

# Family Living

## Family ties



Frieda Murray of northeast Portland enjoys a July 4th picnic at Blue Lake Park with her family, including grandson, Gary and granddaughter-in-law, Cynthia.

## Get to our young before the courts do

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

Amid the public hysteria about "rising" juvenile crime rates and politicians' plea for harsher penalties against young law-breakers, New York Supreme Court Justice Gloria Dabiri is starting to hear a different response to crime.

"I think more and more police officers and prosecutors are understanding that it will take more than punishment to address youth crime," says Judge Dabiri, a member of the Black Community Crusade for Children's (BCCC) Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Leadership Council. "I spoke at a National Prosecutors Association recently, and the title of the meeting was 'Combating Juvenile Crime through Prevention.' It's nice to see the district attorneys of major cities and others beginning to understand that it's part of the job to address this issue before our children end up in court."

Still, the government's response to juvenile crime tends to be "too punitive," Judge Dabiri notes, reflecting on much of the legislation

floating around Congress. "We know the kinds of things that place kids at risk, but we aren't addressing them. We know children need adult supervision, and that we need to address truancy, abuse, and neglect. We know that we need more after-school programs that build relationships between kids and adults."

Judge Dabiri is right. Too many politicians focus on the immediate political reward for "getting tough" with young offenders. They ignore the long-term societal benefits from investing in ways to keep young people out of trouble, and turn them back into productive citizens when they do enter the court system.

Now, Congress is under pressure to pass another "tough on crime" bill targeting young people. One piece of that bill already has passed in the House, the Juvenile Crime Control Act, which provides \$500 million a year for states to punish young offenders, provides for trying more children in adult courts, and devotes not a penny to prevention. Also awaiting passage is a second House bill that threatens to under-

mine the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, which is the primary grant the federal government allocates to states to run juvenile courts, with such existing conditions as states must protect truant and runaways from unjustified incarceration, and juvenile delinquents from incarceration with adults. On the Senate side, yet another bill includes certain harmful provisions similar to the two House bills. All three pieces of legislation fail to invest adequately in preventing and emphasize trying children as adults and imprisoning children with adults. A comprehensive bill, based to some degree on all three measures, is expected by mid-summer.

Something is wrong with the values of a nation that would rather spend \$30,000 to lock our children up after they get into trouble and won't spend 3,000 to give them a Head Start. And something is wrong with us if we do not fight the criminalization of our youths and their need for positive alternatives to the streets: jobs, after-school pro-

grams, and recreation.

Violence is a real threat in today's society and we should be concerned about it. Children are among the most likely of all age groups to be the victims of violence. And one out of every two children murdered in America is a Black child, even though Black children make up only 15 percent of the juvenile population.

But we need to make sure that our concern over crime doesn't force us to forget that these are still our children. They are 10 times more likely to be victims of violent crime than to be arrested for a violent crime. Also, while violent crime by youths is still too high, it dropped 2.9 percent between 1994 and 1995, the first decline in a decade. Homicide by youths fell 15.2 percent between 1994 and 1995.

It wastes more energy, and more money, to come up with stricter punishments than it does to join forces on the measures we know reduce crime and broaden opportunities for young people.

## OPERATION FRONTLINE FACTS

Operation Frontline is share Our Strength's (SOS) nutrition education and food budgeting program that connects chefs with people who are at risk of poor nutrition and hunger.

### Cooking & Nutrition:

Operation Frontline chefs are trained by SOS and serve in teams as volunteer teachers. The six week cooking classes, which serve people who are struggling to feed their families on limited incomes, are taught in nonprofit community centers. Each class focuses on a theme including shopping smart and eating more fruits and vegetables. Chefs add their own creative touch with low cost, nutritious recipes they create and demonstrate for participants, who are recruited by the community centers and leave each class with the ingredients to try the meal at home.

Operation Frontline classes are currently running in Baltimore, Boston, Burlington, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, New York City, Providence, Portland, Seattle and Washington DC. Over five thousand people have participated in Operation Frontline classes since its start in the fall of 1993. The program is scheduled to expand to Philadelphia by spring 1997.

### Educating Children:

Kids Up Front, a partnership with Kraft Foods, is the children's component of Operation Frontline that builds on the success of the adult program and helps children at risk of hunger make better food choices and improve their diets in the long-term. The program provides hands-on activities for children in Boston, Chicago, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

For more information call 202-393-2925.

## Families Needed To Host Foreign High School Students

Foreign high school students will be arriving into the local area for homestay programs for the 1997-98 school year and Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) urgently need local volunteer host families.

P.I.E. is a non-profit educational organization. The students are all between the ages of 15 and 18 years. They bring their own spending money, have full medical insurance and are anxious to share their cultural experiences with their new American families. P.I.E.'s academic homestays range in length from one semester to a full academic year, while the students attend local high schools.

P.I.E. representatives match students with host families by finding common interests and lifestyles through an informal in-home meeting. Prospective host families are able to review student applications and select the "perfect match". As there are no "typical" host families, P.I.E. can fit a student into just about any situation, whether it be a single parent, a childless couple, a retired couple or a large family.

For 1997-98, P.I.E. has students from Spain, Germany, Brazil, China, Russia, Croatia, Poland, Finland, and other countries. P.I.E. has sponsored more than 13,000 students from 18 countries since its founding in 1975.

Families interested in learning more about hosting, should call Teresa Knapp at 1-800-894-7633 or our International Headquarters at 1-888-PIE-USA1.

P.I.E. thanks families for opening your hearts and homes!

## Birth Announcements

### Camille Elizabeth Culbertson

June 21, 9pm; Female  
19 3/4 inches, 6lbs & 14oz  
Mother: Lisa A Tumlinson-Culbertson  
Father: Timothy J. Culbertson  
All of Brush Prairie, WA

### Mykila Denise Gay

June 24, 1997; Female  
19 1/2 inches, 6lbs & 6oz  
Mother: La Tonya Terrell Gay  
Father: Yachty NeHoma Gay

### Rahsaan Najee Islam

June 25, 1997; Male  
20 1/2 inches; 7lbs 14oz  
Mother: Talisa Coxeff  
Father: Rasool Islam

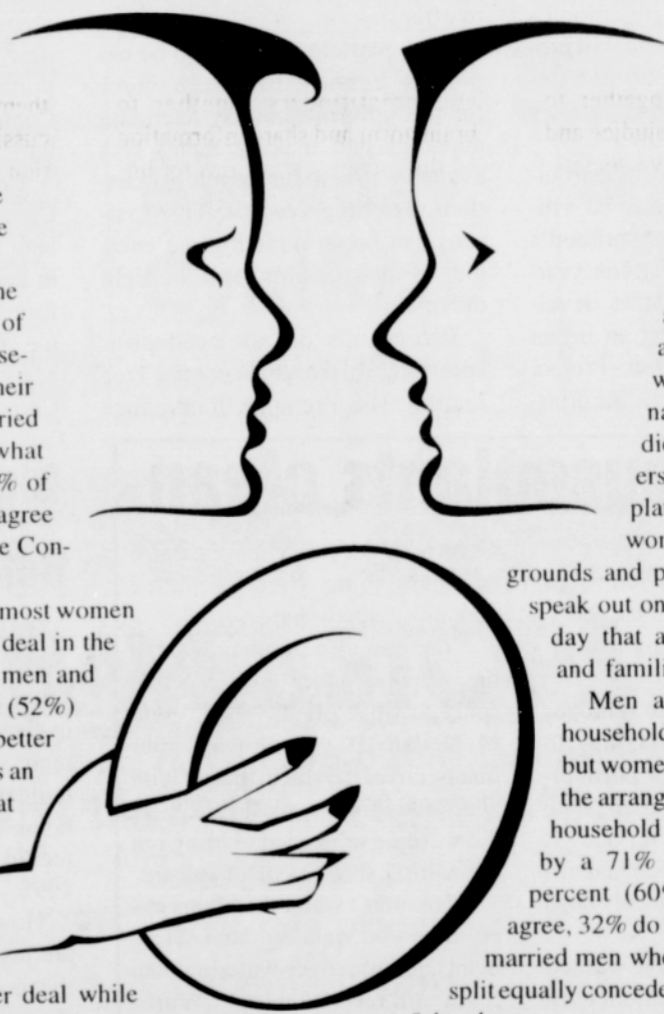
## Chore Wars

### Gender Gap on Question of Who Does Housework: Who Has the Better Deal... Men? or Women?

It's the nineties, but men and women still have different views on who does the housework...and who has the better deal overall.

A Maricopa Research/To the Contrary poll found that 65% of married men say they split household chores equally with their spouses, but only 47% of married women agree. "I wonder what laundry day is like in the 18% of households where spouses disagree on this point," quipped To the Contrary host Bonnie Erbe.

The survey also found that most women (52%) say men have a better deal in the overall relationship between men and women. However, most men (52%) say either that women have a better deal or that neither gender has an edge. Overall, women say that men have the edge by a 4-to-1 margin (52% to 13%) while men see it as a much closer call...35% to 24% (35% of men think they have a better deal while 24% say women have a better deal).



"That shows that men might be from Mars, but women live in the real world," commented Eleanor Holmes Norton, the D.C. Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

To the Contrary is an all-women's news analysis show that airs weekly on 250 stations nationwide before an audience of a million viewers. To the Contrary is a platform for the voices of women of all ethnic backgrounds and political philosophies to speak out on the major issues of the day that affect women, children, and families.

Men and women both think household chores are shared fairly, but women are less sanguine about the arrangement. Married men say household chores are shared fairly by a 71% to 16% margin. Sixty percent (60%) of married women agree, 32% do not. Meanwhile, 78% of married men who say that chores are not split equally concede that their wives do more of the chores.

## Join a Night Out against crime, August 5.



Neighborhood crime prevention volunteers promoted National Night Out in the Rose Festival PGE/SOLV Starlight Parade.

On August 5, thousands of Oregonians will hold block parties, barbecues, flashlight walks and bike registrations. It's National Night Out—America's annual night out against crime. You can get to know your neighbors, make your neighborhood safer and have fun!

PGE proudly sponsors National Night Out because we share your concern for strong, safe neighborhoods. Plan now—contact your neighborhood association or call 823-4519.



## Health Quest '97 -- Free Health Testing

Sunday, August 10th, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Community Learning Center, 4212 NE Prescott, Portland, OR

HEALTH SCREENING & TESTS: Height, Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Visual Screening, Physicians Consultations, Sickle Cell Typing, Weight, Pulse, Glucose, Dental Screening, Blood Typing, Bone Marrow Typing, Body Fat Analysis, And Much More...

BOOTH & EXHIBITS FROM: American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Community Policing, The Fire Department, Oregon, Health Plan, Eligibility Screening, American Red Cross, Sickle Cell Foundation, Search & Rescue, Emergency Services, Local Athletic Clubs, NW Naturopathic College, And Many More...

LECTURES MAY INCLUDE: Fire Safety, Community Policing, Diabetes, Summer Safety, Exercise & Weight Control, Dental Care, Healthful Cooking, Sickle Cell Anemia, Taking Care of Your Eyes, and Physician Questions & Answers.

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