppression from the oppressors to the oppressed, the non-feminist image also allows continuous brutality and insults against the Black woman without generating mass hostility which could lead to systemic disequilibrium. In the absence of such a threat, there is no compelling reason to rectify the inhumane conditions that support her abuse.

In cases where the father is absent from the family either by desertion or death, the mother becomes the family head by default. This is true of caucasoid families also. But does this make the female a matriarch? In fact, it has been suggested that no matriarchy (defined as a society ruled by women) is known to exist in any part of the world.

Everyday Black brothers blame

women for their problems many times because they see themselves as helpless to improve the situation. Some Black men can't deal with the responsibilities, obligation and burdens that the family impose upon their individual maricissitic desires and aspiration.

There is reason to believe that caucasoid women in the 1980's, like those of an earlier period, will disassociate themselves from the issue of racial justice whenever it appears advantageous for them to do so. Furthermore, there is a fundamental difference between their concerns and problems and those of Black women. This difference is derived from the racial caste nature of the Amerikan system itself. This fact dictates different problem-solving approaches and programs of action which may be incompatible. In any case, since the system favors caucasoid over Black, including caucasoid women over Black women, it is not likely that the former will voluntarily seek to dismantle that which serve their interests and pamper them with privileges. Yet, the problems of Black women will defy solution as long as Amerika retains racial castism. Therefore, Black women must aim at more than a redefinition of the role of women, they must aim for the abolition of the racial caste foundation of the Amerikan State itself.

There must be respect and parity between man and woman for unity. I'm inclined to believe, the strongest impetus a man will ever have, in an individual sense, will come from a woman he admires.

Dr. Jamil Cherovec



"Liberated Haiti"

Along the Color Line by Dr. Manning Marable

When the despotic Duvalier family fled Haiti last month, most Black people and progressive forces throughout the world breathed a collective sigh of relief. What the American media failed to examine in sufficient detail, however, was the long-standing U.S. role in perpetuating the political and economic misery of the six million Haitian people, and the actual steps which must be taken to assure the transition to a true democracy.

The overwhelming reality of contemporary Haiti is that of extreme poverty. Haiti's per capita income is currently \$379 a year; however, for roughly three-fourths of the population, the figure is actually \$200. Adult unemployment is 50 percent. Two million people suffer from malnutrition, and 80 percent are illiterate.

The two principal sources of exploitation in Haiti were both the corrupt Duvalier regime and American capitalists. According to one former government official, over one third of all state revenues under "Baby Doc" Duvalier had been stolen by the island's elite. Duvalier himself is said to have \$800 million stashed away in overseas real estate and bank accounts. But U.S. corporations were cordial companions of the Black dictator. As of 1985, about two hundred American companies had large plants on the island, including United Technologies, General Motors, Sperry Rand, GTE, and MacGregor Sporting Goods. Wages are typically \$3 a day, and the Duvaliers' brutal private militia, the Tontons Macoutes, terrorized working class leaders. Despite outrageous violations of human rights, the Reagan administration was also quite cozy with Duvalier. Last October, the State Department actually claimed that Haiti's human rights situation was "improving."

This situation changed only in recent months. The Duvalier regime was too inefficient and too corrupt even by American standards. In 1985, Haiti's external deficit increased by 45 percent, and the country's inflation rate was 80 percent. Labor and political unrest began to accelerate. The task for the U.S. corporations and Reaganites was to discard their Black neocolonial puppet, and to rearrange the unsettled domestic political system without harming their vested interests.

After a series of anti-Duvalier mass protests, the U.S. refused to certify the regime's compliance to human rights standards, and the government planned to cut \$7 million in aid to Haiti. On January 31,

Reagan press secretary Larry Speakes declared that Baby Doc had been deposed — a premature announcement, but a ploy which effectively isolated and deestablished the regime. The next day, thousands of Haitians in the town of Gonaives, 90 miles from the capital city of Port-au-Prince, disarmed the Tontons Macoutes. The spectre of truly "liberated Haiti," freed of both Duvalier and U.S. imperialism, began to surface.

The U.S. government then took drastic steps to guarantee "Duvalierism without Duvalier." A U.S. military plane was dispatched from Fort Bragg, North Carolina to pick up the desperate dictator. The French were pressured to grant Duvalier a temporary visa. A military junta was hastily organized to restore order. The country's new "leaders" include Lieutenant General Henri Namphy, who was a beneficiary of Duvalier's graft and also served as head of the armed forces. Alix Cineas, Duvalier's former minister of Public Works, and Colonel Prosper Avril, who had ties to the Tontons Macoutes, are also at the top of the new regime. Within hours after taking charge, the junta imposed a 16 hour-a-day curfew. Soldiers fired into crowds of unarmed demonstrators who were celebrating Duvalier's demise. Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince has received dozens of calls from American corporations requesting information on initiating plants in Haiti. Low wages and a pro-U.S., Duvalier-trained junta are the reasons.

The decisive role in toppling the Duvalier regime was played not by the U.S., but by the oppressed people of Haiti. It was their courage and determination which culminated into the first, important act toward the achievement of self-determination and political liberation. Our task is to call for an end to U.S. meddling and manipulation in Haiti. The possibility of U.S. troops being sent to the island must be denounced and opposed. When the last American intervention occurred a generation ago, over 30,000 Haitians died. This time, we must agitate to make certain that no new forms of slavery and colonialism are imposed by the U.S. A liberated Haiti, in complete control of its economy and political system, must be achieved.

Dr. Manning Marable teaches political sociology at Colgate University. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 140 newspapers internationally.



Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey N.D.

One of the most common human complaints is the upset stomach. In addition to Tagamet as one of the single most prescribed medications, there are numerous over-the-counter antacids. Our media is filled with ads telling you that theirs is the best longest lasting product. Nowhere do I see our ads saying that acid indigestion might be something other than an antacid deficiency. In fact one pharmaceutical declares that their product can provide measurable amounts of calcium as a supplement.

There are many forms of digestive problems. Many of them produce symptoms of burning and pain which quite often lessen with antacids. Rather than accepting regular use of digestive aids, eating and life style changes might produce a symptom free state, with a healthier digestive system.

Acid production by cells in the stomach is a necessary component to proper protein digestion. The amount of acid produced may occasionally be greater than that needed for proper digestion, but the burning is less related to the pH (measure of acidity) than to the normal protecting functions of the stomach lining. In addition to cells that secrete hydrochloric acid and pepsinogen (protein breakdown enzyme needing high acidity to work) and intrinsic factors one group of cells in the stomach secretes mucus which acts to protect the lining from the high acid environment necessary for digestion. While the

symptoms of burning may be alleviated by an antacid, the poor protection of lining is not addressed, and the less acid juices of the stomach may inadequately begin the protein phase of digestion.

Tagamet, the major prescription drug in the U.S. chemically reduces the acid secretion of the stomach cells and results in decreased acidity. Tagamet has shown itself effective in reducing the incidence of gastric ulcer, but the effectiveness is based on the patients making no changes in other parameters to alter the contributors to poor stomach protection.

There are numerous causes of disturbed digestive function. These include such things as coffee and caffeine ingestion, which by its chemical actions increase stomach acidity unrelated to digestive needs. Other factors include alcohol, medications and drugs, stress, poor nutrition, micro-organisms and physical/organic disturbances. While some of those factors require an educated appraisal and diagnosis, many of the life style and nutritional problems can be addressed by lay approaches.

A starting program for acid indigestion includes appraising irritants, increasing fluid (especially water) intake, mucilaginous aids (ie, slippery elm, marshmallow root, licorice root (not with high blood pressure) and a diet with good fiber, and live foods. People who eat a typical American diet, high in white flour, sugar dairy and meat usu-

ally have problems converting to large amounts of raw vegetables, as their system is ill prepared for normal function. It is often necessary to make gradual changes. Add a salad every 2-3 days, more whole fruit, steamed vegetables and whole grains. A mild stool softening fiber like Yerba Primas psyllium powder may ease the system into more energetic function. It is very important to take additional water or juice with the psyllium or it too may be too binding for the system.

A final aspect to gastric irritation is our emotional state. When we are emotionally upset, our brain signals the body to direct blood and therefore energy from the digestive system. Our cells are then less able to produce the mucus and enzymes needed for a health symptom free digestion. Stress is inevitable but our reactions to it are quite individualized and can often be improved. Exercise, visualizations, meditation, massage, vitamin C, B vitamins, deep breathing are but a few techniques to offset the neuro-chemical components of stress.

It is important to not overlook serious illness while working with life style factors. While medical intervention may be needed there is nothing harmful in improving one's habits, and for those who live in a chronic state of antacid use these changes might lead to a healthier and less drug oriented life.



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