

COMMUNITY DENTISTRY

BY Dr. Edward Ward

Crises Care for Teeth

In the summertime, the playing of contact sports, such as football, basketball and baseball sometimes results in injuries to the teeth. In high school sports programs, coaches provide some sort of mouthpiece for their players. We adults who enjoy active sports often neglect to protect our teeth.

Dentists can prepare an inexpensive mouthpiece that can be worn while playing. You should remember that should injury occur and pain is produced, see a dentist as soon as possible.

After receiving a blow, examine the teeth to see if they can be moved with gentle finger pressure. Do the teeth move individually or as a group? This can distinguish between one tooth being loose or bone segment being broken. Can you bite normally or do you bite on a tooth each time you close? Are the teeth extremely sensitive to hot and cold? Hot and cold symptoms usually mean the nerve tissue (pulp) has undergone some injury.

Immediately after an injury, it is difficult to determine whether the pulp tissue will cease to function or recover from the trauma and function normally. If a tooth after trauma is still in the socket and is malpositioned, and a dentist cannot be reached immediately, you can gently place the tooth in a comfortable position where the injured person can best close their mouth.

Usually, immediately following a severe injury, the body's nervous response to pain is dulled. This is the opportune time to place dangling teeth back to their sockets and have the injured party's mouth remain closed, until you can reach the dental office.

If a tooth has been knocked completely out of the socket, don't attempt to place it back into the socket if there is any chance of seeing a dentist within hours. If the tooth fell to the ground and is a little bit dusty, don't attempt to clean it, because the success of the replantation procedure can depend of the health of the tissue around the root area of the knocked out tooth which can be further damaged by the scraping or tearing of cleaning.

If the injured person is groggy, semiconscious, unconscious, has a history of seizure or just plain does not understand, take the tooth and place it in a damp cloth until you reach the dental office. To avoid accidentally injuring a tooth, wear a mouthpiece when playing a contact sport. Take a moment to ask yourself whether or not your activity can result in tooth injury. If your answer is yes, place your mouthguard into your mouth to protect your teeth.

Remember that if you receive mouth trauma, see your dentist for an examination of the injured teeth and that if the teeth have been recently knocked out, the dentist has a good chance of saving them for you in order that you have a complete functioning dentition.

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Over 65 percent of the world's population goes through the day without coming in contact with a newspaper, radio, television or telephone.

Black Play to Make History in Portland

by Becky Robinson

"Ma Rainey's Black Bottom", by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner August Wilson, make its West Coast debut in Portland in November of 1986. Storefront Theatre made an historical contribution to Portland's theatrical history by bringing to the general theater-going public the poignant tragedy of the struggle of Black musicians; and of their strength in the face of prejudice. The six-week run of the play brought in full houses every night and resulted in a three-week hold-over, certainly a tribute to the seven local talented actors and to director John Zagone of Storefront Theatre.

History, on an even larger scale, is about to happen again. The seven-year-long journey to establish Portland's Performing Arts Center has finally culminated in the grand opening gala event to begin August 28th. Of all of the honored performances selected for the grand opening, only two local theater companies' works were selected: New Rose Theatre's "This One Thing I Do", a production depicting Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in conversation about the 1850's women's movement they led; and Storefront Theatre's production of "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom".

It is not often that the Black struggle for recognition and equality is highlighted or honored in the city of Portland. The Willy Awards, Portland's version of the Tony's, overlooked this play and its outstanding cast. Yet a higher honor has brought them again into public view and will record their contribution, to the city, to theater and to the Black community, in the annals of Portland's history forever.

Come celebrate with the cast in a true celebration of this historical play and historic Portland event. "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" opens on the Winningstad Stage, Tuesday, September 1, 1987 and runs through Saturday, September 5, 1987, with all performances starting at 8 p.m.

Tickets, \$10-\$12, are available at all G.I. Joe's, Galleria Jean Machine or at the Civic Auditorium, 222 S.W. Clay, or you may call to reserve tickets for an additional \$1.00 charge per ticket, 248-4496.

This is a piece of history you don't want to miss!

Free Clinic

A free diabetes screening clinic is being offered at Meridian Park Hospital, Tualatin. The clinic will be open from 9-9:30 a.m. on Monday, September 14.

Pre-registration is required. For additional information contact the community education office at the hospital, 692-2656.

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