

Community Scene

Clubs & Socials

Alston Heights

The Alston Heights Community Organization will meet Thursday, January 27, 7 p.m., at the home of Mrs. Ruth Flowers, 2219 Emerson Ave. Officers for 1994 will be installed. The meeting will begin promptly at 7.

Lyon Park

Lyon Park Rose Garden Club met January 8 at the home of Gardener Alberta Buie. The Garden Gate was opened by Gardener Willie Sneed. Gardener Mae Webb, president, presided. She thanked the committee for well planned Christmas party. Six poinsettia were given to the sick and active members. Gardener Sadie Chambers gave some interesting hints on insect control. Gardener Buie was recipient of three blue ribbons Dec. 5 at the J.J. Henderson Flower Show — two different door wreaths, one French horn with live flowers. Lyon Park received first prize for the largest attendance. A trip is planned for June. Happy birthday was sung to Gardener Annie B. Green and Chantia Gibson. Others attending were Gardeners Dorothy Blakeley, Fannie Harris, Daisy Mitchell, Mary Coward, Lois Cozart, Margie Dawson, Willie McCullers, Della King, Willie B. Umstead, Louise Jones, Maggie McCullough, Marie Bradley, and Fannie Reed. Ms. Patricia Buie was a guest. The next meeting is scheduled for February 12 at the home of Gardener Sneed.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Wife Learned Activism At Antioch College

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) - Friends at Antioch College knew Coretta Scott King because of her music. And it was music that led Mrs. Scott into a life of activism and eventually to Martin Luther King Jr. Mrs. Scott left her Heiberger, Ala., home in the 1940s to attend the liberal southwestern Ohio college.

She was one of few black students on the Yellow Springs campus and did never lived with white students. "I felt very comfortable with the students," she said. "But it was a huge experience for a Southern black girl." Mrs. Scott's love of music and desire to develop her talent took her to Boston, where she met the charismatic King. But it was at Antioch where Mrs. Scott matured and honed the traits that readied her to step from King's shadow when he was slain in 1968. "I learned to adjust myself to whatever situation I found myself in, and my life since, every day I can't say what's going to happen because it's always unpredictable." Mrs. Scott and her sister Edythe Scott came to Antioch at a time when the university was struggling with its identity.

Robert Jordan, who started at Antioch in 1939 and later became a friend to Edythe Scott, said Antioch was known for its open admissions policy, but there were no black students at that time. Soon after, Edythe Scott received one of the university's first interracial scholarships. Coretta Scott followed her sister to the school in 1945 and gained a reputation on campus for her passion for music.

Coretta Scott was Antioch's first black student to major in elementary education, which required her to teach one year in an Ohio public school. She taught music her first year at the university's private elementary school. But she was not allowed to student teach in Yellow Springs public schools, although the students were integrated. School officials instead offered to send Mrs. Scott to a segregated school in nearby Xenia. She refused, and ended up staying at the private school another year.

"I was very disappointed. Antioch was not prepared to fight that situation. I was. I went all the way to the president.

"It probably made me stronger and helped prepare me for what I was to experience later in life," she said.

Mrs. Scott left the university in 1952 and went on to the New England Conservatory in Boston. It was there that she met King, then known as Martin Luther King Jr., through a mutual friend. He was getting his doctorate at Boston University.

Today, she is president and chief executive officer for the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, where the family makes its home.

Lani Guinier Says Silent Voices Must Be Heard

By Jacqueline Soteropoulos

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) - Lani Guinier, whose nomination to head Justice Department's civil rights division was withdrawn because of writings on voting rights, called her experience "a metaphor for what happened to many women of color." Speaking at a conference of black women academics, Guinier defended her writing and said that her experience was one of the first public opportunities she's had to do so. She also said she believed that if America had a chance to listen to her as a woman of color, she would have been better understood.

President Clinton withdrew Guinier's nomination in June in the face of mounting conservative opposition. He said he could not defend some of Guinier's writings about enforcing the Voting Rights Act, including giving minorities a weighted vote in areas with a history of discrimination.

Guinier, a University of Pennsylvania law professor, compared her silence following admissions not to defend herself or her writings, to the silence all black women experience in academia.

"What happened to me is not about me," Guinier said Thursday.

It was a metaphor for what has happened to many women of color." She called black women academics "the minority within a minority, whose existence had been swallowed with neutral terms used in education. Silence was the price of our presence." Organizers of the conference estimated that about one out of every three black women in academia traveled to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for the one-day event that began last Thursday.

Many of the 2,000 conferees said they were the only black woman faculty member at their colleges and universities across the nation, said Evelyn Hammonds, an organizer and assistant professor of science history at MIT.

"The reason that African-American women scholars could relate (to Guinier) is because they're not the only ones who've had these experiences - often when they speak up and speak forcefully, they're stereotyped and silenced," Hammonds said.



PASADENA, CALIF. — Whitney Houston accepts the entertainer of the Year Award at the 26th Annual NAACP Image awards. Ms. Houston also won awards for Outstanding Female Artist, Outstanding Soundtrack Album and Outstanding Album (the Bodyguard™) as well as Outstanding Music Video (I'm Every Woman™). The awards show, which took place on Wednesday, January 4, at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, airs on Saturday, January 22, at 11:30 p.m. on NBC-TV.

New Census Data Offers Insight On Single-Parent Households, Race

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - A University of Minnesota study that compares census data over the past 130 years is providing new insights into the debate over the swelling of single-parent households, particularly among blacks.

From 1880 to 1960, the proportion of black children living with a single parent held steady around 30 percent, according to the new research. During the same time, the proportion of white children living with one parent stayed at about 10 percent.

But in recent years, those figures have climbed - to 63 percent for black children and 19 percent for white.

The new study by Steven Ruggles, a history professor, is part of a university project that, for the first time, allows scholars to compare census data back to the 1860s.

"The key categories of black household structure - single parent and extended - were remarkably stable, at least through 1960," the study said. "This supports recent studies which have argued that the distinctive features of the African-American family have deep historical roots." Still, black children historically were still two to three times as likely to live with just one parent as were white children, said Ruggles. And in all census years, white households were less fragmentary or extended than black households, he said. Theories on why have been the subject of much debate, and include the ravages of slavery on black families and other economic or cultural factors.

"The analysis confirms the findings of recent studies that the high incidence of single parenthood and

children residing without parents among blacks is not a recent phenomena," Ruggles concludes.

The issue of race and single-parent families has been the subject of enormous controversy. A disproportionate number of black children have been raised by single parents, a trend that can lead to family instability and poverty.

Ruggles' study does not address whether that is because of culture, values, racism or the legacy of segregation. Instead, he is more concerned with illustrating the differences in black and white households in the past century.

The study showed that: -Starting around 1940, black children were increasingly likely to live in a home without a father.

-In white households, 8 percent of the children between 10 and 14 lived with their mothers only in 1940, compared with 15 percent in 1990.

-The extended black family, often considered a source of strength and stability, has declined steadily since 1940, as has the white extended family.

The issue of race and family hit the spotlight in 1965, when the Assistant Labor Secretary Daniel Patrick Moynihan wrote a report that blamed the deteriorating quality of life in inner-city black communities to a "tangle of pathology" in the black family.

The report attributed the "pathology" to a legacy of slavery, humiliation and unemployment that led to most lower-income black families being headed by women. The report sparked a heated national debate that continues today.

Dear Debbie

LETTERS TO DEBORAH WHITE

Dear Debbie: I'm a 26-year-old woman. My boyfriend is 21. We have two beautiful girls, 4 and 5 years old, who live with his parents. Sometimes I don't even get to see my kids because of their rudeness.

My boyfriend works, pays the rent and puts food on the table for both of us. But he lies and he's cheating on me.

I'm ready to leave him and get on with my life. But I love him too much. So my plans are, leave him, get a job so I can pay my own rent and get my kids back.

I'm hurt he cheats on me and I still take him back. I feel so empty inside. I feel like I lost my kids and him. — Alone and Hurt

Dear Alone and Hurt: You better have plans. This man has both feet out the door.

His parents have custody of your children now and are likely to get legal custody. So you won't get child support. You're not married, so you won't get alimony.

You didn't say why his family is raising your kids or why you haven't been working. Is it because you have a drug or alcohol problem? If you do, get straight. If you don't, get moving.

Find a counselor who specializes in helping women rebuild their lives. You'll need someone who believes in you and who knows the legal system to help you get your kids back.

Take that first step to help yourself. I promise you it will give you back what you need most, self-respect.

Dear Boyfriend: I'm worried because I think I might be ugly. Every girl has a boyfriend, but I don't.

I consider myself nice, a little pretty, reasonable sometimes and full of life. I want a boyfriend who will like me for who I am, who will adore me and whom I can trust. Good-looking, of course, and won't do drugs or smoke. Plus, who would take me places.

I think I may have to wait for this boyfriend. But I've already been waiting two and one-half years. I will be 17 soon. Give me some advice. — Boyfriendless

Dear Boyfriendless: I love your list. Here's mine:

1. Scope out a guy you're attracted to. Be as aggressive as you're comfortable being. If he's not interested, don't take it personally. You're just not his type. Try again.
2. Be yourself, but be interested in others. Most people love talking about themselves. Learn how to really listen.
3. Lighten up. Guys like girls who know how to enjoy life and have fun.

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FACING REALITY

JEANINE WOKED UP IN A COOL SWEAT WITH ONE THING EQUATING THROUGH HER BEAN... WHO WINS THIS PRISON IN HER BATHROOM? ...

MEANWHILE BARRY WAS THINKING... WHOSE SEVERED AM I IN?

JEANINE REMEMBERED GOING TO A PARTY AND GETTING SMASHED OUT OF HER MIND...

BARRY REMEMBERED GETTING DRUNK AND ACTING REALLY STUPID...

EVENTUALLY THE WHOLE EVENING CAME BACK...

WHAT DID I DO? HOW DID I GET MYSELF INTO THIS?!

WHAT ABOUT... WHAT ABOUT... WHAT ABOUT AIDS!

THEN THEY BOTH REALIZED MUCH TO THEIR RELIEF THAT UNLIKE THE REST OF US...

THEY WERE JUST CARTOON CHARACTERS!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 1-800-662-HELP

GET HIGH GET STUPID GET AIDS

AA COUNCIL NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES