

Camps Rich in African Culture

The Homowo African Arts and Cultures group is back again with three summer camps providing rich cultural experiences for one week at a time.

Designed to introduce youngsters to a variety of performing arts activities while learning about the richness of Africa and cultural arts, classes are taught by Homowo performers who share their knowledge of Ghanaian drumming and dance through lively activities. Students will learn to play some basic drum rhythms, dance and hear African stories.

The first camp began this week at Portland Children's Museum. The second camp takes place July 9 through July 13 at the Friendly House Community Center, 1737 N.W. 26th Ave. The third camp takes place July 16 through 20 at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate.

For more information, call 503-288-3025 or email susan@homowo.org.



Summer camps by the Homowo arts and culture group introduces kids to African dance and a variety of performing arts activities.

Dear Deanna!

My grandmother is embarrassing because she's old and still trying to act young. It's annoying to see my grandmother trying to sing rap songs, smoke cigarettes and wearing jeans. My parents don't mind but I don't think it's right. I feel that she makes herself look foolish and she doesn't realize that people are laughing at her. I would like a few suggestions on how I can have this discussion with my grandmother without appearing disrespectful? --Amber; Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Amber:

Your grandmother is old enough to live her life without worrying about what you or anyone else thinks. You could learn things such self-confidence and the ability to love life from this woman. If she was smoking marijuana and dressing like a hoochie, you would have a legitimate problem. But since she's enjoying life, you should relax, take her shopping and be blessed that you have a grandmother that's on her feet and not deceased or in a nursing home.

Dear Deanna!

My daughter has left for college and made a mess out of her life. I took the time to help with student loans and scholarships and she has flunked out of the first semester. I learned that she never went to class and her school supplies haven't been touched. To make matters worse, she's now back at home pregnant and unemployed. I don't have time for this and I'm tired of dealing with her drama. I know this is my daughter but what can I do to help without disrupting my life? --Glenda; Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Glenda:

Your daughter's bad life and mistakes are a reflection of your poor parenting skills. If you don't have time for your daughter now, you probably didn't have time when she was growing up and now she

Ask Deanna!

Real People, Real Advice

An advice column known for reality based subjects!

doesn't know if she's going or coming. You need to make time now because if you don't you'll be stuck with her longer than you think. Help her restore her options in life and encourage her to go back to school, get a job and find the baby's father so she'll have help.

Dear Deanna!

I recently gave birth to a baby girl. My boyfriend was hoping for a boy and he seemed disappointed. Things were fine until the baby was three months old. My boyfriend stopped coming around and when he did, he always seemed distant. I later learned that he has a new son that is a month older than my daughter. He cheated on me, got someone pregnant and we had our kids at the same time. I am devastated and don't know what to do about this relationship? --Devastated New Mom; Queens, N.Y.

Dear Devastated:

Your first mistake is having a baby out of wedlock. Another mistake is a boyfriend that showed disappointment because of the baby's gender. You can see in advance that if you stay with this man you're going to have cheating, drama from another woman and a stressful relationship. It's to your advantage to organize the child support payments and seek commitment. If he won't do the right thing, kick him to the curb, raise your child and keep it moving.

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

Local Schools Score Writing Gains

Preliminary assessment results show Portland students are making substantial gains in writing proficiency.

Superintendent Vicki Phillips released district-wide scores at a press conference Tuesday at King El-

ementary School, a northeast school that raised its percentage of students meeting or exceeding the writing benchmark by 48 percent.

All Portland Public Schools focused on writing this year to increase teaching capacity and stu-

dent achievement in all schools.

"We're giving our teachers the tools they need to really make a difference and they are," Phillips said. "There is much work to be done, but these scores are a sign that our targeted focus is helping to

raise achievement in classrooms throughout the city."

The increases in reading test scores were not limited to any one cluster or school. Chapman, King, Winterhaven and Faubion showed marked improvement over last year.

Debut Film on Tribal Rights

A Portland native and independent filmmaker makes her national television debut with "Standing Silent Nation," a documentary depicting the collision between a Native American family's hemp growing practices and opposing U.S. government forces.

The film takes us back to April 2000, when Alex White Plume and his Lakota family planted industrial hemp on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota after other crops had failed.

When federal agents raided their fields the Lakota Nation was swept into a Byzantine struggle

over tribal sovereignty, economic rights and common sense.

The documentary will broadcast on OPB's "Point of View" Tuesday, July 3 at 10 p.m.

Hermann is an instructor in the digital film and video department at the Art Institute of Portland.



Courtney Hermann

Judge bring unique perspective to bench

continued ▲ from Front

treated fairly, both professionally and intellectually.

Walker is proud that he was able to bring diversity to the bench. "It is important for everyone to reach out and identify with people of other races. The more people you meet the smarter you will become," says Walker.

Coming from a difficult childhood, Walker sympathizes with those that are struggling financially, with drug use, and those that turn

to crime.

"I would say that 99 percent of the criminal justice system is due to poverty," says Walker. "I see myself on the other side of the bench all the time. It was a very real future for me growing up where I did and I am thankful I had the opportunity to get out of L.A."

For someone who has come so far, Walker is an example for all young people. Where are his friends from Compton today?

"They are either dead or spending life in prison," says Walker.

Case Study in Legal Fight Has Tragic Ending

continued ▲ from Front

ery Ward that allowed him his cozy home.

Enjoying life to the fullest, Orr always had a positive attitude that revealed itself through self-determination, but his independent spirit ended up working against him in hard times.

After his stroke and bouts with mental illness, he found that the legal system was badly equipped to deal with his circumstances.

Fighting hard to overcome his condition, he was always saying, "I got to go to work," even on his sick bed.

But, a few months ago at Sunnyside Hospital, he broke down crying saying he would never play golf again, and he was ready to "go west." Asked to clarify, he said that he was not referring to his repossessed home in Aloha, the area where he was one of the first African Americans to live starting nearly 40 years ago.

Out of panic or neglect, no one may know for sure, a fire damaged a room of his house before the authorities dragged him out for the last time.

Orr resisted legal help because he was convinced that outsiders

were conspiring to steal his treasured possessions.

His previously strong sense of autonomy, along with not finding anybody in the legal system who could relate to him as a black man, added to those woes.

Perhaps if a lawyer had special diversity training, advocates claim, state custody over his affairs might have been avoided.

When Orr died, his sister Thelma Stone was in a battle to gain control over his medical care and state of affairs.

To honor his life, Stone composed a piece titled "Lamentation for my Brother," based on her fight with creditors and Aging and Disability Services, saying in part, "It seems the system failed him, as it has many others."

Rather than Orr becoming another statistic of mental illness, Stone wants "all of humanity to remember the lessons of his life."

Orr died June 15, 2007 at the age of 64. His memorial service was held Friday at Rose City Cemetery.

His son Steven Orr preceded him in death in 2005. He is survived by eight brothers and sisters: Ann Lee, Kenneth Orr, Nettie Sandifer, Thelma Stone, Shelton Glass, Verna Glass, Edward Glass and Evelyn Williams.

Gambling Can Put You at Odds with Yourself.

When you play, set a time limit and stick to a budget.

DON'T LET THE GAME PLAY YOU.

