

# Preventing Aids Among Young African-Americans is Goal of New Kaiser Permanente Study

**PORTLAND, Ore.**— Kaiser Permanente's Center for Health Research (CHR) has begun a new study to understand how young African-American couples can protect themselves against unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS.

The CHR is collaborating with the Pacific Institute of Women's Health on the PARTNERS study, which is funded through the Public Institute of Women's Health on the Partners study, which is funded through Public Health Institute in Los Angeles. The study's goal is to develop culturally appropriate health education programs that will help

young African-American women and their partners prevent infection with the humane deficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD's), as well as unplanned pregnancies. All three issues are of concern within African-American communities. HIV/AIDS is particularly troubling given the high death and incurable nature of the infection. Nearly half of all AIDS cases — and 56 percent of those in women — have been in African Americans, even though they make up only 13 percent of the U.S. population. African-Americans account for 63 percent of all new HIV in-

fections among people 13 to 24. Even though the death rate from AIDS has fallen, it remains the leading cause of death among African-Americans age 25 to 44.

Statistics from the Oregon Health Division's HIV/STD Program show a similar picture locally. Cumulative rate for HIV diagnosis per 100,000 population (1989 to 1997) among Oregonians of African descent were higher than for any other population group — more than five times higher than whites and 13 times higher than Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders.

"Programs to prevent HIV/AIDS,

STDs and unplanned pregnancies among young African Americans have not been very successful," says Nancy Vuckovic, PhD, principal investigator for the PARTNERS study at CHR. "We have to better tailor prevention programs to the needs of the people we're trying to help. Learning how and why young couples make sexual decisions, especially about condoms use, will help us design prevention that work for both partners."

"HIV and AIDS are serious problems in the African-American community," says Barber Taylor, president of the African American Health Coalition and Chair of the Commu-

nity Advisory Board at CHR. "More and more African-Americans are getting these diseases, and too many people in our community still believe that AIDS is not a problem that affects us. We need education programs that will change this perception, we need prevention programs that will help people adopt safer sexual behavior, and we need these programs to be based on research that understands the feelings, needs, beliefs and behavior of African-Americans."

The first of the PARTNERS study's two phases is just beginning in the community. Each woman age 18-25 who agrees to join the

study will be asked to invite her male partner to also participate. They will be interviewed by African-Americans trained in discussing sensitive issues and ensuring confidentiality. A female interviewer and men will interview women by a male interviewer. Each participant will receive \$30 at the end of the completed 60-minute interview, plus a list of health services available in the community.

African-American women age 18 to 25 who have a male sexual partner are encouraged to participate in this study. If you would like to join the study or would like more information, call (503) 499-5540.

## NE Portland Store Will Be Honored For Creating Safe And Healthy Role Models

Portland Police Chief Dr. Charles A. Moose will join members of the Regional Drug Initiative Youth Coalition and the Oregon Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking to present certificates of appreciation to the Renaissance Market, in recognition of the organization's contribution to the NE Portland community. Receiving the certificates will be Bishop Wells, pastor of Emmanuel Temple, and Paul A. Marshall, Executive Director of Renaissance Market.

This event will take place at 12 noon on Saturday, February 27, 1999 at the Renaissance Market, 909 N. Killingsworth.

"We are recognizing these two key individuals who are responsible for the creation and continued success of a full-service retail store that chooses not to sell alcohol or tobacco products," said Chief Moose, Chair of the Regional Drug Initiative Task Force. "The Renaissance Market is yet another example of an organization taking positive actions at the local level, foregoing profits from tobacco and alcohol sales to promote a healthy and safe environment for their customers."

The Oregon Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (OCRUD) approached the Youth Coalition of the Regional Drug Initiative (RDI) to cosponsor an event that highlighted achievements in the field of alcohol and drug abuse prevention. The RDI Youth Coalition, made up of Portland-area middle school and high school students, decided to honor Black History Month by choosing the Renaissance Market as a NE Portland organization that promotes

a safe and healthy community. "We are proud to congratulate Bishop Wells for putting in place a policy that is firmly committed not to sell alcohol or tobacco to minors and has positively changed this NE Portland neighborhood," said Lorenzo Johnson of OCRUD.

The Renaissance Market is a for-profit enterprise owned and operated by a non-profit organization, Emmanuel Community Services (ECS). "The Renaissance Market grew out of ECS counseling, job training and job placement programs two and a half years ago," said Paul A. Marshall, Executive Director of Renaissance Market. "We recognized the need for economic community development to go beyond just job counseling to create jobs for our youth. Now the Renaissance Market employs 25 employees, many of them youth who have been gang-involved, come out of drug treatment programs, or even incarcerated. These youth just needed the opportunity to demonstrate they were ready to change their lives and take on responsibility, and they have turned out to be some of our most faithful and hardworking employees."

## Lewis & Clark College to Present 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Gender Studies Symposium

Lewis & Clark College will present its 18<sup>th</sup> annual Gender Studies Symposium, "Examining the Issues: Gender, Poverty and Health," Wednesday, March 10, through Friday, March 12, Lewis & Clark College, 0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Road.

The three-day symposium includes two keynote speakers, one keynote performer and more than 40 presentations and panel discussions on a wide range of gender issues. Almost all of the activities are in Templeton Student Center. All events are free and open to the public.

\* Dazon Dixon, an activist for the advancement of women's health issues, will present "Women and HIV: A Human Rights Perspective," Wednesday, March 10, 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Templeton Student Center. Dixon founded SisterLove in 1989, the first and largest women's AIDS organization in the Southeast. Since then, SisterLove has grown from a one-person operation Dixon ran out of her Atlanta, Ga., home to a full-fledged organization with seven staff members and two transitional homes for HIV-positive women and children. Dixon, who continues to volunteer for SisterLove, is the national program director for the Center for Human Rights Education, where she specializes in women's rights and human rights.

Dazon Dixon (below left), Michael Kimmel (below right) and Betty Jean Steinsouer (below) will be the key note speakers for Lewis & Clark



Michael Kimmel, author and professor of sociology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, will present "Men's Health, Men's Violence, Men's Lives: Why Gender Equality is the Answer," Thursday, March 11, 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Templeton Student Center.

Kimmel is the author of "Manhood in America: A Cultural History." He also is an expert witness for the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division on gender issues, gender inequality and the history of masculinity. Kimmel has testified in cases involving sex discrimination at Virginia Military Institute and The Citadel.

Betty Jean Steinsouer, performance artist, will present "Comfort Me With Apples: Homeless Characters Throughout Literature," Friday, March 12, 4:45 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Templeton Student Center.

Steinsouer has performed her one-woman shows throughout the country for the past decade. Among the characters she portrays are Willa Cather, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Flannery O'Connor and Gertrude Stein. Steinsouer is the author of "Poems From the Road" (Coquina Press, 1995). She teaches workshops in acting, per-

formance poetry, creative writing and literary research. She has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Featured guest include Nell Lundy, co-director of the documentary "Jane: An Abortion Service," and Judith Arcana, a former "Jane," Portland writer and instructor of women's studies. Lundy and Arcana will present the film and discuss the history of abortion and the current debate surrounding abortion, Wednesday, March 10, 3 to 5 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Templeton Student Center.

The film tells the story of a small, underground counseling/clinic service that operated for four years in Chicago before abortion became legal in the United States in 1973. Service workers at the clinic were called Janes. "Jane" has been featured at several film festivals, including Sundance, and has appeared on PBS station in many cities. The symposium includes 22 panel discussion with titles such as "Visions in Action: Commitment to End Hunger and Poverty," "Voices of Women Healers: Alternative Healthcare in Modern Society," "Money Matters: Can't Buy Me Healthcare," "Gender Identity Crises in Modern Cinema," "Women and the Politics of Work," and "Never Another Battered Woman: Men and Women on Domestic Violence."

The Gender Studies Symposium also includes workshops, theatrical performances, readings, roundtable discussions and an art show. Sign language interpreters will be provided for the keynote addresses.

## Ballots In The Mail For The March 9<sup>th</sup>

**Vote-By-Mail Election**  
Multnomah County Elections Division announces that the U.S. Postal Service will begin delivering ballots for the March 9<sup>th</sup> Vote-By-Mail election.

All registered voters in Multnomah County will receive a ballot and a Multnomah County Voters' Pamphlet. Before returning the ballot, voters must sign the back of the return envelope; otherwise, the ballot cannot be counted.

Ballots must be received at any Elections Office or a Drop Site by 8:00 p.m. on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Ballots received after this deadline cannot be counted. Postmarks do not count!



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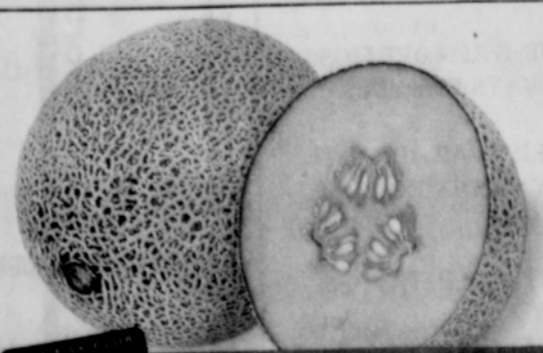
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