

# JOURNAL

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infant mortality rate for the nation is now 9.9 deaths per 1,000 live births. This is an improvement but the United States still falls behind twenty-one other nations that have lower infant mortality rates. The white infant mortality rate is now approximately 8.6 per 1,000 live births. Yet the infant mortality rate for African-American infants is approximately 18 per 1,000 live births.

While there has been an overall decline in deaths from heart disease and strokes in the United States, there is an increase in deaths from heart attacks and strokes in the African-American community. Between 1987 and 1988, African American males were seven times more likely to die of homicide than white males. And African American women were more than four times more likely to die from homicides than white women. Of course, some of

these statistics are due to what the report calls "different lifestyles." But we maintain that difference in life styles are in part conditioned by social and economic contexts.

As long as there is an overall racial disparity in the social and economic arenas of empowerment, there will always be a racial disparity in the health status of citizens of this nation. We have been encouraged on the other hand by the tough stands and advocacy role of Dr. Sullivan. His recent denunciation of the tobacco and alcohol industries for disproportionately targeting racial and ethnic communities for the consumption of tobacco and alcohol products is to be commended.

We believe that ultimately the health of the nation depends upon the just and equal delivery of health care as well as the just and equal access to health care. This nation should be a healthy place for all people.

By Zyra and Robert Thomas

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Spring is the time when all the household pests come out in full force and multiply in great numbers. Zyra and Robert Thomas, owners of New York Style Pest Control, are preparing a series of informative articles about household pests and how you can rid yourself of them or at least keep them under control. This is the first in the series.**

For more than 200 thousand years, cockroaches have been on this earth. Most were found in warm climates, many of them several inches long.

The adaptability of these insects to environmental changes over the many centuries is still a mystery to the scientific world. This may account for the 3500 species existing in the world today. There are about 55 species living in the United States and doing quite well.

Cockroaches are the most common insects known to man. These insects have the ability to carry diseases,

which can be found deposited on food, utensils and in food areas, causing food poisoning, diarrhea and dysentery.

A heavy infestation of cockroaches will produce a musty odor.

In the U.S., the German cockroach (*Blattella germanica*) is the most populated species.

The adults are identified by a pale brown body with two dark strips the length of its body and has wing pads. They are usually about 1/2 inch long. The younger insects are darker in color with one dark strip down their

body and are wingless.

Most infestations are found near or around water, usually the kitchen and bathroom sinks, the refrigerator and in cabinets. They can also be found in clothes closets, under tables and nightstands, behind wall pictures and almost anywhere if the problem is bad enough. They also might be found outside if the weather is warm.

Generally German roaches are nocturnal, but a heavy population will cause them to crawl during the day in search of food and water. German roaches will eat almost



anything, but are most fond of fermented material.

With plenty of water and food, the German roach can live for approximately 1 year; around thirty days with water and no food; and nearly 2 weeks without food or water.

The German roach reproduces quicker than any other species in the world. There are a larger number of eggs per capsule, which the female carries protruding from her abdomen until they are hatched.

These roaches develop a resistance to most insecticides, but there are some which are very effective when used properly.

Keeping food and water areas clean and good general cleaning will also help reduce the roach population. In most cases professional service is required.

Next month we'll talk about the American cockroach.

## Annual Fund-Raiser To Benefit United Negro College Fund

The Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.'s Delta Epsilon Chapter of Las Vegas will hold their second annual fund-raising benefit on behalf of the United Negro College Fund, which takes place on Sunday, May 20, 1990, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Center Strip. Donation: \$25.00 (Tax Deductible).

The event will consist of a formal banquet, highlighted with presentations by guest speakers and entertainment provided by local celebrities and community leaders. The keynote speaker will be Ms. Patricia Jarman, the renowned international boxing judge and journalist. Musical entertainment will be

provided by Ms. Darcus Speed who appears regularly on the Las Vegas Strip as well as at the Golden Nugget, opening for stars such as Don Rickles, Yakov Smirnoff and many others. Ms. Brenda Young, of Ray and Ross, the minority-owned and operated transportation company will round off the evening with prose and songs.

The theme for this year's fund-raiser will be "Working Women Striving For Success," which is consistent with the goals of the Eta Phi Beta Sorority and the ongoing efforts of its Delta Epsilon Las Vegas Chapter. Led by its president, Ms. Gloria Krause, the Delta Epsilon

Chapter strives to motivate and assist local women in their efforts for self-improvement.

Ms. Krause has been assisted in coordinating this year's event by the organization's officers, namely, Ruby Davis - Vice President, Freida "Geri" Funches - Treasurer and Willa Wylie - Secretary.

Eta Phi Beta Sorority is a national Business and Professional Women's non-profit organization. It was organized in 1942 in Detroit, Michigan by eleven business women, who felt the need for a closer fellowship among business and professional women. The organization's purpose is to -- promote and

create fellowship among business women; to work for the welfare of business and professional women; to improve the standards of African-American businesswomen; to assist in obtaining and creating opportunity and the highest standards in all business fields for women, and to aid high school graduates by awarding scholarships to further their education in the business and professional fields.

Eta Phi Beta Sorority contributes as well as participates in active community efforts which benefit women, youth and the handicapped. Regular contributions are made to the United Negro College Fund, NAACP, Urban League, March of Dimes, the United Fund Drive, YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, National Council of Negro Women and other worthwhile civic projects.

The Delta Epsilon Las Vegas Chapter invited the general public to lend their support to the organization's efforts on behalf of the community by joining them in fellowship and celebration at this year's fund-raiser, for an evening of fun and good fare.

For tickets and further information, please contact Gloria Krause by calling (702)737-8533 or LaJean's Hair Design at 649-3445.

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