

# Family Living



Pictured left to right: Nick Fuller, Harold Phillips, Sharon Sassone & Sally Eames. (Photo by Enie Vaisburd)

## Family Ties And The American Dream

Miracle Theatre, the Northwest's largest Hispanic arts and culture organization will open the New Year with the West Coast premiere of *Cafe' con Leche*, a comedy reminiscent of Cuba and the American Dream. The opening night of *Cafe'*, Friday, January 30th will be sponsored by NIKE.

Written by Cuban-American playwright, Gloria Gonzalez, *Cafe'* features an ornery, yet endearing Cuban cigar puffing grandmother, "Abuela," who orchestrates the lives and fates of the Cabrera family: Carmen, her devoted but critical daughter; Enrique, her born-to-lose son-in-law; Mario, her money-hungry teenage grandson; and Tito, the family's promise - the one who will ultimately capture and deliver the American

Dream for this non-traditional Cuban-American family. The cast of characters is completed by Manolo, a charming, but wayward uncle; and Eddie, a young Irish cop, who is also a friend of the family.

*Cafe' con Leche*, opens on Friday, January 30th and continues until February 28th at the Miracle Theatre located at 525 S. E. Stark in Portland. Friday, January 30th, 8 p.m. Preview will be shown on Thursday, January 29th, at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday night performances at 8:00 p.m. Discounts for seniors and students on Friday and Saturday nights. Advance ticket sales and group rates available, please call for further information (503) 236-7253.

## Senior Property Tax Deferral Deadline Is April 15

The Oregon Department of Revenue is reminding taxpayers that April 15 is the deadline for filing applications with county assessors for the senior property tax deferral program.

"The senior deferral program allows qualified senior citizens to defer payment of their property taxes on their home," explained Shirley Leiper, supervisor of the department's Senior Deferral Unit.

"State government pays the taxes to the county, maintains the account, and charges only 6% simple interest, which is also deferred."

To qualify for the program, senior citizens must meet the following criteria:

- \*They must be 62 years of age or older by April 15 of the year they apply;
- \*They must live on the property, and have deed or recorded sales contract;
- \*They only have to file once unless they remarry or are a surviving spouse;
- \*Their household income must be less than \$24,500 for the year before they apply. Once on the program they need an adjusted gross income of \$29,000 or less to participate.
- \*They can come in and out of the program depending on how their income goes up or down.
- \*Taxes are owed when the taxpayer receiving the deferral dies, sells the property, changes ownership, or ceases to live permanently on the property.

A surviving spouse can continue to defer past and future taxes if he/she is at least 59 1/2 and files a new application.

Applications and information are available by calling the local county assessor's office.

For additional information, taxpayers may contact the department's Tax Help representatives at (503) 378-4988. From January through April the toll-free number within Oregon is 1-800-356-4222.

Spanish speakers may call (503) 945-8618 to leave a message. For TTY (hearing or speech impaired only), the year-round toll-free number within Oregon is

## NWCT Climbs To New Heights

Adventure awaits up the magic beanstalk to a giant castle in the clouds when Portland's award-winning Northwest Children's Theater presents *Jack and The Beanstalk*, a musical version of the classic fairytale steeped in the mythical folklore of ancient Ireland. Music, laughter and dance fill the newly christened Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center (formerly the Northwest Service Center) February 6-22, when young Jack Spriggins, with the help of a magical fairy, faces giants and ogres to become an unexpected hero.

When: February 6 through February 22, 1998

Friday & Saturday at 7:00pm.

Saturday & Sunday at 2:00pm.

Where: In the historic Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center 1819 NW Everett Street, Portland, OR 97209 - Signing: Sign interpreted and audio described performance Friday, February 13 at 7:00pm

For information call (503) 222-4480 or Fastixx 224-8499



Lift to right, Kathy Philpott as Eileen O'Finnian and Benjamin Buckley as Jack Spriggins.

## Living Wage Campaign Launched

Our tax dollars should guarantee wages above the poverty-level for workers at companies getting government contracts. Such contractors should pay at least 110% of poverty-level for a family of four (approximately \$8/hour) and provide health benefits.

This message of the Living Wage Campaign is being promoted by the Rainbow Coalition, Portland New Party, the Coalition of Black Men, JOBS with JUSTICE, the Workers Organizing Committee, the Gray Panthers, and many local labor unions. Portland City Council and Multnomah County Commission are the initial targets of the lobbying effort with proponents vowing to eventually take the campaign to the School Board, Metro Council and the State Legislature.

"Among the janitors, parking lot attendants, security guards, temporary clerical

and other low-wage workers affected by this law are many people of color," says Maccio Pettis, a local New Party leader. "We in the Black community have a serious interest in winning this campaign."

Wages and benefits, particularly health insurance benefits, have stagnated or declined for the average worker in the past two decades. This has been especially true for low-wage workers. With recent tax revolts, many well-paid government jobs have been contracted out to private companies. "Lowest bidder" laws currently lead governments to spend our taxes contracting with companies who pay the lowest wages and provide few or no benefits.

Bruce Watts of the Coalition of Black Men assures small and minority contractors that contracts is about improving the lives of

the employer and the employee. Tax dollars paying better wages and benefits to our people can only help stabilize companies. And better paid workers spend more money at local businesses."

Living wage laws have been enacted in many cities, including Los Angeles, Boston, Baltimore, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Duluth, New Haven, San Diego, and Jersey City.

The Portland-area Living Wage Campaign urges local groups to endorse the campaign, circulate the petition among members, join the shopping center petitioning in January and February and the community hearing on living wages on Lincoln's Birthday (February 12) at the Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th, 6:30 P.M. Contact JOBS with JUSTICE, 236-5573 for details.



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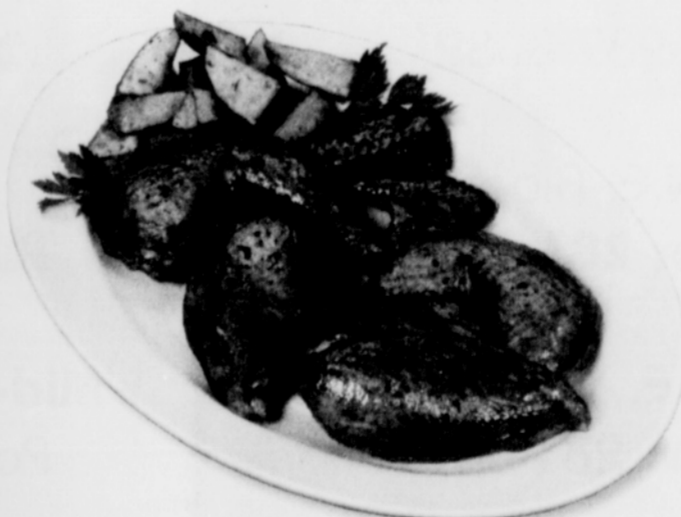
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