

PLAN BENEFIT — Members of the Baltimore County Branch of the NAACP are rounding out plans for their benefit dinner dance to be held April 29, with city State's Attorney Kurt Schmoke as guest speaker. Pictured here, going over details, are from left, Mrs. M. Leonora Jones, chair of political action committee; Mrs. Margaret Pennington, benefit chair; and Mrs. Myrtle Daughton, chair of the 50-50 activity. Col. James Pennington is president of the branch. For ticket information, call NAACP Baltimore County office, 747-7266.

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Single PARENTING

By Kelly Hill

Recently, I wrote several different stories on how to describe the parents of today. If I had to choose one word or one phrase, I would describe parents, especially single parents, as guiltridden.

As parents, what do we owe our children? So many parents, dressed like their children and living the same lifestyle say they did their best but "something went wrong."

A mother might say"I was too soft hearted." Afather might say "I was too strict." Some will say, "I spent $12,000 for their education and now my daughter won't speak to me."

Wherever you look, you see parents walking on eggshells, bending over backwards to communicate with their children in "meaningful" ways.

The magic spell of love may be everywhere, but when you try to buy it, you end up with the "gimmee" game involving kids.

There is a message in allof the above, and it says "Parents had better get back to traditional values and hang together..... or you will han separately."

According to Ann Landers, author of "The Ann Landers Encyclopedia A to Z, you do owe your children something.

But you don't owe them every minute of your energy. You do not owe them a down payment on a home or money for furniture. Nor do you have an obligation to baby-sit with their kids or take over when they go on vacation.

One of themost important obligations parents have to their children is to give them a sense of personal worth. Self-esteem is the beginning step for good mental health.

The child who is repeatedly called "bad" or "no good" will have such a low opinion of himself or herself that he or she will behave in that manner.

Parents owe their children some religious training. The fact that so many silly cults enjoy success in our country is evidence that our children feel the need for something spiritual in their lives.

Parents owe their children a comfortable feeling about their bodies and sufficient information about sex to counteract the garbage they will pick up on the street.

Parents need to be well informed and not too "Hung-up" children adequate sex education.

Parents owe their children a set of decent standards with solid values within their lifestyles. Teaching your children to respect the opinions and rights of others. Respect for elders, their teachers and the law is also important.

According to Ann Landers, Values are not only taught, they are caught. When \parents keep their promises, no matter what the cost, they teach their children the importance of honoring a commitment.

A father who has tools from the factory around the house and a mother whose linen closet is stocked with towels from the Holiday Inn or the Hilton, let their children know it's all right to steal.

A child who is slapped and punched will slap and punch others.

Ann Landers also says "No child is asked to be born. If you bring a life into this world, you owe him or her something. And if you give your youngster whats due to them, they will have something to give to your grandchildren."

Next week, we will discuss what our children owe to us a parents.

Columbia Capers

By Pinnie L. Ross

COLUMBIA'S FIRST BEAUTILLION

about social highlights of the season is the Jack and Jill Beautillion Ball which will be held on April 30th at the Turf Valley Country Club.

This event will mark the culmination of a series of intensive educational workshops, social and cultural enrichment activities which were designed to assist young black males bridge the gap between adolescence and manhood.

Eighteen young men, who are juniors and seniors in high school, will be presented to the Columbia community and their accomplishments will be highlighted at the Beautillion Ball.

Mrs. Weldena Kelly is president of the Columbia Chapter of Jack an and Jill of Americia and her son "Teddy" is one of the participants.

According to her "Jack and Jill of America, Inc. is a non - profit, community service organization founded in 1938 for the purpose of providing educational, cultural, scientific, civic, and charitable projects for children.

In this regard, and in accordance with our commitment to seek for all children the benefits we desire for our own, the Columbia, Maryland Chapter is sponsoring this Beautillion.

"We have invited Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and Columbia youth to participate in this event, and by so doing, we have extended this beyond the Jack and Jill Family."

The idea of the Beautillion was introduced to the Columbia Chapter of Jack and Jill last September Mrs. Donna Rice, chairman of the Beautillion. Donna stated that the concept of the Beautillion was originated by Jack and Jill at the national level a couple of years ago and the word was coined at that time to mean the opposite of "Cotillion."

Only three or four chapters across the country have attempted to do this so far. According to Donna, "In checking with some of my friends from other chapters in the South and Mid - West, I found that although the young men were being showcased and presented to society, fundraising and social aspects, rather than what the youth themselves were gaining from this experience.

What makes our Beautillion unique is the very positive experience and substantive workshops which are intended to Provide information, guidance, and support to our young men, which they need.

We are focusing on those skills and talents which they already posses but we are also providing the opportunity for them to learn other things which will help them to prepare and accept their entry into manhood.

The Beautillion Ball will be a symbolic celebration of the ending of this process of intervention and the beginning of the new experience called "adulthood."

We are planning a grand social event at which we intend to tell them how "special" they are and , at the same time, reward them with scholarships.

Incidentally, all of the money raised in this effort will be returned to the boys in the form of scholarships."

Being a School Psychologist, Donna Rice said that she recognized a long time ago that there is a tremendous need to give support and encouragement to the Black male children in our society because there is perhaps more pressure exerted on them than any other sub - group.

She continued by stating, "Black males have a very difficult time surviving in a predominantly white and racist society. We tend to rally around our girls and provide all kinds of experiences for them, forgetting that our boys need special things too.

"We often assume that our boys will be all right because they are male, but it simply isn't so. Without the proper progrsmming and support systems, they can get into a lot of difficulty." Because the adolescent stage is a very critical period in the development of children, it seemed to me that this would be a good time to intervene if one is to have any impact at all. Therefore I felt compelled to try to do something about this problem.

The workshops and activities are being conducted by members of the Jack and Jill Chapter, their spouses, and parents of the participants who have expertise in certain fields.

There is a wealth of talent within the group and Donna indicated that everyone has been extremely generous about volunteering their time to work with the young men.

This has been a fantastic experiences for the teens and one which they will remember with pride for years to come. this is truly a good example of blacks helping their own!

9 TO 5 NAT'L SECRETARIES WEEK

9 TO 5, Baltimore Working Women will commemorate National Secretaries' Week April 25-29 with several major activities to which office workers and the public are invited.

On Tues, April 26, the organizaiton plans to announce the results of an "Office Workers Job Survey" which has been conducted through Feb. and March and identifies major corporate policies such as child care assistance, pay and promotion plans, automation and equal job rights.

In releasing the results, 9 to 5, BWW will announce the most important policies to office workers, as well as those corporations with the best and worst policies regarding them.

The noon-time event, which will take place at Hopkins Plaza will also include singing, and a balloon release.

On Wednesday, April 27th 9 to 5, Baltimore Working Women to welcome Ellen Cassidy a founder of the national 9 to 5 movement who will speak on the 10th anniversary of the organization, and the directions the movement will go in the next 10 years.

The celebration will take place at 5:30 p.m. at Old St. Paul's Church on Charles and Saratoga St.

For more information; contact 9 to 5, Baltimore Working Women at 837-3830.

Woodlawn Highlights

By Marjorie R. Green

TEAMS SQUARE OFF

The Sportsmen's Lounge-sponsored - All-Star basketball teams will square off against the Columbia Old Timers and the WWIN Disc Jockeys, Saturday, April 30.

The games, culminating the basketball season will be played at the Carver High School site on Presstman and Baker Sts.

The 60-member Sportsmen's Lounge League was organized in 1974 by Donald "Skip" Campbell who retired as League Commissioner at the end of the last regular season. Most of the men are age 33 and over. They come from varied backgrounds but they have one thing in common. They all love basketball.

The season consists of 25 games played by the six team league September through March. The games are played at the Pimlico Jr. High school during the season. Each year when the season closes, the league members cast votes to choose two all-star teams in their league and the Most Valuable Player for the regular season.

Corsley Edwards is this year's most valuable player. An awards banquet is scheduled for next month at the Sportsmans Lounge to honor the Most Valuable Player of the play off games and other league members. This player will be named by the new league commissioner, Ms. Wanetah Soden.

Ms. Soden an accountant with the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) in Woodlawn is the leagues second commissioner.

She first became interested in the league as a spectator in 1976. in 1979, she was asked to work as score keeper. As Commissioner, she is responsible for all the administrative work. She also has the task of settleing disputes and scheduling referees. Eugene Goodall, another Woodlawn worker is her assistant. The new score keeper is Brenda Taylor. Two other women, Marilyn Ewing and Shirley Russell are time keepers. SSA credit union and is the mother of two boys ages 11 and 16. Both boys have always been actively involved in sports.

The family attends Perkins Square Baptist Church, pastored by the Reverend Richard Ogle IV.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mrs. Madeline W. Murphy, noted columnist and commentator will be the guest speaker at a special program Saturday, April 16 at Faith Baptist Church. The St. Paul Community Baptist Church choir will furnish the muscial entertainment.

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IDA PETERS What's Happening



Lou Gossett Jr. who played the hard-driving soft-hearted Marine drill sergeant in "An Officer and a Gentleman" won best supporting Oscar Academy Awards Monday night.

Louis Gossett enters Oscar record books

Hollywood — Louis Gossett Jr.'s Oscar for his role as the Marine Drill Sergeant in "An Officer and a Gentleman" was only the third won by a black actor or actress in the 55 years of the Academy Awards.

Gossett, 44, said after receiving the Oscar for best supporting actor that he hoped the award would "Catch on Like Measles" and speed up the creation of roles for black actors in Hollywood.

The first black to win an acting oscar was Hattie McDaniel for supporting actress in the 1939 classic "Gone With the Wind". Sidney Poitier won for best actor in the 1963 film, "Lillies of the Field".

Outside the music center four blacks carried a large white sign reading "Academy Awards, a racist affair for 54 years, here goes the 55th."

But Gossett downplayed the small demonstration.

"You shouldn't call anything racist if it's improving," Gossett said. "I think they (the protesters) should lighten up, If you'll pardon the expression.

"I think (black roles) have been lacking, but it's getting better," Gossett said. "It needs to come faster. I hope this will speed it up. Our business is one of setting precedents and I hope this catches on like the measles.

"This is something I didn't expect. I hope blacks will bet more of a chance to show their wares. I'm going to give it (The Oscar) to my son."

Gossett, who won an Emmy in 1977 for his role of Fiddler in the television mini-series "Roots," said he wanted his son, Satis, 7, to go on stage with him but the boy got butterflies.

"You always prepare a speech," Gossett said on accepting the Oscar, "but it's no use, it's all gone."

Holding the Oscar toward the audience that included fellow nominees, Charles During, John Lithgow, James Mason and Robert Preston, Gossett said: "all you other four guys, this is ours".

Backstage, Gossett said: "I consider it the birth of my career, not the culmination. I don't know how to act as the favorite in anything. I've always been the underdog.

Gossett made his film debut in 1961 in "Raisin in the Sun" and has made 12 movies.

Estes concert cancelled; wife ill in Switzerland

Simon Estes, the international opera star was forced to cancel his concert suddenly this Sunday at the Meyerhoff Concert Hall. He also had to cancel several other engagements including singing the lead role in "Boris Godounov" with the Metropolitan Opera at the Kennedy Center in D.C.

Norman Ross, head of the Urban Services Cultural Arts Program told the AFRO that Estes' wife is going to deliver their baby any day now in Zurich, Switzerland and the doctor advised that there would be complications and advised that he should be present.

"Ross says "we're going to miss a great talent". He also said that his program will lose some printers and advertising costs and a non-refundable fee to the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall.

He said they had hoped to realize two to three thousand dollars from this program.

Thirty years ago folks in the Iowa city of Centerville (Pop. 6,558) knew Simon Estes as the "skinny black kid who sings".

They would not dream that he would turn from a boy soprano into an international opera star. He would have been singing at the Meyerhoff this Sunday, but it was cancelled.

In November of 1982, he returned to his hometown for a concert and Simon Estes Days. As a surprise he invited his 72-year old mother to stage to accompany him.

"I've sung before presidents and kings and had a private audience with the Pope," he had earlier told students at Lakeview Elementary School. "I've met Elizabeth Taylor, the Kennedys and Muhammad Ali. But there is nothing as moving to me as coming back home to sing, because you are responding to me personally."

Estes' roots go deep into America's past. His grandfather had been a slave in Missouri before the Emancipation Proclamation and his father an impoverished coal miner turned porter and chauffeur. The Estes home was without running water and the family's only source of fuel in winter was the scrap coal that fell off trucks at the mines. But there was an upright piano in the living room on which Simon's mother, Ruth, played hymns and encouraged her five youngsters to sing along. By age 8, Simon was a regular in the Second Baptist Church choir



Bates outside AFRO office with from (L) Mrs. Beverly Douglass Baltimore's Office of Tourism; Ida Peters, AFRO Entertainment Editor; Glenn Doughty; Bates and Thomas Saunders, City of Baltimore Community Relations Commission.

Bruce Hawkins in.....

Baltimorean Bruce Hawkins has been cast in the pre-Broadway production of Melvin Van Peebles' new musical, "The Champeen."

"The Champeen", also known as "the two-fisted musical," parallels the life history of blues singer Bessie Smith and fighters Jack Johnson and Joe Louis. The play, choreographed by Louis Johnson ("Purlie," "Treemonisha"), is being produced by Woody King's New Federal Theatre at New York's Henry Street Settlement.

The musical, written, directed and co-produced by Melvin Van Peebles ("Ain't Supposed to Die a Natural Death," "Waliz of the Stork," "Sophisticated Gents") features veteran performers Ted Ross ("The Wiz," "Aribur"), Ruth Brown ("Blues in the Night," "Hello, Larry"), and Sandra Reaves Phillips ("One Mo' Time," "Raisin").

Bruce made his professional acting debut as Clorox in the national tour of "The Me Nobody Knows," after completing the Center Stage run as Lloyd. Bruce has also been seen as the Scarecrow in "The Wiz" and is currently ballet master of the Fred Benjamin Dance Company. He has been seen nationally on Texas, Another World, The Guiding Light and The Edge of Night and Bruce has worked in nightclubs and recordings with Cheryl Lynn and Sister Sledge. He was a featured singer dancer in Cab Calloway's "The Cotton Club Revisited,"

Bruce will also be seen this fall in Columbia Pictures "The Survivors," starring Robin Williams and Walter Matthau.



'The Champeen'

Celebrities....

Lou Gossett who won an Oscar Monday night was ecstatic on being a winner and thanked several people including "my great-grandmother who died at age 117 and my mom and dad, who I know are watching." Other winners:

Lou - Gossett's nomination touched off a celebration (March 29) in the Hollywood production community with a reception hosted by the Beverly Hills-Hollywood Chapter of NAACP, the Media Forum and Washington D.C. based businessman and promoter A. L. Nellum. Last year the group honored Howard Rollins who was nominated for "Ragtime." Only 18 blacks have been to garner a Oscar nomination and only three have won.

Sidney Poitier introduced Gossett and told of his own feelings 20 years ago when he was in "touching distance of an Oscar".

Gossett recalled meeting and performing with Poitier 20 years ago at the Belasco Theatre in New York in "Raisin in the Sun". Poitier said, we "honored our own because of their tenacity".

The tribute was paid for by Nellum who owns Talma Productions. Paramount Pictures which produced "An Officer and a Gentleman" played no role in the event.

Paramount Pictures which produced "An Officer and a Gentleman" played no role in the event.

Other Oscar Winners

Best picture- "Gandhi"

Best Actor- Ben Kengsley, "Gandhi"

Best supporting actor- Louis Gossett Jr. "An Officer and a Gentleman"

Best actress- Meryl Streep- "Sophie's Choice"

Best supporting actress- Jessica Lange "Tootsie"

Best director- Richard Attenborough - "Gandhi"

Best original screenplay- John Briley- "Gandhi"

Original score- John Williams- "E.T."

Sound effects editing- Charles L. Campbell and Ben Burtt,- "E.T."

Original song- "Up Where We Belong" from "An Officer and a Gentleman"

It was "serious business" at the recent celebration of hitmeister Quincy Jones' 50th birthday,



Sidney Poitier



Pam Grier

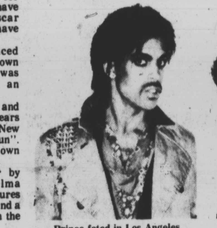


Quincy Jones

with the ample libation, what more could one ask for? Well, for starters, there was a battery of dancers who undulated to the latest dance music throughout the star-studded evening.

Some of the stars undulating on the dance floor were Saturday Night Live, 48 HRS, star Eddie Murphy, actor Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs, Earth, Wind & Fire's Larry Dunn and Verdine White, Bruce "The Boss" Springsteen, Miami Steve (Little Steven) Van Zandt, Stevie Nicks, actor, former NFL star Jim Brown and a host of other celebrities and record company brass. The healthy number of public figures, movers and shakers and assorted L.A. cognascenti on hand harkened back to the Hollywood days gone by but also pointed out that Prince has earned considerable respect in varying circles. It was quite evident that the grooming Warner Bros. has undertaken to bring this artist to fruition has thus far been successful. Perhaps a highlight of the gathering was one of the last dances, where Prince and Stevie Nicks shared some steps, while Vanity of sister group Vanity 6 wiggled on the fringes of the dance floor. On a night replete with performance, it would not have been absolute without jprince dancing to his own recorded music.

DEAD- Lois Towles, 70, former concert pianist, died March 18 in her sleep at her San Francisco home. During the 1940s and 1950s she performed in New York concert halls and colleges throughout the south. She was a member of the music faculty at Fisk University and Tennessee State University in Nashville. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Richard Caesar, two brothers and four sisters.



Prince feted in Los Angeles



Lois Towles

which was held March 12-13 in his hometown Seattle, Wash. The two-day event was highlighted by a pair of concerts, including a black tie affair that raised $250,000 for his alma mater Garfield High School and Seattle Central Community College. Jones was accompanied during the black tie fete by the 90-piece Seattle Symphony, Qwest Records artists Patti Austin, James Ingram and Ernie Watts and a host of other musicians who've performed with the Grammy-winning producer ...Capitol Records artist O'Bryan, who found his way to the table with the help of Soul Train producer and host Don Cornelius, is returning the favor, having recorded "Soul Train's A Comin'" as the syndicated TV show's new theme. The song is contained on his current album, "You And I" . . . Ohio Players founder and proponent "Sugarfoot" will debut on Warner Bros. this fall with an LP titled, "Ragus." Sugarfoot is signed to an exclusive production contract with Troutman Enterprises, which is the umbrella for Roger, Zapp and more.

While Prince's opening date in Los Angeles last week (March 28) at the Universal Amphitheatre was a rousing example of consummate, if not ear-splitting, performance, the after show soiree at the Universal Sheraton Ballroom was where the real showmanship began. Fans who attended the sold-out show were dressed in the latest punk, funk, new wave and post wave regalia— ranging from the 2-tone Brit outfits to leather and lace. The ambience carried over to the after-party where management company Cavallo, Ruffalo & Fargnoli put out a spread better laid than Prince might have been by some of the nubile fans on hand for his show. From clams and oysters on the half sheli to shishkabob, there was no lack of fine food and service, and along

'Peg Leg' Bates visits senior citizens

By Ida Peters

Peg Leg Bates, 74, one of the world's best known dancers even thou he has only one leg spent four days in the Baltimore area this week.

His visit was sponsored by the City of Baltimore Community Relations Commission under Thomas L. Saunders. He visited the AFRO office surrounded by 50 adoring senior citizens from McCulloh Homes and East Baltimore on the red Baltibus on which he had toured the city starting at 9:30 a.m.

Clayton (Peg Leg) Bates retired from showbusiness in 1967 but in 1952 he established a 46-acre resort "Peg Leg" Bates Country Club in Kerhonkson, N.Y. in the heart of the Catskill Mountains. The resort includes swimming pools, a basketball court, picnic areas, indoor recreational facilities, a miniature golf course and a bandshell. But loads of people from Baltimore, Washington, Boston and New York visit every summer for a day of fun and frolic.

Last year more than 25 groups of senior citizens from Baltimore visited and that is the reason for his visit to Baltimore.

Bates has a sparkling personality and it was clear to all observers that the 50 people who visited the AFRO with him had had a good time at his resort. They lined up for kisses and autographs.

He had the same effect on some AFRO employees including Mrs Veronica Mason, Circulation Department clerk who came in during the interview to get a kiss and an autograph. Bates told her, "You have made my day". It was pointed out that Mrs Mason was not moved by Leon Isaac Kennedy or the Jacksons when they visited.

On Wednesday, Bates appeared at press sessions at Morgan State University Radio Station WEAA for an interview with Larry Dean.

(Continued on page 20)



Bates hugs Mrs. Mildred Parker and gives her an autographed place mat.