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THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

November 18, 1999

Sandra Thurman
Director
White House Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. Thurman: *Sandy*

As a supporter of the Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) Initiative of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, your commitment has been crucial to our work. It is my privilege to share with you the successes of the initiative's first phase, formal launch, and our upcoming plans.

Beginning in August, in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Bristol-Myers Squibb, we were able to bring the powerful message of the Quilt to audiences committed to confronting AIDS in the African American community in New York, Los Angeles and Baltimore. On October 18, the Quilt's HBCU Initiative was formally launched at the Atlanta University Complex, consisting of Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, Spelman College, Morris Brown College, The Interdenominational Theological Center, and Clark Atlanta University, with a keynote address by civil rights leader Coretta Scott King, widow of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In her speech, Mrs. King urged the African American community to put aside bigotry and prejudice in confronting the threat of AIDS, and to play an active part in the solution. I have enclosed a copy of her speech, and I wish I could convey to you how inspiring Mrs. King's words were to all of us who heard them. The White House was represented by Sandra Thurman, Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, who spoke movingly to the critical need for more African American community groups to address AIDS.

The program included three days of comprehensive educational sessions where students participated in workshops covering such topics as modes of HIV transmission and methods of protection, the need to know one's HIV status, how to get tested for HIV, and partner notification. Free and confidential HIV testing was offered by a local AIDS service provider throughout the program. In one workshop, HIV-positive students spoke about how they got infected, what they experienced in seeking help in their community, what resources are available, and the challenges for African Americans in identifying themselves as at risk. A student-led candlelight march was held one evening, which grew and grew as more students joined in and walked to the Quilt display site. Local AIDS service groups partnering with us in organizing this program have reported that the initiative is succeeding in opening channels for them to work more closely with the colleges on future HIV prevention initiatives. "You've done something with this project that I have never been able to do during my entire time with AIDS Survival Project," said Marcya Gullate-Owens, Outreach Manager at that organization, who has been invited back to Morris Brown College to speak at a health conference this winter.

I have enclosed a copy of the poster and brochure used to promote the HBCU Initiative, along with news clippings and photos from the kickoff event for your perusal. Building on the momentum of this launch, the HBCU Initiative will continue with World AIDS Day programs this December at Howard University in Washington, DC and Hampton University in Hampton, VA. We are very excited about each of these events, and about the level of commitment and involvement we have had from students, faculty, administrators, and local community-based agencies in each city. Following the successful fall 1999 opening of this initiative, we will be bringing the program to at least ten more HBCUs starting in February. We will also be returning to Washington and Atlanta this spring to build upon the important prevention inroads that have been made.

Your commitment to this initiative is helping us reach communities at very high risk of HIV infection with life-saving prevention education and treatment information. This initiative would not be possible without your support. We are deeply grateful, and look forward to our continued work together to end this epidemic. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at (415) 882-5569 x301.

Sincerely,
Andy
Andy Ilves
Executive Director

Sandy - Thank you so much for all your support of the Quilt and all our new initiatives!

Andy

The NAMES Project Foundation

310 Townsend Street, Suite 310 San Francisco, California 94107

Telephone: (415) 882-5500 Fax: (415) 882-6200 email: info@aidsqilt.org Website: <http://www.aidsqilt.org>



HBCU

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES INITIATIVE



FROM INFORMATION
TO ACTION

THE AIDS MEMORIAL
QUILT

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES INITIATIVE

From Information To Action

To confront the AIDS crisis in the African American community, in September 1999, the AIDS Memorial Quilt is launching a new initiative on the campuses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's). This program will include large displays of the Quilt together with HIV prevention education programs, on-site HIV testing and counseling, treatment information and referrals to local resource providers.

New data illustrate the alarming spread of HIV among African Americans.

- AIDS is the leading cause of death among African Americans between the ages of 15 and 24.
- Among the new HIV infections reported to the CDC, 63% are reported in African Americans. 60% of newly infected women are African American.
- Although African Americans represent about 12% of the U.S. population, they make up 35% of all U.S. AIDS cases and 43% of new AIDS diagnoses.
- One in two African Americans (50%) say they are *very concerned* about becoming infected with HIV, a level of concern that is twice that of all Americans (24%).
- One in two (49%) African Americans knows someone who has HIV or AIDS or has died from AIDS.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt HBCU initiative responds to the desire among student groups and administrators at HBCU's to heighten the level of AIDS awareness among HBCU students and to bring life-saving information and resources to students and to off-campus community members. The Quilt's initiative has been designed to address the needs identified by young African Americans by offering on-site HIV testing, information on where to go for help if exposed to HIV, opportunities to discuss how to talk with partners about reducing the risk of transmission, and teaching the correct use of condoms.

The Quilt's HBCU Initiative will:

- (1) Raise awareness of HIV/AIDS as a public health issue that disproportionately affects African American young people;
- (2) Complement and support HIV prevention programs with the Quilt's proven efficacy as an HIV prevention tool and through the leadership of campus peer educators;
- (3) Encourage African Americans and youth to access HIV testing and treatment;
- (4) Promote AIDS Memorial Quilt-making within the African American community to bring communities together, foster remembrance and healing, and combat silence around AIDS.

The Quilt has a twelve year proven track record as the premiere AIDS awareness and education tool in the nation. Unlike a recitation of epidemiological facts, through the power of the Quilt's visceral illustration of the human impact of AIDS, audiences are moved to a true understanding of the losses caused by the epidemic and the need to take direct, personal action for one's own well being and for the well-being of one's family and community. The Quilt opens hearts and minds.

Enhancing HIV Prevention and Education Programs

The AIDS Memorial Quilt will work with all of its national and local partner agencies to enhance current HIV prevention efforts in and around campus by leveraging new resources to reach and teach African American and youth communities. Beyond information, this program will challenge youth to take personal action to reduce their risk of contracting HIV. Program elements include:

- Influential African American speakers
- Culturally-specific and age appropriate health curricula
- Condom distribution
- On-site HIV testing and counseling
- Information pamphlets and wallet cards providing local resource referrals

Raising Awareness

A Quilt display that represents mostly African American men, women, and children will be coordinated on each campus for up to five days. Student groups, including fraternities and sororities, will be engaged in leading aspects of the display logistics. HBCU administrators as well as off-campus groups and health care professionals are being asked to participate actively. Awareness of HIV/AIDS in the African American and youth communities will take place before, during, and after each display through story-telling, oral histories of loved ones lost to AIDS, educational seminars, symposia and campus "speakouts" on issues of HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and research.

Healing, Remembrance and Dialogue

The HBCU initiative will promote quilt-making for fellow African Americans who have lost someone to AIDS. This amazing process of engaging students and community members in a hands-on activity brings people together as a community to grieve for loved ones lost to AIDS (even when other family members or friends may not); accept HIV as a very real and powerful public health threat that impacts them personally; and move beyond silence around AIDS.

Partners

To implement this ambitious program, the Quilt is partnering with Bristol-Myers Squibb, the United Negro College Fund, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, Council of Negro Women, National Quilting Association, national African American fraternities and sororities, and local student groups and AIDS service organizations.

How to Support the HBCU Initiative

This critical initiative needs the support of individuals, organizations, corporations and media outlets at national and local levels. We welcome all suggestions and resources toward making the program stronger. To discuss this new initiative, please contact Scott Miller, HBCU Project Coordinator at (415) 882-5500, extension 314 or by e-mail to Scott_Miller@aidsquilt.org.

FALL 1999 HBCU TOUR

(Audience:

70,000)

Atlanta, GA

Clark Atlanta University
Morehouse College
Spelman College

Baltimore, MD

Morgan State University

Columbia, SC

Benedict College

Hampton, VA

Hampton: Hampton University

Norfolk, VA

Norfolk: Norfolk State University

Washington, DC

Howard University

2000 HBCU TOUR

(Audience: 170,000)

Potential Sites

Birmingham, AL

Lawson State Community College
Miles College

Huntsville, AL

Alabama A&M
J.F. Drake Technical College
Oakwood College

Montgomery, AL

Alabama State University
Trenholm State Technical College

Little Rock, AR

Arkansas Baptist College
Philander Smith College
Shorter College

Tallahassee, FL

Florida A&M University

Charlotte, NC

Johnson C. Smith University

Greensboro, NC

Bennett College
North Carolina A&T State University

Raleigh/Durham, NC

Shaw University
North Carolina Central University

	Nashville, TN Fisk University Meharry Medical College Tennessee State University
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The HBCU Tour of The Quilt: Breaking the Silence

By Scott Miller – The Names Project Foundation

AIDS is not over—the stark reality of this truth has never been as evident as it is in the African American community. In spite of a modest drop in AIDS deaths across the country, AIDS continues to be the leading cause of death among African American youth between the ages of 15-24. Over 60% of all new HIV infections in the United States occur among black people, over 70% of those women of child bearing years. Clearly, AIDS is an African American problem.

There has been silence in the African American community fueled by a legacy of taboos which portray AIDS as a fate reaped exclusively by intravenous drug use and homosexuality. These falsehoods, perpetuated by our own fears and sense of invulnerability must be confronted—they are endangering our future Queens of Sheeba and King Tuts...and we are running out of time.

In an effort to address HIV/AIDS among African American youth and to foster a collaborative approach to dealing with this epidemic, The NAMES Project Foundation, sponsor of The AIDS Memorial Quilt, will be partnering with the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) HIV/AIDS Orientation and Professional Education Program (HOPE) in launching the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Tour of The Quilt next Fall.

Since 1987, The AIDS Memorial Quilt has been committed to its mission of bringing an end to AIDS by building upon its efficacy as a prevention tool. The purpose of the HBCU Tour will be to raise HIV/AIDS awareness in African American communities, particularly among youth. Building upon existing HIV prevention education programs. The Quilt will assist African American and youth in communities to engage in an informed dialogue about HIV/AIDS and begin healing from the human lives lost to the epidemic.

As part of the tour, a five day Quilt display will be coordinated on each of the campuses the HBCU Tour visits. On-campus health care administrators, student groups, fraternities and sororities will be

engaged in leading aspects of the display logistics. Other HBCU administrators as well as off-campus groups (including health care professionals) will be invited to participate. Activities surrounding awareness of HIV/AIDS among African Americans and youth will take place as part of the tour through story telling, oral histories of loved ones lost to AIDS, educational seminars and campus "speak-outs" on issues of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and research.

The tour represents a commitment on behalf of the AIDS Memorial Quilt to address the needs of the communities impacted most by AIDS. In addition to working with the UNCF HOPE Program, The NAMES Project Foundation is also collaborating with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), and the National Quilting Association in order to make the HBCU Tour a reality. Each of these national organizations will serve a vital function in making the tour a meaningful event.

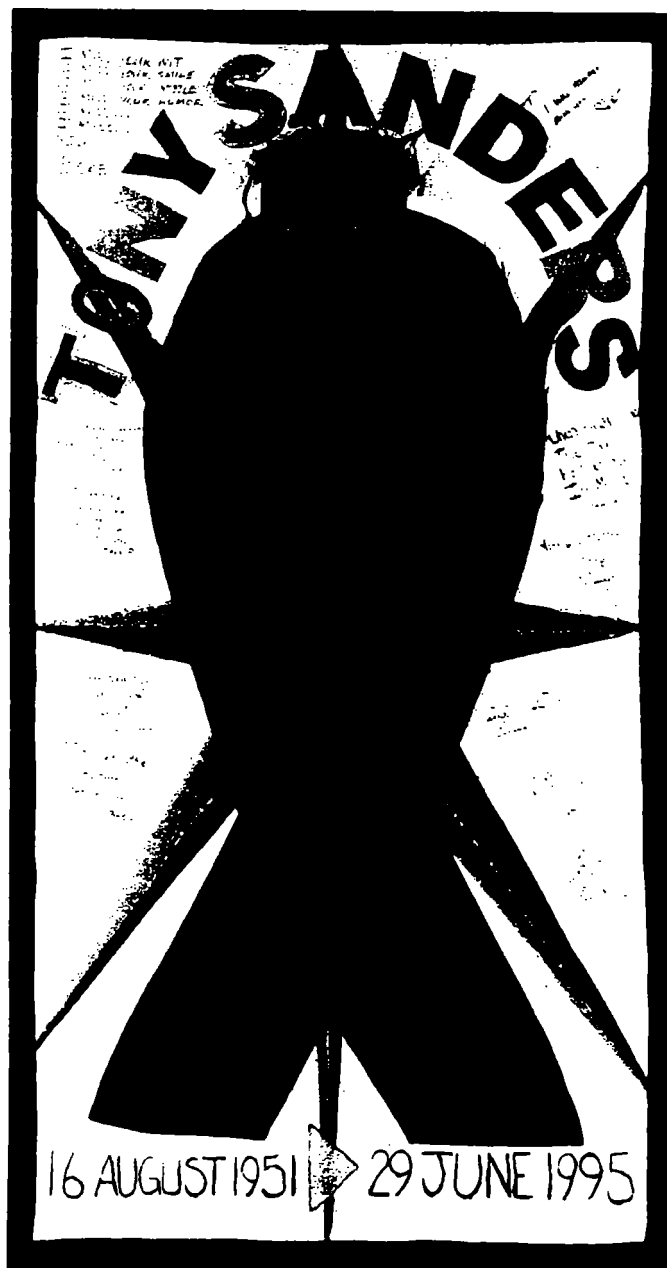
Student Groups Must Get Involved

To make the HBCU Tour a truly collaborative undertaking it will rely on the initiative and commitment of its student body. Without a doubt, the success of the HBCU

Tour in achieving its goals hinges on student group mobilization and peer education. As chief stake-holders, it is imperative that student groups take a leadership role in this initiative and serve as a catalyst of empowerment for the surrounding African American communities.

Finally, it is hoped that the HBCU Tour

Continues on page 5



Kudos to Fisk University- UNCF/HOPE Project

Faculty appointed to a Tennessee RAC for HIV/AIDS Prevention

Dr. Phyllis Freeman-Junior and Ms. Patricia McCarroll, of Fisk University UNCF/HOPE Project Initiative, were recently appointed to the Tennessee Davidson County Regional Advisory Committee (RAC). The Regional Advisory Committee in conjunction with the Tennessee HIV Prevention Planning Group, will develop the Tennessee HIV Prevention Plan for the year 2000. The Davidson County RAC will review epidemiological profiles to assist in the development of a needs assessment tool that can be used to describe problem areas and regions, target populations, gaps in services, establish program priorities and determine available services for HIV/AIDS. RAC is also responsible for assuring that the HIV prevention plan is culturally and linguistically appropriate to various populations in the community. Even though RAC has other roles, its overall vision is



Dr. Phyllis Freeman-Junior (left) and Ms. Patricia McCarroll of Fisk University

to work toward an end to the HIV epidemic in Tennessee. Dr. Junior and Ms. McCarroll feel that their participation in the UNCF/HOPE Program Initiative has equipped them with the experiences required for effective participation on this committee.

Quilt

Continued from page 3

of The AIDS Memorial Quilt will leave in its wake a prevention network made up of peer-educators, campus administrators and off-campus organizations to continue educating and heightening AIDS awareness in their community.

As a pilot project, next Fall's tour will be part of an annual campaign to raise awareness and confront the taboos surrounding HIV/AIDS in minority communities. Since the HBCU Tour will only visit a select number of schools over the next academic year, it is encouraged that each of the 117 Historically Black Colleges and Universities host a smaller World AIDS Day Display of their own in preparation

for the tour visiting their school. By hosting a display in their school, students will not only be addressing HIV/AIDS as a serious threat to African American youth, but will also be doing their part in breaking the silence.

For more information about the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Tour of The AIDS Memorial Quilt or hosting your own World AIDS Day Display, please contact: Scott Miller, Project Coordinator - The NAMES Project Foundation, The AIDS Memorial Quilt - 310 Townsend Street/ Suite 310 - San Francisco, CA 94107 - (415) 882-5500 x314 or via Email: scott_miller@aidsquilt.org.

Resources

Higher Education and the Health of America's Children

Written by Ruth P. Saunders, Rebecca M. Fee and Nell H. Gottlieb. Single copies available through Phi Delta Kappan at 1-800-766-1156 or www.pdkintl.org. This article looks at the role that higher education can play in efforts to enhance, promote, and disseminate coordinated school health programs. The authors examine common barriers and discuss successful collaborations.

Filling the Gaps

The Sexuality Education Council of the United States has compiled information on eight topics identified as "hard-to-teach" topics in sexuality education. This manual is designed to supplement a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum and incorporates teaching activities with lesson plans that address controversial topic areas. Eight topics, abstinence, condom use, pregnancy options, sexual identity, safer sex, diversity and sexual identity and orientation, and sexuality and society are covered. This teacher's manual includes:

- Background for teachers,
- Rationale for teaching each topic,
- Teaching activities and resources.

Contact SIECUS at 212/819-9770 or visit their website — www.siecus.org.

Did You Know?

One in five newly infected people carries a drug resistant strain of HIV, and about 3% have a strain that is resistant to all three classes of antiviral drugs.

Source: University of Pittsburgh research.

June 27, 1997 - National AIDS Memorial Quilt

Sponsored by National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA)
For more information contact: Tony Farmer, NAPWA at (202) 898-0414

CELEBRATING LIFE BUILDING OUR COMMUNITIES FIGHTING AIDS

I WILL NOT DISTORT MY VOICE.

I WILL NOT COVER MY FACE.

AND, I CERTAINLY WILL NOT

LIVE THE REMAINDER

OF MY LIFE HIDING IN

SHADOWS.

MY NAME IS

WENDI ALEXIS MODESTE

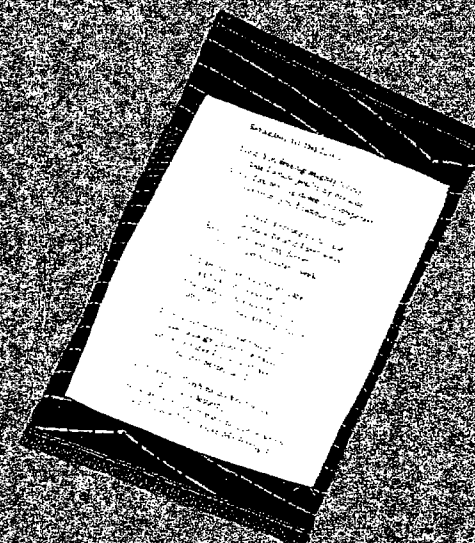
AND I AM A PROUD

AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN

LIVING WITH AIDS

IN SYRACUSE, NY!

AUG. 1953 - SEPT. 1994



THE 1999 AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT TOUR OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

ATLANTA, GEORGIA • OCTOBER 18-20 • MOREHOUSE COLLEGE • MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE • SPELMAN COLLEGE • CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY • MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE
WASHINGTON, DC • NOVEMBER 30 • DECEMBER 1 • HOWARD UNIVERSITY
HAMPTON, VIRGINIA • DECEMBER 1-3 • HAMPTON UNIVERSITY

THE AIDS MEMORIAL
QUILT

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED, CONTACT THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT AT 800-USA-NAME (872-6263) OR www.aidsquilt.org

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HBCU

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES INITIATIVE



FROM INFORMATION
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THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES INITIATIVE

To confront the alarming spread of HIV in the African American community, in September 1999, the AIDS Memorial Quilt launched a new initiative on the campuses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). This program will include large displays of the Quilt with HIV prevention education programs, on-site HIV testing and counseling, treatment information and referrals to local resource providers.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is taking action to confront the AIDS crisis within the African American community. Our HBCU Initiative responds to the desire among student groups and administrators at HBCUs to heighten the level of AIDS awareness among students and to bring potentially life-saving information and resources to students and other African American youth in communities surrounding the target campuses. This program has been designed to address a broad spectrum of needs identified by young African Americans through on-site HIV testing, information on where to go for help if exposed to HIV, and teaching the correct use of condoms. Like many others, most African Americans who are HIV-positive do not know that they are HIV-positive and are in denial about their risk for HIV. Thus, basic AIDS awareness, HIV prevention information and HIV testing and counseling will be an integral part of this comprehensive program.

AIDS in the African American Community

AIDS is the leading cause of death among 15-24-year-old African Americans.

Among the new HIV infections reported to the Centers for Disease Control, 63% are reported in African Americans. 60% of newly infected women are African American.

More than half of all new infections are among youth under 25 years of age.

Although African Americans represent about 12% of the U.S. population, they make up 35% of all U.S. AIDS cases and 43% of new AIDS diagnoses.

One in two African Americans say they are *very concerned* about becoming infected with HIV, a level of concern that is twice that of all Americans (24%).

One in two African Americans knows someone who has HIV or AIDS or has died from AIDS.

The Quilt has a twelve-year proven track record as the premiere AIDS awareness and education tool in the nation. Unlike a recitation of epidemiological facts, through the Quilt's visceral illustration of the human impact of AIDS, individuals are moved to a true understanding of the losses caused by the epidemic and recognize the need to take direct, personal action for one's own well-being and for the well-being of one's family and community. The Quilt opens hearts and minds.

Scope of the Project

From October through December 1999, the HBCU Initiative will reach eight schools in three states and the District of Columbia and will engage both on-campus students and off-campus community members. Schools have been selected based on each community's desire to host this program. The Quilt's HBCU Initiative will continue in the spring of 2000.

FALL 1999 HBCU TOUR <i>Target Sites</i>	2000 HBCU TOUR <i>Potential Sites</i>
Atlanta, GA Clark Atlanta University Interdenominational Theological Ctr. Morehouse College Morris Brown College Spelman College Baltimore, MD Morgan State University Hampton, VA Hampton University Washington, DC Howard University	Birmingham, AL: Lawson State, Miles College Huntsville, AL: Alabama A&M, J.F. Drake, Oakwood Selma, AL: Selma University Little Rock, AR: Ark. Baptist, Philander Smith, Shorter Daytona Beach, FL: Bethune-Cookman College Miami, FL: Florida Memorial College Tallahassee, FL: Florida A&M University Baton Rouge, LA: Southern University, Southern A&M New Orleans, LA: Dillard University, Xavier University Jacksonville, MS: Jackson State University St. Louis, MO: Harris-Stowe State College Charlotte, NC: Johnson C Smith University Greensboro, NC: Bennett College, NC A&T State Univ. Nashville, TN: Fisk, Meharry Medical, Tennessee State Prairie View, TX: Prairie View A&M University Houston, TX: Texas Southern University

Raising Awareness

A Quilt display that represents mostly African American men, women, and children lost to AIDS will be coordinated on each campus for up to five days. Student groups, including fraternities and sororities, will be engaged in leading aspects of the display logistics and related activities. HBCU administrators as well as off-campus community groups and health care professionals will actively participate. During each display, story telling by HIV-positive speakers and oral histories of loved ones lost to AIDS, educational seminars, symposia and campus "speakouts" on issues of HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and research will promote awareness of HIV/AIDS to African American youth.

A Tool for Healing, Remembrance and Dialogue

The HBCU initiative will promote quilt-making for fellow African Americans who have lost someone to AIDS. This amazing process of engaging students and community members in a hands-on activity brings people together to grieve for loved ones lost and humanizes the AIDS epidemic. The process also leads people to accept HIV as a very real and powerful public health threat that impacts them personally and forces them to move beyond silence and denial about AIDS.

Program Partners

The Quilt has joined with several national partners to implement this initiative, including the United Negro College Fund, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, National Council of Negro Women, national African American sororities and fraternities, and a number of local AIDS service organizations. The collaborative partners bring a working history of providing HIV/AIDS services in African American communities. Each national organization and a number of our local partner agencies have been funded by the Centers for Disease Control for their respective work.

A sampling of the local organizations that have been invited to participate in the Fall 1999 launch of this initiative include: Atlanta Minority AIDS Education/Prevention Program, Unity Fellowship Church of Atlanta, AIDS Survival Project, Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Virginia, Hampton Roads Clinic, Hampton Health Department, Whitman-Walker Clinic, Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League, and the DC Bridges Project. Many other health care providers and organizations serving the African American community on- and off-campus will participate and many campus student organizations will also engage in this program.

The Quilt will work with its national and local partners to enhance current HIV/AIDS outreach efforts on and around campus communities, focusing on HIV prevention, testing and counseling, primary medical care for people living with HIV/AIDS, and access to treatment options. This initiative will leverage new resources and challenge its audience to take personal action to reduce the risk of contracting HIV, stop the spread of the disease, and access potentially life-saving therapies.

Roles of National Partners

The AIDS Memorial Quilt

Founded in San Francisco in 1987, the Quilt has become the most compelling symbol of the AIDS epidemic. The Quilt now consists of more than 42,000 individual panels and continues to grow every day. 80,900 individuals are memorialized on the Quilt and new panels increasingly illustrate the epidemic's impact on communities of color, women and youth. Since its inception, the Quilt, its 51 chapters nationwide and 37 international affiliates, have increased public awareness of the AIDS crisis, provided HIV prevention education, and helped loved ones heal, grieve, remember, and celebrate lives lost. To date, the Quilt has coordinated thousands of displays in colleges and universities, high schools and middle schools, places of worship, corporations, community centers, and prisons. Over the past decade, more than nine million people have viewed the Quilt.

The United Negro College Fund (UNCF)

UNCF, through its HIV/AIDS Orientation and Professional Education Program (HOPE), is making a difference by training African American health care professionals in ways to reduce HIV infection among themselves and their peers. The vision of the HOPE program is to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS infection in communities of color by fostering a generation of young African Americans who have the knowledge and skills to avoid practices that put them at risk for HIV infection. UNCF will help facilitate relationships between the AIDS Memorial Quilt and leaders of on-campus and off-campus HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs.

The National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO)

NAFEO advocates for all 117 HBCUs in the country and conducts health education programs throughout the HBCUs. NAFEO's health education focuses on Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and includes prevention, treatment, and resource information for HBCU students. NAFEO will facilitate coordination between the AIDS Memorial Quilt and each school's administration and staff and help develop relationships between AIDS Memorial Quilt staff and the key leaders of on-campus and off-campus HIV/AIDS and sexually-transmitted disease prevention programs.

The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)

NCNW Community Forums on HIV/AIDS provide consumers and providers of HIV/AIDS services with an opportunity to work together to craft solutions that are designed by and for African American women. During the forums, African American women from a host city whose population has been greatly impacted by the AIDS epidemic, as well as community-based providers, come together to identify issues, share experiences, and exchange resources. NCNW will provide technical assistance to the AIDS Memorial Quilt in identifying local organizations, female African American community leaders, influential decision makers, and advocates who will assist in actualizing the goals of the HBCU Initiative.

HBCU Initiative Staff

Andrea D. Shorter is the Deputy Director of the NAMES Project and has extensive experience in youth-focused programming, juvenile justice, women's issues, and issues of concern to the African American community. Ms. Shorter brings many years of local, state, and nationally recognized leadership in at-risk youth advocacy, health and support service needs of young women, girls, and minority communities, collaborative management, and policy development. She currently serves on the steering committee for San Francisco Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr.'s program, "AIDS in the African American Community."

Scott Miller is the HBCU Initiative Coordinator at the NAMES Project. Mr. Miller was previously an Assistant Director for Children's Friends for Life in New York and the Outreach Coordinator for AIDS Rochester Inc.'s programs for youth, men who have sex with men, injection drug users, and other populations. Scott also served at the AIDS Counsel of New South Wales, Australia, and was a member of the Street Outreach Service education team for the UK National Health Authority's Brighton Health Promotion Unit where he was responsible for facilitating HIV prevention workshops for youth.

For more information about the HBCU Initiative, please call (415) 882-5500, or visit our website at www.aidsquilt.org.

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THE NATION'S NEWSPAPER

USA TODAY

NO. 1 IN THE USA . . . FIRST IN DAILY READERS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1999

NEWSLINE

A QUICK READ ON THE NEWS

WALL STREET: Dow Jones industrial average climbs 96.57 points to 10,116.28; Nasdaq index drops 42.68 points to 2689.15; 30-year Treasury bond yield rises 6.32%. 1.4B.
▶ USA TODAY Internet 100 dips 1.03 points to 96.34. 4B.
▶ Japan's Nikkei average is down 55 points, 0.3%, to 17,221 at 1 a.m. ET today; yen is 105.43 per dollar. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index is down 115 points, 0.9%, to 12,184.

AIDS PREVENTION: Coretta Scott King, left, helps launch AIDS prevention effort at USA's historically black colleges; effort aims to fight the disease with discussion. 9D.



King: 'It's time to end the silence,' she says

WILDFIRES: With California, Nevada and Oregon bracing for more wildfires, national figures show this year is one of the worst in a decade. 3A.

GONE TO SEED? Massachusetts birthplace of Johnny Appleseed could lose its last 50 acres of orchards to housing development. Leominster, also the birthplace of pink plastic flamin-

Coretta King's thread of hope: Speaking out on AIDS, blacks

By Steve Sternberg
USA TODAY

"Anyone who cares about the future of black America had better begin speaking out about AIDS," Coretta Scott King said Monday at the launch of a major prevention effort at the nation's historically black colleges and universities.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt, a deceptively cheerful testimonial to thousands of lives lost to AIDS, will be the showpiece of that effort, which opened at the Atlanta University Complex.

Begun nearly two decades ago as a mute expression of grief by parents, friends and partners of gay men who had died of AIDS, organizers say the rainbow-colored quilt reflects the epidemic's growing diversity.

As many as one in 50 black men and one in 160 black women are infected with the AIDS virus, reports the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nearly half of new infections occur in blacks, the agency says.

In a major address on the effect of AIDS among black youth, the longtime civil rights activist and widow of Martin Luther King Jr. recalled helping to stitch a grave-size quilt panel for one of her friends, Michael Ganser.

"I don't think any blanket in history has given so much comfort to so many," she says.

Andy Lives, president of the NAMES Project, which sponsors and displays the quilt, calls it a "53-ton weapon to fight this epidemic."

"We've come to see over the years that the panels we've received reflect the changing face of the epidemic," he says. "We've decided to place the quilt firmly where the epidemic has gone, in the African-American community."



"In a way, the silence of good people has been even more harmful than the destructive statements of the homophobic bigots. If we are going to end this terrible epidemic, it's time to end the silence."

— Coretta Scott King

The quilt will appear in Atlanta through Wednesday at the city's University Complex, which includes Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, Spelman College, Morris Brown College, the Interdenominational Theological Center and Clark Atlanta University.

It will travel to Howard University in Washington, D.C., Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 and Hampton (Va.) University Dec. 1-3. Stops are being planned for spring in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

The quilt, usually displayed in sections, now includes panels for more than 83,000 people — roughly 21% of total U.S. AIDS deaths, project organizers say. The disease is caused by a virus and spread by unprotected sex and shared hypodermic needles.

AIDS activist Denise Stokes, a member of the President's National Task Force on AIDS, told the assembled crowd that she was raped, lost her virginity and became HIV-positive all in one day.

Stokes was 13. Now she is 30, and she speaks to whoever will listen, saying: "Wake up. This disease is killing us, and it only takes a decision to save your life."

King said in a telephone interview that "in our community, AIDS is not talked about very much. We already had the stigma of race, and now we have this extra burden. You're discriminated against for being black and for having a disease that has been associated with homosexuality."

King noted that anyone can get AIDS. "In a way, the silence of good people has been even more harmful than the destructive statements of the homophobic bigots," she says. "If we are going to end this terrible epidemic, it's time to end the silence."

Black America's Deadly Secret

CORETTA SCOTT KING is not known as a prophet. She rarely uses her powerful pulpit to champion an unpopular cause or a lesser-known crusade.

Last week, however, King, the widow of Martin Luther King Jr., veered away from the party line. She took on homophobia in black America, linking it to the AIDS epidemic among blacks.

"I have no doubt that homophobia has worsened and prolonged the AIDS crisis. It is sad to me when I hear black people, including some in leadership positions, making homophobic comments and attacking the human rights of gay and lesbian people. African Americans have suffered for too long because of prejudice and bigotry to be parroting the rhetoric of the Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups who bash people because of their sexual orientation."

Those well-chosen, even brave — words brought the ugly truth about black America's AIDS epidemic out of the closet. It is a crisis abetted by black America's bigotry against gays.

This was not the first time King had spoken about the devastation of AIDS among black Americans. She launched a tour of the AIDS Memorial Quilt among black colleges and universities, a project designed to increase awareness of the risks of HIV among students.

They desperately need to see the

AS I SEE IT

Cynthia Tucker

names of the dead, stitched so hauntingly into the patchwork of quilts. Still oblivious to the risks of unprotected sex, still dismissing AIDS as a "gay disease," young African Americans are among those most at risk of contracting the deadly virus. AIDS is now the leading cause of death among black men between the ages of 25 and 44, and the second-leading

The rate of AIDS infection among blacks is growing.

cause of death among black women in that age group.

Even as the overall death rate from AIDS is falling, the rate of infection among blacks is growing. Although blacks make up only 13 percent of the nation's population, we accounted for 49 percent of the AIDS deaths last year and 48 percent of the new cases.

Yet, silenced by their discomfort, their ignorance, and their prej-

udices, few prominent blacks have spoken publicly about the disease.

That reticence in the black community has left black America without the highly visible public-education campaigns that have helped gay white men curb HIV infection in their communities.

Worse yet, some researchers believe that the homophobia that persists in black America has led to higher rates of bisexuality. Rather than settle into monogamous gay relationships, many gay black men give in to community pressure to also have sex with women, to disguise their orientation. Such behavior spreads the risk of infection.

King's speech is one sign that a few African American activists may finally be willing to speak out about the AIDS epidemic and the bigotry that feeds it. Earlier this month, a New York-based AIDS education organization, Balm in Gilead, conducted a conference for black Atlanta ministers. The conference was the "first time that the African-American church is actually coming to learn how they can address" AIDS, said Pernessa Seele, the group's founder.

Let's hope those black ministers will soon join King in a public crusade against AIDS and the homophobia which fosters it. This is a matter of life and death.

Cynthia Tucker is editorial page editor of the Atlanta Constitution.

San Francisco Chronicle

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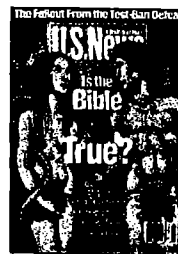
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New in magazines

Historical evidence of Biblical events is leading some scholars to find a middle ground reconciling the ideas of evolution and creation, U.S. News & World Report says. The Newsstand, B2

Prep the
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Healthy Living

TUESDAY'S GUIDE to
MEDICINE and
HEALTH CARE



INSIDE: Finding a good doctor, and what happens when they draw blood? B4

An AIDS wakeup call

As the virus takes its toll in the black community, panels of a quilt send an urgent message

By Lillian Lee Kim
STAFF WRITER

A year ago, Debbie Thomas-Bryan relaxed in her Atlanta home and talked enthusiastically about how good it felt to have her life back on track after years of battling AIDS.

On Monday, college students at the Atlanta University Center soberly regarded a panel of the AIDS Memorial Quilt sewn in memory of Thomas-Bryan. In July, after her HIV drugs failed, the 45-year-old became one of the roughly 150,000 black Americans who have died of AIDS.

Samantha Brittenham, a 20-year-old junior at Clark Atlanta University, was hoarse with emotion as she viewed the quilt panels.

"I'm trying not to cry," Brittenham said. "I wish more students would come and see this. It would be a reality check for them."

A reality check is precisely what the NAMES Project Foundation, which sponsors the AIDS quilt, hopes to deliver to black college students across the country. For at least the next few months, portions of the AIDS Quilt will tour historically black colleges and universities to raise AIDS awareness and promote HIV prevention among young African-Americans, considered to be the population at greatest risk for infection with HIV.

The quilt tour is the latest event to heighten the profile of the AIDS epidemic among African-Americans. Until recently, the black community has largely kept silent about AIDS, even as the virus slew thousands of African-Americans each year. Black preachers and politicians alike have been criticized for failing to address AIDS and accompanying social ills such as homophobia and drug use.

"Black communities have been so overburdened that the idea of adopting another burden is not appealing," explained Cornelius Baker, executive



Clark Atlanta University junior Samantha Brittenham, 20, gazes at the quilt panels honoring the memory of black victims of the virus.

director of the National Association of People with AIDS.

The reluctance and reticence appear to be melting at last, as more attention is focused on the AIDS epidemic among African-Americans.

A recent conference sponsored partly by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revealed significant — and alarming — new data about the prevalence of HIV and AIDS among blacks. African-Americans now account for

about half of all new HIV infections, AIDS cases and AIDS deaths, despite representing only 13 percent of the U.S. population.

Earlier this month, black churches in Atlanta gathered for the first National Black Church HIV/AIDS Institute, to help pastors and other faith leaders learn how to deal with the disease.

Last Thursday, faith leaders, policy makers, community activists and AIDS researchers all met in Atlanta to discuss



Coretta Scott King speaks at the AIDS Memorial Quilt exhibit at the Atlanta University Center.

IF YOU GO

The AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display at the Atlanta University Center's Woodruff Library from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. Free HIV testing and counseling is being offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days. The AIDS quilt will travel to Howard University in Washington, Nov. 30-Dec. 1, and then to Hampton University in Hampton, Va., Dec. 1-3.

RESOURCES

To learn more about HIV/AIDS, testing sites or volunteer opportunities, call the following organizations:

- AID Atlanta, 404-872-0600.
- AIDS Survival Project, 404-874-7926.
- AIDS Education & Services for Minorities, 404-753-2900.

ONLINE

- The AIDS Memorial Quilt's Web site: www/ajc.com/links.

how to combat AIDS among African-Americans. That same day, the NAACP announced the upcoming release of a series of educational films aimed at raising HIV awareness.

The support hasn't been merely rhetorical. This month, the CDC awarded \$39 million in federal funds to more than 100 national, state and local organizations around the United States to help

➤ Please see AIDS, B2

Photos by WILLIAM BERRY / Staff

AIDS: Quilt tour reaches out to African-Americans

► Continued from B1

prevent HIV infections among blacks and other minorities.

The money went to groups such as the DeKalb Prevention Alliance, which plans to start a street outreach program to perform HIV testing and counseling among homeless people and drug users in DeKalb County.

Also, the state health department received \$1 million for HIV prevention programs in Georgia correctional facilities. A recent study sponsored by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care found that there were approximately 8,900 prison inmates with AIDS in 1997, and that up to one-fifth of all Americans with HIV had been released from a correctional facility within the past year.

"We must mount prevention and treatment strategies that deal with people where they are now, not where we want them to be or where we imagine them to be," said Phill Wilson, director of the AIDS Social Policy Archive.

While injection drug use is commonly perceived as a major factor in the spread of AIDS among blacks, sex is the primary method of transmission. AIDS experts say bisexual behavior among gay black men who feel pressured to have sex with women accounts for a significant number of HIV infections among heterosexuals.

"With the stigma on homosexual behavior in the African-American community, it's not surprising that this is the case," said

Dr. Helene Gayle, director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention.

Coretta Scott King, widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., addressed this problem Monday at the opening ceremonies for the quilt tour.

"I have no doubt that homophobia has worsened and prolonged the AIDS crisis," King said. "It is particularly sad to me when I hear black people, including some in leadership positions, making homophobic comments and attacking the human rights of gay and lesbian people."

Regardless of sexual orientation or gender, however, all African-Americans are at significantly higher risk for becoming infected with HIV. Youth only increases that risk: Most new HIV infections are occurring among people 25 and younger.

These statistics deeply sadden and frustrate AIDS activists such as Denise Stokes, who has been HIV-positive for 17 of her 30 years. Stokes, a member of President Clinton's HIV/AIDS Advisory Council, spoke Monday at the quilt tour kickoff.

"I live and breathe so I can prevent you from becoming infected," Stokes said, addressing college students in the audience.

"One day, this is ultimately where I'm going to end up," Stokes continued, gesturing to the quilt panels surrounding her. "I'm going to be a panel on some wall in some library."

"I just hope the library isn't full of people with AIDS."

The Atlanta Constitution

TUESDAY, OCT. 19, 1999

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SECTION F

FINAL



WEATHER



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Wake-up call on AIDS risk

By bringing portions of the AIDS Quilt to historically black colleges and universities, the NAMES Project Foundation hopes to deliver a wake-up call to young African-Americans, considered to be among those at greatest risk of HIV infection. Coretta Scott King endorsed that message Monday, warning that homophobia is standing in the way of awareness efforts. **B1**

Also in **Healthy Living**: A new book asks physicians: Which doctors would you recommend? **B4**

Teen sex tales turn national focus to Rockdale

By M.A.J. McKenna
STAFF WRITER

Seventeen cases of syphilis. More than 50 teenagers experimenting with group sex. At least 200 middle and high schoolers exposed to sexually transmitted diseases.

And the behavior that created the problem may still be going on.

That's what TV viewers will

see and hear tonight in "The Lost Children of Rockdale County," a PBS "Frontline" documentary that explores an outbreak of syphilis among area teenagers in 1996.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported the cases at the time, but the discovery came when Atlanta was gearing up for the Olympics. So, to many area residents, the report of the syphilis outbreak will

still come as a shock.

So will many of the moments captured by filmmakers Rachel Dretzin Goodman and Barak Goodman, who lived in Conyers for five months. Several teens, all identified by first name only, describe in graphic detail a largely hidden world of reckless teen behavior.

One girl, 15 at the time of the outbreak, compares the spread of syphilis to "the cooties game

little kids play." Another, 15 now, stacks up cuddly stuffed animals to demonstrate a sexual position. And one 14-year-old boy, whom the film places at the center of the group of teens, says: "I didn't really want to be notorious. I wanted to be popular."

Rockdale residents already know the shock a wider audience will likely feel. Those who lived through the syphilis

outbreak and its soul-searching, finger-pointing aftermath are winning in apprehension at the harsh national attention the program could bring. Some hope, once the impact fades, the exposure of their community's secrets will underline a lesson the ordeal

► Please see **ROCKDALE, A10**
A review of the documentary **B1**

ON TV

■ **WHAT:** "The Lost Children of Rockdale County"

■ **WHEN:** 10 p.m. today

■ **CHANNEL:** WGTV

Brain injuries linked to morals

By Jeff Nesmith
WASHINGTON BUREAU

Washington — Magnetic imaging and psychological

CURSES, SOX FOILED AGAIN



Clinton, GOP try talks on

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THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION / MONDAY, OCT. 18, 1999

Living



Bravo! It's opera

"Little Red Riding Hood" is one opera kids can sink their teeth into. **PLUS:** Meet a girl who raises pigs. **H6-7**

Staring contest

John Gray offers advice to a woman whose boyfriend can't keep his eyes off of other women. **Column, H2**

● **Television,**
H3

● **Movies,**
H4-5

● **Comics, H8**

● **Diversions,**
H9

● **Weather,**
H10

AIDS patient spreads tireless message: 'Don't get too comfortable'

By Lillian Lee Kim
STAFF WRITER

Infected with the AIDS virus since birth, Hydeia L. Broadbent has been speaking publicly about HIV and AIDS for most of her 15 years. But she won the nation's heart at age 12, when she delivered a moving speech about growing up with full-blown AIDS at the 1996 Republican National Convention.

Broadbent will appear today at the Atlanta University complex to help kick off a new national tour of the AIDS Memorial Quilt among historically black colleges and universities. The NAMES Project Foundation, creator and sponsor of the quilt, hopes to

increase awareness of HIV/AIDS and encourage prevention efforts among young African-Americans.

Coretta Scott King, widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., will be the keynote speaker at the tour kickoff. It will be the first time she has spoken publicly about the AIDS epidemic among blacks. The event will begin at 1 p.m. today at the Atlanta University complex Woodruff Library, at 111 James P. Brawley Drive.

For more information about the AIDS quilt, call the NAMES Project Foundation at 415-882-5500 or visit the group's Web site at www.aidsquilt.org.

Hydeia spoke recently with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Q: Have you seen a change in people's attitudes toward AIDS since the introduction of new drugs, such as the powerful protease inhibitors?

A: I'm on protease inhibitors, and I'm doing really good. But recently I found out that a friend on protease inhibitors died. It was such a shock, because I didn't expect to hear that. He had been doing really good.

A lot of people think that if they become infected, they won't become sick. But the drugs don't work for everybody. Not everybody can afford the drugs. Their best bet is not to become infected.

Q: It must be somewhat frustrating

for you, after so many years of speaking to kids about AIDS, to hear about high HIV infection rates among young people.

A: There's so much education out there. I don't understand how people are still becoming infected.

Q: Why do you think they continue to become infected?

A: Because they're just trying to have fun, and they don't understand that AIDS can kill you. The reason why I do what I do is because I don't want other kids to go through what I've been through. There's no need for them to.

AIDS isn't going away. So don't get too comfortable.



CHARLOTTE B. TEAGLE / Staff

Hydeia Broadbent, 15, will help kick off a new national tour of the AIDS Memorial Quilt today at the Atlanta University complex, where Coretta Scott King will speak.

Keynote Address by Coretta Scott King
Launching of the Historically-Black Colleges and Universities
AIDS Memorial Quilt Initiative
Woodruff Library - Atlanta University Complex
Atlanta, Georgia
October 18, 1999

Thank you, sister Sandy Thurman, Director of the White House Office on AIDS, for your very gracious introduction. And thank all of you for your warm welcome. Mr. Scott Miller, HBCU Initiative Coordinator of the NAMES Project, Mr. Andy Ilves, Executive Director of the NAMES Project, Ms. Andrea Shorter, Deputy Director of the NAMES Project, distinguished guests and friends, it is a great pleasure to be here with you today and to be your keynote speaker for this important initiative.

I commend the organizers of the AIDS Memorial Quilt Initiative for doing such an outstanding job of putting together this program. Your efforts have educated people across the nation about the causes, prevention and treatment of AIDS, and I believe you have helped save many, many lives. I applaud the great work all of you are doing to alleviate the massive suffering caused not only by the physical effects of AIDS, but also by the social attitudes towards people with HIV. I do appreciate being invited to deliver the keynote address for this launching of the Historically-Black Colleges and Universities Initiative of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. I knew this was an invitation I had to accept, because I believe very strongly that this project addresses the most urgent health crisis facing the African American community, and our young people in particular — the prevention and treatment of AIDS.

I am encouraged by the increasing awareness of the AIDS crisis in the African Americans community, well-reflected in the formation of groups like AIDS education and services for minorities, the start up of the first-ever black church HIV/ AIDS institute and now this special initiative of the NAMES Project and the AIDS Memorial Quilt. I have long felt that the making of quilts is one of the greatest American art forms, because quilts not only give comfort and warmth, but also say so much about heritage and family traditions that give meaning to our lives. Maybe I feel this way because most of the women in our community, and especially my mother made beautiful quilts and every time I see one I think of her. When I was growing up in the 1930's and 40's my mother pieced and quilted lots of quilts, which we used to sleep under instead of blankets. I remember having to sleep under four or five of them when it was very cold. A lot of time and love went into making those quilts.



Many mothers, family members and friends have sewn their love into the AIDS Memorial Quilt, including yours truly. After a dear friend of mine named Michael Ginser lost his battle with AIDS, I joined with some of his family, friends and associates at the King Center and we added our stitches in his memory. And this small act gave us all a sense of community with the families of all the people who have died with AIDS. I don't think any blanket in history has given so much comfort to so many as the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

It's true that AIDS is a disease that affects all races. And it is certainly true that any person of any race can easily get AIDS through risky behavior, such as unprotected sex or intravenous drug use. But that doesn't mean that African Americans don't experience disproportionate victimization by AIDS. Right now, AIDS is the number one cause of death for African American males between the ages of 25 and 44, and the second leading cause of death for females in that age group. Half of all new HIV infections of young people between the ages of 13 and 24 are African Americans.

Clearly, the black community has a critical interest in programs to prevent AIDS and provide the best treatment possible. And black college students, who are in the most vulnerable age group, can play a major role in eradicating this deadly disease from our community. As the intellectual and activist vanguard of the black community, black college students and faculty can do a lot to spread awareness about the dangers of the AIDS pandemic and how it impacts on young people in particular. And if you are interested in protecting and saving the lives of black people, there is no cause more worthy of your efforts.

You may have heard that the rate of increase in the number of people infected with HIV has slowed, and that is true. You may have also heard that people with AIDS are living longer than they did five or six years ago, and that is generally true also, thanks to the introduction of new medicines and treatment programs. But the most deadly mistake you could make is to delude yourself that AIDS is no longer a threat to your life.

It is tragic in the most literal sense of the word that many people still think of AIDS as a "gay" disease. Although it is true that a disproportionate percentage of people who have AIDS and HIV are gay males, it is important to understand that AIDS and HIV are growing rapidly among heterosexual people. Today in the 20 counties in the metro Atlanta area, it is estimated that 22.2 percent of individuals living with HIV were infected by heterosexual contact. Only 31 percent of patients at Atlanta's Grady Hospital AIDS Clinic, which is one of the finest AIDS treatment facilities in the nation, report a history of homosexual or bisexual behavior and 23 percent of its patients are females. Another 18.3 percent in the 20 Atlanta metro county study were infected when injecting drugs. Unprotected sex and intravenous drug use are like Russian roulette, only the odds of surviving AIDS are probably worse. If you love life, if you value your future, if you care about protecting your community, do not let anyone talk you into dangerous behavior that puts you

***I think anyone who
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immediately at risk for an HIV infection. And if anyone, tries to tell you, don't worry it is safe, that is your clearest possible signal that he or she is not interested in your personal safety, and is no friend of yours. How many times do we have to say it? AIDS is one of the most deadly killers of black people, and I think anyone who cares about the future of black America had better be speaking out about AIDS, calling for preventative measures, increased funding for research and treatment.

As African Americans, we should also be very concerned about the devastating effect of AIDS in mother Africa. AIDS is now the number one killer in Sub-Saharan Africa, more than any other illness. Every day AIDS kills 5,500 African men, women and children. It is estimated that 40 million African children will become orphans in the next decade as a result of the AIDS pandemic. In developing nations, health spending per person is thought to average less than \$10 a year. The most recent drug treatment therapies used in the U.S. and other developed nations cost between \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year. We have got to press for more funds for AIDS research, so we can develop affordable medicines and treatment therapies for the people of Africa and other developing nations.

One of the most tragic aspects of AIDS is that it thrives on ignorance, bigotry and fear. In fact, I have no doubt that homophobia has worsened and prolonged the AIDS crisis. It is particularly sad to me when I hear black people, including some in leadership positions, making homophobic comments and attacking the human rights of gay and lesbian people. African Americans have suffered for too long because of prejudice and bigotry to be parroting the rhetoric of the Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups who bash people because of their sexual orientation. We ought to extend to gay and lesbian people the same respect and dignity we claim for ourselves. Every person is a child of God and every human being is entitled to full human rights.

The gay bashers and homophobic people are the best allies AIDS could have. By preaching hatred and fear of gay people, they are creating a climate that discourages openness and education about AIDS which can help prevent its spread. They spread shame and guilt where there should be compassion and healing. Yet in a way, the silence of good people has been even more harmful than the destructive statements of the homophobic bigots. There is a very human tendency to direct one's attention elsewhere when confronted with the stark reality of deadly disease. But, if we are going to end this terrible epidemic, it is time to end the silence, time for good and decent people to become informed about AIDS and become a pro-active part of the solution, instead of being a silent part of the problem.

To eradicate AIDS, we must give our medical researchers and scientists all of the support they need to find the cure. But we must first and foremost cure our own hearts of the fear and ignorance that leads to denial and ostracism of our brothers and sisters who have AIDS. The real shame falls not on the people with AIDS, but on those who would deny their humanity.

***It is time to end the
silence, time for
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I have long supported the cause of AIDS education and I have spoken out in many of my speeches and lectures for increased funding for AIDS prevention, treatment and research. The King Center has supported AIDS -related causes for a number of years, including hosting AIDS 101 workshops, hosting a group of HIV-positive or AIDS-impacted children and teenagers from the Camp Heartland Journey Of Hope, who were touring the nation in a bus. These courageous young people were turning their unearned suffering into a positive campaign to educate the public about AIDS-related issues, as they bear on the lives of young people. These young people are an inspiration because they refuse to be disheartened or discouraged and they are showing us how to live positive lives of service, despite the adversity that has been forced on them. The King Center has also hosted Christmas parties for HIV-positive and AIDS -impacted children. We have also lobbied in support of the Ryan White Act and other AIDS-related legislation.

The other thing we have to remember is that AIDS is not only a medical and a social problem. It is also a political problem. We won't see adequate funding for AIDS research, prevention and treatment programs until we make the political leadership at every level of representative government understand that they will be held accountable for everything they do or don't do with respect to AIDS.

And let us not forget that the AIDS crisis is also part of a larger crisis of health security in the United States. If we want more effective AIDS research, prevention and treatment programs, we have to be equally caring about the suffering of the people with many other devastating illnesses. The bigotry experienced by people with AIDS is unique. But there is also prejudice against people with disabilities and other less well-known diseases and illnesses. We have got to stand firm for a more compassionate health care system, which leaves no person behind — a system that takes responsibility to insure that no citizen be denied medical care because they lack adequate insurance.

There is something wrong with a system that requires telethons for sick people, but always has a blank check ready for the Pentagon. The Cold War is over, but we still have a Cold War military budget, which is draining needed financial and human resources that should be invested in the health security of the American people. People with AIDS, muscular dystrophy and sickle cell anemia, among many other illnesses are, in a very real sense, also victims of militarism. It is regrettable that a coalition of special interests, who want to preserve the status quo of health care in America has been able to stop meaningful health care reform. That's why I am supporting the Dingell-Norwood Patient's Rights Act, which just passed the U.S. House Of Representatives, as a significant step forward to a national health care system that serves every citizen. And I urge you to do the same. We need to send a message to our elected officials that a decent health care system for the American people must become the number one priority of our national security.

So today I'm going to ask you to do several things to help put an end to the threat of AIDS in the black community, the nation and world, in addition to making a commitment to avoid risky behavior that can lead to an HIV infection. First, educate yourself. I have shared with you some statistics today, which show that AIDS is a threat to everyone. But there is a lot more for you to learn. I urge you to read up on AIDS and the dynamics of this crisis. Organizations like the AIDS Survival Project, AID Atlanta and the White House Office On AIDS have a wealth of information to share, and all you have to do is ask for it.

Then share what you have learned. If you can inform a friend who is engaging in risky behavior, you just might save a life. Those of you who are good writers can help put the word out through your school newspaper and other publications. Those of you who can preach or deliver a speech can also educate hundreds of your fellow students at once. Lobby your elected officials — federal, state and local — who refuse to help, do what you can to replace them with someone who will. Volunteer some of your time for campaigns like the NAMES Project, delivering food to homebound AIDS patients or working at an AIDS counseling hotline. Call AID Atlanta at (404) 870-7741 and ask them how you can help. You can donate what you can to AIDS -related charities. And, speak out against homophobia and all forms of prejudice, bigotry and discrimination. Become a voice for tolerance and an advocate for human dignity for all people. Make a commitment to never let a bigoted remark go unchallenged. If you can do any of these things, then you will be a part of the solution, and you will have made a difference.

Once Mother Theresa was asked where she found the strength to care so tirelessly for the terminally ill. And she replied, "It's not hard because in each one, I see the face of Christ in one of his more distressing disguises." And, in a way, that is the challenge we all face — to see the face of Christ in his many distressing disguises — the sick and destitute, the beggar, the dying, the broken-hearted and forgotten. When we learn how to do this, then the same spirit of healing that empowered Mother Theresa will inspire us to heal our communities, nation and world.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "We are all tied together in a single garment of destiny, bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly" And I think this applies with poetic precision to the AIDS Memorial Quilt. And the great acapella group, Sweet Honey in The Rock has a beautiful song about this "single garment of destiny." The song is called "Patchwork Quilt," and I will leave you with the concluding lyrics of this song:

"I feel the warmth of your lives
oh and you will live forever
you know that I'll be loving you
just like a patchwork quilt
my heart spills over
flowing with tears
I cry for your suffering
and for your shortened years
and I'll take you with me as I walk away
remembering you who have died with AIDS
yes, I'll remember your names
oh and you will live forever
you know that I'll be loving you
just like a patchwork quilt
I'll be loving you like a patchwork quilt"

Thank you and God bless you all.

THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

October 25, 1999

Ms. Sandra Thurman, Director
White House Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Sandy:

I wanted to thank you again for participating in the launch of the HBCU Tour and making an eloquent introduction for Mrs. King.

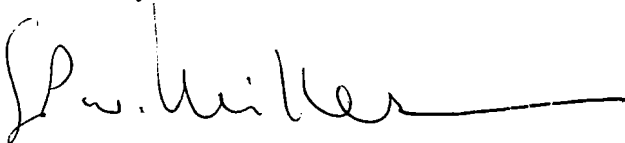
In the days that followed we had hundreds of students and other community members attend the display. There were even a number of classes brought in who were given the assignment 'My Response to The Quilt'. More than anything else though, I was pleased to see so many mothers who brought their children to see the display. I never realized how much this program would affect the community, and succeed in bridging gaps in the consciousness of so many students; particularly the young women.

In developing this initiative, one of the chief objectives is to create opportunities for local AIDS service organizations to make in-roads in providing relevant and sustainable programs to the African American communities they serve. It is my hope that beyond that, the students will continue to take an active role in educating other students around HIV prevention and will continue to maintain the relationships established through this program.

I had the opportunity to see Tony Braswell the night before I left. He commented on how Mrs. King's speech and using the approach we did to launch this initiative has helped the work AID Atlanta does in ways I never imagined. Similar sentiments were expressed by Marcya Gullatte-Owens, Outreach Manager at AIDS Survival Project and Dazon Dixon, President and Founder of Sisterluv Inc..

Given the numerous demands that come with your office, your attentiveness and immediate willingness to offer support on this project is truly remarkable. I wanted you to know how much that means to me, and that I am profoundly appreciative. If there is anything I can ever do to assist you in any way, please do not hesitate in asking. Again, thank you and God bless.

Yours truly,



Scott Miller
HBCU Coordinator



The NAMES Project Foundation

310 Townsend Street, Suite 310 San Francisco, California 94107

Telephone: (415) 882-5500 Fax: (415) 882-6200 email: info@aidsqUILT.org Website: <http://www.aidsqUILT.org>

THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

EDWARD GATTA
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandra S. Thurman
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

October 18, 2000

Dear Sandy,

Thank you so very much for taking some time out of your hectic schedule to meet with me this week.

As we prepare to move to our nation's capital, building a network of friends in government affairs and identifying board members will be of utmost importance as we make this transition of becoming successful partners with other national AIDS organizations.

You will be receiving two South African Quilt squares to hang in your conference room in the near future. We look forward to providing additional Quilt panels for the Religious Leaders Summit on World AIDS Day.

As I mentioned during our meeting the NAMES Project Foundation is profoundly grateful and proud of the support, guidance and leadership you have provided our nation's most treasured Quilt.

With warm regards,



Edward Gatta, Jr.
President



THE NAMES PROJECT FOUNDATION
310 TOWNSEND STREET, SUITE 310 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94107
TELEPHONE: (415) 882-5500 FAX: (415) 882-6200 EMAIL: info@aidsquilt.org WEBSITE: <http://www.aidsquilt.org>

We are working with national and local partners, including the UNCF/The College Fund, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, National Council of Negro Women, national African American sororities and fraternities, and a number of local AIDS service organizations, to provide comprehensive prevention information, referrals and resources for students as well as communities near HBCU campuses.

COMMUNITY QUILT DISPLAYS

Through our more than 50 Quilt chapters and nearly 40 international affiliates, the Quilt partners with local AIDS service organizations to provide AIDS/HIV prevention education, information and resources to people across the globe. Whether at places of worship, offices, community centers, or public events, the Quilt serves as a catalyst for larger prevention workshops and educational programs.



PHOTO: DALE BARON

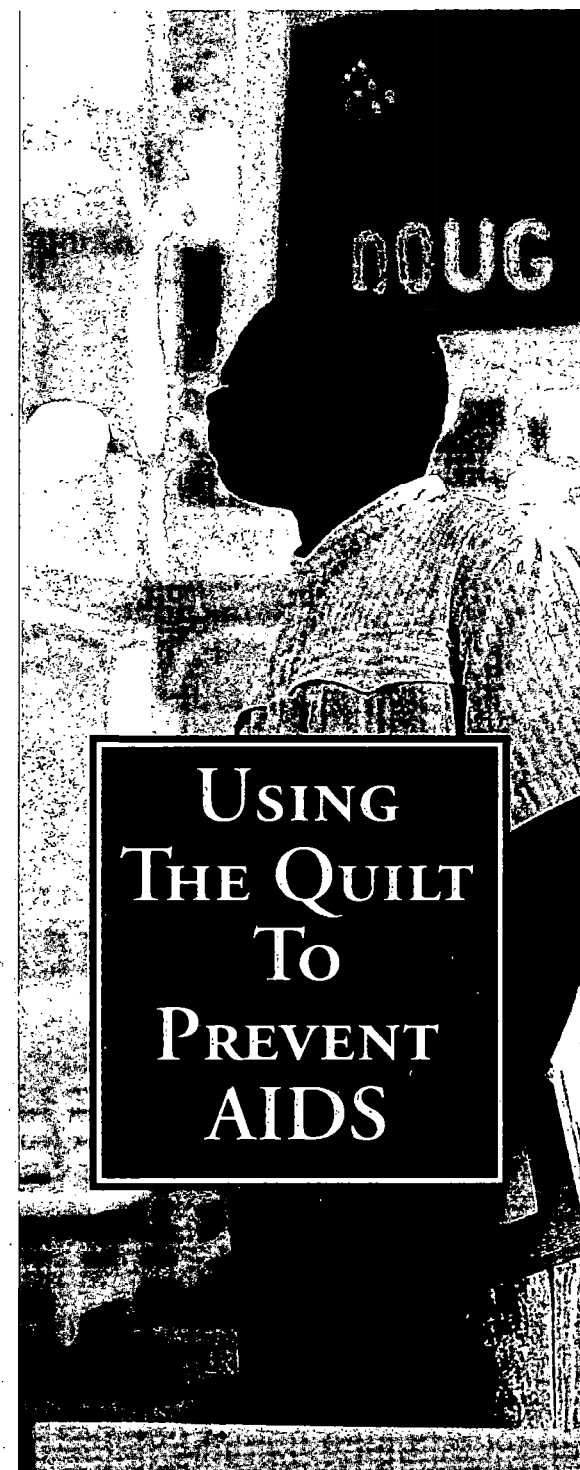
Every year, the Quilt is seen by more than two million people at over 2,000 displays, including international displays in conjunction with World AIDS Day (December 1), a World Health Organization campaign to increase AIDS awareness worldwide. For example, on World AIDS Day in 1999, the Quilt is being displayed in Cape Town, South Africa, a country where AIDS has had a particularly devastating impact.

Through the immediate, visceral impact of the Quilt, visitors are moved to seek prevention information from local resources to combat the spread of this disease.

To learn more about the National Youth HIV Prevention Program, the HBCU Initiative, Community Quilt Displays, or to find out how you can support the Quilt and get involved, please contact us:

THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

ATTN: PREVENTION PROGRAMS
310 TOWNSEND STREET, SUITE 310
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107
(415) 882-5500 FAX: (415) 882-6200
EMAIL: prevention@aidsquilt.org
WEBSITE: www.aidsquilt.org



USING
THE QUILT
TO
PREVENT
AIDS

The NAMES Project has used the AIDS Memorial Quilt since 1987 as a positive way to provide healing, remembrance, education, and prevention in the struggle to end AIDS. More than 12.5 million people have seen the Quilt at tens of thousands of displays. The Quilt has grown to memorialize the lives of more than 80,000 people, yet it represents only approximately 21% of all U.S. AIDS deaths.

Today, we are using the Quilt as part of a broad spectrum of education and prevention efforts around the world. As the demographics of AIDS are shifting, we are expanding our work to bring the Quilt's messages of prevention and remembrance to the communities most at risk.

NATIONAL YOUTH HIV PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Half of the more than 40,000 Americans who become infected annually with HIV are under 25 years of age. Our new National Youth HIV Prevention Programs are important steps in educating young people about the very real dangers of HIV and other adolescent health problems—encouraging safe behavior, promoting AIDS/HIV awareness, and motivating youth to community service. These programs provide leadership training, education and prevention information to youth throughout the country.

The National Youth Education Program is a community-based education program providing Quilt displays and comprehensive prevention programs to a broad range of young

adults in schools and other community organizations. The program serves as an information clearinghouse to assist Quilt chapters and community organizations in developing HIV education and prevention curricula.

The National Youth Leadership Program involves youth as leaders in their schools and communities, regarding HIV/AIDS and related adolescent health issues. Through this program, young people are trained as part of a national corps of HIV/AIDS peer educators. The volunteer educators, in turn, develop youth-led community service projects and teach their peers about the risks of sexual and drug-related behaviors, and how they can minimize those risks.

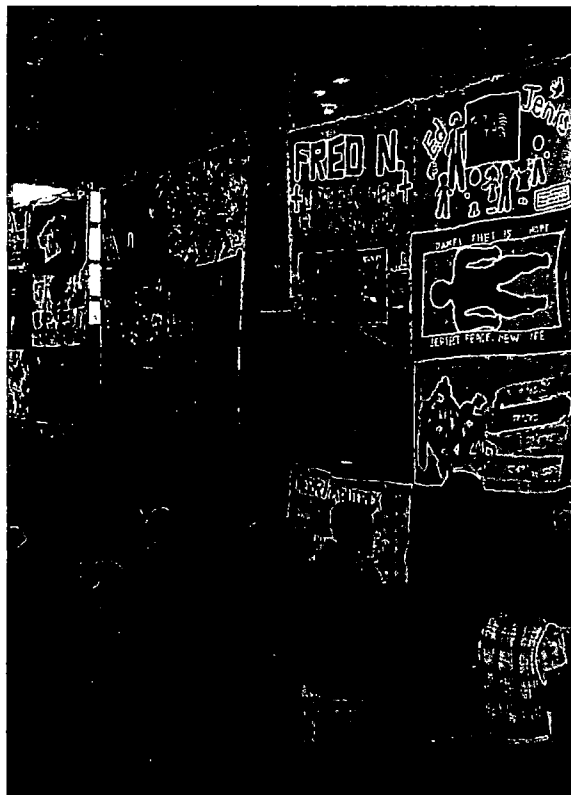


PHOTO: PAUL MARCOLLIES

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCU) INITIATIVE

Currently, AIDS is the leading cause of death among 15-24-year-old African Americans. Among the new HIV infections reported to the Centers for Disease Control, 63% are reported in African Americans. And one in two African Americans say they are very concerned about becoming infected with HIV, a level of concern that is twice that of all Americans.



To promote awareness of AIDS/HIV in the African American community, we have developed the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Initiative. Begun in 1999, the initiative brings Quilt displays to HBCUs throughout the U.S.

The HBCU Quilt displays offer opportunities to provide on-site HIV testing, disseminate information on where to go for help if exposed to HIV, discuss how to talk with partners about reducing the risk of exposure, and raise the general level of HIV awareness among students and within the surrounding communities.