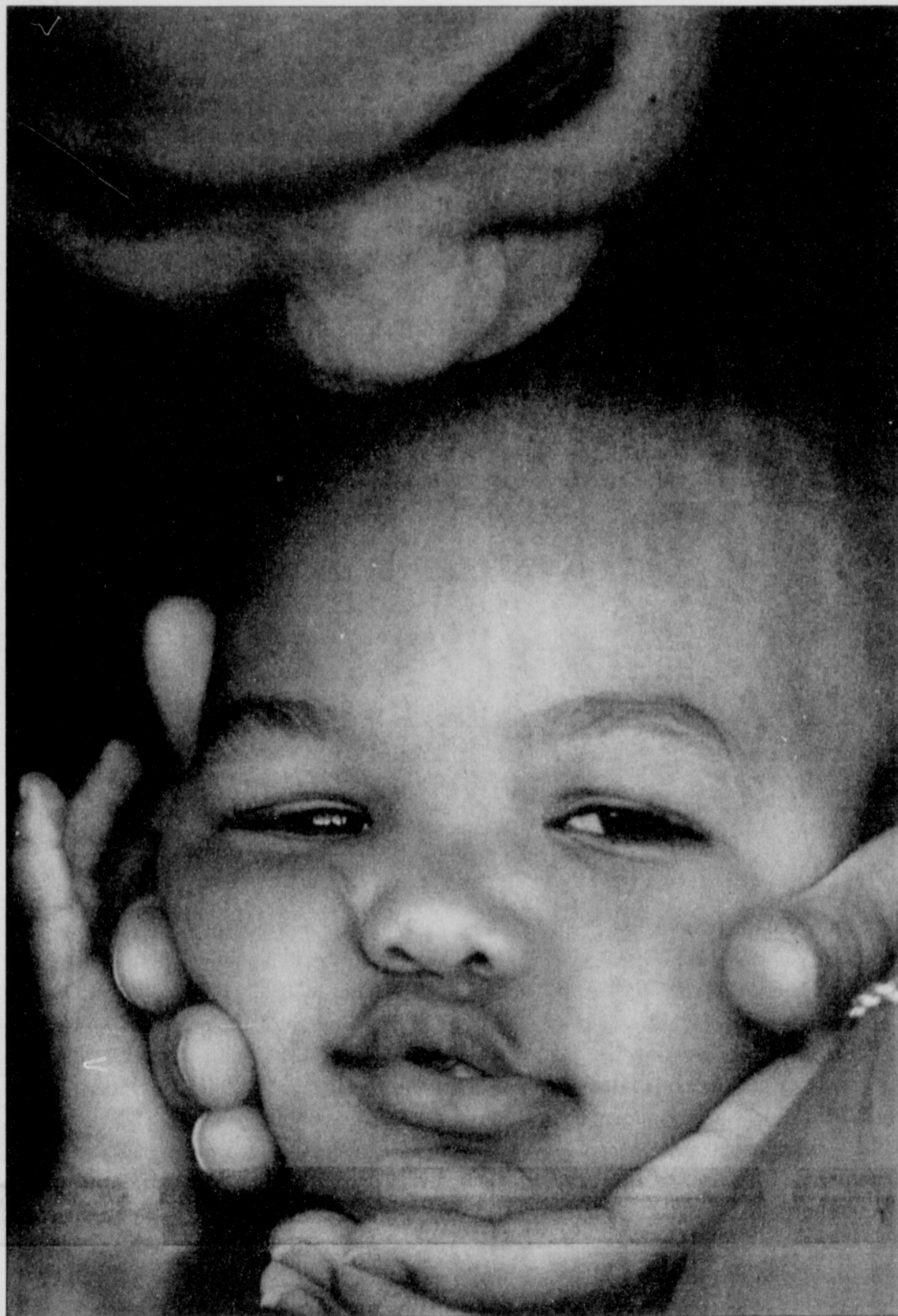


# Along the Boulevard



Mercedes Slocum and her son Marion at Geneva's Shear Perfection, Portland, as seen in "Along Martin Luther King" by author Jonathan Tilove.

continued ▲ from MLK front

(Harlem).

Author Jonathan Tilove's visit to Portland is part of a chapter titled "The Edge."

He finds it a place where African-American identity is weak, and where what was once its geographic center is changing its complexion.

"Too leafy. Too ruly. And these days, yesterday's ghetto is today's good investment. Property values are rising." He writes that whites feel comfortable here now because there are so many of them.

Tilove introduces Octavius Miller, an immigrant from Oakland, Calif. who "likes living in Portland, but says you have to be very secure in your blackness. 'It's a subliminal ghetto,' he says. 'In Portland, you're surrounded by whiteness.'"

More bluntly, Charles Bolden says of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, "In 10 years, I don't

*Too leafy. Too ruly. And these days, yesterday's ghetto is today's good investment. Property values are rising.*

— Portland's Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard described in the book "Along Martin Luther King"

think any blacks are going to be here."

Still, Tilove gives a positive portrait of the things - Yam Yam's, Geneva's Shear Perfection, Stellar Coffee, the Miracles Club, Reflections and, yes, the "Portland Observer" - and people - Bolden, Miller, Paul Knauls Jr., Edwina Wasson, Dionne Peoples, O.B. Hill - that he finds.

## Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

From Dr. King's Acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize, Dec. 10, 1964

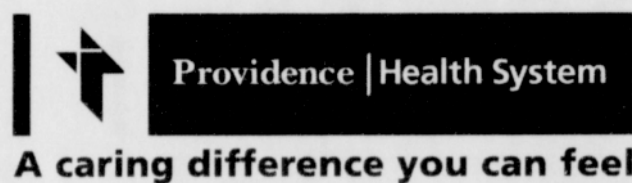
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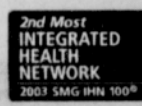
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