

Family Living

The Portland Observer

Proctor Care Parents Honored

On Thursday, March 6, 1997 Morrison Center Child & Family Service will honor 44 Proctor Care Parents and nine Respite Care Parents for their selfless efforts to improve the lives of at-risk children.

The recognition dinner will be held at Saylor's Old Country Kitchen from 5:30-8:00pm. In addition to the dinner, Proctor Parents will receive gift certificates for restaurants and entertainment made possible by several generous sponsors including Starbucks Coffee Co., Ponderosa Inn, Mt. Hood Meadows, OMSI, Resort at the Mountains, Tower Books, Safeway, Target, and the Portland Winter Hawks.

Morrison Center's Proctor and Respite Care Parents are very inspirational people who sacrifice their time, energy, and privacy by opening their hearts and homes to severely abused, neglected and traumatized children and adolescents. They are everyday heroes who are trained to provide a

safe, nurturing and consistent home environment for over 50 children in the care of one of the three Morrison Center's Day Treatment Programs. The Hand in Hand program serves severely abused and neglected preschool children; Breakthrough helps adolescents struggling with drug and alcohol abuse; and counterpoint is for adolescents overcoming issues of violence.

Proctor Homes must meet State Offices of Services for Children and Families' foster home licensing standards, as well as the additional requirements of the Morrison Center Program with which they are affiliated. Proctor Parents are limited to two children per household in order to provide the children with individualized attention.

Proctor Parents work closely with the program's therapists, counselors and teachers regarding the children and adolescents in their care. They assist in the development of

treatment plans and participate in any individual, family or group sessions required by the program. The primary goal of the Proctor Program is to improve each child's social and emotional functioning, so as to eventually ensure a smooth and safe transition into an adoptive home, a public school classroom, or the community. Through the intensive therapeutic care that the Proctor Care Parents provide, these children finally begin to learn trust, respect and love.

This year, Morrison Center is celebrating 50 years of innovative and effective treatment services to at-risk children and families. Since 1947 they have helped literally tens of thousands of children. Today, they are one of the largest and most diversified providers of social, mental health and educational services in our community, serving over two thousand children in Oregon and Washington each year.

Childwatch

We're All Called to be Leaders

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

Like many of us, Henry Louis Gates grew up poor and didn't know it. All he knew was that his father worked two jobs—loading trucks at a paper mill and as a night janitor at a phone company—and that the family always ate well, dressed nicely, and managed to put a little money away for college. He also knew that what his parents expected from him didn't sound like poor folks' expectations.

"Certainly my parent never allowed my brother or me to doubt that we could become whatever we chose," Henry says in his new book, "The Future of the Race," which he wrote with fellow Harvard scholar Cornel West. "Nor did they let us doubt that the world would yield its secrets if only we turned our attention to it. They believed in the possibility of upward mobility, of racial betterment, of collective progress. We were to get just as much education as we possibility could, to stay the enemies of racism, segregation, and discrimination. If we heard it once, we heard it a thousand times: 'Education is the one thing nobody can take away from you.'"

But as the great Black scholar W.E.D. DuBois noted nearly a century ago, education, and any upward mobility that came as a result, meant a whole new set of responsibilities. DuBois wrote that the "Talented Tenth," the most fortunate, gifted, and successful minds in the black community, were obligated to help those less fortunate.

"Dr. King did not die so that half of us would 'make it' and half of us would perish, forever tarnishing two

centuries of struggle and agitation for our equal rights," Henry and Cornel write. "We, the members of the Talented Tenth, must accept our historical responsibility and live King's credo that none of us is free until each of us is free...and that all of us are brothers and sisters, in spirit."

When I was growing up, I was taught that the world had a lot of problems that I should struggle and work to change. My parents taught me that extra intellectual and material gifts brought with them the privilege and responsibility of sharing with others.

They believed that service is the rent each of us pays for living, and that service is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time or after you have reached your personal goals.

Cornel and Henry say that the lessons of recent history and the many challenges we have yet to overcome as Black people require us to take a fresh look at our ideas about what it will take to move us forward. They believe that we must all find opportunities for positive change—within ourselves and within our community. What about government's role? They make the case for getting people off welfare, training them for good-paying jobs, and putting them to work. We must demand a wide range of economic incentives to generate new investments in inner cities, youth apprenticeships with businesses, and larger tax credits for money earned. And they urge us to stand boldly against anti-Black racism, but warn us against continuing to repeat the same old, stale formulas: "to blame 'the man' for oppressing us all, in exactly the same ways;

to scapegoat Koreans, Jews, women, or even Black immigrants for failure of African Americans to seize local entrepreneurial opportunities," is to neglect our duty as leaders of our own community.

"Not to demand that each member of the Black community accept individual responsibility for her or his behavior—whether that behavior assumes the form of Black-on-Black homicide, violations by gang members against the sanctity of the church, unprotected and too early sexual activity, gangster rap lyrics, and hate of any kind—is to function merely as ethnic cheerleaders selling wool tickets from the campus or the suburbs, rather than saying the difficult things that may be unpopular with our fellows. Being a leader does not necessarily mean being loved; loving one's community means daring to risk estrangement and alienation from that very community. In the short run, in order to break the cycle of poverty, despair, and hopelessness that we are in, over the long run."

I agree. What we desperately need now is the kind of leadership that will allow us to move forward as a community and as an entire nation. Given the multitude of problems we face today, we must recognize that we all have a responsibility to serve as leaders.

"The Future of the Race," written by Henry Louis Gates, Chairman of Harvard University's Afro American Studies Department, and Cornel West, Professor of Afro-American Studies at Harvard, is published by Alfred A. Knopf and is available at most major book stores or by calling 212-751-2600.

Have A Heart Food Drive provides relief

The Portland Police Bureau's Sunshine Division and United Grocers are once again preparing to help needy families throughout the Portland area through the Have a Heart Food Drive, the largest food drive of the year for the Sunshine Division.

The Oregonian's FoodDay section is helping in the drive by inserting a paper bag in the February 4 issue of the paper. People are encouraged to bring their non-perishable donated items in this bag (or other containers) to any of the 62 Portland area participating United Grocers' retailers.

Stores participating in the drive include Thriftway, Sentry Supermarkets, Kienow's, Select markets and many other independent retailers. Donations will be accepted through Friday, Feb. 14.

The Sunshine Division will use the food donations to help feed families in need throughout the year. Last year alone, more than 185,000 lbs. of food were gathered during the Have a Heart Food Drive. Topping that amount by five percent is this year's goal.

Birth Announcements

Kadeem D. Strickland

Female; January 24, 1997
7 lb; 19"

Mother: Crystal Ball
Father: Patrick D. Strickland

Tyschal Lumbrea Blake

Female; January 30, 1997
10 lbs. 7 ounces; 24"

Mother: Sonya Alexander
Father: Anthony Blake all of Portland, OR.

Tatianna Laiini Ousley

Female; January 29, 1997
6 lbs. 4 oz; 18.5"

Mother: Monica D. Baker
Father: Sean Ousley

Phillip Edward Johnson III

Male; January 29, 1997
6 lbs 11 oz; 20"

Mother: Latashia (Todda) Homes
Father: Phillip Edward Johnson Jr.

An Intimate Tale of an African-American Southern Family

Book Review

BY EMMA J. WISDOM

Shange, Ntozake (1996). Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo. Picador, 222p.

In Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo, renowned playwright, poet, and nov-

elist Ntozake Shange has written an intimate tale of an African-American southern family. This third novel by Shange illuminates a mother's love, patience, perseverance, and tenacity in raising three unique daughters alone, as each struggles to

express their talents and individuality. Their father, a ship's carpenter, was lost at sea when his ship sank. Named for her mother's favorite natural dye, oldest sister Sassafrass is a weaver, like her mother Hilda Effania, and a sometime poet. Cypress is a dancer and precocious Indigo, the "serious and thoughtful" one, is a fiddler and medium of the spirit world.

Their stories begin in Charleston, South Carolina and then moves to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York before circling back to Charleston. The storylines follow the lives of the two older sisters, Sassafrass and Cypress, as they pursue their artistic calling away from home, while youngest sister Indigo, now growing into womanhood, remains at home and consistently baffles their mother.

Daughter Indigo remains in Charleston. She shows an interest in the violin but she refuses to accept her mother's offer to pay for formal lessons, believing that "it (is) the spirit of things that matter(s)." She does learn to play the violin by ear and joins the two-member Junior Geechee Capitans. She confounds all of Hilda's attempts to mold her into a "properly bred young woman." This moves her mother to express, "Something's got hold to my child, I swear. She's got too much south in her."

As a mother, Hilda ultimately realizes that, difficult as it is to do, she must let go of her daughters as they seek their own destinies in life.

Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo is a richly unified and imaginative novel. The characters' lives, hopes, dreams, and disappointments are illuminated as the intimate tales unfold. The author balances three (four, including Hilda's) interrelated and parallel stories told on several levels and from varied points of view. Shange is truly a great storyteller who is adept at weaving a storyline that piques and holds interest from beginning to artistic end.



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PRICES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1997						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10	7	10	12	13	14	15

Prices Effective Wednesday February 12, 1997 thru Tuesday February 18, 1997

Items & prices in this ad are available at Oregon Safeway Stores (except Wilson-Forester) and S.W. Washington stores serving Clark, Multnomah, Clatsop, Clack, Sherman, and Wheeler counties. Not valid on alcohol, restaurants or medications. Sales in major quantities only. Quantities of some items may be limited and subject to availability. Not responsible for typographical or printing errors. We reserve the right to correct all product prices. ©1997 Safeway Stores, Inc.

FABULOUS FEBRUARY LOW PRICES

Fresh Pork Roast

- Blade Cut
- Valu Pack, 2 Roasts
- SAVE up to 80¢ lb.

89¢ lb.

• Single Roast 98¢ lb.



Safeway or TownHouse Green Beans or Corn

- 14.5-oz. cut or sliced Green beans
- 15 to 15.25-oz. Cream or Whole Kernel Corn
- SAVE up to \$1.20 on four

4 for \$1

EXPIRES 2/18/97 SAFEWAY (S) COUPON PLU #851

TownHouse Sugar

• 5 lb. bag
• First 1 with coupon
• SAVE up to 52¢

1.27

Limit one item per coupon. One coupon per customer per visit. Not valid with any other coupon or offer. Valid 2/12/97 thru 2/18/97 at your Oregon Safeway Stores (except Milton-Freewater) and S.W. Washington stores serving Clark, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat counties. COUPON CANNOT BE DOUBLED.

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