

Inspirational Author to Speak

The Fred Meyer Foundation and Multnomah County Library 2006 Teen Author Lecture present Jacqueline Woodson, award-winning author of teen novels "Hush", "Locomotion" and "Miracle's Boys", at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16 at the Parkrose High School Auditorium, 12003 N.E. Shaver St.

Woodson has won the Coretta Scott King, Newbery, Caldecott and National Book awards for outstanding literature for young readers. After her talk, she will autograph her books, which will also be available for purchase.

Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students through Oct. 15 at local libraries as well as Annie Bloom's Books, Broadway Books, A Children's Place, Talking Drum Books and Twenty-Third Avenue Books.

For more information, call 503-988-5402 or visit www.multcolib.org/teens.



Jacqueline Woodson

HIV Deaths Decline

Infections increase for minorities; and people 50 and older

A Multnomah County Health Department study reveals a substantial decline in HIV/AIDS deaths since 1996. The disease death rates dropped from its peak of 30 per 100,000 in 1994 to 4.1 in 2004, an 86 percent drop.

"In 1994, HIV disease was the sixth leading cause of death in Multnomah County; by 2004, it was no longer in the top 20. This is an extraordinary decline, larger than for any other major cause of death in Multnomah County," states Jon Duckart, Multnomah County Health Department Research Analyst.

The decline is attributed primarily to the availability of medications dubbed highly active anti-retroviral therapy, a drug "cocktail"

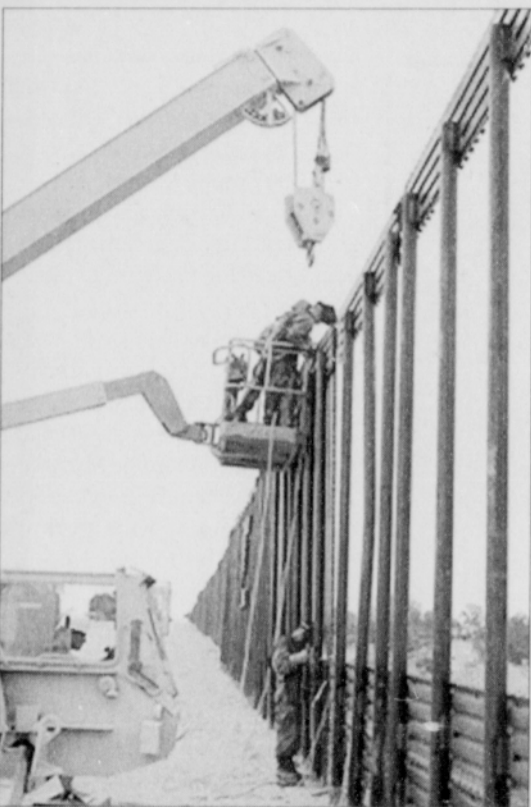
of several antiviral medications that act together to lower the HIV count in the body, allowing those with the disease to live longer, and with less illness.

Researchers studied demographic characteristics of HIV disease and found the percentages of racial and ethnic minorities, those age 50 and over, and those with less than a high school education with HIV have increased significantly.

Analysis of the percentage of local HIV deaths among racial and ethnic groups and genders shows significant decline for all groups. For example, 9.7 percent of African Americans died before the anti-retroviral therapy (1986-1995) while 3 percent died in the drug 'cocktail' era (1996-2005)

The significant increase in the percentage of deaths to those ages 50 and older indicates that those with HIV disease are growing older and living longer.

Border Fence Will Hurt Relations



National Guard soldiers extend a wall along the US border with Mexico in Arizona. (AP photo)

(AP) - The Mexican government said that a border security fence that has been approved by the US Congress would "damage" relations between the two countries.

Mexican presidential spokesman Ruben Aguilar also said that the barrier, intended to prevent illegal immigrants entering the United States, would create a "climate of tension" along the frontier.

"The Mexican government expresses its strong rejection of the construction of the wall ... This decision damages the entire bilateral relationship, is contrary to the spirit of cooperation that must prevail to guarantee the security of the frontier," said Aguilar, spokesman for President Vicente Fox.

The decision supports "a climate of tension among the border communities and creates splits instead of a convergence between the two countries," he said.

Speaking at a gala press dinner, President-elect Felipe Calderon, who assumes office December 1, said he believed that "neither decree nor physical barrier" will reduce migration across the border.

The US Congress on Friday approved the construction of a 700-mile wall along the border, over which tens of thousands of mainly Latin American illegal immigrants pass each year.

The barrier is opposed by advocates of an easier immigration policy but backed by many in the United States who want a crackdown on the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the country.

AIDS Shipment to Leave for Africa

Medical supplies, toys gathered

In mid-October the Portland-Mutare Sister City Association, through its Africa AIDS Response program and the generosity of Oregon Health Sciences University, will ship a 30-foot container carrying much-needed medical equipment, toys, school supplies and other donations to Mutare, Zimbabwe.

Dayna Kirk, executive director of Africa AIDS Response, just returned from a trip to Mutare where she met with the mayor and health care officials to coordinate and distribute the donations.

The organization will accept additional donations on Sunday, Oct. 8 from 10 am to 2 pm at their offices on 1600 S.E. Ankeny. Items

needed the most include good condition clothing, shoes, reading and math text books (grades 1-7), toys, blankets, cooking utensils, adult diapers, and unopened soap, lotions, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

The medical supplies donated by OHSU will provide eight health centers, an infectious disease hospital and several rural clinics in Mutare with basic supplies like gloves, needles and medical equipment, as well as 17 hospital beds, 23 laptop computers and two refrigerators with a generator.

Kirk also connected with schools in Zimbabwe looking to build international links through pen pal programs, linking youth in the Portland area through letters to the people living in Mutare.

Local residents can also send donations to Africa AIDS Response at PO Box 11740, Portland, OR 97211.

Ask Deanna!



Real People, Real Advice

An advice column known for its fearless approach to reality based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

I ended my relationship with my boyfriend because I thought I wanted someone more active, exciting and could give me thrills. I now realize I had everything I needed in the man I was with. My ex-boyfriend has a good job, making a lot of money and he's dating someone else. I want him back and it hurts me looking at this woman living the life I was supposed to have. How do I approach him and let him know that I want another chance? --Anonymous; Charleston, S.C.

Dear Worried:

You didn't miss the water until the well ran dry and now you have to look at the life you missed out on. You got what you deserved because you were selfish and only thought about yourself and your agenda. It appears he's happy in his new relationship. You can call him on the phone or talk to him direct. However, you must remember that you left him for another man. If he rejects you, or hurts your feelings, get over it because the pendulum of karma just swung back.

Dear Deanna!

I'm in a dilemma and don't know how to get out of it. I got caught up in my relationship and asked my girlfriend to marry me. I realize now this is the wrong decision and this is not the woman I want to spend my life with. We've dated for a few years and now her

wedding plans are in full swing. Her mother has called caterers, ordered dresses, and printed invitations. It's getting out of hand and I'm nervous and scared. How do I end this now? --Wrong Groom; Washington, D.C.

Dear Wrong:

You need to put the brakes on this ordeal immediately. Many people are going to be hurt but you should prevent financial loss, pain and embarrassment while you can. Be a man and tell your girlfriend the truth and offer to reimburse everyone for money they've spent. Once you've done this, you need to end the relationship. If you choose not to be committed, don't play any more games. You need to close the deal on a good note and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I'm having huge arguments with my girlfriend because she can't seem to get enough of her friends. We have a social life that's active considering our jobs and lifestyle. All of a sudden she wants to go out three nights a week and she's hanging out on work nights. The only time I see her is when she's on the phone making more plans or leaving the house. How do I ask her to choose me or her friends and her new party life? --Walt; Phoenix, Ariz.

Dear Walt:

There's a possibility your problems are more about the relationship than about her friends. You should offer to join her when she goes out and if she says no, then be prepared to have a conversation. Be direct and ask her why she has the need to be so active, what can you do to improve your social life and be willing to make personal changes. However, if her honesty hurts your feelings don't take it personal but use the feedback to improve your situation.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

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