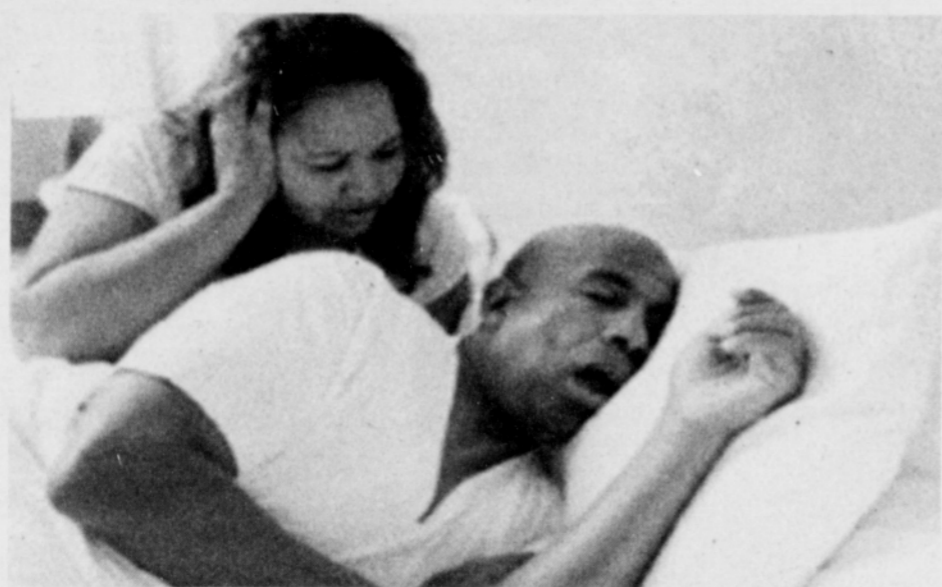


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Great Playwright Inspires

continued **▲** from front

DeGroat is set to star in the upcoming August Wilson play, *The Piano Lesson* with Portland Playhouse, the theatre company located in northeast Portland; and the co-founder of the Red Door Project, local African-American playwright Kevin Jones, is set to direct it.

During school visits, Red Door staff and teaching artists will introduce and engage students in an interactive workshop on Wilson's ideas and characters. About 100 to 150 students are expected to compete before being narrowed down to 15 semi-finalists, who will then enter an intensive series of master classes at Portland Center Stage for a chance to represent Portland in New York City later in the school year. Only three students will make it to the New York City finals.

Nationally, the August Wilson Monologue Competition dates back to 2007 when it was founded by Kenny Leon and Todd Kreidler at True Colors Theatre Company in Atlanta two years after Wilson's death at the age of 60. The two men

worked with Wilson as director and dramaturge, respectively. The outreach to young people was inspired, in part, by the Shakespeare Youth Monologue competitions, which aimed to familiarize students with Shakespeare's work.

There are currently seven other major cities participating in the August Wilson competition, which include Atlanta, New York, Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, and Seattle.

Hornsby said that he was stunned by the amount of talent and passion he's experienced teaching for the project in Portland.

"It has given me a chance to reacquaint myself with August Wilson's work, so I'm not just teaching them, I'm falling in love with his work all over again. When I was growing up, I had such a sense of wonder towards entertainers, like Shirley Temple and Bill Bojangles. I want these students to be able to fall in love with all kinds of art, a diversity of art," he said.

DeGroat also spoke highly of the competition.

"I love the program. All students are welcome to learn about August

Wilson, and this couldn't have come at a more important time. Wilson's work brings understanding, knowledge, and acceptance of diversity," she said. "We connect students to many wonderful opportunities in Portland and nationally, and we love to connect students with the opportunities they need and deserve."

Two graduates of Portland's program, Mahatma Poe and Hailey Kilgore, both credit their participation with their newfound passion for entertainment. Kilgore expressed her dream of pursuing theatre professional, and Poe has also expressed a deep desire to stay focused on the fine arts and to find a way to make a future out of it.

Students who are interested in participating in the August Wilson Monologue Competition must enroll by Monday, Nov. 3. Students can visit the group's website at reddoorproject.org where they will find a downloadable application or a digital application they can fill out to enroll. Teachers who are interested in workshops in their classroom can call Alex Ramirez, programs coordinator at 805-276-1296.

Northeast Church Protects Rights Advocate

continued **▲** from page 5

Andrew Munoz said in a statement.

Aguirre came to the attention of immigration authorities in August following his arrest for driving under the influence.

Due to his criminal history, previous deportation and most recent DUI charge, Aguirre is considered a public safety threat and a priority for removal by ICE, Munoz said.

Aguirre disputes the criminal prosecutions and says he was innocent, but a lawyer told him to plead no contest, a decision he now regrets.

The court documents could not be acquired on Monday; a court clerk said the case was so old the files have been stored in a warehouse.

Some Portland community leaders, saying Aguirre has become a role model for his peers, have launched a campaign to prevent his deportation.

"I believe I should be allowed to stay in Oregon, because I'm a good citizen, I'm a part of this community, and this is where I belong," Aguirre said.

Aguirre took refuge at the church after immigration officials sought to

arrest him Friday at his home in Fairview, a suburb of Portland. He says they couldn't provide a warrant and left after he refused to come outside.

The 900-member Augustana Lutheran Church is one of several dozen churches in Oregon that are part of the sanctuary movement and have pledged to give refuge to immigrants living in the country illegally.

"A church is a place without borders," the church's pastor Mark Knutson said. "It allows people to be and to sort things out... without guns, without coercion."

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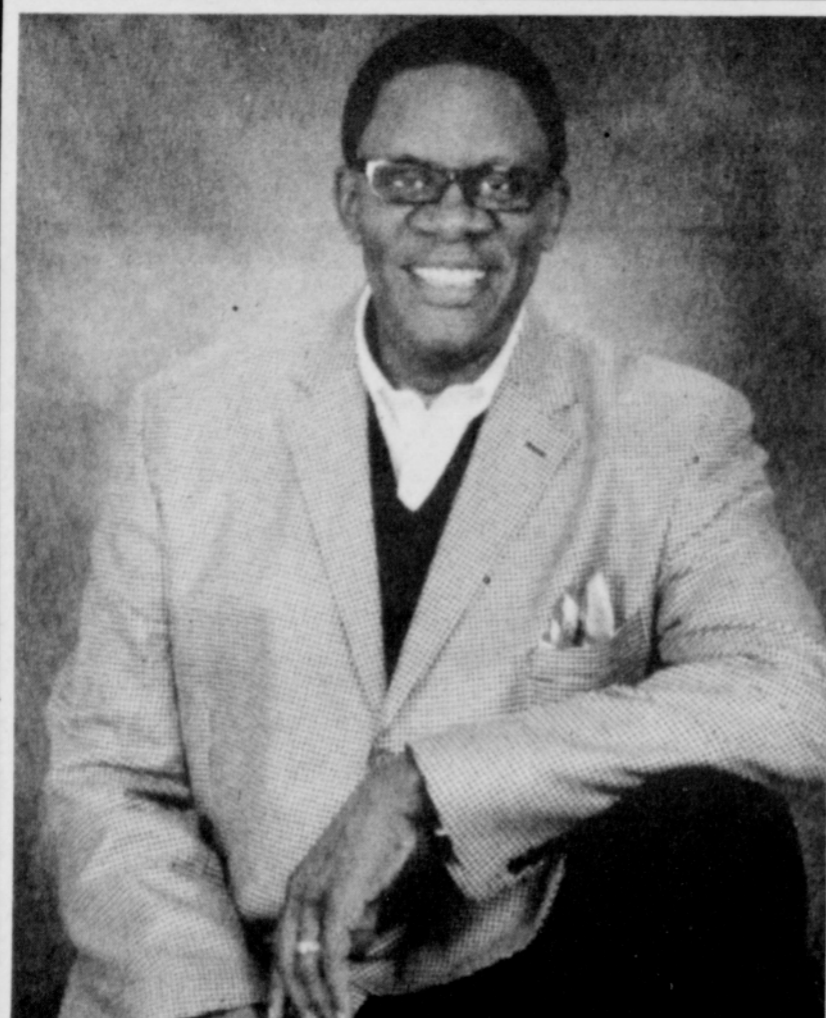
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