The hidden face of boxing
Maxime Coles MD

The AMHE Newsletter (# 254) has debated in one article the complications of brain injury in professional soccer and American football players. Recently a world super featherweight boxing champion-contender to the world title, lost his life in a championship fight after being knocked down in the 10th round. This was the third death of the kind recorded in the last two months in the world of professional boxing. This professional athlete who lost his life was one of the AMHE’s son. Patrick Day was 27.

Professional boxers have been known forever to be victims of repeated blows to the head. In the antiquity, a sport called “Pankration” was practiced in a combination of what we call now Boxing and Wrestling with the addition of biting and gouging eyes and/or any weaponless form of attack with feet and fists as weapons. Arrachion of Phigalia won an Olympic title in this discipline in 564 BCE, after dislocating a toe of his opponent prior to be himself a victim of a sudden death. He was crowned winner even though he was dead.

Simon Byrne also called “the Emerald Gem” fought a Scottish champion Alexander McKay in June 1930, and knocked him down in the 47th round of a bare-knuckle fight with a punch to the throat. McKay died the same day. Three years later Simon Byrne fought James Burke for the championship in England on May 30 1833 during a match
which lasted 3 hours and six minutes. Both boxers were exhausted, collapsed in the 99th round and could not get up. Byne won the fight but died three days later.

Tom Molineaux, a former slave fought in England and retired in 1815 to turn himself to drinking alcohol and died in poverty at age 34. Many articles from the United Kingdom and Australia, have discussed the lifetime of a professional boxer in the ring, dropping from 19 years to five years because of fear of Traumatic Brain Injuries. The training activities looked at less interactions with sparring partners to avoid repeated injuries to the brain, an increase in monitoring by a medical team, with frequent neuroimaging assessment for early detection of traumatic brain injuries. This routine has alerted the team to encourage the fighter’s longevity in the ring and to minimize brain injuries.

What in the past was called a “punch drunk syndrome” is now termed “Chronic traumatic brain injury” (CTBI)!!! A constellation of Neurological symptoms affecting the pyramidal, cerebellar and extrapyramidal domains become predictable. Cognitive impairment is seen in the late stages as well as neuropsychiatric and behavioral symptoms. Amateur boxers showed the same signs at a lower incidence than the professional boxer.in spite of their protective headgear and shorter bouts.

There were 266 documented deaths during the era (1740-1889) before gloves were introduced in the rings. Between 1809 and 2019, it was found that 1876 boxers have died as a result of blows to the head. Statistics were reported by Manuel Velazquez after one of his friend, a retired boxer (Pete “Kid Indian” Nebo) was confined to a mental institution following multiple blows to the head and judged incompetent. His compilation of events was later updated after his death by Joseph Smith.

Death in the ring never stopped. A 49–year-old Italian (Christian Daghio) became a fatality in November 2018, in a World Boxing Council title fight in Thailand when he was knocked down twice in the 12th round of the match. Taken to the hospital, he was pronounced dead two days after. It is now a pattern in boxing, when an American boxer, of Haitian descent, Patrick Day was knocked down as well in the 4th, 7th and 10th rounds during a championship fight in Chicago and carried out on a stretcher with a head injury. He never recovered from a coma and died two days later. Two more fighters in the earlier months have succumbed from blows to the head following their Knock-down.

In the past, amateur boxers were found to have a longer career in spite of many unsupervised bouts each day, without any medical supervision. They fought with 6 oz. gloves and the ring official showed less willingness to stop bouts when a boxer was overmatched. There was also no mandatory exclusion after a knockout or a head injury. It appears that the period of the great depression in the 1930’s was responsible for the longer involvement of boxers in the ring because of financial gains. More, many professional boxers at retirement chose to become professional sparring partners or tent/boot boxer with their documented neurological problems.

There is currently a false perception that professional boxing is decreasing in popularity around the world especially not in the United Kingdom, Australia or the United States. The prevalence of Chronic brain injury may be difficult to determine but if one has expected to find in professional boxing, a “dying art”, recent statistics have proven the inverse. The sport enjoys a popularity everywhere. A significant risk reduction in terms of exposure to head injury was observed overtime, but unfortunately, challenged by the three recent championship fights which resulted in the death of a boxer following knockdown blows to the head.

Boxing exposure, as a surrogate for repetitive concussive head trauma is a risk factor for Chronic Traumatic Brain Injury. Mandatory computerized cognitive screening, magnetic resonance scans, Apo E genotyping are now required in the United Kingdom and Australia to be performed each three years to allow a boxer to continue fighting. Neuro-diagnostic methods to assess the frequency of Chronic Traumatic Brain Injury are non-existent. It is difficult to understand why such sport is still permitted by the authorities in charge of the regulations. It is true that the boxers practicing this art is also aware of the risk of injury.

In the past, many boxers had a rough life. They were gang members or served time in prison. They fought with different kind of gloves without any medical supervision. Knockdown on knockdown, these fighters will stand up and continue to fight. Boxing was their way of life.

One remembers certainly, decades ago, the long boxing fight between Espana and Lira, for the World
Boxing Association in a fight for the Lightweight title. Ernesto Espana threw an uppercut which snap his opponent’s head upward in a gush of blood over the right eye, stopping Johnny Lira in nine rounds. Lira suffered a broken jaw. Howard Cosell did not understand that he was witnessing a fight who took the “life” of Johnny Lira. The ring doctor stopped the fight and Espana won by a technical knock-out.

Cosell is now dead and Johnny Lira suffered from paranoia, forgetting things and drinking profusely. His speech become slurred and he used sign-languages he picked up while training young deaf boxers. The boxing community in Chicago rallies around and held fundraisers to pay for his medical bills. He died penniless like many others.

In 1982, Barry Mc Guigan fought Young Ali and Ali went to a coma to never recovered. In the late 2015, Hamzah Aljahmi died in Ohio following his professional debut. In 2016, Mike Towell a Scottish boxer died after a match in Glasgow. Nick Blackwell an English boxer was forced to retire after a head injury sustained during a fight. The boxers who haven’t died in the ring, have heaved their bloodied noses or their split lips. The old “Punch Drunk” is now better called Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE).

In April 2013, a Zambian-born boxer, Michael (Hitman) Norgrove felt dizzy during his sixth professional fight which was stopped by the referee. He died in the hospital following the fight. A Mexican boxer, Frankie, “the little soldier “was knocked out and carried out on a stretcher in March 2012, but returned to fight in October 2013. He was again knocked down to the canvas in Cabo San Lucas. He died days after.

An Australian fighter Davey Browne Jr fought Carlo Magali from Philippines in a 12 rounds super-featherweight fight in Sydney, but unfortunately took a crashing blow to the head which knocked him down. He was transported to the hospital and died four days later from a brain injury. Scott Westgarth in February 2018 was knocked down in the last round of a fight but got up and was declared winner on points. He later collapsed and died shortly in the hospital. The list of fatality goes and goes on.

A Russian fighter Magomed Abdusalamov was badly beaten by a Cuban Mike Perez in November 2013 heavyweight fight at Madison Square Garden but because he was still standing the referee allowed the fight to continue. The ring physician cleared the boxer for any neurological damage. Abdusalamov was found in a coma after the fight at a Hospital and never regained the ability to speak or to walk. In 2017, the State of New York agreed to pay the boxer 22 million. A writer wrote a plea to ban boxing.

In a basement in Chicago, a gym’s owner, Glenn Leonard, 6 foot-tall, gave up his boxing carrier to work as a trainer and rarely gets into the ring to spar and when asked why he quitted fighting, he responded that he suffered from headaches. Other boxers may present with a history of paranoia or with violent behavior and mood swings. Some have terrorized members of their families with violence to a point that they used the extreme act of suicide to put an end to their life.

We have demonstrated in a previous AMHE Newsletter (#254) what science believes happen in the early stages of CTE where people with a history of concussion and repeated blows to the head like in NFL players present with memory loss, slowness of movement because the brain is affected. You would expect many boxers to come forward with symptoms. Unfortunately, they appear to be in denial and refused to talk about the blows to the head responsible for some of their symptoms. Most boxers in such condition are amateurs and they have little support.

A movie in 2015 in which Will Smith played the significant role of a professional Football player with Chronic Traumatic Brain Injury, has bought to light the consequences of repeated blows to the head. After viewing it, people had the tendency in believing that this condition was strictly seen in professional Football players, victims of the disease. In fact, the first known description of an athlete with Chronic Traumatic Brain Injury was reported in boxers by a New-Jersey physician, Harrison Martland MD, in an article called “Punch drunk” in 1928. A second physician JA Millspaugh MD, named the condition “dementia pugilistica” but now the term Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy is coined (CTE).

We will never know how many boxers can be affected by this disease. The accumulation of blows to the brain have led to the release of the “Tau protein”, also found in the Alzheimer’s disease. It spreads to the brain, eroding its function and showing as dark-brown discoloration. Another AMHE Newsletter (# 262) has also addressed the problem of Alzheimer’s as well and we will refer you to it for review.
If we need to look for boxers with early or late symptoms of paranoia, memory loss and confusion, we will need to search for young or old boxers living in deprived communities. A marine veteran of the name of Paul Pender, in his 50’s, who fought Sugar Ray Robinson and became World champion twice but 20 years after the end of his career, he felt depressed and irritable and was unable to hold on any job. He was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease because of confusion and memory loss. When he died, an autopsy confirmed the disease.

Symptoms can be insidious or begin many years later after the boxer stops fighting. Memory, judgement and organization skills can be affected. Boxers will show mood change, apathy, rage, aggression and loss of self-control. They can also develop tremors, slowness in movement, a limited facial expression which appear to be a trademark of a symptomatic boxer not seen in the professional football player suffering from Chronic Traumatic Brain Injury. It is not sure why some boxers develop the disease and others do not.

Boxers die but not as often as they used to. Safety regulations, medical supervisions, fewer round and shorter careers have not change the rhythm in which fighters are dying. 230 boxers died in the 1920’s while 103 has the same outcome in the 2000’s. If there are rules aimed at protecting the health and the safety of the boxers, they are not working properly especially in the deprived areas.

On October 12, a young boxer Patrick Day, 27-years-old, ranked among the 10 best boxers in the world by the WBA and the IBA gained the right to fight Charles Cromwell in a World Championship bout for the super welterweight crown. He fought well but was knocked down on the 4th and the 7th round and finally in the 10th round, he sustained a fury of blows to the head which sent him to the canvas. I knew he was hurt and my heart was pounding. The fight was over. He was transported in emergency at a hospital in Chicago via ambulance and underwent a surgical drainage of a massive brain hemorrhage. Patrick never woke up from his coma. He was declared “brain dead” 48 hours after.

Patrick Day, a NY-Golden Glove winner, Alternate on the US Olympic boxing team, World rated super welterweight contender, WBC continental America Champion in 2017, IBF International Champion 2019, was rated in the top 10 boxers. in association: the WBA and the IBA. He knew that Boxing was a sport at risk but he chose to perform this art. He has a dream of becoming World Champion. He left us pursuing this goal. Rest in peace son! May God have Mercy on your soul.

This paper is dedicated to Patrick, this son of the AMHE and to all the boxers who, like him, came so close to reach their dream in becoming World Champions.

Maxime Coles MD

References:

5- Casson IR, Siegel O, Sham R Et al. Brain damage in modern boxers. JAMA 1984(251):2663-2667
9- “The general Medical Guidelines for WBF Championship Contests” Dr. Adam Balogh, World Boxing Federation.
Dans un entrefilet paru en 2017 dans les colonnes du Newsletter, sous le titre « ces morts qui meurent des fois et des fois encore », j’avais sonné l’alarme sur le problème de carence de cimetières auquel le pays fait face depuis un certain temps. Au cours des trente dernières années, A part deux ou trois grandes villes où s’est matérielisé l’aménagement d’une espèce de nécropole pour nos surplus de disparus, partout à travers le pays, c’est le même problème qui se fait sentir : problème de cimetières trop exigus qui regorgent de corps morts et de cercueils défoncés au besoin pour faire de la place à d’autres cadavres venus à bord tout récemment...

J’ai expliqué comment le nombre de jardins funèbres n’avait pas augmenté dans le pays alors que la population n’a cessé de s’accroître. J’avais ajouté que la façon de traiter les morts est un reflet direct du traitement que les vivants se donnent entre eux, et qu’on ne saurait avoir de respect ou de considération pour les restes de nos défunts si, de leur vivant, on n’avait pas appris à leur fournir le traitement décent et humain auquel ils avaient droit. Si j’ai fait tout ce beau parcours avec vous, c’est pour parler d’un nouveau phénomène qui est observé depuis quelque temps un peu partout à travers le pays et particulièrement à la capitale. Il s’agit de cadavres qui restent trop longtemps dans les rues et que les gens côtoient pendant des heures avant qu’ils ne soient enlevés de la voie publique. Je ne dis rien que je n’appuie de quelques exemples disait Jean de LaFontaine dans son récit sur le suppôt de Bacchus qui altérait sa sante, son esprit et sa bourse. Il y a tout juste un mois et demi de cela, dans une émission de nouvelle matinale, on racontait comment des chiens déchiquetaient le corps inerte d’un riverain exposé à même le sol, on ne savait depuis combien de temps, entre la deuxième et la troisième Avenue Bolosse près de la grand-rue.

Cette semaine encore, c’est une autre station de Radio qui expliquait la présence d’un cadavre laissé sur le trottoir, et que les gens traversèrent à loisir sans que personne n’ait eu la moindre décence d’en couvrir le visage en attendant que le service concerné en vienne à ramasser le corps. Pis est, une marchande de fritures, non loin de là,
étalait sa barque et vendait ses produits comme si de rien il s’agissait. Parfois ces cadavres restent des heures sur le trottoir au su et au vu de tous, particulièrement des services concernés qui ne pipent mot. Depuis quelques instants nous assistons à ce qu’on appellerait une banalisation de la vie sinon à une désacralisation de la mort, un phénomène devant lequel on aurait du tous s’incliner avec le plus profond respect. Même dans une ère aussi scientifique et rationnelle comme celle où nous vivons, il existe encore de la place pour cette culture animiste où le respect du trépassé et à sa mémoire ne se négocierait sous aucune forme de procès...Chez nous au contraire, la loi de la jungle et l’exaltation du cannibalisme sont des formes de comportement de plus en plus observées parmi le peuple. On brule vif des individus, on lapide certaines gens sous Le moindre soupçon d’être l’instigateur d’un méfait quelconque.. Le pire dans tout cela est qu’il n’existe aucune voix à s’élever contre de telles pratiques et à demander qu’on arrête de tourmenter nos morts une fois qu’ils sont déjà morts. Il est vrai que le phénomène a refait surface en 1986 pour s’étendre au delà des trois dernières décennies et parvenir jusqu’à nous. Mais il faut reconnaitre que cette culture a précédé 86, puisqu’au fort du régime de Papa Doc, on volait des cadavres d’opposants au beau milieu de la messe et on empêchait à leur famille de leur donner la sépulture appropriée. Il est vrai que le problème de lynchage et de décapitation a été l’apanage de presque toutes les sociétés. En effet, jusque dans les années 50 ,on lynchait encore des noirs aux Etas unis sous le regard complice et silencieux des membres du village qui étaient tous là à applaudir et à rire.....

Je disais l’autre jour à un artiste Américain, fin intellectuel, à qui je parlais, que l’une des vertus de la société Américaine est de pouvoir se réinventer plusieurs fois de suite et de se corriger des erreurs du passé en reprenant la bonne voie, la voie royale. Faute de leaders peut-être, Chez nous ce que nous observons, c’est une descente aux abîmes qui a même trop duré. Nous nous demandons à chaque fois jusqu’où pouvons nous encore descendre avant de commencer à remonter la pente ?...Je semble toujours avoir plus de questions que de réponses. Car, à phénomènes nouveaux, correspondent toujours des explications nouvelles. Je laisse alors aux sociologues, aux ethnologues et à tous ceux-là que la question intéresse, le soin d’expliquer le phénomène de la banalisation de la vie. Dans ma tentative d’explication du phénomène, je pense qu’à force de vivre si fragilement au jour le jour, et de voir mourir à petits feux tant de gens chaque jour sous ses yeux, on finit par croire que les cadavres sont comme des vivants parmi nous, une extension de nous, que c’aurait pu être nous et qu’il ne faudrait pas s’en alarmer outrement. Il y a comme une incarnation de la fatalité qui mène à l’indifférence et qui porte à dire que plus tard ou demain viendra mon tour, alors qu’importe ?

. Mais le triste dans tout cela, c’est qu’il y a aujourd’hui les enfants qui suivent nos moindres gestes et qui les reproduiront textuellement demain, perpétuant ainsi le cycle de la déliquescence sociale et de la déperdition. Quand on sait qu’il faut au moins quatre générations pour changer les mentalités (des enfants qui transmettront à leurs enfants ce que leurs parents rapportaient du temps de leurs grands-parents),on réalise tristement que nous allons tous mourir dans le désert et que le changement espéré n’est pas pour demain. ,

Rony Jean-Mary,M.D,
Coral Springs,FL,
Le 28 octobre 2019
When asked about his leisure activities, Professor Noël answers he divides his workload into doing research in mathematics, playing the guitar and studying philosophy in a matter-of-fact precision revealing the conflation of the engineer bent on exactitude and the artist conceiving of and speaking of math as a language, still not quite willing to let the pathos take the lead, at least not at first glance. No wonder he feels comfortable with the clockwork ethos of Germans, the rebellious nature of un enfant terrible, ready and willing to explore new ideas, think outside of the box, convention be damned. After an interview, one walks away with the impression this is a brilliant mind, a complex personality, but yet a man with a big heart, in the ecosystem where conviction and commitment are twins. He has taken time from his busy schedule to lend a helping hand to our brothers and sisters back home. He first volunteered to be on the faculty of ISTEAH (L’Institut des Sciences, des Technologies et des Études Avancées d’Haiti) established by GRAHN-Monde and teach pro bono. He has gone one step further and farther by learning to write Creole, immersing in the nuances of the language after being away from it for a long time and finally by writing an advanced mathematics book aimed at junior or senior level of college in that vernacular. This is not a misprint. A full Professor at the University of Massachusetts (UMass) in Boston in the Department of Mathematics, a former researcher at MIT, just wrote the first-ever mathematical analysis book in Creole, via Presses Internationales GRAHN-Monde.

Born in Les Cayes, Haiti, he finished his secondary school at Collège Anglade and then studied at Le Centre Pilote de Formation Professionelle with emphasis on Electrotechnique. He came to the USA in 1982 and enrolled at the Control Data Institute in Burlington, MA where he learned computer programming. He then went to Northeastern University to pursue a degree in Computer Sciences. A professor there, an Irishman by the name of Terence Gaffney, took notice of his mathematics aptitude and had him take a series of tests and he did so well that he
received an offer to pursue a master’s degree instead. After graduation he worked in the private sector for 7-8 years as a software engineer.

He returned back to school to obtain a PhD in Mathematics at Northeastern (1997) under Donald R. King, an MIT-trained Afro-American professor, as thesis advisor. By then he was already 41 years of age. He did some work on Y2K for one year and then accepted a position at the University of Massachusetts in Boston as Assistant Professor. He spent the 2000-2001 academic year at MIT as an MLK Visiting Assistant Professor. He returned in 2006 to do some groundbreaking theoretical work at MIT on the Atlas of Lie Groups and Representations Project E8 (aimath.org), as a visiting scholar.

This was itself a seminal achievement because only a handful of mathematicians in the world was part of it and it’s a very complicated endeavor. According to the official description of the scope of the work on the website, whereas the Genome Project was 1 gigabyte in breadth, the Project E8 fills 64 gigabytes. Professor Noël’s training in computer sciences came in very handy because he was able to bring a new approach toward solving the problem. He is actively working on submitting an academic publication on this research. Reading the description of the project leaves one bewildered by its depth as well as the awesome erudition required to be part of it. Being part of such advanced research is a remarkable achievement, yet Professor Noël downplays its importance, and is not so willing to accept praise for his participation. Well, we who know better, are of the opinion that in the hermetic world of Theoretical Mathematics, a landscape that by his own admission is not welcoming to minorities, feel that we need to sing his praises because this is indeed a colossal milestone. He also did a stint at Harvard for 6 months doing some advanced research. However, he remains at UMass in Boston and has been a full professor since 2010.

In the rarefied world of academic Mathematics, according to the professor, research into new theories or problems-and of course publication- is prized. Writing a textbook generally adds no value to one’s credentials and if truth be told, takes valuable time away from doing serious research. However, Professor Noël felt the need to do it because in his encounters with students from Haiti, he has noticed their fluency rests primarily with Creole, irrespective of their level of schooling. As a legacy, he has decided to write the textbook. Along the way he also fell in love with the language. His commitment to the motherland is unquestioned and as far back as 1996, he formed the Haitian Scientific Society. He is a member of GRAHN and has been the first Director of the Center of Research in Mathematics at ISTEAH.

His commitment to scientific teaching in the motherland is ironclad. During this autumn, he helped make arrangement to have scientists from the US, France, Italy, Africa under the aegis of CIMPA (Centre International de Mathématiques Pures et Appliquées), (cimpa.info) to come to Haiti for a second time for a two-week seminar on Mathematics but due to the political instability, he had to cancel it. He finds himself frustrated at the low level of computer literacy among students in Haiti as well as the isolation of the country from scientific mainstream and breakthroughs. He feels strongly the education system is in need of a serious overhaul, especially in the arena of scientific propagation of knowledge.

As for the naysayers who keep repeating the canard that Creole is not a language, publication of this textbook ought to have the resounding sound of a thud heard around the diaspora at large to make the opposite argument. It’s a pedagogical tour de force in full display. In the preface, he answers Camus’s lamenting about « l’indivisible système planétaire…je ne connaîtrai jamais. » He answers, « C’est dans cette démarche solitaire, pénétrante, à la fois chaotique, et ordonnée que réside à notre avis, tout le génie créateur de l’artiste mathématicien(ne). » He then chooses David Hilbert, a famous German mathematician’s retirement speech in both German and Creole to explain his vision toward pure mathematics. The last two lines sum it up: “Alaplas iyorans sòt sa a, an nou kenbe pou deviz nou:
Nou dwe konnen, n ap rive konnen.”

This method can be taken in its extreme as Sturm und Drang made famous by King
Christophe, however, since it is meant to be an intro to a language, called Mathematics, for its lovers, into a voyage filled with aspirations, dreams, can one be far off and say it’s the artist’s maiden voyage and stretch the metaphor a bit and call it his *bildungsroman*?

This decision to write in Creole carries the gravitas of a well-versed, well-rounded mind. What others would describe as a pastime, but he would consider as work, includes writing short stories, poetry in…French as well as reading Spinoza and Nietzsche. He plays a mean guitar in the classical style but considers his level as intermediate. He seems to have an inkling for karma, fate, although he is reluctant to adhere to categories. He is a complex person. He has the hands-on mindset of the engineer and the sensibility of a poet, splaying the latter with a subtle veil with a wisp of chiaroscuro but not hiding from it as he displays his literary works alongside his scientific writings on his academic website (math.umb.edu). Among his works, I chose this poem and one is free to deconstruct it.

---

**Le Théoré Empaillé**

Par

Alfred G. Noël (2016)

Je glisserai sur le viol enflammé qui m’a vu naître
« De la laitance d’une aube incertaine ». Peut-être …
Mais j’ai su, de temps en temps,
Capturer l’évanescence immobilité du temps.

Entre enfin le Président de l’Académie
Dégageant une odeur d’alchimie,
Offrant une bouche édentée,
Habituée aux rudes voluptés,
D’où sort un air méphitique,
Pour déclarer l’ouverture de la Critique
En criant d’une voix mélancolique,
A genoux sur un grand canapé,
« Emmenez le Nègre à l’œuvre diabolique
Et apportez l’épée! »

Frankétienne, Les affres d’un défi

---

Lè w mande l ki Jan l fè pou l detann li, pwofesè Noël di li divize travay li nan fè rechèch an matematik, jwe gita e etidye filozofi avèk yon presizyon kare ki revele yon melanj de yon enjenyè ki mezire dwat e yon àtis ki imagine e ki pale de matematik kòm yon lang, men ki pa kite emosyon l parèt twò vit pou tikritikrak. Se konsa ke nòmal li defini pou yon san avèk atitid kinalagach de pèp alman, ensten rebèl ti moun fwonte, ki pare e vle eksplore ide nouvo, fouyapòt, menm si sa pa fè sosyete a kontan. Apre yon entèvyou, ou gen enpresyon se yon bolid, yon pèsonalite konpleks, men yon nomm bon kò, nan ekosystèm kote konviksyon e angajman se marasa. *(Version Kreyol, suite)*

---

En guise de réponse à ses activités de loisir, le professeur Noël informe qu’il divise sa tâche quotidienne entre la recherche en mathématiques, jouer la guitare et l’étude de la philosophie avec une précision franche révélant le mélange de l’ingénieur fixé sur l’exactitude et l’artiste qui conçoit et qui parle des mathématiques comme une langue, quitte qu’il ne cède pas au pathos de prendre le dessus, pas de prime abord. Ainsi son naturel se définit comme une affinité avec l’éthos mécanique des Allemands, l’instinct rebelle de l’enfant terrible, prêt à et voulant explorer de nouvelles idées, sillonner les chemins moins battus, n’en déplaise la convention. *(Version Française, suite)*
Un cabri haïtien parle à l’Assemblée générale des Nations unies à New York

Publié le 2019-10-10 | Le Nouvelliste

Monsieur le Secrétaire général et chefs d’État à cette soixante-quatizième session de l’Assemblée générale des Nations unies.

Je vous remercie de m’avoir donné l’occasion de prendre la parole en l’absence de notre président qui, comme on dit, est en voyage d’affaires. En fait, il a hésité à venir ici. À présent, les Haïtiens le cherchent pour lui poser des questions sur leur avenir.

Comme l’une des créatures d’Haïti, je suis ici pour représenter notre pays. Je transmets les salutations et les respects de plus de 11 millions de personnes et de milliers d’espèces de plantes et de distingués animaux sauvages et domestiques, dont beaucoup sont uniques au monde.

Malheureusement, comme il est bien connu, les gens, les plantes et les animaux qui partagent environ 27500 kilomètres carrés au milieu de la mer des Caraïbes sont menacés par la perte de leurs maisons, de leurs moyens de subsistance et de leur habitat. Chaque jour semble être une lutte perdue pour rester en vie, maintenir nos droits et préserver l’équilibre de la nature. En dépit de nos luttes pour échapper à notre situation de misère, nous n’avons pas assez d’argent, de moyens et d’endurance pour fuir le pays. Croyez-moi, j’ai essayé en plusieurs fois mais j’ai échoué. Nous sommes « en captivité ».

Tout d’abord, je vais vous parler de l’état de la vie humaine en Haïti. Très peu d’Haïtiens mène ce que vous pourriez appeler une vie normale, je veux dire avec un accès suffisant à la nourriture, à l’eau et au travail. Toutefois pour la majorité, de manière prévisible, chaque jour est aussi pénible et ardu que le jour précédent et, qui pis est de manière imprévisible, avec de nouveaux fardeaux emplis sur leurs épaules. La pénurie, la maladie et la corruption les assiègent inlassablement et les dangers naturels menacent constamment leur sécurité. Les voleurs sociaux et politiques sévissent presque sans contrôle et drainent l’argent, la patience et la confiance du peuple. Cette année, par exemple, trois crises majeures se sont produites simultanément : économique, politique et humanitaire. À l’approche de cette fin d’année, ces tourmente continuent à les affliger sans répit. Tout au cours de l’année, des bandits ont interrompu le transport et l’approvisionnement en nourriture, le gouvernement a interrompu l’approvisionnement en carburant, les banques nationales et étrangères ont interrompu le flot d’argent, et la corruption a châtré la société dans une fosse profonde et désolée.

Les plantes et les animaux d’Haïti ne sont pas mieux lotis. Les plantes, bien sûr immobiles, de leur côté, sont sujettes aux sécheresses, tempêtes, inondations, glissements de terrain, érosion, engorgement, déforestation, transactions immobilières, ignorance de l’utilisation des sols, eaux usées, espèces envahissantes et cultures excessives. Une grande partie des dégâts et de l’extinction de notre précieuse faune résulte de l’utilisation de méthodes archaïques d’agriculture pour essayer de nourrir la population croissante, avec environ un quart de million de nouveau-nés chaque année.

Comme les animaux sauvages et domestiques dépendent aussi des plantes, leurs destins sont également scellés. Ils ont transcrit leurs doléances avec leurs sabots sur tous les murs d’Haïti - peu de nourriture, peu de tanières, trop de demande pour trop peu de viande.

Curieusement, cependant dans notre petite partie du monde, il y a une exception à cette descente aux enfers. Hier matin en Haïti, alors que je m’apprêtais à venir à New York, la valeur marchande d’un bouc natif-natale atteignait à...

En attendant, comme je suis déjà aux États-Unis, je vais annoncer la bonne nouvelle à mes cousins cabris au Texas.

Merci encore de m’avoir donné l’occasion de prendre la parole devant l’Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

Aldy Castor, M.D., aldy@att.net
President, Haitian Resource Development Foundation (HRDF)
Director, Emergency Medical Services for Haiti Medical Relief Mission, Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad.

Stuart Leiderman, Environmental Response, USA, leiderman@mindspring.com

Weston, Florida, USA   Octobre 2019


A Haitian Goat Speaks To The United Nations General Assembly, New York City, September 2019

Published October 10, 2019 | Le Nouvelliste, Haiti

Honorable Secretary-General and Heads of State at this seventy-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak in the absence of our president who is, as we say, “away on business.” In fact, he hesitated to come here. Even now, Haitians are searching for him to ask about the future.

However, and as I am one of Haiti’s creatures, I am here to represent our country. I convey greetings and respects from more than eleven million people and thousands of species of wild and domesticated higher plants and animals, many of them unique to our world.

Unfortunately, as is well-known, the people, plants and animals who share approximately 27,500 square kilometers encompassed by the Caribbean Sea are endangered by loss of homes, livelihood, and habitat. Every day seems like a losing struggle to stay alive, maintain our rights
and preserve the balance of Nature. And try as we might to leave these struggles behind, most of us lacking the money, means, and stamina to flee. Believe me, I have tried many times and failed. We are “in captivity.”

First, I will speak about the state of human life. For a very few, life is what you might call normal, with plenty of food, water, and work. But for most Haitians, every day is predictably as poor as the previous day, and with new burdens unpredictably piled onto their shoulders. Scarcity, disease, and corruption constantly surround them, and natural hazards threaten their safety. Social and political thieves run rampant, almost unchecked, draining the people’s money, patience, and trust. This year, for example, three serious crises are occurring at the same time - economic, political and humanitarian. As the end of the year approaches, none have abated. All year, bandits have interrupted transportation and food supplies, the government has interrupted fuel supplies, domestic and foreign banks have interrupted the flow of money, and the outstretched hand of corruption has led society into a deep, desolate canyon.

Haiti’s plants and animals have fared no better. The plants, of course, are immobile and therefore subject to drought, storms, floods, landslides, erosion, water-logging, deforestation, real estate deals, land use ignorance, sewage, invasive species, and excessive cultivation. Much damage and extinction of valuable flora come from trying to feed the increasing population, with approximately a quarter of a million babies born every year.

As the animals mostly depend on the plants, their fates are sealed, too. You might say the hoof-writing in on the wall for Haiti’s animals, both wild and domestic. There is little to eat, there are few hiding places, there is too much demand for too little flesh.

Oddly, however, there may be one exception to the downward trend in our small part of the world. Yesterday morning in Haiti, as I prepared to come to New York, the market value of a common, mature Haitian goat was barely sixty dollars, often much less. But this morning, as I rode the taxi from my hotel to the General Assembly, I heard on the radio that the government recently purchased Haitian goats for more than three hundred dollars! Suddenly, the bright Haitian sun has shown down onto the lowly, faithful and tasty goat. Our value has quintupled, at least. By these numbers, the goat economists can establish that the current market value of “Capra melius haitianus” [improved Haitian goat] has approached the average annual earning of a Haitian laborer. Maybe now they will have the good sense to dialogue with us.

Meanwhile, as I am already here in the US, I will bring the good news to my cousin goats in Texas.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address the United Nations General Assembly.

= = =

Aldy Castor, M.D., aldyc@att.net
President, Haitian Resource Development Foundation (HRDF)
Director, Emergency Medical Services for Haiti Medical Relief Mission, Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad.

Stuart Leiderman, Environmental Response, USA, leiderman@mindspring.com

Weston, Florida, US
October 2019
Haitian Medical Association Abroad

MEDIA RELEASE – October 14, 2019

For immediate Release

APPEAL for Peace and Structures preservation in Haiti.

Brooklyn, New York: The Haitian Medical Association Abroad (AMHE), a professional Haitian-American organization created in New York in 1972, has been long witnessing the lack of support in terms of education, health, work, security and all means for a decent survival to a vast majority of Haitians. Therefore, the AMHE stands, wholeheartedly in their quest for equitable justice, with the disadvantaged populations of Haiti and is ready to offer all the needed assistance to a renewed and improved Haiti. However, the ongoing destruction of the medical structures and health facilities in the country is a matter of great concern. While AMHE seeks to remain apolitical, the organization continues to follow the current events with vivid interest. AMHE is deeply concerned and worried that in times of upheavals such as those of this season, the local communities are more vulnerable as the few existing medical structures are crippled by those attacks.

Consequently, AMHE is appealing to the communities throughout the country to understand the additional hardship brought on them by the destruction of their own institutional structures. We reiterate AMHE’s steadfast interest in supporting the medical institutions, the students they are educating, and the populations requiring medical care as we helplessly watch the degrading situation with no end in sight.

AMHE continuously pursues activities aiming at improving life, health, and educational conditions in Haiti and really favors any solution that will bring peace to the country as a whole. This has been in keeping with the original mission and vision of the Association’s founding fathers: The pursuit of a better Haiti for all its sons and daughters in and outside of Motherland.
Hey Dr. Coles,

Great to hear from you. Sorry that it took me so long to respond, a lot has changed since you sent your email. The hospital my residency was located at went bankrupt, so I had to find a new residency position. Luckily I was able to stay in Philadelphia, so I am now at University of Pennsylvania. I'm in my 4th year of training, and applied for trauma fellowships for this upcoming cycle. My plan is to do trauma, and then possibly a second fellowship in joint replacement to have both skill sets before going into practice.

I would still definitely be interested in any mission trips in the future. I could probably use my vacation and would be able to dedicate a week. I'll look into the International College of Surgeons website, thank you for the tip.

I'm glad you were able to catch up with my parents. I hope all is going well for you. I look forward to seeing you possibly at one of the specialty meetings and catching up more. Thank you again for being an inspiration. My experience with you greatly influenced me to go into orthopaedics, and I could not imagine doing anything else. I truly love what I do.

Best,
Bill

On Mon, Jun 17, 2019 at 11:02 AM maxime coles <maximecoles1@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi Billy

I visited your Dad and Mom yesterday and I felt so good seeing my old friends. I heard from them that all is going well in PA. Soon, this will be private practice. We are so proud of your accomplishment and look forward to see you graduate from Hanneman school? I heard that you are planning a fellowship in trauma. Good luck and I ill let you know whenever we are planning any medical mission in Haiti or any other country.

You should join the International college of surgeons and if you are interested I will make sure that they send you a package for your application. There we have missions in Philippines, Ethiopia, Afghanistan etc..

Go and visit the site International college of surgeons United Sates section. Let me know if you are interested.

You have my phone number 203  395 1934.

We will talk soon.
MC
REPORT OF TRAINING OF SURGERY RESIDENT
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
FROM 18 MARCH TO 18 MAY 2019

BATSHEVA MARIE MICHELLE ALEXIS, MD
RESIDENT OF SURGERY, 4TH YEAR
UEH – FMP CAMPUS HOPITAL UNIVERSITAIRE JUSTINIEN
Dear Friends,

The world is currently witnessing another calamity unravelling in the Bahamas. As a result of Hurricane Dorian, thousands of Haitian-Bahamians are now facing the prospect of dying from diseases, hunger and neglect, as they will also need to be sheltered from the elements.

The AMHE (Association Médicale Haitienne à l’Etranger) and the AMHE Foundation, with vast knowledge in dealing with similar crisis in the past are joining other civic, artistic, professional and/or social organizations in a coalition to mitigate the threat looming over our Brothers and Sisters in Bahamas.

The AMHE has already established contacts in Nassau Bahamas and the mission has already been deployed. Your contribution, however small or big, will change the course of events and it has special meaning for the recipients. Your organizational or individual monetary support are paramount.

You may contribute and participate in this effort through basically two options:

1) You may send your contribution by check or money order to AMHE Foundation at 8142 Driggs Hill, West Palm Beach FL 33411, or

2) To use a credit or debit card go to the webpage GoFundMe.com. Click on Search and type: AMHE Foundation/Dorian and you will be on the site

AMHE Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) Charitable organization. All donations are fully tax-deductible. An acknowledgement of your gift will be sent to you to claim your tax deduction.

Please share this letter with your family members, your friends, your employees and, all acquaintances.

All participants and donors in the fund raising will be notified of the use of the funds collected.

You may contact us at Info@AMHEFoundation.org

Yours truly

AMHE Foundation
Dear AMHE Members, Family, and Friends,

The news coming out of the Bahamas is getting worse by the minute.

As hurricane Dorian reared its ugly head in the Caribbean Sea, Abaco and Grand Bahama suffered the brunt of the storm. Unfortunately, the 14,000 Haitians living in those islands saw their already precarious lives and their hope for better days vanish before their eyes.

We MUST ACT QUICKLY to bring relief to our Haitian brothers and sisters.

AMHE wasted no time in the aftermath of this tragedy. We have been working relentlessly to deliver relief to those left reeling, but we can do much more with your support. We need you to empower our ability to serve those in dire need now.

At this time, AMHE leaders have already contributed nearly 15,000.00 and have already sent first aid items to this cause. We need to raise $50,000.00 within the next two weeks. Please join us in this endeavor.

Donate now to the AMHE Dorian Fund at amhe.org.

Fraternally yours,

Joseph Pierre-Paul Cadet, MD
AMHE President

Published on the AMHE Facebook page last two weeks
Articles parus sur la page Facebook de l'AMHE durant la dernière semaine

Homage to Patrick Day - Marc Jerome MD, a founding member of the AMHE - The frequent urge to go is one of the first and most common signs of diabetes. - True or false: You can break your penis. - Mrs. Elizabeth Leconte Hricko RN, AMHE-NJ advisor on the Board - In Bangkok Thailand, Eden's garden uses flowers from the AMHE. MC - United Nations and the Bahamas. MC - Le vapotage fait des victimes au Canada. MC - Can you understand well what you are witnessing in looking at the picture? MC

And more…
“If love is the most sacred bond between two people, then betrayal must be the ultimate sacrilege.”
— Marty Rubin

Les temps où nous vivons sont si remplis de méchanceté et de corruption, que, sans avoir des yeux de lynx, on aperçoit plus facilement le mal que le bien.
Citation de Nicolas Machiavel ; L’âne d’or (1517)

Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds. The mediocre mind is incapable of understanding the man who refuses to bow blindly to conventional prejudices and chooses instead to express his opinions courageously and honestly. ( Albert Einstein)

You have no responsibility to live up to what other people think you ought to accomplish. I have no responsibility to be like they expect me to be. It’s their mistake, not my failing. (Richard P Faynman)

Upcoming Events

AMHE’s bio just got a bit stronger and a bit more interesting.

On November 9, 2019, the Haitian Roundtable has selected AMHE to receive the 1804 Cathrine Flon Award. It is an extreme honor for AMHE to be this year’s recipient of the 1804 Catherine Flon award.

It would be great if you considered attending this event to applaud AMHE at the 6th Annual Haitian Roundtable event. Ticket are available for purchase at Event Brite

AMHE
Central Executive Committee