

VOICES

Third Quarter

July 2005

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Sponsors needed for the 2005 Legacy of Excellence Awards Celebration. Call us at 410-637-5451 to support this vital initiative.

SEE YOU ONLINE

Healing the Wounds of Youth Violence: An Interview with Dr. Edward Cornwell III

By Derrell G. Owens

Dr. Edward Cornwell, III is Chief of Adult Trauma at the Johns Hopkins

Hospital and is a professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Cornwell's schedule is extremely tight with long hours in the hospital, serving on various boards, lecturing and public speaking. However, he graciously takes time out to discuss an issue that is important to him: prevention of youth violence. It only takes a few seconds of listening to Dr. Cornwell to discover his passionate views about youth violence and to witness his compassion. "The violence was in my face. Teenage gunshot victims is something we see all the time in the ER." Tragically, despite the best efforts of Cornwell and his team many gunshot victims are not able to be saved due to the extent of the injuries



Hopkins Chief of Adult Trauma and Professor, Dr. Edward Cornwell, III

and many victims are dead on arrival. There are times when Cornwell and his team have "great saves", a term used to refer to victims with life threatening injuries, but recover due to the work of Cornwell and his team. "I want to shine a spotlight on the issue of youth violence. It is a real challenge to do it, but I feel compelled to do it. It's important to be involved in preventive programs." In order to begin to work to-

ward prevention Cornwell acknowledges that there needs to be a change in many

Well Said

"Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is in an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob, and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe."

— Frederick Douglass

The Children Are The Future

By Carry Greaves

Children are the fruit of a union between two people coming together in the spirit of love and unity. Children are the untapped vessels of information which we come in contact with by listening. And if we listen, we will ascertain much as adults that can help us understand ourselves more acutely. It is indeed true that children are the future. In this sense, as a family and as a community we must collectively work together to assist in fashioning them with the morals and values that will (continued)

Money Matters

This year, more people will officially go broke than will have a heart attack, graduate from college or be diagnosed with cancer. More Americans will file for bankruptcy this year than for divorce.



BLACK IS
BEAUTIFUL

In This Issue

<i>Dr. Edward Cornwell, III: Healing The Wounds of Youth Violence</i>	1
<i>2005 Legacy of Excellence Awards Celebration</i>	2
<i>Spotlight on Stephen Earley Jordan, II</i>	3
<i>AGBM Drum: Upcoming Community Events</i>	4

DR. EDWARD CORNWELL, III

change in many areas such as poverty, culture, education and parenting. Cornwell also cites negative images as a contributing factor. "Unfortunately, our culture glamorizes violence. Music videos depict violence as being cool and hip. Kids look at these images and want to copy what

they see." Cornwell has battled against these negative images by creating a video of his own. He helped found the Hopkins Injury Prevention and Community Outreach Collaboration, which brings the Hopkins Trauma unit, Hopkins graduate students and the Baltimore Police Athletic League together to work with city youth. In the "Hype vs. Reality" video teens are confronted with the reality of gunshot victims vs. the cool "hype" that teens feed into. In the video Cornwell leads a group of teens through the ER and to patients rooms to give them a first hand look at the "reality" of gun violence and the severe damage that is caused by it. Though the video has been very successful in getting teens to rethink their ideas of youth violence Cornwell admits the struggle continues. "I am only one person. I can only do so much. It's hard to fight against the media when their audience is so much bigger than mine. Honestly, sometimes I do feel like giving up." However, Cornwell has not given up. He continues to speak out against youth violence. He continues to be proactive in his participation with preventive programs and he re-

mains clinically active. Cornwell is comfortable with being labeled a role model and understands the importance. He attributes his own successes to the many black role models he has. Though Cornwell has accomplishments too numerous to list he admits that he is not a seeker of recognition. "I am not a person who needs awards or recognitions. That's not what I'm after. I do what I do because it's needed. This is who I am."

THE 2005 LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS CELEBRATION

The Board of Directors of A Good Black Man, Incorporated (AGBM) invite you to attend the 4th Annual AGBM Legacy of Excellence Awards Celebration Sunday, July 17, 2005 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm at The Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute & Cultural Center. The center is located at 847 North Howard Street in Baltimore. This year's award recipients are (Black Farmers Association President) Dr. John W. Boyd, Israel Cason—founder of I Can't We Can, medical student Steven James Harris, Jr., Baltimore City Police Major Richard Hite and author and community leader Demitri C. Kornegay, The keynote Speaker is Adeyemi Bandele, MHS, Founder and Director of Men on the Move. The emcee is WBAL-TV Anchorperson, Stan Stovall. Space is limited for this event. RSVP to (410) 637-5451 or email info@agoodblackman.com.



SEE YOU THERE!

AGBM Bookshelf

If there is anything our society desperately needs more of, its fathers-loving, responsible, sober, and engaged fathers; fathers who awake every morning with a mind to be involved in every aspect of their child's life; fathers who believe that nothing—not a hectic job, not a failed relationship, nor a lack of financial resources—will keep them from embracing their role as primary teacher, example, and provider to their children. A single parent of two young sons, author, Olamina Stevenson, is committed to educating, empowering and galvanizing men across the globe about the awesome privilege and charge to father our children. Through his compelling book, *"The Spirit of Fatherhood: Embracing Our Role as Fathers and Reclaiming Our Children,"* we are introduced to this father's fortitude as he relentlessly fought to become the custodial parent of his sons after a divorce. We are enlightened about the damaging effects of fatherlessness (*cont.*)



DID YOU KNOW?

The following inventions were invented by African Americans:

- Golf Tee - Gregory F. Grant
- Fountain Pen - W.B. Purvis
- Cellular Phone - Henry Sampson
- Helicopter - Paul E. Williams
- Disposable Syringe - Phil Brooks



SPOTLIGHT ON STEPHEN EARLEY JORDAN, II

Stephen Earley Jordan, II laughs as he remembers when he discovered his interest in writing. “I was in the sixth grade and my sister and I would have poetry contests and my

mother would judge. My mother thought I was copying other writers work and said, ‘Do you know what plagiarism is?’” Stephen went on a personal mission to prove to his mother that he indeed had the talent to create great poetry. Stephen writes some poetry for the purpose of

spoken word and some for literary works to be read. “People often want to bottleneck me into a category. I do not consider myself a certain “kind” of writer. I am a writer and enjoy various genres.” Stephen admits that he does not have a set creative process, but notes that during the Summer he often kicks into “manic mode” and thoughts and ideas seem to flow more during this time. He often spends time outdoors, particularly in the park just

watching and observing people’s behavior. “I notice subtle things that others may miss and I use these observations to bring realism to my writing.” In 2001, Stephen founded Outstretch Publications, a home-based freelance business with multi-cultural appeal and a bi-monthly newsletter. Stephen recognizes the plight of inner city youth and the challenges that they face. “I am personally taking courses to prepare myself for involvement with foster care. There are so many kids out there and no one is devoting any time to them. I want to make myself available to them.” Stephen is also working on ways to get minorities into college and maintain a steady and flourishing retention rate. To those young adults who are striving to reach their dream of being a writer Stephen offers this advice: “When people say, ‘Oh, you want to *become* a writer?’ Respond, ‘No. I *am* a writer. Don’t be afraid to experiment in different genres, don’t limit yourself. When people make negative comments don’t let them discourage you. Use the negative comments to make you stronger and more determined.

Most importantly, come up with your own voice.” Remember, Stephen was on a mission to prove to his mother that he had his own voice. Mission accomplished. Stephen currently works with the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene as an editorial production coordinator.



Stephen Earley Jordan, II

AGBM Bookshelf cont.

upon our children. We are taught innovative strategies absentee fathers can use to reunite with their children. And we are strongly encouraged to employ healthy co-parenting practices that will serve to prevent our children from becoming casualties of our emotional unrest. Though this book is principally written to make fathers aware of the necessity of their presence in their children’s lives, anyone who cares about the well being of our children will find this a must read.

For interviews, reviews, book signings or speaking engagements please contact the author directly by e-mail at mbracefatherhood@msn.com

The Children Are The Future (continued)



ultimately build a better future not solely for us, but for them as well. We have to be able to identify with them

and listen efficaciously when they are expressing themselves to us. This way, we can decipher keenly what their dreams and desires are, what may be bothering them and where they stand – emotionally as well as psychologically. It is equally essential

that as adults we lead by example. The things that we do in the presence of children will have an impact on them whether it’s positive or negative. They will follow every step that we make. This is why we have to be very cautious as well as conscious of the things we do and say. The children are our future doctors, lawyers, fire fighters, and scientists who will eventually make a difference in the world that we live in. We have to begin to nurture and feed them with the

knowledge that they can become anything that they want. We have to explain to them that studying, reading, and comprehension is the fundamentals of growing into that which is considered constructive. We need to inform them that no matter what obstacles are placed in front of them, or whatever may be said to them that is not healthy or beneficial, they should not allow obstacles to deter them from reaching their goals. - *Published with author’s permission.*



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HELP SPONSOR

The 2005 Legacy of Excellence Awards Celebration in Baltimore, MD

AGBM DRUM: UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS



BALTIMORE CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL & FESTIVAL

Baltimore, MD 7/15/05-7/17/05; Annual carnival featuring music, dance, parade and children's activities; Druid Hill Park;

www.bcacarnival.com

KUNTA KINTE HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Crownsville, MD 8/13/05-8/14/05; Annual festival featuring culture, music, food, dance from the African Diaspora, children's activities, arts and crafts;

entertainment includes jazz, blues, Caribbean steel bands, gospel; Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds;

www.kuntakinte.org

BALTIMORE EX-OFFENDERS SYMPOSIUM

The Mayor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families and the Fraternal Order of Ex-Offenders (FOXO) present the Ex-Offender Symposium on Saturday July 30, 2005 at Sojourner Douglass College, 200 N. Central Street, Baltimore from 9:00am – 2:00pm.

The target population for the symposium is service providers and the ex-offender population in need of services.

Symposium will include remarks by Jamaal Moses, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Children, Youth and Families, training session with Brother Ellsworth-Bey and opportunities for audience participation.

For further information please contact Brother Ellsworth-Bey, FOXO (410 262-4456) or Ms. Davis at the Mayor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families (410 396-4280)