

Happiness Through Health

by Otto McClarrin

CHILD ABUSE BELIEVED PREDICTABLE:

Doctors and nurses watching new parents in the hospital can spot those who will eventually abuse the child, says a Colorado expert. "Child abuse is, by and large, predictable and preventable," Dr. C. Henry Kempe stated recently in a lecture at Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Dr. Kempe is president of the American Pediatric Society and professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado Medical Center in Denver. His conclusions were based on a two-year study at Colorado General Hospital.

Doctors and nurses observing new parents over seven months identified 100 parents who, in Kempe's words, "needed extra help." Those included mothers who did not want to touch or hold their babies, who avoided looking at their new babies or who expressed great disappointment that the baby was of the "wrong" sex.

The 100 parents were divided into two groups of 50. One group received only normal pediatric and maternal care. The other got special attention from pediatricians and specifically trained laymen who visited the family and helped out with the new baby. A third group of 50 parents who, it was thought, needed no "extra help" was picked for comparison.

At the end of 17 months, researchers picked 25 cases from each group and looked for "abnormal parenting practices" such as physical or emotional abuse, kidnapping or failure to thrive.

There were no abused children among the normal group. There were in the other two groups. As a result of the study, the hospital now employs 15 persons who pay at least one home visit to the parents of each child born in the hospital. Extra visits go to those who seem to need extra help.

Dr. Kempe urged pediatricians to pay attention to possible child abuse, particularly through questions to parents. "You should ask, 'Are you having fun with the baby? Are there any problems at home?'"

CIGARETTE SMOKING IMPERILS PREGNANCY: Cigarette smoking during pregnancy nearly doubles the chance of having a miscarriage, according to a new study by Columbia University epidemiologists. Miscarriage - called spontaneous abortion by doctors - thus becomes one more risk of pregnancy to be linked to cigarette smoking. Previous studies have linked smoking with a higher rate of infant mortality and with lower-than-normal weight at birth. Low-birth-weight babies run a higher risk of illness.

The latest study was done by a team headed by Jennie Kline, an epidemiologist at the Columbia University School of Public Health. The report appeared recently in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The researches were made on about 574 women who were admitted to three Manhattan hospitals for miscarriages between 1974 and 1976. These women were compared with 320 women who delivered babies in the same hospitals at the same time.

For purposes of the study, the women were divided into three groups. In every group, the report said, there was a higher percentage of smokers among women who had miscarriages than among women who did not. Over all, the study found that smokers were 1.8 times more likely to have miscarriages than non-smokers.

In an interview, Kline said that the study could affect the advice that doctors give the pregnant women about smoking. Previous studies had indicated that a woman could smoke cigarettes early in pregnancy without harming the baby. "The influence from our study is that a woman is at an increased risk of spontaneous abortion and, therefore, would be wise to give up smoking as soon as she knows she is pregnant," she said.

ANDY YOUNG VINDICATED By Laura Parks

A while ago Ambassador Young created quite a furor following his remarks about racialism in certain European countries. The outcry against him was of such intensity and magnitude that he was advised to discontinue his habit of frankly speaking his mind on those matters.

Being a loyal member of the Presidential team he dutifully complied with the President's wishes and began his long and difficult search for majority rule in Rhodesia and racial justice in South America. Today, Ambassador Young is in the midst of extraordinary delicate negotiations with a multitude of International leaders and an almost as numerous host of private emissaries who are attempting to sway him first this way then that way according to the very ancient principles of self interest.

Andy Young's diplomatic salad days are over. The novelty of his presence on the world diplomatic state has all but vanished. Now he moves from world capital to world capital, from diplomatic gathering to Presidential secret sessions with suave assurance and firm in his knowledge that when he speaks he will have a captive worldwide audience.

Nevertheless, Andy Young's first language is not diplomatic jargon. His native tongue, learned in the harsh days of the rebellious 60s, remains muted and buried beneath an alien lingua franca in which the nations of the world talk to each other of war and peace.

It was therefore not surprising that during the early days of his diplomatic apprenticeship for the passions and the rhetoric of another time to have surfaced in bitter anger as he denounced racism in western Europe. It was his last cry to the heavens a final appeal to men of goodwill to wake up and take notice of racism in Europe where some have said it could not possibly exist before being silenced by the requirements his diplomatic duties.

Racism is on the rise in western Europe, especially in Britain. The contagion has spread with such rapidity that the powerful British Union of Journalists, alarmed by developments, sent to all of its members a special four page supplement in the Union paper the "Journalist" warning the nations press corps to mount an immediate and sustained campaign against racism and the Nazi National Front that thrives on it. The last time such a warning was issued was during the hayday of Adolf Hitler in the late thirties.

Even the world famous humor magazine "Punch" felt the need to launch an attack on the National Front and racism and made this via a cartoon on its front cover.

Throughout Britain educational authorities are also alarmed by the spread of racism reading materials into the classroom. A national conference is being called to combat this menace.

The British Nazi like National Front is increasingly bold in its public, provocative appeals to racism. In a recent electoral campaign for Parliament the National Front posters showed a dark face drenched in blood soiling the British flag with the caption "This is your last chance, Vote for a white Britain."

In recent weeks the National Front has staged marches thru some of Britain's worst slums and high unemployment areas openly seeking to attack minority residents and to provoke their white neighbors into doing the same. So far serious incidents have been avoided, but nobody is willing to bet how long this will last.

Across Britain Bookstores in minority residential areas have come under attack from the racists. These attacks have included fire bombings breaking of windows and doors and the destruction of books, magazines and newspapers. The owners of the bookstores have accused the police of collusion with the racists and have appealed to the government for protection. Invariably the bookstores are smeared with slogans such as "KKK" "Niggers Out" and "White Power."

The racist National Front menace has reached alarming proportions. At the recently concluded Labor Party Conference, the British Prime Minister Callaghan roundly denounced the National Front as a real threat to Britains freedom. At the Conservative Party Conference the positions taken were much milder but were nevertheless anti-National Front.

There can be no doubt that Andy Young spoke some harsh truths about European racism which some had tried to hide behind the facade of democratic structures. In piercing the facade he touched the throbbing cancer of racism and fascism.

Alex Haley

Alex Haley, internationally renowned author of the history making novel "Roots" will be the guest speaker on November 19, when the National Conference of Christians and Jews spotlights brotherhood in Clark County. He will speak on "The Roots of Brotherhood".

In announcing Haley's appearance, Judge Addeilar Guy, Chairman of the program committee, said that Haley would appear as a guest of the organization. His appearance will be in the rotunda of the Convention Center and is free to the public. Judge Guy said, "The local chapter feels that so prestigious a speaker as Mr. Haley should be heard by everyone, and since he will be talking about brotherhood, the NCCJ is happy to be able to bring him to Southern Nevada.

Haley has received international acclaim since the appearance of his book and the television drama based on it. He is much in demand throughout the country and his return to Las Vegas was arranged through a busy schedule.

The program will begin at 8 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend.



The National Conference of Christians and Jews Brotherhood in Clark County, featuring ALEX HALEY, will be in the Convention Center South Hall, instead of the Convention Center Rotunda, it was announced Wednesday. REMEMBER!!! Go to the Convention Center SOUTH HALL, Saturday evening, November 19, 1977 at 8 P.M. to hear Alex Haley. FREE to the Public.



THANKSGIVING

DELTA THANKSGIVING MEET-The highlights of the Nov. meeting of the Las Vegas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will be the collection of foods and money to donate to a needy family for Thanksgiving and further discussion of the United Negro College Fund Drive/Sepia Fashion Fair (Dec. 2). There will also be a report of the Halloween Party given by the Eta Chi Chapter of Delta on Oct. 31 at the EOB Child Care Center for youngsters of the community. The meeting is today, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Dorothy Stepp. For further information call 642-1682.

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