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CLARK COUNTY VD CASES IN ALARMING INCREASE

Black Navy Commander Skippers Warship



LONG BEACH, Calif. — Navy Commander George L. Thompson wants people to think of him as a professional sailor instead of a black man in command of a United States warship.

The Navy has overcome many past criticisms by increasing opportunities for Negroes. Cmdr. Thompson himself was in the Bureau of Naval Personnel when the Navy began a minority officer recruitment program in 1962.

"A good indicator of the Navy's continuing minority program is reflected in current attendance of Negro officers at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterrey, Calif." said the commander. "Blacks represent about 12 percent of the student body which speaks well for their performance and for the Navy's efforts."

Cmdr. Thompson is the skipper of the destroyer John R. Craig, which is homeported in San Diego and is currently undergoing overhaul at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard. He assumed command of the ship in July 1969.

A native of Los Angeles, Cmdr. Thompson attended the University of California at Los Angeles, graduating in 1952. He attended Officer Candidate School in January of 1953 and was commissioned as ensign in May of that year.

SPECIAL NOTICE

DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL MEETING AT THE VOICE OFFICE SATURDAY AFTERNOON AUGUST 8 at 3 p.m.

ALL NORTH LAS VEGAS RESIDENTS ARE URGED TO ATTEND THE NORTH LAS VEGAS COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY NIGHT AUGUST 3rd AND MAKE OUR WISHES KNOWN.

ALPHAS SUPPORT NAACP

The newly opened Las Vegas Branch NAACP Office, 1040 West Owens Avenue, was the location chosen by Alphasmen to present the \$50.00 payment toward the life membership goal by the Alpha Fraternity was submitted to NAACP officials on July 22, 1970. This payment rededicated the Alphasmen to the civil rights struggle and provided encouragement to the local NAACP Branch to continue the present fight for school integration, better jobs, and the upgrading of community services from local government agencies.

Alphasmen of Las Vegas' Theta Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., pledge consistent support of the local NAACP Branch through financial aid and individual service. The Fraternity is composed of former college men who have, among their obligations, a commitment to the principles of obtaining freedom and dignity of the individual and the destroying of all prejudices. In this regard, Alphasmen on the national and local level work with the NAACP in trying to initiate constructive social change in the life of our society.

Here in Las Vegas, Alphasmen participate in NAACP Leadership through the following members:

James Shipp, Fraternity President--NAACP Secretary;

Cranford Crawford, Fraternity Vice-President--NAACP Vice-President.

Rev. Marion Bennett, Fraternity Chaplain--NAACP Treasurer;

Attorney Addehlar D. Guy, Fraternity Parliamentarian--NAACP Housing Chairman;

Lemarr McDaniel, NAACP Executive Board Member.

Our other Fraternity members and NAACP supporters include, Onward Abington, George Simmons (Fraternity Treasurer), Carlin Parks, Billy Smith (Fraternity Dean of Pledges), Donald Kirkland, and Dr. John Crear.



L-R: Cranford Crawford, James Shipp, Attorney Charles L. Kellar, Branch President and Raymond Blanks, NAACP Field Co-ordinator.

Dr. Mark L. Herman, acting chief health officer, who also serves as director of the adult clinic, offered these statistics:

Between 1966 and 1969, the number of infectious syphilis cases in Clark County increased by 50 per cent.

Gonorrhea increased by 64 per cent.

Chancroid cases began appearing in late 1969. The number of cases has steadily risen since then.

For the first time in more than half a decade, syphilis, a silent killer unless detected early, is showing a sharp increase here and elsewhere in the nation, Dr. Herman noted.

Despite the growing caseload, funds for the southern Nevada VD program have been caught in a squeeze between reductions in federal and local money available, Dr. Herman stated.

However, the District has received some assurance that a projected \$25,000 cutback in federal funds for the program will be partially made up on a state level.

While the community fight against VD is a complex one, the actual cure of a case can be a simple matter when it is diagnosed early.

For syphilis, treatment generally consists of four injections over a two week period. For gonorrhea, treatment may be two injections during a single visit or oral medication taken over a one week period. For chancroid, six injections are given over a three-week period with combined pill medication.

The hangup comes in case detection.

Sometimes the chancre is internal and unnoticed. The next symptom is a rash which usually appears six weeks later and lasts about two weeks. The rash may be on the palms of the hands, soles of the feet or anywhere on the body and is usually symmetrical in appearance.

Detecting syphilis at this point is critical. Next, the disease becomes latent and cannot be detected except through a blood test.

The next time symptoms appear may be too late. Called the "Great Imitator," syphilis can attack any organ in the body, including the heart, eyes and brain. Because symptoms resemble those of other diseases, diagnosis is difficult. Damage to the attacked organ is usually permanent.

Investigators interview syphilis patients and seek out all sexual contacts the patient had during the prior year. This aids in elimination of "clusters" of carriers.

Gonorrhea patient contacts are not sought out. Federal funding emphasis is placed on syphilis detection and treatment. Gonorrhea patients are urged to request their contacts to voluntarily visit the clinic or a private physician for tests.

Gonorrhea symptoms consist of burning sensations and discharges, normally beginning three to ten days after exposure. Again, symptoms of this disease are often unnoticeable in a woman.

As a result, many women unwittingly spread gonorrhea for months. And, they themselves face the possibility of massive pelvic infec-

see VD page 11)