

"Still I Rise" Honoring Achievement

Editor's note: As part of a special series leading to the annual Les Femmes Debutante & Cavalier Ball in June we introduce you to a set of prospective Debutantes.

Along with many community activities most of our debutantes are very active in their churches, schools, tutoring programs for younger children and other social groups.

As we have learned in the past "It takes a whole village to raise a child" and the Les Femmes members along with the parents, churches and schools take pride in working with the young ladies to instill values, morals and encouragement.

This year's ball Chairperson Ms Joann Travis and her co-chair Ms Rica Brooks along with the members of Les Femmes have worked hard to make this a great affair.

In keeping with our theme for the year "Still I Rise" each week will feature a passage from the poem. (passage 2)

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.
Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like tears
drops,

Weakened by my soulful cries.
This issue of The Portland Observer will feature Debutantes, Chastity Danielle Clegg, Bahia Anis Cross, Shanetra Le'Shay Fesser, JaJuan Lynette Finch and Shontale Marie Jackson.

Prospective Debutante Chastity Danielle Clegg, a senior at Jefferson High School, is the daughter of Mary and Leonard Clegg.

What I bring to Les Femmes as a Debutante.

"Black. The color that I am. It tells a lot about my ancestors, and it



Shanetra Le'Shay Fesser



Shontale Marie Jackson



Bahia Anis Cross



JaJuan Lynette Finch



Chastity Danielle Clegg

makes me push hard to get to my goals. Coming to the Les Femmes makes me proud to be around such beautiful black men and women getting together to make things right, doing things that make the black community look good. I give the Les Femmes my pride and my dignity, cause we are all black and we're all proud.

Beautiful. From the inside out, I show my beauty with no words. By the way I walk, the way I sit, the way I dress, the way I listen, the way I carry myself with grace, pride dignity and beauty.

Young. Not wise enough to know what is around the corner or what's in store for me, yet young enough to learn a little more.

Talented. Meaning that I can do what ever I put my mind to.

Respectful. Meaning that when I leave home, I leave with everything that my mother and father taught me.

Female. Meaning that there are not many like me, or who can compare to me.

I Chastity D. Clegg a black, beautiful, young, talented, respectful female. I come to Les Femmes all woman ready to take on the world and dominate!!"h)0*0*0*ospective Debutante Bahia Anis Cross, a senior at Benson High School, is the daughter of Joy and Ray leary, Henri and Zhalih Cross.

"I Bahia bring a spirit of happiness to Les Femmes as a debutante. I believe that happiness is the most important thing. I believe that part of the reason I was created was to ensure happiness in peoples hearts and how can I do that if I have no happiness in my own? I bring purity of heart. I strive every day to keep my heart and motives pure. The last thing I bring to Les Femmes as a debutante is a spiritual essence and a diverse flavor. I share with the other debutantes a desire to be close to God by demonstrating good morals and maintaining our positions in what we believe. A diverse flavor because any debutante will tell you "The girl is definitely different" and I take pride

in that."

Prospective Debutante Shanetra Le'Shay Fesser, a senior at Jefferson High School, is the daughter of Yolanda McCorvey and Randy Fesser.

What I bring To Les Femmes As A Debutante...

What I bring to Les Femmes as a Debutante is my personality, my character, my charisma and most of all my goal to succeed in life. There are a lot of good things about myself that I can offer to Les Femmes. Some of these things can't even be said. It would be my body language in a certain situation, it could be how I carry myself when I am out with my friends or relatives, but what is most important and the thing I can't forget is the fact that I am a young African American Women, who is going to do something with her life. Besides the fact that I am on my P's and Q's at home and at school I feel that Les Femmes will help me becoming a mature well rounded woman.

I feel that I can offer Les Femmes

my opinion and feelings.

I think that as Les Femmes being the well established organization that it is that my opinion can help them help me.

Prospective Debutante JaJuan Lynette Finch, a senior at Benson High School, is the daughter of Billie Finch.

I feel that I bring a sense of peace to Les Femmes. I am not a person who looks for or takes part in conflict. Instead, I try to help to calm frazzled nerves and have the situation resolved by talking and not fighting.

In addition to peace, I think that I also bring happiness, a strong faith in God, and a patience for the man trials and struggles of everyday life.

The reason that I possess these qualities is that I have an immensely giving and trusting parent. Which in turn makes me trustworthy and responsible. So I guess that one could sum it all up to say that I bring the love and upbringing from my mother to the Les Femmes Debutantes and

Cavaliers.

Prospective Debutante Shontale Marie Jackson, a senior at Grant High School, is the daughter of Gloria and Edwin Jackson.

"What I bring to Les Femmes as a debutante is a positive attitude and support. I came to Les Femmes to support the positive cause and have a good attitude about it. The community service activities that we do makes me feel good about myself and my community, this means a lot to me.

Even though debutantes is real time consuming I still try to make)0*0*0* to everything that we have. Some times it gets frustrating when your stressed everyday. I try to manage may time the best way I can with school and work. I feel I have a good attitude towards people. Some times I am too nice and people try to take advantage of that. That is what I bring to Les Femmes as a debutante.

The senior debutante program director is Rena' Allen & co-director is Dolores Jeffries.

SPORTS

Clyde Pays Dividends

Trade To Houston Builds Drexler's Value

By DANNY BELL

Amongst afficiando's of the game the jury is still out, observing that it will be a few years before the Drexler-Thorpe trade can objectively be assessed. However "value" like "beauty" is often a matter of perception.

What is fact is that as the post-season progresses the play of Clyde Drexler has been pivotal to Houston's success.

And on reflection that's what it's all about retaining the coveted N.B.A. championship.

Although Drexler is a legitimate all-star destined for the National Basketball Association's Hall of Fame, the naysayer voiced an opinion that he was aging and that his skills were diminishing.

Old father time was encroaching on his abilities to glide. But as he has demonstrated within

the last week he can both sky and glide with the best of them.

Clyde averaged 17.4 in the series against Phoenix even after not scoring in one game due to illness

In game one against the Spurs he scored 25 points and pulled down 12 rebounds and in game two he contributed 23 points with 6 rebounds.

As Mike Fratello of TNT Sportscasting team commented "when Micheal Jordan came back there were 17 games left (in the regular season) he just didn't have enough time to fit in. But in Drexler's situation he came back with 35 games left."

"Its like Rudy Tomjonavich said during the play-offs your going to see things happen and the team is going to start to come together."

"Drexler has played long enough (with Houston) to feel comfortable and fit in with the rotation."

So we return the idea of perception. Just what did Houston want with Drexler and his balloon payment to make it worth their while to trade one of the premiere rebounding forwards in the league.

I would like to propose the marketing concept of Drexler returning home and reuniting with Hakeem Olajawon a member of Phi Slamma Jamma.

Then another aspect is the talent and ability Drexler brings to the game.

As a number two guard he can shoot from the perimeter, he moves well without the ball, he is dangerous penetrating to the basket where his moves make deadly inside and his ability to pass exceptionally well for a two guard doubles the threat, and he is one of the best rebounding guards playing currently.

That dear readers makes for

a complete package.

Another mitigating factor for Houston is that Vernon Maxwell is gone for the rest of the season due to personal problems.

If Drexler was suppose to be insurance he is paying back premiums in less than half a season.

So in light of preceding argument, Houston appears to be reaping benefits already from the trade.

And with all due respect Clyde has a legitimate shot at a championship ring this year.

But all this would not have happened if the Blazer front office had not offended Clydes sensibilities of fair play.

Misconstrued or not Clyde felt that the Blazers were not giving him fair treatment so he wanted out.

This even after stating that he loved Portland and wanted to retire here and hopefully work in the Blazer front office.

However fate stepped in and with any luck this could be his year.

FUN IN THE SUN

Don't let those kids waste another summer parked in front of the t.v., instead give them a summer they will never forget! Parents, now is the time to grab a Portland Parks & Recreation Summer Program Guide and sign the kids up for summer camps that will keep them busy all summer long! Science, dance sports fitness, foreign language, drama and arts! Portland Parks has a summer activity for everyone.

What: Portland Parks and Recreation's Summer Program Guides! The guides include over 2000 classes and activities offered throughout the city, as well as a map showing the

locations of community centers, schools, pools, and City Arts programs in your neighborhood.

When: Summer Guides will be available now.

Registration by phone begin June 5th at the Parks Reservation Center, 823-2525, (Visa and Mastercard only) from 8:30am to 7:00pm. Mail-in registration begins immediately.

Summer classes begin Monday, June 19, 1995.

Where: Guides can be found at Multnomah County Libraries, City Hall and all Park's facilities. Or, call us at 823-2223 and we'll mail one to your home.

SHOOTOUT FOR CHRIST!

THREE-POINT SHOOT-OUT CONTEST

128 NE Russell,

Saturday, June 10, 1995

from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Speaker: Eric Knox
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Center Opens Summer Program

Grace Collins Sets Summer Youth Activities

By DANNY BELL

The Grace Collins Memorial Center is gearing up to provide a menu of summer activities at no cost for the communities youth.

Beginning June 10 "Shoot Out For Christ" will inaugurate the summer. "Shoot Out For Christ" is a three-point shoot-out competition, that is followed by a presentation by a local youth pastor (June 10 it will be Eric Knox of Bible Temple Church) after the presentation by the pas-

tor, participants break up into groups for discussion of issues regarding christianity in their lives.

After the discussion there is an altar call. Following the altar call, there will be a hamburger and chicken feed during which time trophies and prizes will be awarded.

Also in June will be a free field trip for 6-12 youngsters to an Act III Theater for a movie.

Then on the 24th of June the

Collins Center will hold its monthly "Shoot For Hop". Shoot For Hop is now in its fourth continuous year and seventh year as a whole.

"Shoot For Hope" entails 1 on 1 basketball competition and best of 10 freethrows.

The competition is followed by a speaker who addresses the dangers of drugs and alcohol, and the merits of a work ethic and education.

The program is closed with

the dispensing of refreshments and presentation of prizes and awards.

The Collins Center will also be involved in participating in Fellowship of Christian Athletes Basketball day camp in Tigard from July 17-21.

Shoot Out For Christ is a once a month program. Watch the Portland Observer for further announcements regarding any of the activities mentioned. You can contact Danny at 281-6930 or 249-3750.