

Family Living

Residents Search for Ways to Avoid Homeowner Headaches

A recent survey of Portland homeowners conducted for Sears Home Central, shows that more than 66 percent of those surveyed consider knowing who to call the most important issue when faced with a home repair or improvement situation. Respondents also reported that they were eager to learn how to maintain their homes to reduce the number of repairs/improvements.

The survey shows that the average homeowner surveyed in the Portland area spend approximately \$1,600 a year on maintaining and improving their homes.

Although homeowners spend a substantial sum on their homes, the survey shows they do not always know who to call when the dishwasher goes on the fritz or when the air conditioner goes kaput.

Selover says that implies urgency and uncertainty. "An urgent situation can easily turn into an emergency situation when you don't know who to call or who to trust," she says. "When things go wrong in your home, your whole life feels a bit out of whack. Fortunately, homeowners in the Portland area can now solve their urgent dilemmas by having a reliable source of home repair and improvements help - Sears Home Central."

Sears Home Central, a new service

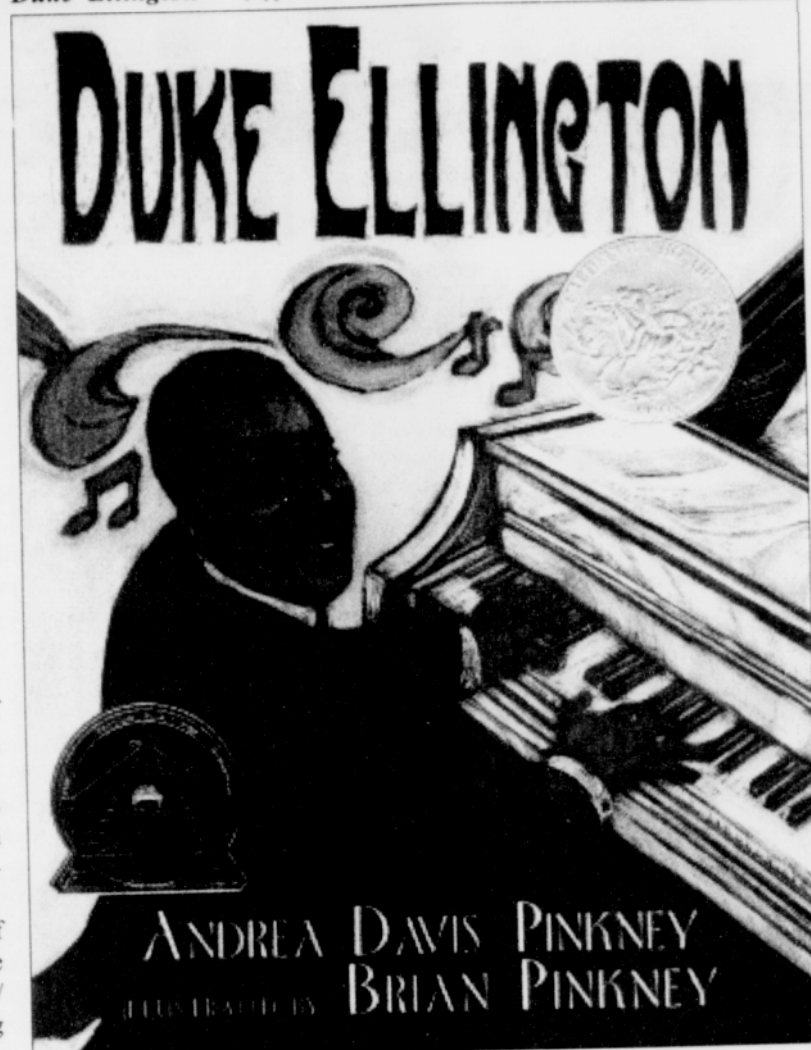
from Sears, Roebuck and Co., can help homeowners with the touch of a button. As the "Service Side of Sears", Sears Home Central provides one central source for a household of home repair and improvements services that can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by calling just one number: 1-800-4-MY HOME. "Sears Home Central is great for homeowners because it helps alleviate anxiety since it's a familiar name homeowners can turn to when things go wrong," Selover says.

Other local survey results of interest:

- At least twice a year Portland residents call a professional contractor.
 - Three important pieces of advice Portland residents would give new homeowners are: 1) Hire someone you trust; 2) Don't fix yourself and; 3) Maintain/fix things as soon as possible.
 - 25 percent of Portland homeowners attempt to fix things in their homes on their own, but end up calling a professional repair technician.
- Sears Home Service is a division of Sears, Roebuck and Co. Sears Home Services is the nation's leading repair/improvement service provider serving more than 15 million homes annually.

The King of the Keys

Duke Ellington (Hyperion, 1998) BY ANDREA AND BRIAN PINKNEY



You ever hear of the jazz playin' man, the man with the cats who could swing with his band?

His name was Duke. Duke Ellington. As a child, he said piano made an *umpy-dump* sound that was headed nowhere worth following. But, years later, he heard the piano played a whole new way. People called the music "ragtime," and soon the sound had Duke's fingers riding the piano keys.

Duke began to compose his own melodies, which led him to form a band, The Washingtonians. Before long, the group was performing at the swankiest hangouts in Harlem, including the Cotton Club, but under a new name: Duke Ellington and His Orchestra. Soon the

whole country swung to Duke's beat.

Andrea and Brian Pinkney conceived this book through their love of music. Mr. Pinkney was especially inspired by both his personal interest in jazz (he has played drums in several bands) and the way Ellington's music has been described as painting. To the composer, the sounds of the musicians were like the colors of a paint box. Ellington's method influenced both the Pinkneys as they worked together to create their own color-drenched canvas of words and pictures.

This is a story of one of the greatest composers of the twentieth century - the king of the keys - Duke Ellington.

MADE For Kids Theatre Camp

The MADE for Kids theatre camp is glad to announce that through generous donations a scholarship fund has been set up for the theatre summer camp this summer. The camp is designed for children 11 to 15 years old, and costs \$250 for a 3 week session that meets five days a

week from 10 am - 2 pm. Parents and guardians who are interested in information about the camp and the scholarship opportunities are encouraged to call 280-8614. Donors to the scholarship fund include the Autzen, Herbert Templeton and Union Pacific Foundations.

Play It Safe With Outdoor Safety Tips

With spring planting season well under way and warmer temperatures around the corner, Oregonians are heading outside to participate in activities ranging from gardening to home improvement to kite flying.

Portland General Electric (PGE) is encouraging everyone to exercise caution and care around electrical equipment while working on outdoor projects and taking part in recreational activities throughout the spring and summer.

With May being Electrical Safety Month, PGE offers the following tips for a safe and enjoyable season outdoors:

Work Safely Near Your Home

- Keep plenty of space between you and overhead power lines.
- Before you trim or cut down trees near overhead lines, call PGE's tree line (503-590-1455). We can tell you whether it's safe to do the work before you put yourself at risk.
- Before you dig, call the Oregon Utility Notification Center at 1-800-332-2344 to have underground power lines marked.
- Make sure outdoor electrical outlets are grounded and have weatherproof covers.
- Don't let children play in trees close to power lines.
- Don't plant trees or shrubs near transformers or underground lines. Remember to call the Oregon Utility Notification Center before you dig!
- Electrical tools should always have a three-way grounded plug.
- Be aware that tree limbs, metal tools and ladders touching power lines can be electrified.
- Keep electrical equipment at least 10 feet away from pools or wet surfaces.

Play It Safe

- Fly kites in an open field, never near overhead lines. But if a kite does get caught in a power line, don't try

to get it untangled—Call PGE.

- Don't play with metallic balloons or model airplanes near power lines; they can cause dangerous power outages.

International Adoptions Getting Easier

EUGENE, OREGON — A Eugene-based international adoption agency says some countries are making it easier for hopeful parents to adopt. Susan Cox with Holt International Children's Services says that for

a number of reasons, people who want to adopt children no longer outnumber the children available. But Cox says it still takes a long time and involves a lot of paperwork since the children have to immigrate to the country.

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