

METROPOLITAN

SVOI Assist Sexual Abuse Victims

By Jerry Garner

"Sexual abuse knows no boundaries, ethnic, social, economic or geographic," said Marlene Najdek. Najdek is founder and president of Silent Victims of Innocence, Inc. (SVOI), a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to assisting adults molested as children, families in crisis due to the trauma of sexual abuse, family units where there is a high risk of sexual deviancy and the juvenile offender.

Recent reports nationwide indicate that sexual abuse is on the increase. According to one survey, more than one in five adult Americans were sexually abused as children.

In Oregon, sexual abuse is on the increase. Between 1975 and 1978, reported sexual abuses jumped from 86 to 528, a 501 percent increase, according to a report published by the Child Protective Services section of the Children's Services Division. And between 1980 and 1984 the number of cases went from 655 to 3551, an increase of 459 percent. It is estimated one in four females will be sexually molested prior to the time they are 18, and one in 10 males will be victims of sexual molestation.

Najdek, who was a sexual abuse victim herself as a child, founded SVOI in 1984. Najdek said that she started the

organization because many victims cannot afford professional counseling. "I was able to get counseling because my husband could afford it," said Najdek. She said that more than 80 percent of the victims need financial assistance.

SVOI is staffed by 44 volunteers, including a 17-member board of directors composed of health care, legal and other professionals, as well as victims of sexual abuse. Adults who were molested as children and who have not received counseling and therapy for that molestation have been known to experience both psychological and sociological problems.

The organization offers a referral service, networking victims of sexual abuse with qualified therapists, agencies and also other victims. SVOI maintains a speaker's bureau providing qualified speakers to the media, and interested churches, schools and civic groups. SVOI is also actively involved in research projects, and in promoting and improving sexual abuse-related law and legislation.

Oregon has a stringent law on child abuse reporting, ORS 418.990, failure to report a case of child abuse when there is a reasonable cause can result in a fine of up to \$1,000. Prosecution under this section may be commended at any time within 18 months after commission of the offense.



Bobbi Mosely Gary
Photo: Richard J. Brown

Mother of the Year Runner Up Bobbi Mosely Gary

by Bob Lothian

Bobbi Mosely Gary has been selected Mother of the Year first runner-up by the Oregon Association of American Mothers, Inc. The longtime homemaker and community activist from S.E. Portland raised four daughters, she now has four granddaughters, and she has found time over the years to involve herself in an incredible number of volunteer activities.

"I consider myself an activist. I like to see things get done," said Gary, who received a degree in social work from Portland State University and who worked as a case worker and nutrition teacher for the Oregon State Extension Service, and as assistant director of the LIFE Center.

Her long list of accomplishments includes being president of the Eliot School PTA, a girl scout leader, board member of Oregon Legal Services, board member of the Portland NAACP, vice-president of the Portland Multnomah County Commission on Aging, Oregon delegate to the White House Conference on Aging, president of the Portland Black Women's Health Project, member of the Oregon Fair Housing Board, national board member of the United Church of Christ, and she continues to serve as co-chair of the Portland chapter of the Gray Panthers.

Gary said that "doing for others" has been her philosophy of life since high school. "I'm really interested in everything that happens to us as citizens. I figure that's taking care of business," she said.

Her interest in the world carried over into Gary's parenting philosophy. She worked hard, she said, to expose her daughters to a variety of cultural experiences. "My philosophy was to give them love, to teach them to love themselves and to teach them the importance of education."

That philosophy apparently worked because her oldest daughter, Sharon, is director of the Self-Help Program of the Black Women's Health Project in Atlanta. Karla recently finished law school and is now a trial lawyer for the Portland firm of Steenson, Fontana, Schuman and Ellis. Linda is manager of Vista Optical in Burlingame and Daria is an employee of the Oregon Internal Revenue Dept.

"I asked the good Lord to give them health and to make them able to take care of themselves, and he gave me much more," she said.

Gary recounted some of the victories in efforts she was involved in: the Black United Front school desegregation effort, closing the South African consulate (she was arrested), passing landlord-tenant laws, her work with the Black Women's Health Project, and keeping the Albina branch library.

Her current "case," she said, is to organize an effort to fight plans to move or close the Albina library. Gary believes the library is a necessity for people in the low income neighborhood who are "culturally hungry."

"The thing that crawls me more than anything else," she said, "is that they

own every other library in this town but not Albina." The branch library may move or close because the future of the property is in doubt.

Gary also criticized the Reagan Administration Job Training and Partnership Act as a "shell game," and she said the city continues to siphon off federal money meant for low income areas and channel it to other parts of the city. "You get a nickel and they get a dollar," she said, describing what she sees as a decades-old process of "ripping off the Black community."

An active member of the Black United Front, she lauded that group. "There's nobody in the community that does more than the Black United Front," she said.

"The things that you are doing for people, that's what really counts, that's the reward," she said.

AICPA Awards Scholarships to Minority Students

New York — Eighty-one minority undergraduate and graduate students at 51 schools have received scholarships from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) for the second half of the 1985-86 academic year. Since the scholarship program began in 1970, the AICPA has awarded over \$2.6 million in aid to some 2800 students.

The AICPA awarded \$33,750 to minority accounting students this semester, raising the total granted for the academic year to over a quarter of a million dollars. Among those scholarship recipients, five received RCA-AICPA scholarships and 10 received General Mills-AICPA awards.

The scholarships, designed to encourage minority individuals to enter the accounting profession by making accounting education accessible to as many eligible students as possible, are offered twice each year by the Institute. Last semester 317 students received a total of \$247,250 in scholarship aid.

Individuals interested in applying for scholarships should write to Sharon Donahue, Manager, Minority Recruitment and Equal Opportunity Department, AICPA, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036-8775. The deadlines for receipt of applications are July 1 and December 1.

The AICPA is the national professional organization of CPAs with a membership of 231,000.

The fate of plant life in tropical regions, which contain about two-thirds of the Earth's 240,000 species of plants, is not rosy. *National Wildlife* magazine reports nearly 100,000 square miles of tropical forests are cleared or disturbed each year throughout the world.

An Evening with Maya Angelou Set for Linfield College

McMinnville — Maya Angelou, a multi-talented woman and eloquent speaker, will discuss her life and work during "An Evening With Maya Angelou" Tuesday, March 4 on the Linfield College campus.

Her appearance at 8 p.m. in the Fireside Room of Linfield's Riley Hall, is sponsored by several departments and offices at the college in conjunction with the Associated Students of Linfield College. The event is open to the public at no charge.

Although she has just a high school education, Angelou has been a singer, educator, dancer, author, historian, lecturer, actress, producer, editor, song writer and playwright. In addition, she speaks six languages fluently.

She has written eight best-selling books for Random House, and the renowned autobiographical account of her youth, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," was aired as a two-hour special on CBS in 1979.

Angelou has made more than 150 television appearances on local and network talk shows and was the subject of an hour-long interview by Bill Moyers on PBS.

In 1977, Angelou received the coveted Golden Eagle Award for her documentary, "Afro-American in the Arts," which was aired on PBS. Other television accomplishments include writing and serving as executive producer of the five-part CBS mini-series, "Three-Way Choice," and hosting a 30-part PBS study course, "Humanities Through the Arts."

Angelou made her first professional appearance as a singer at the Purple Onion in San Francisco in 1954. Shortly after that, she joined the European tour of "Porgy and Bess" sponsored by the U.S. State Department. She sang the role of Ruby and was lead dancer in the production that during 1954 and 1955 was presented in 22 countries in Europe and Africa.

During that period, she also taught modern dance at the Rome Opera House and conducted classes in modern dance technique in the Habima Theatre in Tel Aviv. After that, she lived in Africa for a time, becoming associate editor of *The Arab Observer* in Cairo, the only English language news weekly in the Middle East. She also served for a time as assistant administrator of the School of Music and Drama at the University of Ghana and was feature editor of *The African Review* in Accra when she ended her stay in Africa in 1966.

Angelou is in great demand as a speaker on college campuses and before private organizations. She is able to speak with authority on a number of subjects, including equal rights, the arts, politics, women's role in business and culture's role in society.

Big Brother/Big Sister Wanted

People wishing to volunteer for the Big Brother/Big Sister and Medical and Non-Medical Transportation Program in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties should contact the Volunteer Program of Adult and Family Services.

The Big Brother/Big Sister Program places volunteers as friends and role models to children referred to the Volunteer Services Program for placement.

The Medical Transportation Program provides volunteers to drive clients to and from medical facilities.

The Non-Medical Transportation Program provides volunteers to drive

clients in search of essential, vital needs.

The Volunteer Services Program receives referrals for these programs from four Department of Human Resources agencies: Senior Services, Children Services Division, Mental Health Division and Adult and Family Services.

People interested in volunteering for the Transportation programs in Clackamas County should call 657-2104. Those interested in volunteering or the Transportation programs in Multnomah County and the Big Brother/Big Sister Program in both counties should call 229-5174.

PSU Sets Community College Visitations

Representatives from Portland State University's admissions office will visit Portland Community College's Cascade Center on Monday, Feb. 24 to meet with community college students planning to transfer.

They will be available from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. For more information, contact Coletta Hunter at 283-2541, extension 372.

PSU's representatives will bring the latest information concerning educational programs offered at the University's downtown Portland campus, including those in Business Administration, Education, Engineering and Applied Science, Health and Physical Education, Performing Arts, Graduate School of Social Work, Urban and Public Affairs, pre-professional programs in law and medicine, as well as programs in the Liberal Arts and Sciences.

"Visiting with us in your own area offers the easiest way we know to take a closer look at what Portland State has to offer, without having to make a special trip to our campus right away," noted Eileen Rose, PSU's Director of Admissions.

In addition, PSU offers prospective students a wealth of activities beyond the classroom and in the surrounding community. Rose added, in urging local community college students to take advantage of the special PSU visitation here.

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