# Kids Talk

## Do you know this person?

She is Judith Berry Griffin.

She founded the organization "A Better Chance" in Boston, Massachusetts in 1963 to help promising minority students gain entry into 170 of America's leading college preparatory schools to assure them the high quality education needed to successfully compete in college.

## Malcolm-Jamal Warner stars in Mother's Day show

Clockwise, Bernie Casey, Malcolm-Jamal Warner, Amber Kain and Denise Nicholas star in "Mother's Day," premiering May 13 at 8 p.m. eastern on The CBN Family Channel.

Her son stands accused of murder. The prosecutor is pushing for the death sentence. And Elizabeth Sturgis must find the means to free her son, no matter what the cost.

"Mothers Day," a gripping murder mytsery-drama based on a true story, airs on The CBN Family Channel at 8 p.m. May 13, 7 p.m. May 14 (Mothers Day) and 8 p.m. and midnight May 19.

Malcolm-Jamal Warner of "The Cosby Show" portrays the son, Cullen Sturgis, a decent, hard-working young man looking forward to college in the fall.

Imagine his family's shock when police arrest him for the murder of Jerry, a 17-year-old boy, found stabbed to death in Aterton, a neighborhood of drugs and despair.

"I want to show audiences that there is more to me than Theo Huxtable," said Warner about choosing to play the role.

Warner fit the shooting of "Mother's Day" into time off from filming "The Cosby Show," in which he plays a teenager. "The Cosby Show" has been the country's top televison show for nearly five years.

Now 18 and a recent graduate from high school, Warner plans to take college classes and continue acting. He also wants to develop as a director. He has tried his hand directing music videos.

"Eventually I want to direct," he said. "But I feel I have to pay my dues first."

"Mother's Day" is a harrowing account of a mother's determination, courage and belief in her son.

Elizabeth Sturgis risks her life to save her son after the conviction comes through. She goes undercover in the old neighborhood, posing vicariously as a bag lady and a prostitute to find the real killer in the drug-related stabbing.

The drama is the first made-for-cable movie airing on The Family Channel. It is produced by The CBN Producers Group.

The movie also stars Denise Nicholas as the mother, Bernie Casey as the father, Melba Moore as the defense attorney, and Amber Kain as the sister.

## Color Me

## 'Brush of Innocence'

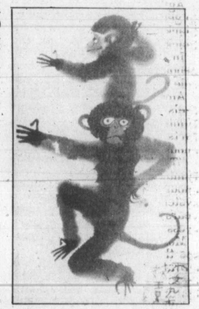
Yani at age 3 (1978) photographed at the Guangxi Province Museum, southern China.

"Yani: The Brush of Innocence," an exhibition of 69 colorful brush-and-ink paintings by the child prodigy Wang Yani, a 14-year-old Chinese girl, opens at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, a museum of Asian art at the Smithsonian Institution, on June 25 and continues through Oct. 22.

Born into an artist's family in the Guangxi province in southern China on May 2, 1975, Wang Yani started to paint at age 2 and had her first exhibition in her home province when she was 4. By the age of 6, she had produced 4,000 paintings.

She has no formal art training. From the time she was very young, she and her parents have visited the zoo frequently. Yani was immediately fascinated by the lions, tigers, peacocks and storks, but most of all by the monkeys. When Yani began to paint, monkeys became the repeated theme of her work.

There is no certain explanation for her rapid progression through many stages of artistic development, but her unusual productivity was fostered by early encouragement.



"Performing Acrobatics," painted by Wang Yani at age 4 (1979-80), ink and color on paper.

## Kids Calendar

### Musical Menu

Explore your natural musical creativity when the Levine School of Music presents "A Musical Menu for Children," on Saturday, May 13 from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m at 36th and R Streets, NW.

"Musical Menu" is a morning of open classes and demonstrations of the musical opportunities at the school for children one and a half to eight years old. The event is free. Call (202) 337-2227 for information.

### Creative Dance

The University of Maryland Office of Summer and Special Programs and the Department of Dance will hold the Creative Dance Lab Summer Workshops on the College Park Campus.

Children ages 4-9 will be offered creative movement and composition classes in the evening June 20-29 and July 18-27. For information. Call (301) 454-4056 for information.

### Discover Graphics

The sixth annual "Discover Graphics" Student Exhibition will open Saturday, May 20, in the Rotunda Gallery of the Smithsonian's National Museum on Natural History, and continue on view through July 20. Student artists will be on hand opening day, between 2-4 p.m., to demonstrate etching techniques. For information call (202) 357-3030.

### Afrocentric Summer

Discover Africa's past and present as you read folk tales and legends, learn about the great medieval civilizations, study geography, dance, sing, make musical instruments, eat, and experience the modern cultures of the continent June 19 through July 7 or July 10 through July 28 at the George Washington University Reading Center.

The summer program is for children in grades three through eight. To register and receive information call Judy Findlay (202) 994-6286.

### Math on the Mall

Spend an exciting three weeks discovering the mathematical concepts which are the basis for many monuments and exhibits on the Mall. Apply these concepts through art, mathematics and reading as you develop your critical thinking skills.

The program is for children in grades four through eight. Daily swimming instruction included. For information call Judy Findlay at (202) 994-6286.

## Puzzling???

Mother's Day Gift Ideas

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X R P S V S f g O W O W e
D F B S K l n X M F p s R
M G J K o i R A Q h u M L
T N Y w t A d O o o Z B m
d X e n X r B t l J t e V
L r i E a R o b U s o C W
s a e w B g A B a p A T s
p Z i s r S U f J K U g L
R n I a s E k c R S n X A
q I p U R a c U a i M M J
C h N N e s Z a r n Y B Z
S L X r E A o r r A d F Q
T J b J E T a n K d X y V
J H T W A e M Z g W M P Y
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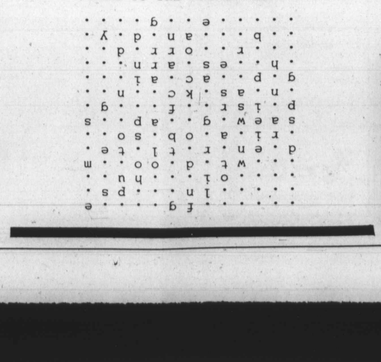
FIND THESE HIDDEN WORDS

IN THE ABOVE PUZZLE:

blouse
drawing
painting
breakfast
dress
photograph
candy
earrings
poem
card
flowers
song

HERE IS THE ANSWER KEY:



## Write to 'Kids Talk'

The school year is almost over and young people throughout the area will have lots of free time on their hands. No more homework! No more early rising! No more teachers!

How will you spend your summer vacation? Will you go to summer camp? Will you take swimming lessons? Will you watch cartoons everyday? Write us at the address below and let us know. We'll publish your letters in an upcoming issue of 'Kids Talk.'

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by Sherri Milner

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## SCHOOL OF THE WEEK

### The Boyse Mosley method

# Tough Love will turn the tide

By Delfield S. Yoes, III
AFRO Staff Writer

It's no secret that the Baltimore City Public School system is faced with some very important challenges.

What can be done to improve the system, how can it work to consistently produce competent, competitive individuals is an on-going dilemma.

The Joe Clark approach (minus the bat and bullhorn) suits Boyse Mosley, the principal of Northwestern High School, just fine.

"The Joe Clark image is indicative of how a principal in an urban environment has to operate," according to Mosley.

"Tough but compassionate is a style that I find to be effective," he continued.

Tough indeed. Constant discipline problems are never tolerated at Northwestern. "Bad kids can't be rehabilitated with the school system's current philosophy on discipline," says Mosley.

According to Mosley, he has successfully established a tone at the school of discipline and order.

Mosley's approach has drawn mixed reviews. At Northwestern's, "Back to School Day For Parents," most parents who participated in the event support Mosley's "tough love" approach.

A substantial number of others, by Mosley's own admission, do not.

Mosley says that his dissenters see him as an, "arrogant charlatan" among other things. What others see as arrogance, Mosley prefers to call confidence.

"This is what our youngsters need to see, confident, black males," states Mosley.

Agreed. Black youngsters in general, especially young, black males need positive, black males to emulate.

In Mosley's opinion, young people need more than just role models to be successful.

Among other things, Mosley feels that Superintendent Hunter's reorganization efforts have not gone far enough.

"The focus and thrust of Hunter's plans did not go far enough. We reorganize the system every three or four years and we make no progress," declares Mosley.

Mosley would also like to see the position of principal elevated to number two or three in the school system hierarchy.

"We should create a direct chain of command. I should be allowed to set priorities and objectives and if I don't meet them, get rid of me. Until we do this, we'll never turn the system around," Mosley states.

Mosley notes that, "slow progress" is being made academically at Northwestern. However, in the areas of citizenship and business the school is doing very well.

From February 1988 to February 1989, Northwestern has progressed from a citizenship ranking city-wide of 19 to a ranking of 7. The school is ranked number one among the comprehensive city schools.

Mary Otho, who handles public relations for Northwestern and acts as the citizenship liaison for the school and Social Studies department head, Richard Horowicz are the primary forces behind the citizenship effort.

Northwestern's business department ranks among the best in the city. Unfortunately, the department may not exist much longer at the school.

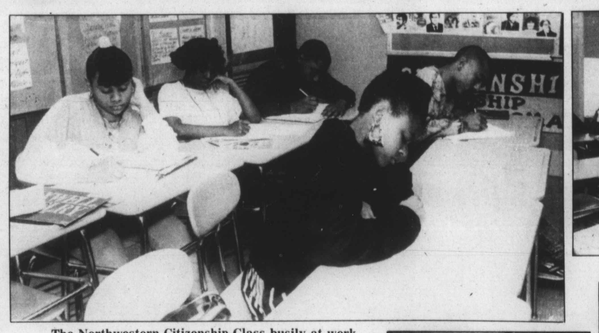
Business department head, Karen Lawrence, commented on the situation.

"Whenever cut-backs in the system take place, business is considered a non-critical area.

The business community does not feel that way, but we don't have the support of the school board," says Lawrence.

Ultimately, Boyse Mosley wants his students to read, write, perform math skills and think at grade level.

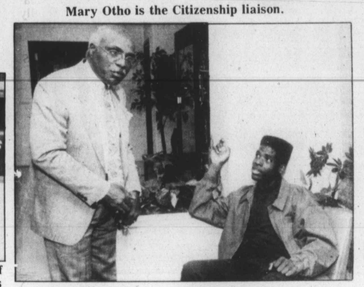
"I want these youngsters to be able to go out into the English speaking world and win. Give me the authority and I will produce. If I don't, then kick the charlatan out," says Mosley.



The Northwestern Citizenship Class busily at work.

Mary Otho is the Citizenship liaison.

Karen Lawrance is in charge of Northwestern's business department.



Principal Mosley counsels student, Artise El-Amin.

Northwestern teacher Joyce Poole observes students, Roslyn Irby and Anthony Grant, as they use a computer.

Northwestern High School principal Boyce Mosley fingers a point in his office.

AFRO photos by P.A. Greene

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