

Distinguished panel discusses civil rights



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Gov. Strickland, Ohio Commodores roll out new network of Ohio ambassadors

Ohio is the state of perfect balance in life, allowing for both professional and personal success without having to sacrifice one for the other. It offers everything businesses need to thrive and grow - a central location, easy access to markets and supply chains, a large and productive labor pool, public/private sector leadership committed to business and policy innovation across Ohio's diverse economic sectors, and a unique tax structure that encourages global success. That's the message the Association of Ohio Commodores will bring to their annual summer meeting, June 28 - 29, at the Westin Hotel downtown.



Governor Ted Strickland

Vehr, and Harvey Cohen are among the leaders participating in the forum or breakout sessions. Courtis Fuller, news anchor for WLW-TV 5, will serve as MC.

The Association of Ohio Commodores, led by Grand Commodore Louise S. Hughes, is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of nearly 275 members who take an active role in their communities to advance Ohio's economy. The group's mission is to assist the State of Ohio in its advancement in all areas contributing to the economic growth and development of the State.

The public is invited to a forum, networking and breakout sessions on Monday, June 29, 9 - 11 a.m. at the Westin, where Governor Ted Strickland will introduce a new grassroots outreach initiative.

Hamilton County Commissioner President David Pepper, Kay Geiger, President of PNC Bank, Nick

MLB honors Beacons of Change, Hope, and Life



Baseball's home run champ Hank Aaron, recipient of Beacon of Life, Boxing's "The Greatest" Muhammad Ali recipient of Beacon of Change, and Actor Bill Cosby, recipient of Beacon of Hope. Photo by Philip Graahng/The Cincinnati Reds

By Ozie Davis III MS, JD
Herald Sports Editor

The Civil Rights era in the United States represented change, hope, and life to generations of Americans that fought for or against racial equality, freedom, and justice for all people. The institution of baseball attacked these inequalities before many larger institutions. Major League

Baseball integrated before the Armed Services, public schools, and certainly before any other major athletic association. For as much as baseball is considered this country's national pastime it is also considered itself a beacon of change.

To honor the Civil Rights era, MLB honors several beacons whose life work resembles the type of change, hope, and life that inspire the notion that freedom

counts. This year, MLB honored its Beacon of Hope, Bill Cosby, its Beacon of Change, Muhammad Ali, and its Beacon of Life, Hank Aaron.

A very diverse group of community leaders, corporate executives, baseball aficionados, and former players (Negro Leaguers included) filled the Duke Energy Center for what was one of the most uplifting events in Greater

MLB, continued on page A5

Black AIDS organization founder: 'Get tested, protect yourself'



Debra Fraser-Howze. Photo provided

By Dan Yount
The Cincinnati Herald

Debra Fraser-Howze, founder and former CEO of National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS based in New York City, says it is critically important that Black women who are at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS are tested to know their status.

"Women who do not know their status in regard to having the virus are endangering their lives," she said. "Many women at risk in New York City are experiencing the full impact of the virus by the time they are tested. Do not wait until sickness or symptoms appear before being test-



Former Miss Universe Dayana Mendoza has her mouth swabbed with the OraQuick ADVANCE to show how simple the test is to administer. Photo provided

ed. Testing can lead to treatment to retard the virus in the infected person's system. People are now staying healthier longer and live longer. Our goal is to keep Black people with HIV/AIDS alive longer until there is a cure. We women have to raise the next generation of African American and stay well while doing that."

Fraser-Howze also serves as vice president of Government and External Affairs at OraSure Technologies, the manufacturer of the OraQuick ADVANCE Rapid HIV-1/2 Antibody Test, the first and

AIDS, continued on page A4

Wayne 'Box' Miller appointed group sales manager at Sheraton North

Former local sports commentator Wayne "Box" Miller has been appointed group sales manager at Sheraton Cincinnati North at 11320 Chester Road in Sharonville.

In his new position he will be working with corporate, minority account businesses and associations. Sheraton Cincinnati North is a popular event and meeting place for a



Wayne "Box" Miller. Photo provided

number of local African American businesses and organizations. Just last Sunday, the 2009 "I Hear Music In The Air Gala," hosted by Tracey and Bobby Artis of Atlanta, was held in the main ballroom at the hotel.

"Wayne's great community relations and professional experience in sports journalism and media sales will serve him well in his new

role," said Bryan Drew, general manager of the Sheraton Cincinnati North. "We are thrilled that he has joined our sales team."

Miller's background includes sports columnist for *The Cincinnati Herald*, and sales for the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, and WIZF radio. He also did marketing for the *New York Times* magazine

Miller, continued on page A4

Effort to reduce county's infant mortality rate directed by veteran human services worker

By Dan Yount
The Cincinnati Herald

The effort to reduce the high infant mortality here is the focus of the recently created Hamilton County-Cincinnati Office on Maternal and Infant Health and Infant Mortality Reduction. Veteran social worker and administrator Cynthia Smith was named May 1 as director of the office.

Hamilton County averages about 1,000 births per month. On average, about 11 of those infants do not live past their first birthday. Smith says the high infant death rate here is evidence of a poor lifestyle. "The goal is to reduce the average number of infant deaths to six per month or less, below the national average. The only acceptable outcome is

that those six infants born each month who do not make it through their first year had unpreventable deaths," she said.

"We do have the ability to control this, but it requires a collaborative effort," Smith said.

Smith spent 25 years with Hamilton County Job and Family Services, starting as a children's services worker. She also supervised the human services organization's HealthCheck department that enrolls women in preventative healthcare programs. She spent 15 years as coordinator of the organization's Workforce Development program prior to becoming assistant director of Job and Family Services in 2005. She has coordinated a program to help parents complete their high school education.

Smith said the focus of the



Cynthia Smith, director of the Hamilton County-Cincinnati Office on Maternal and Infant Health and Infant Mortality Reduction, on left, discusses ways to reach potential young mothers about preventions to curb infant deaths here with Cincinnati Herald intern Erica Miller. Photo by Jamie Clark

office is to improve education throughout the community in regard to living healthy lifestyles to prevent infant mortality. She

said she plans to involve a number of people in designing the message that will be sent to the

Infant, continued on page A2

What's Inside This Week

In Black History ...

June 27, 1890: George Dixon, born in Africville, (Halifax), Nova Scotia becomes the first Black to hold a World title in boxing. Dixon beat Nunc Wallace in the Pelican Club in England and received \$4,250.00.

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AIDS, continued from front page

only FDA approved, rapid oral HIV test that provides greater than 99 percent accurate results in less than 20 minutes- no needles, no blood, no waiting. She has been widely recognized for more than two decades of global leadership to communities of color regarding teenage pregnancy, social welfare, and HIV and AIDS.

Fraser-Howze said heterosexual sex is the largest cause of HIV/AIDS among people of color. Drug use is the second largest cause. Also, the use of alcohol is a factor in that abuses may cause people to drop their inhibitions and be more likely to have unprotected sex.

"People have to be very aware of what they're doing," she said. "Women are not playing on a level playing field, with brothers on the down low having sex with both men and woman at same time, which opens up a larger pool of infections. Brothers who are coming out of prison may be HIV positive, a factor Black women should also consider."

Fraser-Howze said African American women must know the status of their partner.

The pool of Black women over age 50 who have become infected with the virus is growing, she said. "These are women who grew up in the era of the birth control pill and do not know how to use condom negotiation. There is a need to retrain Black women over 50 about condom use. They must insist their partners use condoms, and begin discussions with the mates about this."

Many Black women have to appreciate the greatness of their worth, she said. "If this man does not want to protect you, then you do not want this man."

She noted that Black men who have sex with men have infection rates that resemble those in the sub-Saharan regions of Africa. There is a problem with young men who have sex with men, in that they are becoming casual with it, she said. There is a whole generation of young people who never lived in a time when casual homosexual relationships did not exist. Young people need to know how serious this is, she said.

Fraser-Howze said the organization she founded is working to make testing more rou-

tine.

The OraSure technology provides results in 20 minutes, she noted. By using an oral fluid, the test provides rapid results. There are no needles, no blood to deal with, and the test can determine the presence of HIV 1 and 2 viruses. The HIV 1 virus is prevalent in the U.S. HIV 2 virus is common among the immigrant population. The screening test is 99 percent accurate, and, if positive, the person would be advised to take a confirmation test.

Medical research has developed ways to reduce the transmission of the disease from mother to child, she said. However, pregnant women must first be tested, for the virus can be transmitted from the mother to the child. But the mother can undergo a series of treatments that have been effective in reducing the transmission of the virus to the child by 95 percent. If the test is negative, it is important to protect the child at all costs by taking measures to avoid contracting the virus, she said.

There is no cure for HIV/AIDS, although vaccines are in trial stages, she said.

NBLCA is now the largest Black HIV and AIDS non profit organization of its kind in America.

Fraser-Howze has been widely recognized for more than two decades of global leadership to communities of color regarding teenage pregnancy, social welfare, and HIV and AIDS. She advised two U.S. Presidents while serving on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS from 1995-2001. She was the vice chair of the HIV Human Services Planning Council in New York City and chaired the National Institute of Health's Public Education Technology Committee. In 2003 she was appointed to the New York City Commission on AIDS.

Prior to her founding presidency at NBLCA, Fraser-Howze served as Director of Teenage Services at the New York Urban League. She was also a Legislative Assistant to the Honorable Charles B. Rangel (D-NY), United States Member of Congress, while a National Urban League Fellow.

For more information on OraSure Technologies and the product mentioned here, please go to www.orasure.com.

FACTS ON AIDS AND AFRICAN AMERICANS

- If Black America were a country, it would rank 16th in the world in the number of people living with the AIDS virus, according to the Black AIDS Institute.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta (CDC), nearly 325,000 Blacks are infected with HIV and more than 106,000 of these individuals are living with AIDS. That means about 1 in 50 Black men and 1 in 160 Black women are believed to be infected with HIV.
- Nearly 600,000 Blacks are living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and up to 30,000 are becoming infected each year. When adjusted for age, their death rate is 2.5 times that of infected Whites, a CDC report said. Partly as a result, the hypothetical nation of Black America would rank below 104 other countries in life expectancy.
- Even though Blacks (including African Americans) account for about 13 percent of the US population, they account for about half (49 percent) of the people who get HIV and AIDS, according to CDC.
- Of the 126,964 women living with HIV/AIDS, 64 percent were Black, 19 percent were White, 15 percent were Hispanic, 1 percent were Asian or Pacific Islander, and less than 1 percent were American Indian or Alaska Native (CDC figures).
- Black women are 23 times more likely to have and HIV diagnosis than White women.
- Blacks comprise 12 percent of the population of the United States, but are responsible for from 50 to 60 percent of all new HIV infec-

tions in U.S.

Seven of the 15 poor countries that received assistance from President Bush's program to fight AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis have fewer infected people than the 500,000 U.S. blacks who are HIV-positive, the Black AIDS Institute reported. The U.S. has spent \$402 million in 2008 to combat AIDS among minority groups.

Those and other disparities are "staggering," said Dr. Kevin A. Fenton, who directs HIV prevention efforts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the federal agency responsible for tracking the epidemic in the United States.

"Were Black America a separate country, it would elicit major concern and extensive assistance from the U.S. government," said Phill Wilson, founder and chief executive of the Black AIDS Institute in Los Angeles. A free-standing Black America would rank 105th worldwide in life expectancy and 88th in infant survival, he said.

Only four countries outside sub-Saharan Africa have a higher prevalence of HIV infections than the estimated 2 percent among blacks in the United States, he added. Blacks account for one in every eight Americans, but one in every two HIV infections in the country.

"U.S. policymakers seem to be much more interested in the epidemic in Botswana than the epidemic in Louisiana," said the Rev. Al Sharpton, chief executive of the National Action Network.

A DAY IN GOD'S COURT CHURCH EVENTS |

Union Baptist Church 2009 Annual Women's Day Worship Celebration on Sunday June 28 at Union where Sis Brenda E. Johnson of Greater Unity Missionary Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio will be our guest speaker. Come and be blessed. 2009 Womens Day Chairperson is Sis Gwendolyn Hall, and Co-chairperson is Sis. Kimberly C. Wyatt. Union Baptist Church is conveniently located at 405 W. 7th Street in downtown Cincinnati. Our Pastor is Dr. Orlando B. Yates. For any questions or for transportation call (513) 381-3858 or visit our website at www.Union-Baptist.net

Revival - Do you or someone you know want to be renewed or need to be spiritually revived? If so you are invited to our warm and loving church called **Union Baptist Church**. We are conveniently located at 405 W. 7th Street in downtown Cincinnati. Our Pastor is Dr. Orlando B. Yates. We are hosting a revival for the community on Monday July 13 - Wednesday July 15, at 7 p.m. nightly. Our Guest Evangelist on Monday will be Rev. James H. Cantrell of Zion Baptist Church. On Tuesday July 14, our guest Evangelist will be Rev. Robert Harper Pastor of First Baptist Church Kennedy Heights. On Wednesday July 15 our guest Evangelist will be Rev. Ashton G. Allen Pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. Come and be blessed.

Got news about your church or religious organization? Please contact Viney Shaw-Smith at least three weeks in advance. Send your email to Viney.L.Smith@fuse.net



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