METROPOLITAN

Talking Drum introduces gift books

I'll get a book
and take a look
A special friend I'll see,
Who's waiting there
With fun to share
For children just like me.

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W.—In anticipation of the holiday buying season The Talking Drum Bookstore held a book party Saturday, November 19th, for beginning and young readers.

The affair had all the razzle-dazzle of a party with the nutrients of literature serving as the backdrop. To the delight of fifty children the Sojourner Truth Theatre performed a children's poem called *African Dreams*. They were awed by the magic of Tyrone Waters and Ramon Love.

The Pan-African cultural organization Kukatonnon was also on hand distributing gift certificates. As an organization, the Institute said, "We believe reading is very important. It is through reading that we learn about other cultures and experience different ways of living. Black people can learn about themselves and their history and it is through reading that we learn that all people are created equal."

Carlotte Lewis gave complimentary copies of *Kwanza Coloring Book*, and Na'eem Muhammad introduced his *Nature's Little Fables*.

Muhammad said, "I looked at the market for children's books and noticed there were very few fables for children, and I didn't see a lot of depth in children's books. I wanted to give children fables they could think about as they got older."

An example from *Nature's Little Fable*, written by Muhammad, is "The Tadpole and the Frog." The tadpole ridicules the frog with the frog having the last words, 'I know that which you know not.' The moral is don't be so quick to make fun of someone—it might be you someday.

Joyce Harris, manager of the Talking Drum Bookstore, introduced other childrens books: *Majo Means One* and *Jambo Means Hello*. Both books are written by Muriel Feeling and illustrated by Tom Feeling. For teenagers, Harris suggested *Listen for the Fig Tree* by Shawn Bell Mathis.

"Readability is the key word in choosing a book this season for your children. Regardless of the age, try to find a book that is reflective of that stage in their lives. As presens, books are an ideal way to motivate children to read."

Harris also said she believes books about Afro-Americans or Africa are best when they are written by an Afro-American or someone of African heritage. "I have nothing against white authors but it all boils down to who's qualified. A white author may not have the correct frame of reference. No one can describe an experience best except those who have gone through it."

Harris said that poetry is often overlooked and she advocates that parents involve their children in poetry. "To memorize poetry is one good way to get children to use their minds."

Na'eem Muhammad reads from his newly published book "Nature's Little Fables" during Talking Drum Bookstore book party.
(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

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Sandra Ford, parent; Sid Eaton, director of admissions; Aphra Katzev, parent; Kay Toran, parent; John Dean Toran, student; and Ted Watley, headmaster, prepare to take tour of Catlin Gabel campus during Sunday's Open House.
(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Catlin Gabel welcomes visitors

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W.—On Sunday the public walked through the dream of Ruth Catlin who in 1911 visualized a nondenominational institution with high educational ideals. She merged her dream with that of Priscilla Gabel, thus creating Catlin Gabel.

Sunday was their third annual open house, providing an opportunity for the public to tour the facilities, located at 8825 S.W. Barnes Road. The school consists of 578 students, 62 teachers and 19 buildings on 57 acres. The students are broken down in four divisions: preschool, lower, middle and upper. Headmaster Ted Whatley said, "We are a first-rate institution that tries to do the best by every kid who comes here at many levels. Our expectations are different for each child—different but very high. We keep a constant focus on the teacher and the child. We have an excellent faculty, an involved student body and a challenging and enriching academic program."

Another aspect of the Catlin Gabel educational experience is their off-campus experiential curriculum. Their literature states that field trips are an integrated part of study and these off-campus experiences reinforce classroom study.

During the last ten years seniors at Catlin Gabel have scored 100 points higher than the national average on the verbal section of the SAT and College Board Achievement tests. They also score 70 points higher than the national average on math. The colleges most frequently selected are Harvard, Stanford and the University of Oregon.

To experience this caliber of education one must pay dearly for it. The tuition for the middle and upper school is a down payment for a new car. However, the admissions office is the first to tell you that limited financial aid is available.

Volleyball tourney aids disabled

Volleyball enthusiasts throughout the metropolitan area are invited to "Volley for Easter Seals" during a two-day, 24-hour tournament at Mt. Scott Community Center on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10th and 11th.

Registration is limited to 48 teams for the tournament, believed to be the state's biggest volleyball event. Men's, women's or coed teams are eligible to compete for trophies and prizes. Each team will play two hours (three games). Registration fees will go to Easter Seals to assist Oregon children and adults with physical disabilities.

A kick-off party will be held for participating teams on December 1st. For information call 228-5108.

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