

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

Columbia Daily Spectator, Volume CXV, Number 68, 28 January 1991 — DDC counsels teens about pregnancy [ARTICLE]

DDC counsels teens about pregnancy

By Elena Cabral

Spectator Staff Writer

About 30 male high school students from the Double Discovery Center (DDC) program attended a workshop on teenage pregnancy Saturday in Ferris Booth Hall to discuss issues of sexual responsibility.

The DDC provides tutoring and career counseling for inner city high school students.

The workshop, entitled “Teen Pregnancy: From a Male’s Perspective” was sponsored by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and featured small group sessions with students who advised methods of preventing teenage pregnancy, according to Gerald Fonville, CC ’90, a member

of the graduate chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha and a coordinator of the event.

“We felt the need to address an issue that really affects us all,” he said.

Students listened to speakers give facts and personal views on teen pregnancy rates, birth control, and safe sex.

There are approximately 100,000 teen pregnancies per year in the New York City area, according to speaker David Diaz, a health advisor at the New York City Department of Health.

Attention to issues concerning birth control has declined over the past 10 years as a result of growing concern over sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS, Diaz said.

Other speakers included Reverend Derrick Harkins, assistant pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, and Reverend Mark Chapman, who is a student at the Union Theological Seminary and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Chapman said media images of sexuality foment the problem of teen pregnancy.

“Sex seems to sell everything,” Chapman said. “Minorities are especially targeted.”

Alpha Phi Alpha member Lorenzo Wyatt, CC '93, who also coordinated the event, said the workshop provided an opportunity for open, frank discussions that could not exist in school or home environments.

“[The speakers] have provided a lot of information and dispelled a lot of myths,” Wyatt said. “Coming from them, it’s more effective.”

“They’re like our big brothers in a way,” said DDC student Robert Samuel, a high school junior who participated in the workshop.