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SUBJECT: Article from Kaiser Newsletter

TO: Daniel C. Montoya ( CN=Daniel C. Montoya/OU=OPD/O=EOP [ OPD ] )  
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:  
Dear Daniel:

Thanks again for helping me on Sunday.

This article is FYI.

Patsy

PUBLIC HEALTH & EDUCATION

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AFRICAN AMERICANS: Harlem To Host Alternative  
Health Activists

An AIDS conference in Harlem this Saturday will give the  
floor to black

alternative health care activists, some of whom will question  
"basic assumptions"

about AIDS, such as: that HIV causes AIDS; that the strides

made by protease

inhibitors "should convince blacks not to experiment with  
alternative treatments;" and

that "advocates of naturopathy and other holistic treatments  
are conspiracy theorists

peddling death to African Americans." The Harlem AIDS Forum is  
sponsored by the

Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network, the Village Voice  
reports. Some

participants will also promote "theories that AIDS is an  
ethnic weapon created by the

government to 'kill most black people.'" Brother Phillip  
Valentine, a naturopath and

founder of the Self-Healing Education Temple-Institute for  
Self-Mastery, is slated to

"mobilize people of color in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and  
transgendered communities

around the issue of AIDS." Valentine, who "has been  
practically waging war against"

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said, "The  
only myths about AIDS

circulating in the black community are those purposely put  
there by the propaganda

machinery of the [CDC] and the pharmaceutical companies. ...  
Those in the activist

community are now trying to show people how these myths  
arise." Forum

participants will also include Joanne Walker, founder of the Ultimate Health Empowerment program; Curtis Cost, who "has attracted a huge following since the 1991 publication of his book "Vaccines Are Dangerous: A Warning to the Black Community;" and Debra Fraser Howz, head of the "widely respected" New York-based National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS. The Village Voice reports that in part, the forum is "a show of defiance by the activists, who have charged that their white critics harbor a racially based distrust of those who advocate a system of treatment that avoids drugs and surgery. These critics, the activists charge, blame them for selling false hope to black AIDS sufferers and cancer victims" (Noel, Village Voice, 12/16-12/22). (Back to Contents)