

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE HITS MORE BLACKS

MOUNT VERNON, N. Y. -- Victims of hypertension often have no symptoms, but left untreated the disease can cause heart attack, stroke, or kidney failure, warns Consumers Union.

Hypertension -- commonly called "high blood pressure" -- is the leading cause of death among Blacks and is the major reason Blacks have a shorter life expectancy than whites, the independent consumer organization reports. It notes that hypertension is the most common chronic disease in the United States and strikes Blacks twice as often as whites. About 100 times more Black people die from hypertension than from sickle cell disease.

About one in seven Americans have hypertension and three-quarters are not being treated, Consumers Union reports. Untreated hypertension usually kills its victims about 20 years after the onset of the disease. Some uncommon forms may be fatal in less than a year.

Advice on high blood pressure is contained in the October issue of Consumer Reports, monthly publication of Consumers Union.

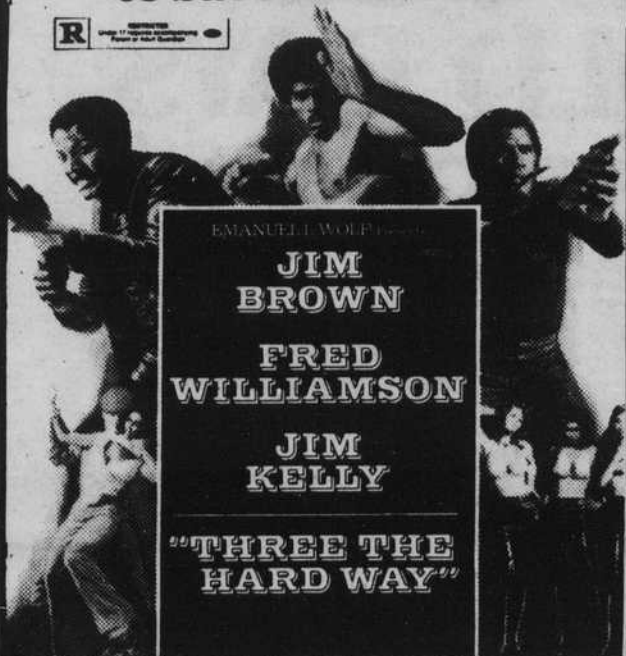
"Have your blood pressure checked once a year and keep a record of the readings. If you develop high blood pressure, both you and your doctor should take it seriously. If your doctor is not treating you to bring your pressure down, consult another doctor."

The magazine stresses that the disease usually cannot be cured and requires "uninterrupted life-long drug therapy.... Once a plan of treatment is established, follow through. Exercise, keep your weight normal, try to stop smoking cigarettes.

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REID - LAXALT DEBATE

LAS VEGAS---Senatorial candidate Harry Reid today accepted a call to debate his opponent Paul Laxalt regarding Laxalt's ties to billionaire Howard Hughes and charged Laxalt with plunging his campaign into the gutter as a result of panic.

"I'm calling his bluff by accepting the debate over the Hughes-Ornsby House issue. I believe Laxalt's debate offer is as phony as the libel suit he pledged to file against his Republican primary opponent," Reid said.

The lieutenant governor charged that Laxalt backed down from the suit as soon as the primary election votes were counted because he was afraid the truth would surface in court.

"We can now see Laxalt for what he is. He vowed a clean campaign publicity. Then the polls showed him dropping further and further behind. So we now see a desperate outburst of lies and vague charges.

Reid cited what he termed an outright lie. "Mr. Laxalt claimed I supported a bill to make parole easier. Any newsman in the state can check the record. I introduced a constitutional amendment that would have made life without possibility of parole mean just that," Reid said.

The measure died in Laxalt's Republican controlled assembly. "Where was Mr. Laxalt then," Reid asked.

The lieutenant governor said he would insure that the debate would unravel Nevada's greatest mystery: how a small town lawyer could parlay one term as governor into ownership of a \$7.5 million hotel-casino.

"This debate will give Mr. Laxalt a chance to clear the air on a number of issues," Reid said.

The lieutenant governor said answers to these questions would be sought once and for all: ---Who was telling the truth on the deal for Howard Hughes to buy the Dunes Hotel, then attorney general John Mitchell or Laxalt?

---What precisely was Laxalt's testimony before the Watergate Committee the several times he testified by deposition and in person, and when will Laxalt make it public?

---How Laxalt was able to acquire multi-million dollar loans to bail the Ornsby House out of the red.

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NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Two Clark County students, Michael Gibson, of Valley High School and Gwendolyn Brown of Western, were included in the list of 1,400 Semifinalists in the eleventh National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students, announced today by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which administers the program. The Achievement Semifinalists being announced were among 50,000 black students in some 6,000 high schools who entered the competition by taking the 1973 Preliminary Scholarship Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NM-SQT) and requesting consideration in the Achievement Program. Students named as Achievement Semifinalists are the highest scorers in each of six geographic regions; the number named in each region is proportional to the black population of the combined states in that region.

"One of our purposes is to encourage exceptionally promising black students to set higher educational and career goals and to utilize their talents in pursuing them," says L. C. McMillan, NMSC Vice President responsible for the general management of the Achievement Program. "By identifying and recognizing these able and highly motivated black youth, we hope to increase the educational opportunities that can prepare them for future professional and leadership roles."

About 450 of the students announced today will be winners of Achievement Scholarships to be awarded in the spring of 1975. At least 260 of these awards will be National Achievement \$1000 Scholarships, providing a single payment of \$1,000 to the winner after he enrolls in a regionally accredited U. S. college. About 190 Achievement Scholarships in 1975 will be four-year renewable awards, worth up to \$1,500 per year (or \$6,000 for the four college years). In the ten annual Achievement Scholarship competitions completed (1965-74), over 3,300 black students have won awards valued at more than \$9.5 million.

To continue in the competition, Achievement Semifinalists must qualify as Finalists by meeting additional requirements that include being recommended by their secondary schools, presenting a creditable academic record, and submitting information about their academic and extracurricular attainments. Over 1,000 Semifinalists are expected to advance to Finalist standing in the competition for Achievement Scholarships to be offered next spring.

In 1974, the most recently completed competition, sponsor funds and general contributions to the Achievement Program provided some 470 scholarships for black students. The majority of Achievement Program sponsors are business firms, corporations, and corporate foundations. In addition, a growing number of colleges finance Achievement Scholarships for black students to attend their institutions.

The winners of the one-time National Achievement \$1000 Scholarships and renewable four-year Achievement Scholarships that are financed by corporate and business sponsors will be announced publicly on March 13, 1975.

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