

Hepatitis Health



World Hepatitis Day Observed

On Tuesday, May 19, 2009, the United States recognized the second World Hepatitis Day (WHD). The 2008 theme of “Am I Number 12” was carried over for the 2009 observance because one in twelve people in the world is living with viral hepatitis. In fact, viral hepatitis affects over 500 million people worldwide. In Florida, nearly 300,000 individuals are infected with chronic hepatitis C and another 75,000 with chronic hepatitis B.

The Bureau of HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis, Pinellas County Health Department, and the Chance Center held a health fair at Straub Park in St. Petersburg. Highlights of the day included free testing and vaccination, a press conference, fire truck and ambulance tours, and hepatitis educational materials. (More photos on page 3.)

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Rhonda Abbott with the City of St. Petersburg presents a mayoral proclamation to Dr. Claude Dharamraj, Pinellas CHD Director.



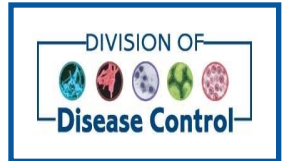
Helen Goergen & Dante Ross from Pinellas the CHD



Henrique “Rick” Chipelo, Jr. (far left) from St. Petersburg Fire Rescue, who was recently named Florida’s “Paramedic of the Year,” stands next to some of his co-workers



Regina Jeffries from the Pinellas CHD



Who Said That?

“A team is where a boy can prove his courage on his own.
A gang is where a coward goes to hide.”

Answer on page 11

PRESIDENT OBAMA APPOINTS DR. THOMAS FRIEDEN AS CDC DIRECTOR

On May 15, 2009, President Barack Obama announced that he had appointed Thomas Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., currently commissioner of the New York City Health Department, as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

President Obama also announced that acting CDC director Dr. Richard Besser, who has led the CDC's Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response for the past four years, will continue in this role.

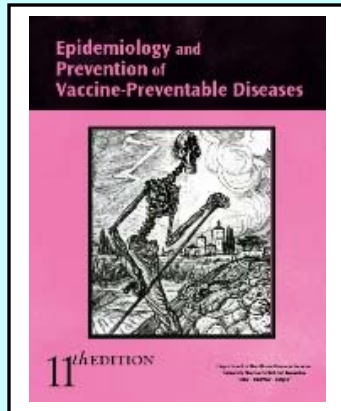


Dr. Frieden

To read the related White House press release, go to:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President-Obama-Appoints-Dr-Thomas-Frieden-as-CDC-Director

THE 11TH EDITION OF CDC'S PINK BOOK CAN NOW BE DOWNLOADED



CDC's Pink Book, formally titled "*Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*," has been updated and the 11th edition is now available for reading or downloading online.

To download chapter files of the Pink Book in PDF format, go the chapter index at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/pink-chapters.htm>

For information about ordering a print copy, go to:

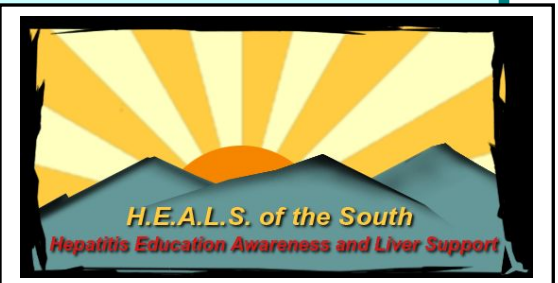
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/#order>

HEALS of the South Carries the Message

On World Hepatitis Day, HEALS (Hepatitis Education Awareness and Liver Support) of the South set up a display at Wal-Mart on Thomasville Road in Leon County. Volunteers from the Tallahassee Hepatitis Support Group helped out and made sure the public received all types of information on viral hepatitis.



L to R: Grace Barge, Pam Langford, and Barbra McVey.



WHD in Pinellas



♪ I'm leaning on the lamp-post at the corner of the street ♪

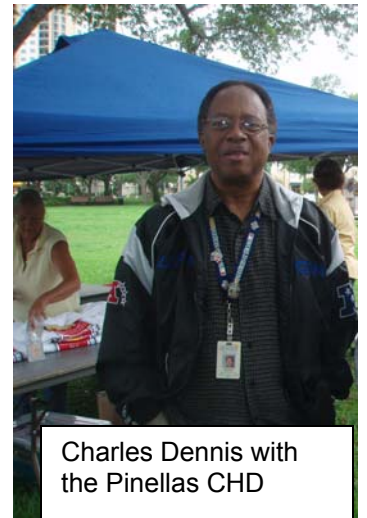
Debbie Barnes sings the National Anthem



The crowd gathers for the press conference



Charles Dennis with the Pinellas CHD



L to R: Andrew Maldonado, Vivian Ramirez-Aquino, Jim Roth (all from Hillsborough CHD), & HIV/AIDS Bureau Chief Tom Liberti.



Paramedics gave tours of an ambulance



Lisa Cohen auditions for the Joe Washington Band



Kathy Corapi from Congressman C.W. Bill Young's Office, Tom Liberti, Dr. Dharamraj, & Shirley Miaoulis, District Representative for Congressman Young



Two different views from Straub Park.....no, it wasn't too wet!



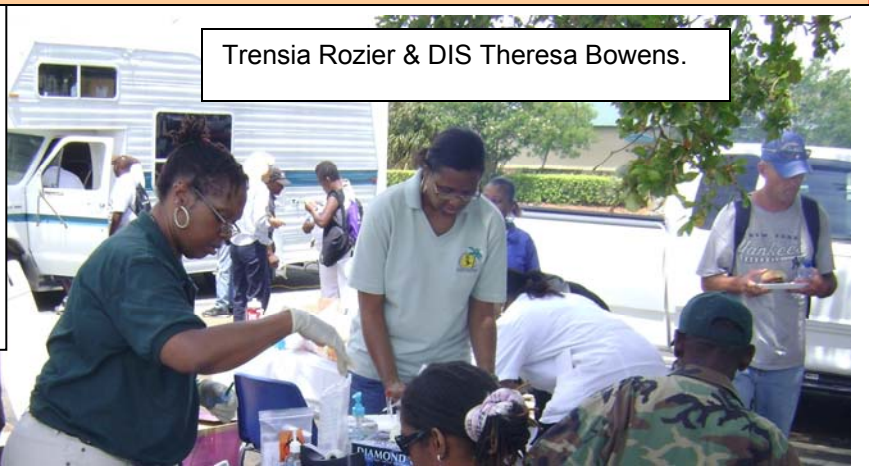
WHD in Palm Beach County By Trensia Rozier

For World Hepatitis Day, our targeted high-risk area for the Walgreens Cookout was located at the corner of Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard and Australian Avenue. We tested 23 patients during the event (12 were seen in the clinic). We had a total of 4 HCV+ that day (3 in field and 1 in clinic.) United Deliverance Resource Center was also there with their mobile unit, providing HIV rapid testing. The photos below are from the cookout.

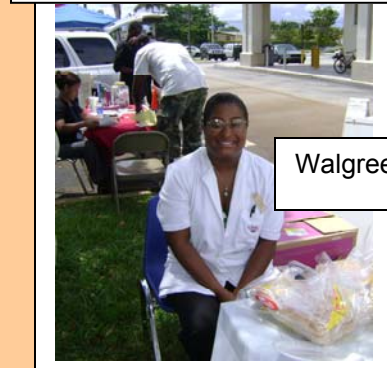
Also, Coretha Scott Moore has been working wonders in the Glades area. She has trained inmates at South Bay Correctional Facility to counsel other HCV+ inmates. This has evolved into an organized support group at the prison site, and Coretha is now working to get Glades Correctional and Moorehaven prison sites on board. Also, on World Hepatitis Day, South Bay's Dr. Phillips gave a presentation on HCV to 900 inmates and 70 officials.



Dulces Reyes in action!



Trensia Rozier & DIS Theresa Bowens.



Walgreens Pharmacy Tech

DIS Evelyn Rondon (front) and Jocelyn Brutus (rear right) do pre-test counseling

Walgreens Territory Manager Jeff Feulner grills burgers & sausage!



Esteemed Researcher Fauci Speaks at National Immunization Conference **By Phil Reichert**

Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health, presented a talk on “Vaccinology in the 21st Century” at the 43rd Annual National Immunization Conference in Dallas, March 30th. The talk was part of the Jeryl Lynn Hilleman Endowed Lecture that occurs once a year at the conference (see the accompanying article about Dr. Maurice Hilleman). Dr. Fauci is one of the most cited scientists in the world in the field of HIV/AIDS. He has made many important discoveries and received numerous awards. He has authored, coauthored, or edited over 1,100 scientific publications and has been awarded 34 honorary doctorate degrees.

Dr. Fauci’s talk focused on vaccines and stated that, “Most diseases for which we have vaccines, like measles, mumps, and hepatitis A and B, have a low mortality rate. They spontaneously clear the body and create protective immunity for life.” He said that HIV does not behave like these other vaccine-preventable diseases, but that does not necessarily mean there will not be a vaccine for HIV someday.

Interestingly, on April 23, 1984, then Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret Heckler announced at the first International Conference on AIDS in Atlanta, “We hope to have a vaccine ready for testing in about two years.” Fauci said that in 1984 with what we had learned about HIV/AIDS in such a short time, Heckler’s statement did not seem to be far off the mark.

Although Fauci’s presentation focused mostly on the possibility of a vaccine for HIV, he mentioned the many successes of Dr. Maurice Hilleman (for whose daughter this lecture series is named). Hilleman developed many vaccines in his lengthy and distinguished career, including the hepatitis A and B vaccines.

A Little Bit of Info About Jeryl Lynn and Dr. Maurice Hilleman **By Phil Reichert (and with thanks to Wikipedia)**

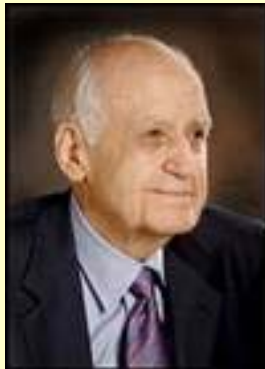
Jeryl Lynn Hilleman, the daughter of Dr. Maurice Hilleman, acquired mumps when her dad was developing vaccines for Merck and Company in 1963. He cultured his daughter’s throat while she was infected and created the Jeryl Lynn strain of the mumps vaccine that is still in use today.

Dr. Hilleman developed over three dozen vaccines in his career including, measles, mumps, chicken pox and hepatitis A and B vaccines. He grew up on a farm and worked with chickens. Chicken eggs are used to cultivate vaccines based on attenuated (weakened) viruses. In 1988, he was awarded the National Medal of Science by President Ronald Reagan.

Dr. Robert Gallo, co-discoverer of HIV, says that Dr. Hilleman has done more to benefit human health than anyone else. A biography of Dr. Hilleman titled, *Vaccinated: One Man’s Quest to Defeat the World’s Deadliest Diseases*, was published in 2007 by Paul Offit. Hilleman died April 11, 2005.



Dr. Anthony Fauci



Dr. Maurice Hilleman



Dr. Robert Gallo

World Hep Day in Broward County

By Edith Garcia

It's been a busy month! We received a proclamation signed by the county commissioners and the mayor designating May 19, 2009, as "World Hepatitis Day" in Broward County.

Candy Sims, our public information officer, sent out a press release on May 14th, to observe World Hepatitis Day. "It is very important that our community understand the risks of these viruses, get tested and get vaccinated," said Broward County Health Department (BCHD) Director, Paula Thaqi, M.D., M.P.H. "We encourage the public to visit our health centers and get educated on hepatitis and other diseases."



♪ I'd like to teach the world to sing, in perfect harmony! ♪

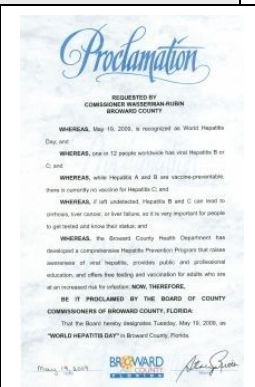


Manny Rodriguez, BCHD Health Promotion & Social Marketing



Katie Cyphert, BCHD HIV/AIDS Program

Below, L to R: Audrey Meares, Gloria Christian, Cynthia Rouse, & Edith Garcia, BCHD Hepatitis Program.



Marisel Echevarria and Andrea Singleton, BCHD Health Promotion

World Hepatitis Day in Polk County

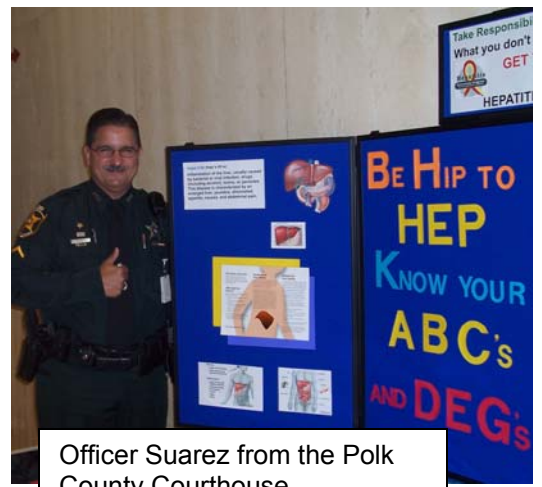
By Lynn Simons

Our World Hepatitis Day at Bartow Courthouse was a success. We tested 30 people for hepatitis, HIV, and STD (syphilis). One person elected to do the Hepatitis C Home-test Kit. For people visiting the booth, education and brochures in English and Spanish were provided.

The Hepatitis team wore matching shirts that had the slogan, "Am I Number 12?"



L to R: Lynn Simons, June Blum, Julie Krause, and Kim Leal



Officer Suarez from the Polk County Courthouse



Melody Watkins looks on as Julie does pre-test counseling



Kim asks the question, "Does the paperwork ever end?"



♪ A, B, C. Easy as one, two, three! Do, ri, me! ♪



June answers, "The paperwork **never** ends."



Chance Center Gets New Location

5047 Central Avenue
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
727-323-7500

chancecenter@verizon.net, www.chancecenter.org



The Chance Center held an open house on May 18th to celebrate moving to their new location in St. Petersburg and to honor World Hepatitis Day.

The Chance Center is an education and resource facility which continually strives toward improving the degree of understanding, education, and quality of life for those stricken with viral hepatitis and many other liver diseases. They offer support and affordable medical treatment to the uninsured working people of their community. They are able to provide this service through the volunteer efforts of physicians, nurses, support staff and corporate partners.



L to R: Lynn Snider, Debbie Barnes & Dot McCarthy



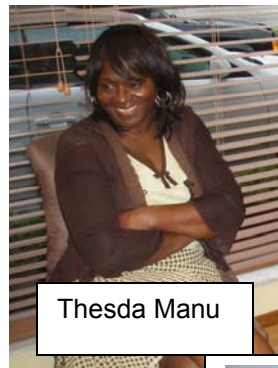
Hope King from the CDC, Michael Amidei & Sterling Whisenhunt



Phil Reichert & David Sjolund



Jeff Beckett from the CDC, Dot McCarthy & Gordon Licata



Thesda Manu



Julia Evans



Phyllis Doescher & Linda Yong



Pat Straubel, Barb Schall & Lynn Snider

NOTES FROM THE 2009 ADULT VIRAL HEPATITIS PREVENTION COORDINATOR MEETING

By Phil Reichert

In the eyes of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), I am Florida's Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator, or AVHPC, in acronym world. CDC held its annual Hepatitis Coordinators' Meeting in Decatur, Georgia (a suburb of Atlanta, for the novices) on March 3-5, 2009. As Tallahassee had one of its coldest winters in recent years, so it seemed, did Atlanta. I got to walk through snow during several days and nights of below-freezing weather for the first time in several years.

This meeting included Florida's perinatal Hepatitis B Coordinator, as well as most of the others from around the US. Florida's perinatal coordinator, with the Bureau of Immunization, is Cathy Mellinger.

I will spare you the detailed, and sometimes difficult to decipher, notes I wrote during the meeting and attempt to provide a few highlights. Geoff Beckett, from CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis, spoke about challenges to hepatitis prevention. There is a lack of adequate and sustained funding (a statement with which the audience adamantly concurred). Integration of public health activities is still difficult when you consider categorical funding (such as, integrating hepatitis services with those of STD, HIV, etc.). And, we should track our activities consistently and regularly. He stated that CDC would like to see hepatitis A and B vaccine and testing for at-risk individuals in the public health setting. He mentioned some facts of which we are all aware: hepatitis C virus is a major US health crisis, is four times bigger than the HIV epidemic, and is the leading cause of liver transplants and liver failure. Beckett also noted a redesigned hepatitis webpage at www.cdc.gov.

There has been a myriad of presentations on using the media in public health efforts at recent national meetings. The AVHPC Meeting was no exception. Two state of Washington health communications people with backgrounds in the private advertising business talked about using the media to promote public health programs. Your message should always be clear, short, and understandable and use plain and simple language. This is regularly iterated by media experts. They stated that you need to know your exact audience and gear the message for them. Again, this is a rehash from similar past presentations on this subject. Do not use technical language. An example the speaker gave is, "Don't say, 'Long yellow fruit from which you must remove the outer peel in order to eat,' when you mean 'banana.'" It is better to be understood than to be precise. Several ways to get public health messages to an audience are: in newsletters, through associations, in small newspapers, and as features on websites.

Dr. John Ward, Director of the Division of Viral Hepatitis, mentioned that a "full needs" national hepatitis budget would be about \$268 million and include the elimination of hepatitis B in the US and a harm reduction component. The CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis currently operates on just over \$18 million. In the US, about 51% of hepatitis C infected individuals are unaware of their infection.

Richard Zimmerman, from the state of Illinois hepatitis program, talked to the group about hepatitis vaccine promotion to high risk populations. In Illinois, hepatitis B vaccine is promoted as a cancer preventing vaccine. And, public health clients are informed that hepatitis B is a sexually transmitted disease.

Continued on page 10

AVHPC Meeting continued

In New York, according to AVHPC Colleen Flanigan, there are sixteen syringe exchange programs around the state. At the syringe exchange sites, hepatitis A and B vaccines are offered in addition to other public health services.

According to Geoff Beckett, we need more studies to look at the long term protection of hepatitis B vaccine. In a discussion I initiated about the subject, Beckett mentioned that there is some research going on to look at the long-term efficacy of the vaccine, but we will not know the results for a year or two.

Finally, Kevin O'Connor, formerly with the Division of Viral Hepatitis and currently working with CDC's STD division, said the 2008-2013 National STD Strategic Plan includes a goal to "offer hepatitis B vaccine in all STD clinics." Current cooperative agreements between CDC and the state STD programs include language to integrate hepatitis services for STD clients. These activities may be done and are encouraged where resources are available.

Hepatitis Month in Seminole County

By Edith Santiago-Cruz

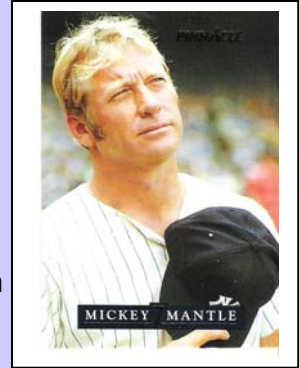
May 19th is World Hepatitis Day, but May is "Hepatitis Awareness Month." In addition to our on-going outreach activities in the community all year long, for the month of May a display on hepatitis was set up in the lobby of the Seminole County Health Department. Educational materials were distributed, along with hepatitis C home-test kits. See photo below.



Who Said That? Answer From Page One

“A team is where a boy can prove his courage on his own. A gang is where a coward goes to hide.”-----**Mickey Mantle**

The June 1995 case of Mickey Mantle's **liver transplant** was worrisome to many. Mantle, a famous baseball player, was 63 years old, and had spent 43 years as an alcoholic. Although he had been recovering from his alcoholism for a year and a half, his liver was ruined due to both alcoholism and **hepatitis C**. The hepatitis C was believed to have been contracted from a blood transfusion. He died of **liver cancer** on August 13, 1995.



Mickey Charles Mantle was born Oct. 20, 1931, in Spavinaw, Okla. He was named for Mickey Cochrane, the great hitting catcher of the Philadelphia Athletics and the Detroit Tigers. His father, Mutt Mantle, was a lead and zinc miner who had played semiprofessional baseball. His grandfather, Charles Mantle, had played baseball on a mining company team.

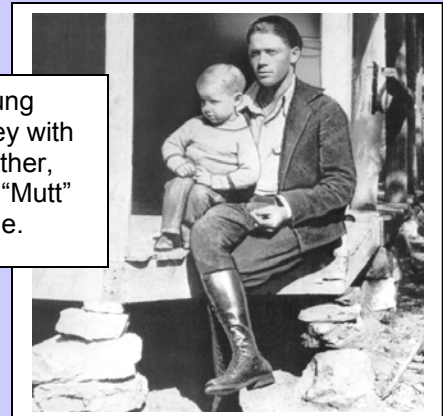
The two men drilled the boy in the fundamentals of baseball from an early age, and it was at their insistence that he learned to be a switch hitter. By the time young Mickey was a teenager, he was playing baseball 12 to 14 hours a day, day after day. At high school in Commerce, where the family had moved when he was 4, Mantle played on the football, basketball and baseball teams.

During a football practice in 1946, he was kicked in the left shin while carrying the ball, an accident that caused a chronic bone infection called osteomyelitis. At one point, Mantle's doctors thought his leg might have to be amputated, but Mantle's family refused to consider that, and the condition was arrested after several operations. It would cause his draft board to reject him four times as physically unfit for military service.

While still in high school, Mantle also played baseball for a team called the Whiz Kids in a league for players younger than 21. He was noticed by Tom Greenwade, a scout for the Yankees' organization, who signed him to a minor league contract the day he graduated from Commerce High School.



L to R: Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, & Ted Williams in 1951.



A young Mickey with his father, Elvin "Mutt" Mantle.

Two years later, as a 19-year-old shortstop, he joined the Yankees at spring training, widely publicized and eventually heralded as the replacement for the aging Joe DiMaggio. In spring training that year, he hit several monumental home runs, including one against the University of Southern California that was said to have traveled more than 600 feet. *Continued on page 12*

Mickey Mantle continued from page 9

At shortstop, Mantle was an atrocious fielder, so the Yankees switched him to the outfield, where he began the 1951 season. After slumping badly, he was sent down to the Yankees' farm club at Kansas City, Mo., but he returned to the Yankees near the end of the season and ended with a .297 batting average and 13 home runs in 96 games. He was in the starting lineup for the World Series against the Giants and played until he injured his knee in the second game.

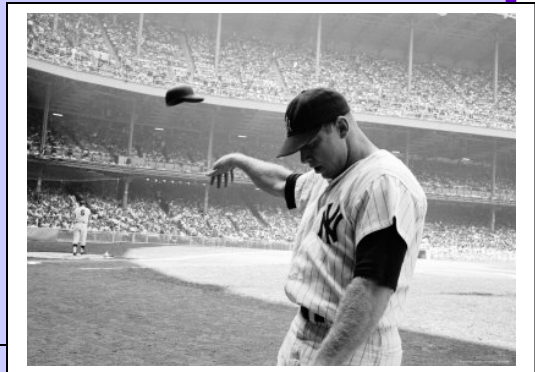
The day after that momentous game, Mantle's father accompanied the young outfielder to the hospital. Mutt Mantle, then in his late thirties, told his son to rest his knee by leaning on him as they entered the hospital. Mantle's father collapsed under the weight, both men crashing to the pavement in pain.

Hospitalized in the same room, the outfielder was treated for torn knee ligaments and the father was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, which killed him less than a year later. Mickey Mantle's grandfather and an uncle both died young of the same ailment. In his thirties he also would lose a son to Hodgkin's. Mantle admitted that he always feared that he, too, would die young of Hodgkin's.

He once spoke of the pain of losing his father. "I was devastated, and that's when I started drinking," he said. "I guess alcohol helped me escape the pain of losing my dad."

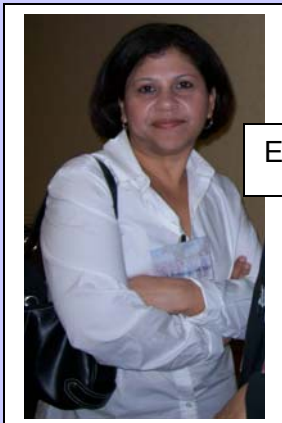
At a news conference several weeks before his death, the man idolized by millions for his grace and power expressed remorse for his years of heavy drinking. He declared that he was no role model for America's youth. "Don't be like me," he warned.

Washington Post, August 14, 1995

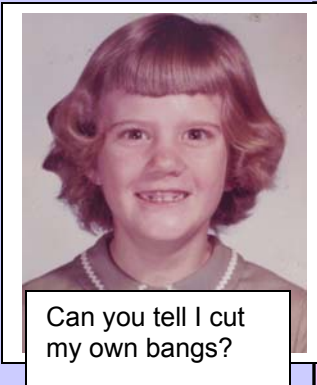


New Column Coming to Hepatitis Health!

It takes a special and unique kind of person to work in the field of public health. We read articles and see pictures of various people from county health departments all over Florida in this newsletter. Did you ever wonder about these folks? Who are they? Now's your chance to get the scoop on the worker-bees behind the scenes! (No, we're not doing background checks.) Our new column, entitled "**Shine a Light On...**," is coming up in the next edition of *Hepatitis Health*. To kick off the inaugural column, we are going to feature **Enid Santiago-Cruz** from the Seminole County Health Department.



Enid



Can you tell I cut my own bangs?

Message from the Editor
Hepatitis Health is brought to you by the Hepatitis Prevention Program, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, Division of Disease Control, at the Florida Department of Health. We want to know what you're doing in the community to prevent viral hepatitis. Please submit your articles and photos to: April.Crowley@doh.state.fl.us