

Charles Drew Blood Drive

Author to help with Saturday event

On Saturday, June 16, the American Red Cross Portland Donor Center will host the fifth anniversary of the Charles Drew Blood Drive. Dr. Charles Drew, an African American blood specialist, surgeon, educator

site to talk with donors about their lifesaving contribution. Sayles' son Woody passed away from leukemia 10 years ago, but before he died, former NBA star Brian Grant helped host some of the largest, most suc-

cessful drives ever experienced by the local Red Cross.

The event takes place at the Red Cross Portland Donor Center at 3131 N. Vancouver Ave. and runs from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

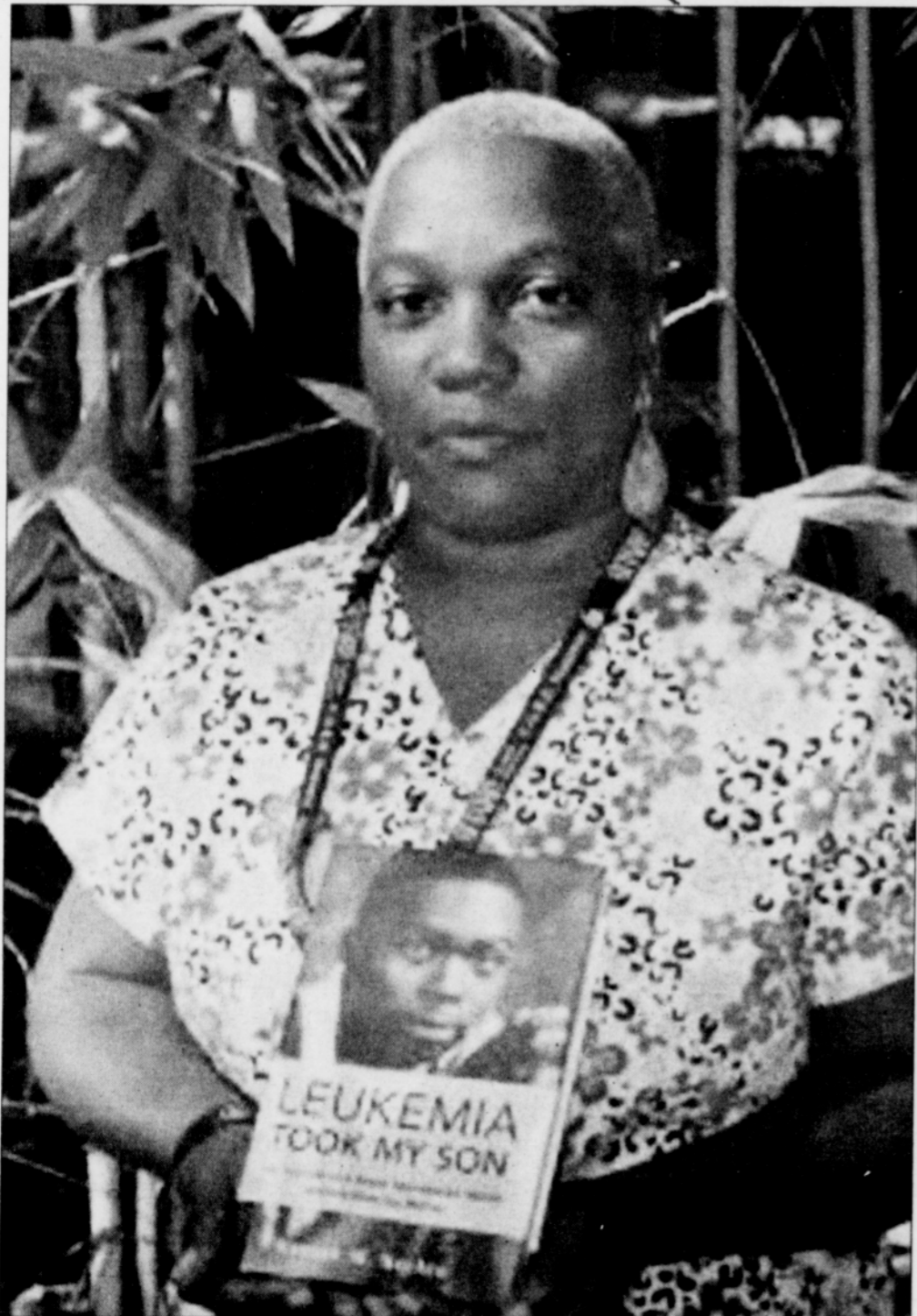
Blood recipients are most likely to find compatible blood for transfusion from donors of the same ethnic background. This becomes particularly urgent for illnesses

where multiple transfusions can cause difficult cross-matching, such as sickle-cell disease, a blood disorder carried by 1 in 12 African Americans.

Additionally, of the more than 112,560 people currently awaiting an organ transplant, 55 percent represent ethnic minorities. Organ recipients are also most likely to be compatible with donors from the

same ethnicity.

The Charles Drew Blood Drive is sponsored by Colas Construction Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha, Urban League of Portland Young Professionals, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, SEI, Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, Zeta Phi Beta, Phi Beta Sigma, Delta Sigma Theta and The Links Inc.



Portland author Denise Sayles will speak with Red Cross donors during the Charles Drew Blood Drive on Saturday.

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Local author and blood donation advocate Denise Sayles will be on

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Sayles has offered to have her book "Leukemia Took My Son: The Journey of a Brave Teen Named

Whooping Cough Epidemic Kaiser offers free shots in Vancouver

Kaiser Permanente will open whooping cough (pertussis) vaccination clinics for uninsured and underinsured people in Clark County to help make sure everyone is vaccinated, including those without health insurance.

The clinics will take place at the Kaiser Cascade Park Medical Office in Vancouver, 12607 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd., each Thursday and Friday in June from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There also will be a clinic on Saturday, June 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Clark County is experiencing an alarming increase in whooping cough infection, with 153 confirmed cases reported since the first of the year. Only 25 cases were reported at

this time last year. The Washington Department of Health has declared a statewide whooping cough epidemic, with more than 2,000 reported cases.

Whooping cough spreads easily through coughing and can cause life-threatening illness in infants under 6 months old. Until vaccinations became widespread in the 1940s, whooping cough caused thousands of deaths each year in the United States.

The vaccination clinics are an important collaboration between Clark County Public Health and Kaiser Permanente Northwest aimed at containing the spread of whooping cough in the community.



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