

# HEALTH

NNPA FEATURE

## COPING

by  
Dr. Charles Faulkner



### "WHY DO THEY HATE ME?"

#### PART TWO

Last week, I began to answer a letter that I received from Mr. H. of Connecticut who wanted me to answer the question "Why do white people treat me with such disrespect when I have not done anything to hurt them?" I told him that white people generally perceive of black men as being more masculine than white men. Their rude treatment of black men is their way of protecting and defending the perceived inferior masculinity of the white man. It is not uncommon to find a white woman who professes to despise black men. Yet, she will secretly have sex with him. But, she will not be seen with him socially.

Competition is a foundation of American society. But, the major competition is the physical competition of men against each other. Grade school gym classes, recreation playgrounds and sandlot sports groom men to compete. The winner can accept the accolade of superiority. The teams of competitors are usually divided by race. Black against white. White against black. Blacks root for blacks and whites root for whites. It is seldom the other way around.

Whether in football, boxing, basketball or baseball, it is black Bo Jackson against a white tackle. Or, black Mike Tyson against any current white hope. It is the mostly black Detroit Pistons against the mostly white Boston Celtics.

You don't believe it? Who do you root for when the Los Angeles Lakers played the Boston Celtics several years ago in the NBA finals? Why did you root for that particular team or person? Racial competition is as American as prune juice. The stereotype of the black man as physically superior but intellectually inferior, and the white man as intellectually superior and physically inferior is a strong American tradition that haunts us even today.

White males watch football each week and see powerful black men knocking over some of the white opposition. They see Michael Jordan soaring above the otherwise superior white players. The repetition of these black accomplishments make white men defensive. White use their social and political power as their major weapon to keep blacks in their place and

to, at least, create an impression that black men are not superior in any way. Bump into them. That's a small victory. Throw them in jail. Show them that the white man is the boss. Let a white gang beat up a black man. Watch the police arrest the black

victim. Shoot a black man who talks back to a policeman. Do anything to defend the white man's negative feelings about himself.

Most acts of rudeness and abuse of black men by white people are efforts to hide the

black man's real capabilities. The problem for the white man is that his inferiority is deeply implanted in his psyche. And, no matter how many black men he destroys, he cannot destroy his own feeling of physical inferiority to the black man. It is for this

reason that they effort to keep the black man down by humiliating him, abusing him and giving no opportunity to succeed in this society will continue until the black man realizes that merely pleading with his antagonist will yield no mercy.

## CHARLES R. DREW - UNIVERSITY COMBATS HIGH DEATH RATE AMONG ELDERLY THROUGH NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM

Scholarships being offered by the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science Nutrition Program, come at a time when recent statistics show that better nutrition can help fight the diseases that cause most of the deaths in older African-Americans.

According to statistics provided by the American Association of Retired Persons, (AARP) and the American Heart Association, (AHA) the major causes of death for older African-Americans-heart disease, strokes, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure and cirrhosis of the liver-are all related to poor eating habits. In the nutrition program at the University, students will begin classes in June to earn credits towards a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nutrition qualifying them to use their newly acquired skills to combat the statistics which show African-Americans with a life expectancy rate 6.2 years less than non-minorities.

Hands-on training is an important focus of the nutrition program at Charles R. Drew University, offering students an academic program in conjunc-

tion with practical exposure to dealing with patients in a hospital setting.

The nutrition program, like other programs at the University, reflects the emphasis on "urban medicine", a focus on medical knowledge and training which addresses the health priorities of minority and disadvantaged communities.

The Charles R. Drew University Nutrition Program is aimed at increasing the numbers of Black and Latino dieticians; both of which, according to the Program Director, Pamela Williams, are severely underrepresented. Current statistics from the American Dietetic Association indicate that, of 60,000 registered dieticians in the organization, fewer than 5% are Black.

Although the students who enter the Drew program are not required to work in the Black/Latino community, Williams feels that the training they receive at Drew will motivate the new health professionals to remain in the community.

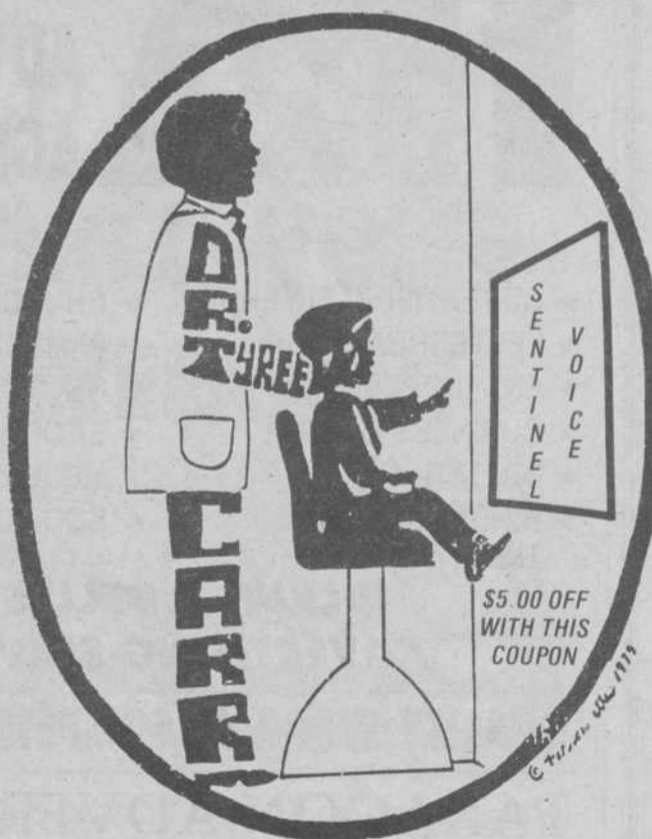
An emphasis on small class size-an average of six students-and individual attention from instructors help to ensure the

success of each participant. In addition, students in the program will have full access to the University's Learning Resource Center for help with academic tutorials and development of learning skills to prepare the student for the advanced course content of the nutrition program.

Hands-on training enables students to experience the patient/practitioner relationship early, and observe the impact of their involvement in the patient's treatment.

The internship requirement is fulfilled during the student's senior year, after which students are granted the bachelor's degree and qualified to take the examination for registered dieticians.

The Nutrition Program is one of the eight academic programs offered through the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, College of Allied Health. Other programs include Physician Assistant, Medical Technology, Radiography, Sonography, Nuclear Medicine, Medical Records Technology and Pharmacy Technology. Admission to the Nutrition Program is open to anyone who has completed sixty semester hours of prerequisite courses. Individuals interested in applying for admission to the program and/or scholarship assistance should call Ms. Williams at (213) 563-5891.



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