

Black Doctor Demands Child Abuse Action

by Ron Harris

Teenage pregnancies may be the number one social problem facing Blacks in America, but child abuse and drugs are an inseparable part of the situation. "You can't really talk about teenage pregnancies without talking about drugs and child abuse," says Dr. Burnett Rucker. "I've seen too many cases where drugs and child abuse were the more serious problem connected with teenage pregnancy."

Dr. Rucker's medical practice in Los Angeles brings him into constant contact with a large number of black teenage pregnancies and with the problems that follow after young girls have children. He says that the situation has now reached epidemic proportions in most urban Black communities.

"We've got to understand what is happening in the streets," he says. "Everywhere you turn young girls are given free drugs to get them hooked, usually on cocaine. Then they have to start paying for more and the only way they can do this is to turn to prostitution. They get pregnant, have the child to collect welfare, and then use the money and food stamps, not for the child, but to buy more drugs."

"I know a number of cases where children were even taken out on the streets by the mothers as they continued their prostitution. The kids are exposed to every kind of vice."

The drug problem is so severe in some areas that Dr. Rucker has had to deal with parents who can no longer allow teenagers access to their homes. The parents have come home to find even the television stolen by one of their own children, sold for as little as \$5 to pay for drugs.

Dr. Rucker adds that drug programs are not working and are so overcrowded that many youngsters couldn't get in if they wanted to. And the majority of kids who do go through these programs to dry out for a while usually end up back on drugs, sometimes in a matter of days.

He says that even in cases where a teenage mother is not involved with drug abuse, children are rarely given proper care by their young mothers.

"Too often, it's the grandparents or relatives of the child who come to me in despair about what to do. In most cases, they are the ones who end up looking after the child."

"For some young mothers, having a child is seen as a passport to survival. It's seen as a way of living off the state without having to work. By the time a girl is eighteen or nineteen, she's got three children, is in some cases collecting almost \$2000 month in welfare tax free, and is getting free housing."

"Yet these mothers are not prepared for all the responsibilities of looking after children. They want to go out and have a good time. They want to spend their money on clothes and entertainment and in most cases the children suffer."

Official figures for child abuse in the Los Angeles area have more than doubled in the last 3 years, rising to 80,000 reported cases in 1985. But many instances go unreported, particularly when these involve drugs or sexual molestation. The same pattern is emerging in most urban areas across America.

Dr. Rucker maintains that not enough is being done to curtail the problem. "It is not enough for law enforcement and social service agencies to act after a child has been abused. We should be working to understand the underlying causes for increasing child abuse. We have to be looking seriously at what will heal the social problem on a broad scale."

In part there is simply a lack of information about drugs. Young people often do not know how drugs will ravage their lives. And many Black youths, boys and girls, are usually ill-equipped to understand how they can survive and make a good life for themselves.

"Child abuse is no longer just a moral question. It's no longer a question of right and wrong. It's a question of whether countless lives are going to be ruined before they even have a chance."



Rev. Collin Jones, of Cape Town, South Africa, speaks to participants of a teach-in—organized around South African liberation—

about the situation of the Black majority under the apartheid system of the minority white regime. Photo by Richard J. Brown

Fraud On Older People

Older persons are often targets of fraud schemes. As with people of all age groups, seniors can be manipulated into making decisions based on greed, desperation, carelessness or naivete. Con artists get rich when they find others in this state of mind.

1. Be cautious when contracting for home repair service, particularly if the worker solicited you. Before paying for the job, inspect their work to assure yourself it has been properly performed. Pay only in installments and never with cash. Ask for old parts or equipment to ascertain that replacements were actually installed.

2. Be suspicious of work-at-home schemes advertised in newspapers and magazines where you are obligated to send your money in advance for a starter kit.

3. Check out organization or individual soliciting you for funds.

4. Never let strangers urge you into withdrawing large sums of money regardless of their credentials.

5. Do not reveal financial affairs, marital status or banking practices to anyone unless you can confirm the legitimacy of their inquiry. Do not be fooled by fake business cards or professional appearances.

7. Beware of the "bank examiner," strangers wishing to share lost or gambling money with you, the "furnace inspector" or any high pressure salesperson.

Remember, swindlers may be men or women, are usually very personable and convincing, the kind of person you would be willing to trust on short notice.

DELI DEPARTMENT!



BACON
OREGON CHIEF
THICK SLICED

SAVE 80¢

\$1.69
POUND
PKG.



BRAUNSCHWEIGER \$1.49
OREGON CHIEF 12 oz.
CHUNK



FRANKS \$1.49
JUMBO SIZE
POUND
PKG.



NON-DAIRY CREAMER 49¢
MOCHA MIX PINT CARTON
89¢
QUART CARTON

K IENOW'S SHOP

**FOR BRANDS you know
VARIETIES you like
SIZES you want**

The Finest
Stores in Town
Since 1908

- 641 S.E. Millwaukie
- 55th & East Burnside
- 122nd & N.E. Glisan
- N. Lombard at Broadway
- Calough Hills Place
- 152nd on T.F. Division
- 14th & S.E. Morrison
- 32nd & N.E. Hancock
- 22nd & S.E. Division
- 22nd & West Burnside
- Lake Oswego 90 & A
- King City

Member of United Grocers

PORTLAND CLEANING WORKS SPRING SPECIAL

Man's 3 pc. suit	\$5.25
Man's 2 pc. suit	\$4.50
Dress \$4.00 & up	
Pants & Slacks \$1.75	

we are TOPS in Dry Cleaning

Special prices good on dry cleaning ONLY!
Must pick-up within 30 days.

Has been serving the North and Northeast Community for 20 years. Dry cleaning, laundered shirts, alterations, fast service.

You have tried the rest—Now try the Best.

Hours: Mon. through Fri. 8 AM - 6:30 PM
Sat. 9 AM - 1 PM

**3954 N. Williams Ave.
282-8361**

Gasoline Prices Increase

Gasoline prices have increased since Christmas, according to the Oregon AAA Easter Fuel Gauge Survey.

Gasoline prices have risen an average of five cents per gallon in the almost four months that have passed since the Christmas survey was conducted.

Over the Easter holiday weekend, full-service cash customers paid an average of 94 cents per gallon for regular gasoline, 99 cents per gallon for unleaded and \$1.07 per gallon for super unleaded.

Average prices at the mini-service pumps will be 80 cents per gallon for regular gasoline, 89 cents per gallon for unleaded and \$1.00 for super unleaded.

Credit card customers will pay an average of 5.5 cents per gallon more.



*Antique & Classic
Interior Restoration*

ORIGINAL FACTORY DUPLICATION

• AUTO • TRUCK • MARINE • AIRCRAFT •

Convertible Tops - Carpets
Boat Tops - All Types Of Repairs **283-1620**
Landau Tops - Complete Interiors

**(Special Carpet Sale \$95.00
(One Day Service))**

PRICES STARTING:

Convertible Top	\$225.00
Body Side Molding	\$30.00
Headliners	\$110.00
Vinyl Tops	\$95.00
Tonneau Covers	\$95.00
Seat Repair	\$30.00

Price Includes Installation
5510 N. INTERSTATE — PORTLAND, OR.

FREE

April Specials
at
WAVES
hair design

Call 249-1940

Hollywood District
2014 NE 42nd
Portland, OR

FREE

Manicure
with
Pedicure
\$25.00

Reg \$32.00 expires 4/30/87

FREE

LIPSTICK
with
MAKE-OVER
\$8.00

Reg \$10 expires 4/30/87

Designer Curls

\$45.00

Reg \$60

(on Tues & Wed only)

expires 4/30/87

FREE

To New Clients
ONLY

First Tanning Visit
with purchase of
Tanning Packet

Tanning Packet

expires 4/30/87

NAILS ON THE RUN by *Ms. Kay*

Sculptured Nails, Manicures, Pedicures and Massages
Home, Office, Etc.

Acrylic Nails	\$35.00
Fills	\$20.00
Manicures	\$12.00
Pedicures	\$25.00

Special thanks to Mr. Joe Reid, J&T Limousine Service

(503) 284-8931

By appointment only