

THE DEATH OF GLORIA POINTER

DECEMBER 6, 1984

Mommy, Speak For Me...

Mommy speak for me,
Tell the world of the pain
That I felt with the blow to my head
As he left my body in the rain

Mommy speak for me,
Even though my body is not there
Please find someone who will listen
There must be someone, somewhere

Mommy speak for me,
Not just for me, myself and I
For there are so many children like myself
Who want to know the reason why

Mommy speak for me,
For was I bad, did I deserve to die that way?
Maybe you can get someone to tell you
Why children are abused in the world today

Mommy and if they won't listen
Don't hang your head in shame
Just always know that I love you
And you did try, just the same.

Yvonne Pointer





I'll lend you for a little time a child of mine, Christ said,
For you to love the while she lives, and mourn for when she's dead.

It may be six or seven years, or twenty-two or three,
But will you till I call her back, take care of her for me?

She'll bring her charm to gladden you, and shall her stay be brief,
You'll have her lovely memories as solace for your grief.

I cannot promise she will stay, since all from earth return,
But there are lessons taught down there I want this child to learn.

I looked the wide world over in my search for a teacher true,
And from the throngs that crowd life's lane, I have selected you.

I know you will give her all your love, not think the labor vain,
Nor hate me when I come to call to take her back again?

I fancied that I heard you say;
'Dear Lord, Thy will be done,
For all the joy thy child shall bring,
The risk of grief I'll run.

I'll shelter her with tenderness,
I'll love her while I may.
And for the happiness I've known,
Forever grateful stay.

But shall the angels call for her,
Much sooner than I planned,
I'll brave the grief that comes, and try to understand."

Gloria Pointer, 14, 's 14th been age g'r killed

By MARGARET WILLIAMS

Hundreds of school friends and teachers attended the funeral rites of 14-year-old Gloria Evette Pointer, whose partially-clothed body was found on Thursday, December 6. The grieving mother expressed her feelings in the following letter which has been slightly altered for publication:

"Dear Gloria, there are not many who have been blessed to feel the joys and sorrows of motherhood. But for almost 15 years I was graced to have the experience because of you, my precious daughter, Gloria Pointer.

"I found you to be an obedient child. One, who when in the wrong, was willing to amend your ways. You were easily instructed; and well-loved by many. You had a gigantic appetite for life. You used your days to fulfill your desires, while maintaining a clear view of the future - of your hopes and dreams. You used your goals in life as a candle to guide you through the dark paths of this world in which we live."

"Yes, you gave your very best in everything you did.

"So do I, Gloria; and I promise you that I will give my all." The

letter was signed simply, "Mommy."

Gloria Evette Pointer was born on February 25, 1970, to Yvonne Pointer and Gary Mills. She accepted Christ when she was very young and in 1975, joined Prayer Temple Church of God in Christ. She was a member of the New Direction Choir, the Junior Usher Board, and worked as a junior aide in the children's nursery. She was also a member of the Purity Class and a faithful student of Sunday School No. 4.

She was thought of as a compassionate child because of the friends she ran for her neighbors. She loved people and was often seen delivering soup to her neighbors who were ill.

She was a student at Harry E. Davis Junior High and some of her activities included: being a member of the track team, basketball team and the cheerleaders. Gloria was also a faithful aide to her teachers. On the day of her death, she was to receive a "perfect attendance" award.

She is survived by her mother, Yvonne Rashid; father, Gary

Mills; a caring stepfather, Nadir Rashid; a loving brother, Raymond Pointer; a darling baby sister, Danyale Rashid; grandparents both maternal and paternal, aunts, uncles, cousins and other members of the family. She also leaves a dear friend, DeShawn.

Included in the number of bereaved are her school friends at Harry E. Davis and members of her church family. The eulogy was delivered by Elder J. Boyd and Ministers J. Smith and J. Mack. The New Directions Choir, M. Boyd, R. Priest and C. Frazier also participated in the final rites. Expressions of sympathy were delivered by selected officials.

The principal at Harry E. Davis spoke of Gloria as being a lovely child. "Yes, she was a thoughtful, outgoing, involved, child-girl. We will miss her," he commented.

Gloria's body, when found (about three-and-a-half hours after she left for school) was partially clothed in only a shirt and socks.

A custodian who said he had heard a noise, at one point, later investigated the East 105th Street building in question where he found the half-nude body of Gloria.



GLORIA POINTER

Girl, 14, is beaten to death

By KATHERINE L. SIEMON
and JANET KOLODZY
STAFF WRITERS

A Harry E. Davis Junior High School pupil was found beaten to death yesterday morning, about 2 1/2 hours after she started to walk to school.

Gloria Y. Pointer, 14, of E. 114th St. was found partially undressed in a back stairwell leading to the basement of an E. 105th St. apartment building.

Homicide detectives said they do not know if Gloria's death was related to the deaths and rapes of at least three other young girls in recent months.

Gloria, who was to have received a perfect attendance award when she arrived at school yesterday, began her 15-minute walk to school slightly earlier than usual so she could stop at a girlfriend's home to get a comb for a new hairstyle, said her mother, Yvonne Rashid.

Gloria called the friend just before she left home about 7 a.m. When she did not arrive, the girl went to school and told officials. She said she wanted to call Gloria's mother.

School officials called the mother, about 8 a.m. and announced over the public address system that Gloria was missing and asked pupils who might have seen something unusual to come to the office.

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Gloria Y. Pointer

Girl killed

FROM PAGE 1-A

Gloria's body was found about 10:30 p.m. by an apartment building custodian. Some people in the building said they had heard a noise earlier and he was investigating whether someone had broken in.

Her body was clothed only in a skirt and socks. Her other clothes were found nearby. Dr. Lester Adelson, chief deputy coroner, said he could not immediately determine if the girl had been stabbed or otherwise assaulted.

"There is no question she was a victim of a vicious homicide," Adelson said.

Gloria's mother said her daughter walked to school every day but usually met several girls at the corner of E. 114th St. and Orrville Ave. The girlfriend Gloria was to visit lived just beyond the school, 10700 Clark Hill Ave. Gloria's parents said a teacher told them she saw Gloria about 7:10 a.m. at E. 114th St. with a man following a short distance behind.

"She was such a good girl, I never had a minute's trouble with her," said her mother who sat with friends and relatives who had come by her home to offer support.

Bobby J. McDowell, the school's principal said Gloria was a cheer-



Yvonne Rashid is comforted by her mother, Luella Pointer, after learning of the death of her daughter.

leader and was very active in student council. "She was just a fine student," he said. "We had a recognition program this morning and she was to be honored for perfect attendance."

"This is a terrible thing to happen, the type of thing we dread," said Deputy Schools Supt. Seymour Freedman. "We hope the individual who did this is caught and dealt with severely. Our hearts go out to the family."

McDowell said Gloria's death was an isolated incident. He said the only problems the school has had are some gang fights.

Gloria's mother said she was upset

with the schools for making starting time too early. She said it has been dark when Gloria leaves to go to school by 7:15.

"How many of these girls have to die before they listen?" she said.

Gloria was the fourth teen-age girl to be abducted and killed in Greater Cleveland in recent months.

Trina Middleton, 14, who was stabbed in Forest Hill Park, was the only one of the other victims killed in the city.

Two others were killed in Bedford Heights and Newburgh Heights, police said.



GLORIA POINTER

Born: 2-28-70

Died: 12-6-84

Time has helped to heal
our hearts.
Since you have gone
away
We don't cry as we did
when we received the
news that day
We miss you so very
much
as you probably know
And we look forward to
seeing you again
For the Bible tells us so.

Love

The Pointer Family

The tears still flow

I recently had the pleasure to attend a Debutante Ball held at Stoufflers Inn on the Square. An inspiring young lady in our community, Ms. Lawanda Carter, had extended me an invitation to come and witness the gala event.

The beauty that my eyes beheld on that night is hard to minimize. Those 35 young Black girls descending the staircase, wearing lovely white gowns, with long stemmed roses embraced in their arms, was a breathtaking sight.

I watched them as they descended and were greeted by their fathers, who escorted them onto a huge dance floor. They were presented to the audience, who generously gave them round-after-round of applause.

Then, there was the waltz. The swaying of white gowns, trimmed in lace and satin was beautiful. How beautiful the night was — but only momentarily it seemed.

Soon after the beautiful event began, the ever present reality that I am con-

stantly aware of, surfaced. That reality was the reminder that one girl would never descend another staircase. Her privilege of doing the waltz with her father or even to wear satin and lace has been taken away.

I felt the tears swell in my eyes. Yes, for a moment I had felt happiness. Can you believe I still cry. I still hurt and yes — I still miss her very much.

I speak of my daughter, Gloria Pointer, who was brutally slain on December 6, 1984. Not only do I remember, but thank God for Bessie Middleton and Pat Cross, who graced my home this past Saturday and shared a day with me which would have been Gloria's 17th birthday.

I also thank God for all of her friends who filled my car to journey to the cemetery to place flowers on her grave in remembrance.

So you see, after all this time — the beat goes on, yet the tears still flow.

Yvonne Pointer
Cleveland

Detective can't forget slaying of girl in '84

Cleveland Detective Janice Abernathy keeps a picture of Gloria Pointer on her desk at the 5th District Police Station.

Gloria, a cheerleader with perfect school attendance, was only 14 when she was slain Dec. 6, 1985, on her way to classes at Harry E. Davis Junior High School.

"I talk to her mother at least once a week," Abernathy said of the unsolved homicide she's determined to close. "I want people to be reminded and to remind myself that a murderer is out there on the loose."

Abernathy has several theories about who killed Gloria, but she declined to discuss them.

Abernathy is not the first in her family to wear a badge. Her father, Verlin Peterson, was a longtime policeman in the 5th District. He collapsed of a heart attack while on the job in 1969 and died at age 42. Abernathy's brother, Verlin Jr., is now assigned to the 3rd District.

Abernathy said she finds the challenges of police work rewarding.

During her 15 years in the Police

Janice Abernathy



■ Age: Mid-40s.

■ Is a Cleveland native and graduate of John Adams High School. Attended

Cleveland State University for a year.

■ Is a registered cytologist and a member of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

■ Is health-conscious and bent on staying in shape. Her hobbies include weight lifting, bodybuilding and swimming.

Department, she has worked in the juvenile, homicide and vice units.

"I've investigated all kinds of cases, from petty theft to sexual assaults to homicides," she said. "But the best thing about the job is helping and protecting people."

— Dell Mosley

A mother remembers

Dear Editor,

This is a particular painful time of year for me; for this is the time when my daughter, Gloria Pointer, who was slain December 6, 1984, would be celebrating her sixteenth birthday.

My mind is filled with the memories of all the plans she and I had made together.

I am reminded of a young lady who was told that her first date would come at 16, and even then it would be chaperoned. Yet, she never rebelled, but anxiously awaited February 28, 1986.

Even prior to this year, whenever she thought of growing up and becoming a young lady, you could spot the gleam in her eyes a block away.

I wonder if the persons who brutally abuse and kill these children really wonder about just what they have taken away.

Gloria, like many other 14-year-old girls, had a tendency to look to the future; to dream of a better life for themselves, and yes, for their mothers. They look at life and see the vastness of what could be. At that age, they have no limits on expectations for they believe that the sky is the limit.

They trust innocently. Yet, look what it got them. You may wonder why I say them. Since Gloria's death, I have come in fellowship with fellow sufferers. The mothers and fathers who have had their child taken away.

God bless Bessie Middleton, Pat Cross, Shirley Williams, and yes, the mother of Gregory Thomas, along with the hundreds of others like us.

Those of us who know that the pain did not end with the closing of the casket. Those who are left to live with the reality that some animal so viciously hurt our children. Those of us who are left to wonder what their last words were — did they call for me — what could I have done to prevent what happened.

Those of us who know, even though we go through our day to day living, that our lives will never be the same. And yes, those of us who have to wonder who killed our children, especially those that are yet unapprehended.

How could they continue on as if they hadn't done anything, is a mystery to me. I wonder how they could even live with themselves.

I would like to thank my family, friends and her friends and teachers who are still here for me. And for all of you who shared in the memory column in the Call and Post, along with those who came to see about me.

Mostly I thank God, who has given me strength through it all. A special thanks to Janice Abernathy, who not only is a detective with a heart, but a friend with a caring soul.

Yvonne Pointer
mother of Gloria Pointer
Cleveland, Ohio

This suspect was charged only with one of the murders.

THE PLAIN DEALER, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1961

Suspect arrested in 4 girls' deaths

Police have arrested a Cleveland man who confessed his involvement in the recent killings of four black teenage girls.

He was arrested Tuesday night, but by last night police had not decided whether to charge him with any crime. Police spokesman Robert Bolton downplayed speculation that a four-time killer had been captured.

Last week, 11 men were arrested and questioned in the slaying and sexual assault Dec. 6 of Gloria Y. Frazier, a cheerleader at Harry E. Davis Junior High School. None has been charged.

The latest arrest, Bolton said, was of a man who wrote to police after the body of the second victim, Lucora C. Robinson, was found in Newburgh Heights in October. His letter promised information about a body at the Alena Permanent Castings Division plant, where the body was found.

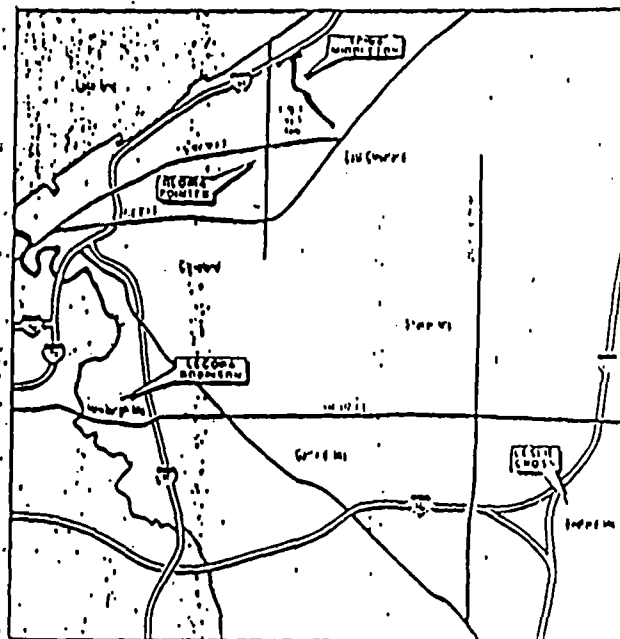
Police said they also used information in that letter to identify the girl and locate her mother.

Since then, Bolton said, he has written to two Cleveland TV stations to confess his participation in the slayings and warn that he feared he might kill again.

Detectives planned to question the suspect, Bolton said, to see if he could provide information about any of the four slayings beyond what the media reported.

They remained skeptical that the slayings were connected beyond the coincidence that the four victims were black and 14 years old.

The other two victims were Leslie Cross, whose body was found in late October in a Bedford Heights apartment building, and Trina Middleton, of Cleveland Heights, whose stabbed and strangled body was found Sept. 21 on the East Side.



Map shows locations of the killings of four black teen-age girls. A Cleveland man who confessed his involvement in the killings has been arrested.



Martice Alexander, 14: "Anyone comes after me I got something for them."

Kids can't be kids... ...When death lurks in dark

By CHRISTOPHER EVANS

STAFF WRITER

At 7:45 a.m. Friday, Martice Alexander, 14, turned to her friend Karma Blake, 12, as they were walking down Crawford Rd. to the school bus, and told her how her boyfriend wanted to buy her a gun for Christmas.

"He told me, 'I don't want to lose the only thing I love,'" Martice said, and Karma, head bent against the rain, said she would rather get some clothes and money for Christmas herself, but she could understand what he meant.

"Every time I see someone looking at me I think they're going to take me," Karma said.

Especially at that time of day. People loomed suddenly out of the dark, and the rain, even disappeared.

The way Gloria Pointer did a week ago Thursday. She, too, was on her way to Harry C. Davis Junior High School a little past 7 a.m. when she was abducted, raped and slain.

Since then the police have stepped up their patrols, and the school board has provided this bus to Davis that Martice and Karma were walking toward, their mothers hot on their heels.

"See that man over there, sitting in the car by the corner," Esther Alexander said. "What's he doing?"

"Looks like he's just starting his car," Patricia Blake said. "Don't get paranoid on me."

Children moved in clusters toward the bus and the police car parked in front of it. The closer they got, the louder they got. When they were on the street, they didn't make any noise at all.

"I tell them, 'Don't laugh and giggle on the way,'" Blake said. "Because once they get into their play they can't hear if someone comes up behind them."

"Martice didn't want to go to school," Alexander said. "I had to talk to her for a long time. You know, about being strong, about how you can't hide from things. I told her, 'You're going to have to deal with a lot of things you can't wait to, living in this neighborhood, but I can't see any way out of here.'"

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Martrice Alexander and Karma Blake are escorted to the school bus by their mothers.

Kids and fear

■ FROM PAGE 1-A

"Kids can't be kids no more," Blake said. "It's as simple as that."

Karma and Martrice climbed slowly on the bus, all the other children yelling at them and, over it, their mothers telling them to come straight home, no fooling around.

"Karma kept asking me, 'Why?' Blake wiped rain off her face. "I told her. The Lord took Gloria to show you something: what it takes to survive as a teen-ager today."

But still: why Gloria?
"I could maybe see it if it was one of the faster girls," one of Gloria's friends said. "But Gloria..."

She was active in student council, a cheerleader, smart, just 14 years old, not at all the type to flirt with disaster. The day she died she was going to be honored for perfect attendance.

"I feel funny if Martrice wears earrings or makeup," Alexander said, watching the bus through a cloud of exhaust fumes.

"Or those jeans they like to wear," Blake said. "Playgirl jeans. It makes them sound fast or something."

"You don't want them to wear nothing but a sack," Alexander said as the bus pulled out. "We're making them grown before their time."

"People keep telling me over and over the same old thing," Martrice said yesterday sitting at the kitchen table, picking at her fingernails. "Police came to our school, saying the same things over and over I heard all my life. I get so tired of listening to them. I know what to do. I wear bigger sized clothes. I cut down on the makeup. I wear shirts over my pants that make me look prepubertal."

Her friends call her "sissy" every day after school to make sure she made it home.

"I watch them. They watch me. We look after each other like brothers and sisters," Martrice said.

"Grown-ups think only grown-ups got opinions," Jean said. She is 13 years old and prefers that her last name not be used. "They act like we don't know anything. They treat us like kids."

"Anyone comes after me I got something for them," Martrice said. She holds up a plastic fork with a razor blade jammed between its tines. "I can slash good with this. Some boys say it's silly, but I told them it makes me feel better. I carry it in my hand when I'm out on the street."

Jean doesn't carry any kind of weapon, but, then, she doesn't walk anywhere. Her mother drives her. But both girls have a list of friends who now carry tear gas spray and razor blades and knives, all because of Gloria.

"I'm more serious now, more quiet," Jean said. "I don't feel like doing anything, school work, nothing. I'm sick of people talking about it. I just leave the room. I want to get out of that school."

"School's all changed," Martrice said. "Everybody walks around all gloomy and sad."

"Sometimes I don't think she died," Jean said. "Sometimes I think she's just gone away on vacation."

"I wanted to hold on to that cassette," Martrice said. "I wanted to wake her. I wanted to wake her up."

"It sure didn't look like Gloria," Jean said. "It sure didn't."

FOSTER HOMES

Foster homes are needed in Cuyahoga County. Social Services for Children, 1000 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44114, provides information and referrals. Call 421-5773.

Fifth Black Teen Murdered

Police have found no connection between the recent slaying of a 14-year-old East 114 Street teen and the slayings of three other black teen-age girls and two young black women.

Gloria Pointer was found dead Thursday, Dec. 6, by a custodian in a stairwell leading to a 1355 East 105 Street apartment basement.

Chief Deputy Coroner Dr. Lester Adelson said she died as a result of a blow to the head. She had also been a victim of a rape.

According to Detective James Svekric, the crime occurred between 7 and 10:40 a.m. The victim left home to meet a friend to walk to Harry E. Davis Junior High School at 10700 Churchill Avenue, but never made it to her friends house.

Her body was found at 10:40 a.m. A 45" piece of angle iron was also found near her body.

According to Detective Svekric, this recent homicide is not connected to the past slayings of three other Black 14-year-old girls and two young Black women this year.

The first slaying of a young Black female occurred in April with the strangulation death of Altonice Steward, 25.

Trina Middletown, 14, was killed in September, and Leslie Cross and Lecora Robinson, both 14, were killed in October.

Recently Shirley Hall, 19, was found strangled in her home earlier this month. Police are still looking for suspects in all five homicides. Members of the Pointer family are upset by what they see as the slow response to possible leads.

The recent string of unsolved homicides has brought on increased community concern for the safety of children going to and from school.

The Cleveland Board of Education has even offered a week long bus ride for Harry E. Davis students, which began Monday, Dec. 10. The bus picks up students at the Multi-Service Center at 8555 Hough Avenue at 7:30 a.m. until Friday, Dec. 14.

Family members describe the victim as a cheerful, outgoing youth. "She was just a happy person, well liked by everyone," her aunt Sylvia Pointer said.

On the day her death, she was going to school to receive an award for perfect attendance.

She was also a cheerleader, a member of the student Council, and she had just made the girls basketball team, her aunt said.

She also sang with the Prayer Temple Church of God and Christ choir located at 1337 Giddings Road, where her funeral was also held.

Schools to start 15 minutes later

Through the combined cooperation of employees represented by all unions of the Cleveland Public Schools, school hours will soon change.

All parties agreed that these changes be made to protect the safety and well-being of children in the Cleveland City School District.

On January 7, the first day after the winter break, all school hours will be adjusted to start fifteen minutes later in the morning. The fifteen minutes will be added onto the school day in the afternoon.

The change in school starting time was prompted by the murder of Gloria Pointer, December 6.

Pointer, a Harry E. Davis Junior High School student, was killed by an unknown assailant as she walked to school.

Pointer was the fourth 14-year-old student killed in recent

months. Trina Middleton, 14, was killed in September, and Leslie Cross and Lecora Robinson, both 14, were killed in October.

Three days after the Pointer murder, the Cleveland Board of Education offered Harry E. Davis students bus rides to school, which continued for a week.

On December 13 a strategy meeting was held between Superintendent Frederick Holliday and Cleveland Police Chief William T. Hanton to discuss ways to protect the lives of children going to and from school.

The meeting was a result of joint efforts by the superintendent, Cleveland Mayor George Volnovich, Cleveland City Council President George Forbes, and members of the Cleveland Board of Education, who met in the mayor's office Wednesday.

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Schools to start 15 minutes later

(Continued from Page 1A)

December 12.

"Operation Child Safe" was created and activated December 13. In the program the services of all city safety forces are focused on the schools.

According to school spokesman Pat Martin, Cleveland children in need of aid will have the same type of instantaneous response that a police officer in danger gets. Once a call is received that a child may be harmed, safety forces will converge on the neighborhood.

The "Operation Child Safe" program also utilizes the Unified Block Parent and School Watch Program of the Cleveland Public Schools and work in conjunction with the Block Watch Program already in effect by the City of Cleveland.

Members of the School Community Councils, Parent Teacher Associations (PTA), and staff of the Cleveland Public Schools will participate in the program and be eyes and ears in the community.

Each Cleveland Public School will also have safety assemblies. Students will be given safety tips monthly in each school. Public service announcements will be developed to broadcast safety tips to the general community.

To accommodate the school system's new starting time, parents should make sure that students report to bus stops no later than fifteen minutes after the originally scheduled time. Parents needing clarification on school hours and transportation

THE PLAIN DEALER, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1934

Police to beef up morning patrols for child safety plan

By HARRY STAINER
PLAIN DEALER

Last week's slaying of Gloria Y. Miller, 14, resulted in an agreement today by Cleveland to beef up its early morning police patrols while children are on the way to school and to make police more visible.

The additional security was one of the points worked out in a second meeting of city and school officials, led by Earl W. Williams, executive director of the city's Community Camera Board. Other points were a program by

school officials to give children and their parents safety tips and to create "safe homes" where children can run to in a program called Operation Child Safe, Williams said.

An earlier meeting Wednesday between the Board of Education and city officials, including Mayor George V. Voinovich, saw agreement that a \$10,000 reward would be offered by the board to find Gloria's killer. Yesterday, officials agreed the reward would be paid through the C. Stephens Program, although it would be much larger than the \$2,000

reward limit.

The money would be raised by the school board. Board President Alva T. (Ted) Bonds said raising the money would be no problem, adding that professionals had advised that the reward should be offered in an effort to solve the crime.

The children would be told how to act, recognize danger signals and to report unusual happenings, Bonds said.

Gloria was shot Dec. 6 after she left her home at 1114th St. to go to

a girlfriend's house before school. She was a cheerleader at Harry E. Davis Junior High School where she had perfect attendance.

Police also are working on the abduction and slaying of three other teen-age girls, including Trina Middleton, 14, of Cleveland Heights, whose body was found in Forest Hill Parkway in September. The others were killed in Bedford Heights and Newburgh Heights.

Police Chief William Hanton issued a statement saying there would be an increase in the uniformed patrol, including

beginning in the early morning hours. Heavy concentration would be given to primary routes used by schoolchildren, the statement said.

The increase would cover the entire city, Hanton said. And he urged parents to instruct their children not to take shortcuts through fields, parks and back alleys but to stay on main routes of travel to and from school.

Children will be urged to travel in pairs whenever possible, Hanton said.

The \$10,000 reward will be for information leading to arrest and conviction, Hanton said. Police have set aside a special number, 623-5700, to receive tips in Gloria's death. The number will be manned 24 hours a day.

The police department will not switch men to different shifts to increase the early morning patrol. Instead, it will change the starting hours of different units, said police spokesman Robert L. Dolton. The department would not reveal how many more men would be put on the street nor what the new starting hours be, Dolton said.

Stronger police 'weapons' urged

By STEVE LUTTNER
STAFF WRITER

Council President George Forbes said he might seek "stronger weapons" for Cleveland policemen because of the Dec. 6 beating death of a 14-year-old girl.

Forbes, D-9, said during a council meeting last night that he had tired of young people being beaten, raped and killed in the city. Gloria Y. Pointer, a student at Harry E. Davis Junior High School, was found beaten to death several hours after she had begun to walk to school.

"You can't cry for rights when young girls can't walk to school," Forbes said. "Somehow we must gain control of our city. I'm prepared to make some suggestions to the council that might not be palatable" to some segment of the community.

Police in Cleveland have long argued that they need a more powerful handgun to replace their standard issue .38-caliber service revolvers. Police have specifically requested being equipped with 9mm semiautomatic handguns.

Last March, council's safety committee refused to buy the weapons saying blacks were frequently the victims of police shootings. Forbes said then that Cleveland police would never get council authorization to

he might have to beef up the police department arsenal, but at least one councilman suggested that Forbes was taking the wrong approach.

"I don't think the answer is bigger guns," said Councilman Gary Kucinich, D-19. "You don't have enough police."

In a related development, Councilman Jeffrey D. Johnson, D-8, sponsored a resolution urging the Cleveland Board of Education to establish a security-safety patrol to protect the estimated 46,000 pupils in the school system who walk to school.

In other developments last night, council:

- Passed two resolutions regarding the recent decision by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Northern Ohio to reduce the coverage it offers at seven area hospitals. Five of the seven hospitals are within the city, and councilmen say that discriminates against the poor and the elderly who depend on these hospitals. The resolutions ask the state to reverse the health carrier's decision, and also urge Mayor George V. Voinovich to review the city's contract with Blue Cross to determine if another health carrier can offer less expensive coverage.

- Passed legislation enabling the city to advertise for bids for a com-

pany to supply cable television in Cleveland. The bidding process and debate that is certain to follow is expected to take months. A lawyer hired by the city to advise officials on the process said it would be at least a year before the first home in Cleveland is equipped with cable TV.

- Heard Forbes say during a finance committee meeting earlier that he thought there might be a need to increase council members' salaries. Councilmen now are paid \$23,954 a year, with a jump to \$25,000 a year Jan. 1, 1985. Forbes said he favors hiking councilmen's monthly expense account from \$600 to \$1,000.

Temporary buses continue after pupil slayings

A temporary bus service prompted by the slaying Thursday of Gloria Y. Pointer, 14, has been extended through this week, a Cleveland school official said yesterday.

The additional bus, for pupils in the E. 85th St. and Hough Ave. area, will leave at 7:20 a.m. every day through Friday from the Hough Multi-Service Center, 8555 Hough. The bus was to have run only yesterday and today.

Gloria, a cheerleader at Harry E. Davis Junior High School, was slain Thursday morning after she left

Safety Director Reginald M. Turner said Friday a special police homicide team was working on the killings of Gloria and three other area girls, all 14, but police spokesman Robert L. Dutton and Sgt. John Franzen, acting head of the homicide unit, said yesterday no special homicide team had been set up for that purpose.

Separate homicide teams are investigating the killings of Gloria and Trina Middleton, of Cleveland Heights, whose body was found in Fur-

Newburgh Heights police investigating the October killings of Leslie Cross and Leona C. Robinson.

"Right now, we have nothing to show they're interconnected," he said.

City schools will open later for safety

By KAHEN FARKAS

STAFF WRITER

Cleveland school pupils will begin and end their school days 15 minutes later beginning Jan. 7 in an effort to keep them off the street while it is dark.

School and union officials agreed to the change, which will last until March 1, said Patricia Martin, school spokesman.

She said representatives from all unions, including teachers, bus drivers and custodians, met yesterday with school officials and all agreed the changes were needed for pupil safety.

The action is one of many taken by the school system, city officials and the Cleveland Police Department fol-

lowing the killing of a junior high school pupil Dec. 6.

Gloria Y. Pointer, 14, had left her E. 114th St. home about 7 a.m. to go to a girlfriend's house before going to Harry E. Davis Junior High School.

Martin said that currently some high school classes start as early as 7:15 a.m. and most junior high schools start at 7:45 a.m. If pupils, especially younger ones, would leave home later than 7 a.m. to walk or wait for a bus, it is not as dark.

Supt. Frederick D. Holliday had earlier said he did not want to change the hours, but after talking with staff and determining that 15 minutes would make a difference, he decided

to support it, Martin said.

Pupils will attend school through next week and then take a Christmas break. School will resume Jan. 7.

Officials said moving the time any more than 15 minutes would affect elementary and kindergarten pupils who now leave school about 3:45 p.m. If the time were extended, they might have to walk home in the dark.

Martin said the schedule change would be for this year only. It could be made permanent by establishing it in the school schedule or negotiating with the unions.

Cleveland Teachers Union officials would not comment last night. Officials from the custodian and bus

driver unions could not be reached.

Leonard Stevens, director of the Office on School Monitoring and Community Relations, said he hopes the change will be effective.

"The problem is obviously a public safety problem, and my understanding is that school and police officials have worked out a variety of steps," he said. "Like anybody else, I hope they are effective, and the most effective would be to catch whoever did the crime."

Earl W. Williams, executive director of Cleveland's Community Relations Board, said he agreed with any steps that can make things safer for children.

"I am pleased to know the unions

have agreed to go along with the board," he said. "This is a positive effort and 15 minutes could make a lot of difference."

Cleveland police spokesman L. Bolton said the time change will help. Police will continue evening patrols and will give special attention to parents and children.

A meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the auditorium of the school administration building for any interested parents on the Child Safe, a program set up by the community relations board, said. Parents will learn safe ways to find and identify "safe" places where children can run if in danger.

Community seeks to solve Gloria Pointer's murder

Dear Editor:

This is addressed to the residents of Superior and Glenville area. We need your help.

My name is Art McKoy, chairman of the Black On Black Crime Committee. On December 6, 1984, Thursday morning around 7:00 a.m., Gloria Pointer, a fourteen-year-old teenager, left her home on East 114th Street and Orville Avenue to meet her girl friend and walk together to Harry E. Davis Junior High School on Churchill Avenue, where Gloria was to receive her perfect attendance award that day. She never arrived at either location.

Witnesses said that Gloria Pointer was seen on the corner of East 115th Street and Orville Avenue talking to someone around 7:30 a.m. About three and one-half hours later (10:30 a.m.), she was dead.



Most vital resource-youth-is being destroyed

Dear Editor:

The Black On Black Crime Committee has designated RED ARM BANDS to be worn to symbolize our dedication and determination to solving the murders of our women and children. Those Red Arm bands will be a constant reminder that our most vital resource (our youths) is being destroyed.

Much like the crisis in Iran, our community is being held hostage by these murders. That crisis in Iran took 444 days to resolve. We are prepared and determined to resolve these murders however long it takes.

I remember when little Trina Middleton was murdered. I was a patient at a hospital at the time, and as I sat there listening to the sad news being broadcast, one reporter's last comments that stuck in my mind was (I quote) "Yes, the community leaders and political figures are all out here in an outrage over this (Trina's) murder. But I wonder," Dave Solly said, "after all is said and done and the publicity dies down, will anything be resolved, or is it just lip service?"

I say to you today that I was shocked when three weeks later after I got out of the hospital, I realized that little Trina's death had almost been forgotten. I realized then how easy we forget and how we needed a symbol to remind us of these tragedies.

When I see how the mothers of MADD have organized and made a dent in this tragedy called drunk driving, why can't we organize to save our children?

I don't want to live in a city that is able to, in such a short period of time, forget about these dead children. I love Cleveland, but I can no longer live in a city that cares so little about the victims and their families of these children. I cannot live in a city with the assumption that if something happens to my little girls, my kids, that their murder might go

unsolved. Hear the words of Gloria Pointer's mother pleading, "let's save our children!" I can't live in a city like that.

One final note-I don't know about you, but I could not have a Merry Christmas and know that little Trina's murderer was out there having a Merry Christmas with me. I could not have a Merry Christmas and know that Little Cross' daughter, Patricia, would not be with him this Christmas. I could not have a Merry Christmas when I knew that Gloria, an honor student, on her way to school to receive her perfect attendance reward, never made it. Yet, her killer is still free. I could not have a Merry Christmas or a Happy New Year thinking of all the other women and children whose murders are unsolved.

Those RED ARM BANDS are not for everyone. This is not a fad. These Arm Bands are for sincere Black men dedicated to solving these murders, and we don't want more lip service, we want action!!

The RED ARM BAND is to be worn on the left arm. The color, red, represents the blood of our women and children. We will also place one flag pole with one single strip of red ribbon at the top on each in the Afro-American Cultural Garden to represent each dead child or woman whose murders still remain unsolved.

Art McCoy, Chairman
Black On Black Crime Committee
Foots Mitchell, Sgt.-at-Arms

OUR READERS WRITE

'Thank you' for caring

Dear Citizens of Cleveland:

On December 6, 1984, our precious Gloria Pointer, was taken away from her family by the hands of an obviously sick person in a brutal attack. Since that time, my family has received a tremendous amount of support, prayers, cards, and calls of sympathy from everyone.

It is impossible for us to begin to thank you Cleveland for everything. Mere words cannot express our deepest thanks to the Mayor's office, Cleveland City Council, E.F. Boyd & Son Funeral Home, Elite Limousine Service, Cong. Louis Stokes' office, The Cleveland Board of Education, Orwell Bus Service, churches and other religious organizations city wide and the citizens of Cleveland for giving us the strength to go on.

Our Gloria is gone, but we will continue to work and pray in order to bring to justice the person or persons responsible for the pain we have had to endure. With your continued prayers and support, I am confident we can make the City of Cleveland a safe place for our most cherished possessions, our children.

The Pointer-Rashid family has learned first hand that the citizens of Greater Cleveland are a loving, caring people and we are proud to be a part of this community.

Fourth girl's death prompts look at school hours, security

By RICHARD M. PEERY
STAFF WRITER

A Cleveland councilman suggested yesterday the school system should consider increased patrols in the wake of the killing of a junior high school pupil Thursday, while a school official said the district would support more help from police.

Board of education members called for a meeting with city officials to discuss the safety of schoolchildren, and a meeting of parents, police and others was set for Tuesday morning.

Police had no substantial leads in the slaying of Gloria Y. Pointer, 14, of E. 114th St., said Lt. Howard E. Rudolph, police homicide chief.

Gloria, a cheerleader at Harry E. Davis Junior High School, died of repeated blows to the head and neck, said Dr. Lester Adelson, chief deputy coroner. She had been sexually assaulted, he said.

Her partially undressed body was found about 10:30 a.m. Thursday in a back stairwell leading to the basement of an E. 105th St. apartment building. Police took a 45-inch piece of metal, believed to be the weapon, from the area.

Gloria, who was to have received a perfect attendance award Thursday, had left home about 7 a.m. to go to a girlfriend's house before school.

Councilman Jeffrey D. Johnson, D-8, said yesterday he would introduce a resolution to City Council Mon-

day urging that the school day start an hour later. He suggested that schools consider providing patrols in neighborhoods while children go to school.

"A great number of children must walk in the dark," he said.

Starting time at Davis is 7:45 a.m. Some Cleveland high school classes start as early as 7:15 a.m., and elementary schools start at 8:30 a.m., a school spokesman said.

The staggered hours are needed because most buses make two runs each morning, said Deputy Schools Supt. Seymour Freedman.

If starting times were set back, elementary pupils might not get out of school until 4:45 p.m., Freedman said. The system would have to double its bus fleet if it did not stagger the hours, he said.

The schools do have a small security staff outside in the mornings, but Freedman said there was not enough money or staff to provide patrols. He said the schools would support Johnson if he recommended more help from police.

Safety Director Reginald M. Turner said school board members Mildred R. Madison, Stanley E. Tozilver and Edward S. Young wrote him yesterday requesting a meeting on security. Madison said the three want the entire school board to meet with Turner and Mayor George V. Volnovich.

Turner said parents, school offi-

cialists met at Davis to discuss the safety of school children.

Parents in Hough have met with police about school safety and have developed some suggestions, Turner said. The suggestions include urging pupils to walk in groups and along prescribed routes, having parents on the streets while children go to school and urging children to catch school

buses at one stop rather than at scattered stops, he said.

Turner said a special police homicide team was working on the killings of Gloria and three other area girls, although Rudolph said there was no apparent connection among them.

Services for Gloria will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Prayer Temple Church of God and Christ, 1337 Gliddings Rd.

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STAFF WRITER

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A meeting will be held on Tuesday in the auditorium of the school administration building for any interested parents on Child Safe, a program set up by the community relations board. Parents will learn safe ways to find and identify "safe" places where children can run if in danger.

School board sets \$10,000 reward in girl's slaying

The Cleveland Board of Education is offering a \$10,000 reward for the killer of Gloria Y. Pointer, 14.

Gloria, of E. 114th St., was raped and slain last Thursday on her way to Harry E. Davis Junior High School, where she was a pupil.

Another attack on a schoolgirl about 7 a.m. yesterday was foiled when the victim, 15, struggled and got away from a man who grabbed her on her way to a bus stop at W. 59th St. and Bridge Ave. The man followed the girl part of the way as she ran toward her Ellen Ave. home.

The girl told police she had seen the man lurking in the neighborhood Tuesday evening.

Lawyer Stanley E. Tolliver, a school board member, announced the reward for Gloria's killer at a meeting last night of the Schools Community Relations/Community Resources Committee. About 35 parents, grand-

parents and young people at the meeting were told a security plan to better guard pupils would be presented to the board at its meeting Wednesday.

Tolliver said the reward was discussed at a meeting yesterday afternoon of school officials with Mayor George V. Voinovich.

"We felt that kind of money might loosen some tongues," he said.

Schools Supt. Frederick D. Holliday said at the meeting he would meet with the mayor and city safety officials to work on a plan involving parents "under which children will be watched so they will be protected going to school and coming back."

Several parents voiced concern about the sparse protection provided their children by the schools, slow response by police and the fact that police cars do not patrol bus stops where children wait for transportation in the mornings.

Girl's slaying spurs more bus service

The Thursday slaying of Gloria Y. Pointer, 14, has spurred the Cleveland Board of Education to provide temporary, additional bus service for pupils who live in the E. 35th St. and Hough Ave. area. Gloria attended Harry E. Davis Junior High School.

Patricia A. Martin, spokesman for the school district, announced yesterday that a bus will leave the Hough Multi-Service Center, 8555 Hough Ave., at 7:20 a.m. tomorrow and Tuesday.

Gloria's body was found on the back stairwell of an apartment building on E. 105th St.

The Cuyahoga County Coroner's office reported that she died from blows to her head and neck. She also had been sexually assaulted, said chief deputy coroner Dr. Lester Adelson.

Because classes begin at Davis at 7:45 a.m., Gloria left home in the darkness.

A meeting of parents, school officials and police over the safety of Davis pupils will be held soon. It was scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday but has been postponed because services for Gloria are to be at 1 p.m. that day.



STATE SENATOR LEE I. FISHER

to:

YVONNE POINTER

IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

ON BEHALF OF THE ADAM WALSH CHILD RESOURCE CENTER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee I. Fisher", written over a horizontal line.

State Senator Lee I. Fisher
25th Senate District

MIDNIGHT

BASKETBALL

MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL HISTORY

The Midnight Basketball League was born in 1986 out of a need to fight an escalating crime rate and to provide an alternative to night time activity in Glen Arden, Maryland. The League was the brainchild of then City Manager G. Van Standifer. He noted that crime peaked between 10:00 P.M. and 2:00 A.M. Van Standifer further noted that youth ages 17 to 25 were the principle perpetrators. With that, a basketball league was formed.

The success of the program promoted the spread of the idea to Washington, DC and other cities. As crime rates dropped, educational and vocational elements were added.

Cleveland was one of the municipal pioneers. Today, more than 42 cities have established Midnight Basketball Programs.

MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL LEAGUE

The Midnight Basketball League (MBL) will operate its third season in 1993. The program, a proactive one by nature is geared towards unemployed and underemployed men between the ages of 18 and 25. Lonnie Burten (2511 East 46 Street) and Thurgood Marshall (8611 Hough Avenue) and Cudell (1910 West Boulevard) Recreation Centers will serve as host sites. The pilot program was featured at Burten in 1991 while Thurgood Marshall was brought on-line in 1992. The success of the Midnight League has prompted expansion to Cudell in 1993.

The League will tip off again in September 1993 at three locations. Each site will operate a six-team league with 12 member rosters. Game times will again range from 10:00 P.M. to 2:00 A.M. However, the Midnight League is more than a recreational activity. Basketball is the attractive hook to much broader goals. Fundamental to Midnight Basketball are the following

- Helping participants to become more productive members of society.
- Facilitating job development, training and preparation for employment opportunities.
- To counsel in a variety of areas such as drug and AIDS awareness, parenting, communication skills, G.E.D. preparation and mock interviews.
- To provide a comprehensive structured program which would result in a productive alternative to antisocial, deviant, and criminal activities for young males between the ages of 18 and 25.
- To develop and provide a network and wide array of social support services which would enhance the quality of life of the participants.

The above goals are accomplished by a variety of means. Workshops on game nights introduce and reinforce issues that are pertinent to young adults. The hour-long workshops are mandatory. Failure to attend or to report timely resulted in progressive discipline. The discipline ranged from reduced playing time to suspension from the League. The following is a list of '92 workshop presenters:

The Cleveland Midnight League has also been recognized by national personal development trainers such as Tony Robbins and Nightingale-Conant Vice President Nick Carter. Both have committed to providing in-service training. Also, the MBL has been recognized as the 124th "Point of Light" by former President Bush.

Moreover, three members of Congress, Patricia Schroeder (D-CO), Frank Riggs (R-VA) and Frank Wolf (F-VA) have introduced legislation to fund the National MBL for \$5 million over a two year period. Action on the legislation is pending.

Maintaining strict adherence to punctuality, playing rules, and general behavior is paramount. Failure to do so will result in suspension or expulsion.

The training component is the critical element of the Midnight League. In view of that, all coaches and officials will be required to attend an orientation in-service to expand their historical awareness of the League as well as its goals and objectives. The lack of adhering to MBL objectives will result in termination.

Moreover, on-going orientation will be provided to the potential players during the tryout period and subsequent training camp. During that period, prospective players will be provided with the requirements to participate in the program, what's expected of them and what will not be tolerated.

During the tryout period, all players will be required to register with the ITT Career Center (a JTPA funded entity). Upon registration participants will be tested, assessed and counselled. Once assessed, participants will be scheduled for an interview with a prospective employer, referred to an appropriate job training class or enrolled in a G.E.D. class. Failure to follow thru will result in an individual being left off a team.

Workshops are also a critical element of the League. Workshops will be conducted prior to games being played on Tuesday and Thursday. Attendance to workshops is mandatory. Tardiness and absences will result in progressive discipline from reduced playing time to removal from the League. Primarily, it will be the coach's responsibility to monitor the player's progress. The Commissioner has developed a tracking system with ITT to determine the variety of action taken by the player.

In addition to ITT Career Center and various workshops, the League will link services with the following: Cleveland Divisions of Health and Human Services, National Institute for Responsible Fatherhood and Family Development, Cleveland Board of Elections, The Urban League, The Commission on Socially Disadvantaged Black Males and Cuyahoga Community College (Metro Campus).

The Midnight Basketball League will serve as a clearinghouse for the various services. Furthermore, services will be made available to family members or others who will be exposed.

As a further incentive, the MBL is patterned after the National Basketball Association. Players receive top quality uniforms, equipment, top flight officiating, as well as the best available coaching and instruction. Players are assigned to teams in a draft style extravaganza which serves to promote self-esteem as well as to insure parity among teams.

As a result of the MBL the following occurred in 1992:

- Criminal activity dropped by 54% during the hours which the program operated within the Outhwaite, Carver Park, King-Kennedy, Garden Valley, Old Cedar and Cedar Extensions (CMHA Communities).
- An average, 300 - 400 spectators were present at the games and the recreation center was also open for other activities between 10:00 P.M. and 2:00 A.M.
- Seven participants received full-time jobs.
- Three one-year academic scholarships will be awarded to Dyke College and two by the Great Lakes Technical School.
- The formation of a Junior Midnight Basketball League at Lonnie Burten Recreation Center for youth ages 13 - 17. Members of the MBL serve as coaches, scorers and officials creating a mentoring link between generations. The effort is based on a MBL format with workshop and field trips (including a day-long visit to Lucasville State Prison). The Junior League has spawned reproduction in Elyria and Oberlin.
- Fifteen individuals enrolled into a Job Readiness Program.
- Fifteen participants enrolled into a G.E.D. course.
- Established a partnership with the Council of Economic Opportunities of Greater Cleveland (CEOGC) to provide job development.

INSERVICE WORKSHOPS

Motivation	Nick Carter	Nightingale/Conant Chicago Illinois
Your Neighborhood And You	Fannie Lewis	Councilwoman Ward 7
4th Amendment Rights	Mr. Joe Primes	(ACLU)
AIDS Awareness	Mr. Michael Thomas	Cleveland Treatment Center
Job Development & Career Opportunities	Council For Economic Opportunities	
The Black Male Forum	Judge Ron Adrienne/ Mr. Don Scott Mr. Ben Holbert/ Mr. Kevin Gamble Mr. Larry Elders	
Interviewing Skills And Resume Writing	Mrs. Berks	
Entrepreneurship	Phillip Davis Tom Page	Fun-Fresh Paige Catering
Grafton Correctional Institute	Inmate Presentation	
V.O.I.C.E.S. (Victims Over Inner City Crime)	Henia D. Johnson	Founder
Who Am I Writes Of Passage	Paul Hill	
FBI Presentation	Bob Hawk	Agent
Cleveland Works Beat The Street	Wilson Smith	
Life In The Mainstream	Henia D. Johnson	Founder

To The Midnight Basketball League,

I, Marvin Atkins would like to personally thank the Midnight Basketball League for changing my outlook on my future. I haven't been employed since January of 1988, and I have to admit that working was the furthest thing from my mind. I thought just because I had a place to stay, a car to drive, took care of my son, and had a few dollars in my pocket I was straight. Then I realized I was missing something. In joining the MBL and attending the workshop have inspired me a great deal. The speakers also have had a big influence on me. I want to express my deepest gratitude to Arthur Fayne, yvonne Pointer, and Wayne Moss for making it possible to bring the Midnight Basketball League to the community. I would like you to know I am now employed and would like to again thank the MBL and hope they continue inspiring people like me.

Your MBL Participant

Marvin Atkins

G. Van Standifer Dies; Started Midnight Basketball League

By Bart Barnes
Washington Post Staff Writer

G. Van Standifer, 64, a retired government systems analyst who founded the Midnight Basketball League in Prince George's County and saw it spread across the country, died Sept. 17 at his home in Glenarden. He had heart ailments.

Mr. Standifer was the town manager of Glenarden when he founded the league in 1986 to curb an escalating crime rate and provide young men with something constructive to do on summer nights between the hours of 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. Locally about 210 young people from 17 to 22 years old participate. Supported by government grants and private donations, the league has expanded to 37 cities nationwide.

In 1991, President Bush visited the program at the Glenarden Community Center gymnasium, and Midnight Basketball became the 124th Daily Point of Light in his 1,000 Points of Light program.

"I came here to see this Midnight Basketball myself," the president said at the time. "Here everybody wins. . . . Everyone gets a better shot at life. . . . It's about providing opportunity for young adults to escape drugs and the streets and get on with their lives."

Mr. Standifer was born in Greer, S.C. He served in the Army from 1948 to 1952, then settled in the Washington area. He attended the Cortez Peters Business School here and began a career in the federal government in 1956 with the Federal Highway Administration. In 1977, he transferred to the Federal Aviation Administration, from which he retired in 1986.

In 1986 and 1986, Mr. Standifer also served as Glenarden's town manager, and it was on that job that he came up with the idea of Midnight Basketball. Studying police reports he noticed that crime in Glenarden had increased significantly and that most of the increase came during the summer months. Police logs indicated that most crimes occurred between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. and that they involved a narrow age group, young people from 17 to 22.

From his own experience as a youth, he recalled his frustration over locked gymnasiums at night, and he developed the idea of a night basketball league, complete with uniforms, coaches, referees and fans to lure young adults off the streets and into a place where they could find a constructive outlet for their energies.

"Generally speaking, where there are huge blocks of free time, drug and alcohol abuse go up. The idea here was to use up as much of that free time as possible," Mr. Standifer said.

Almost from the beginning, the program was a success, spreading first to other communities in the Washington area and then nationwide, to cities such as Chicago, Hartford and Atlanta. Crime rates went down. Mandatory drug education workshops and vocational counseling sessions were added. In Maryland, Mr. Standifer received a Governor's Citation in 1991 for his work with Midnight Basketball. Prince George's County named him "Prince Georgian of the Year" in 1989.

"When I first started, I was just concerned with getting kids off the streets during my watch as town manager," Mr. Standifer recalled. "But somewhere in the years since then, the program has changed me. I don't know where, don't know when, but I started trying to see the world through the eyes of these youths, and I didn't like what I saw."

In 1986, he stepped down as town manager of Glenarden, but he continued as president of the Midnight Basketball League until his death.

Survivors include his wife, Martha Standifer of Glenarden; two sons, Eric Van Standifer of Oakland and Nelson Conrad Standifer of Forestville; and a grandson.

Falls regained the lead (25-24) with a 2-1 overtime win by Todd Shaker at 189 pounds. With the score tied at 1-all, it appeared Bay's Mike Stylski won the match with a last second takedown. But it was ruled the clock didn't start on time and the match was sent into overtime. Shaker was awarded a penalty point when the referee ruled Stylski was attempting to flee the mat to avoid a takedown.

Bay, now 1-1, joins seven other teams at the Columbia Invitational Saturday. Olmsted Falls improved to 5-2 overall, 2-0 in SWC action.

RESULTS

103 — Bryce Burkhard (OF) pinned Islem Jaber 1:48;
112 — Luke Workman (OF) maj. dec. Shawn Fox 6-0; 119 — Colin O'Donoghue (B) dec. Kevin Atkins 6-4; 125 — Doug Reuss (B) pinned Andy Toye 3:21; 130 — Jerry Thompson (OF) dec. Jeff Reuss 6-4 o.t.; 135 — Andrew Christ (B) tech. fall Chris Odon 5:59 22-7;
140 — Karl Balzer (B) dec. Dan Misiewicz 8-1; 145 — Brian Todd (B) dec. Brendon Bergen 9-5; 152 — Tom Sandrock (B) maj. dec. Jon Popik 12-4; 160 — Jim Atkins (OF) pinned Jeff Kinal 4:33; 171 — Matt Emigh (OF) dec. Ted Sletski 3-2; 189 — Todd Shaker (OF) dec. Mike Stylski 2-1 o.t.; Hwt. — Nick Grimaldi (OF) pinned Alan Hauk 5:30.

on over Oberlin

Keystone 33
Brookside 26

LAGRANGE — Bob Walker's pin at 171 was the deciding match as Keystone downed Brookside in Lorain County Conference action Thursday.

103 — Mike St. Peter (K) dec. Ryan Cox 9-2; 112 — Carlos Maldonado (B) dec. Dennis Cavanaugh 9-0; 119 — Scott Davidson (B) dec. Joel Southam 10-1; 125 — Sean Smith (K) pinned Josh Sours 2:40; 130 — Brandon Broward (K) dec. Matt Miller 9-2;
135 — Mike Millicic (K) pinned Andy Guy 1:39; 140 — Ron Chandler (B) pinned Shawn Gregg 1:39; 145 — Jason Wendell (K) dec. Chuck Shill 6-4; 152 — Chris Scullin (B) dec. John Devereaux 14-11; 160 — Don Griswold (K) pinned Roger Craig 4:29; 171 — Bob Walker (K) pinned Jay Davidson 1:57; 189 — Hector Aponte (B) dec. Jason Bennett 8-1; HWT — Lou Tarone (B) pinned Jim Morrison 1:55.

BEST VALUE ON A FIRE ALARM

IM HAS INSTALLED OVER
R ALARMS AND THE INTEG
IM IS THE FINEST QUALITY
O USE AND MOST SECURE
R FOUND!



back.

"I can't imagine an EC team not having any intensity when they're coming up against Lorain Catholic," Kearns said. "I expect our kids to be ready. But Lorain Catholic has so many offensive weapons, we have to play good defense. In fact we'll have to play our best game to beat them. We'll have to be at our best, but we're capable. We just have to make a lot of improvement."

The Spartans have size, experience and firepower. Forwards Geoff Mogus and John Akosi lead the offense, but point guard Brian Bury steers it.

"I'm really impressed with Mogus," said Kearns. "He scores inside and out, gets the big rebounds and makes the big free throws. Akosi can score inside and out and Bury's tough. He handles the ball and makes good decisions."

"Our kids know how they performed — or didn't perform — Tuesday. I'm sure they want to make amends for that."

■ NEXT GAME: EC is at Clearview Tuesday; Lorain Catholic hosts Mansfield St. Peter Friday, Jan. 15.

Midnight Basketball League expands to Lorain, Oberlin 1/8/93

The Midnight Basketball League is expanding in Lorain County.

The league began in Elyria last summer. Divisions will be added in Lorain and Oberlin in the spring.

The three divisions will comprise the Midnight Basketball League of Lorain County. Ron Rucker, who previously worked for the Lorain County Urban League, is the executive director.

"Due to the success in Elyria, we're going ahead and expanding it," said Rucker.

A tipoff breakfast for the league in Lorain will be held Jan. 20 at 8 a.m. at DeLuca's Place in the Park. A tipoff luncheon for the league in Oberlin will be held Jan. 28 at noon at Stevenson Hall at Oberlin College.

Yvonne Pointer, the Mother of Midnight Basketball, will attend both functions. Pointer founded the midnight league in Cleveland.

Sites for the games will be West Rec (Elyria), Lorain High (Lorain) and Phillips Gymnasium (Oberlin).

LORAIN COUNTY



HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Tonight At 7:15

Admiral King

vs.

Elyria

04/25/93

Midnight hoops set for summer

League may add two new teams

Robert Baxter Jr.

Daily News staff writer

The second phase of Beloit's "successful" Midnight Basketball program may feature up to two additional teams — if funding is acquired.

League officials announced the possible expansion Wednesday evening. The program's second season will begin in late May.

The Midnight Basketball board met at the City Hall forum with City Manager

Daniel T. Kelley to discuss details of a second 12-week basketball schedule.

Kelley said the "successful" program has the full support of the city and the council, and any funding help the city can give will be made available.

Currently six teams are guaranteed scheduling during the summer session.

City officials are awaiting a federal government decision on the president's economic package that would include additional funding for community programs across the country.

Kelley said if that goes through, additional funding for the Midnight Basketball program could be available.

The program has been drawing rave reviews from people locally and in other cities that have similar programs.



Tubbs

"I've received probably 40 calls in the last week or so from more young men wanting to get involved in the program," Police Capt. Charles Tubbs, commissioner of the Midnight Basketball League, told the board.

Tubbs has been contacted by cities across the United States and has spoke at few pointing out the accomplishments of the local program.

"There are a number of cities looking at our program as a guide to what they would like to see," said Tubbs.

Executive Director of the League, Jim Trudgeon, said the program is being recognized nationally and its "good reputation" will be continued throughout the summer.

Working on about a \$24,000 budget, the league has again been offered the Beloit Memorial High School gymnasium for league games. The only charge is for that of a custodian before, during and after the games.

During the winter months, an average of 150 to 200 people attended the games, said Trudgeon.

A Slam Dunk Program For Kids: Midnight Hoops



Documentarian Ken Swartz, above, and players, right, in Midnight Basketball



"There was plenty of shootin' going on, but no gun. / The only thing gathered around me was some brothers having fun / I'd rather be in a gym hollerin' and hootin' / Than get hemmed up for what? A drive-by shootin' / Now what do these workshops do, they give 'em hope / So they don't waste time on a night selling dope / But after the game we all gathered in the hall / Saying, 'Oh, my Lord, thank God, for Midnight Basketball.'" — Rap poem by Waymond Nichols, Ella Hill Hatch Community Center

By Sue Adolphson
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

MANY OF the youths in San Francisco's Western Addition have seen some harrowing things in their short lives, involving guns, drugs and clashes with the law. But there's a program in that bleak part of town whose goal is to see that the only kind of shooting those young people do is hoops, the only scoring is of points and the only court time they put in is overseen by a referee, not a judge.

The program is "Midnight Basketball," implemented this year at the Ella Hill Hatch Community Center in the Western Addition on McAllister Street, with the goal of keeping the young black men off that high-risk crime area off the streets.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., six teams of players ages 17 to 25 take part in supervised competition on the court — but only after they have attended a mandatory program workshop on such topics as AIDS awareness, job training, community responsibility and cultural pride.

"Kids First: Midnight Basketball" airs at 12:30 a.m. next Sunday and reappears at 8:30 p.m. New Year's Day on Channel 4.

Now television viewers will get a behind-the-scenes look at the success stories of the program's first season, and the harsh realities facing its young players every day, when KRON (Channel 4) airs the one-hour documentary "Kids First: Midnight Basketball" at 12:30 a.m. next Sunday and again at 8 p.m. New Year's Day.

The documentary was produced, photographed and edited by award-winning KRON producer Ken Swartz, who followed the program from August through October, shooting more than 30 hours of tape. Forgoing a narrator or anchorman, Swartz chose to tell the story through the participants' and administrators' own words with a background of jazz and rap music.

Based on the original Midnight Basketball program founded seven years ago in Maryland, the San Francisco version, which also operates in Hunter's Point and other high-crime areas in the city, involved about 200 young men in its first season.

SWARTZ concentrated on the Western Addition — mainly, taking viewers on a tour of the graffiti-scrubbed projects and introducing them to such volunteers as Ella Hill Hatch Community Center executive director Lofly Gordon as well as a number of the players.

One is Darrell Hunter, who talks about being robbed and shot by an "old friend," left with eight open wounds and a bullet still lodged in his pelvis. "It was like a movie, but it was real, real blood, real bullets," he says.

Gordon's eyes got watery when he says, "That's what a lot of these young kids have to deal with every

day. I don't like to hear talk about a lost generation... The other side is they're kind, they're gentle. They cry. They just happen to be black and happen to have had a rough time all of their lives."

In an interview, Swartz explains that Darrell's story serves a big purpose. That happened after the program ended. That's what's out there. (The program has) got them for a while, but then they leave them."

The goal is to get funding so that Midnight Basketball can have a paid staff and operate year-round. As one player says, "It's togetherness thing. An opportunity to get together instead of leaving. This is good for us, man. Know what I'm saying? I'm 18 years old. It ain't never too late to change your life."

One who appears to have changed his is Cheeka, 21, who was originally a troublemaker. "He's a guy who made a very big jump this program," Swartz says. "He went from being thrown out of disruptive behavior during a game to an event at the end when received an award as the most proved player. Now they're starting a program for 13- to 16-year-olds, and he's one of the coaches."

The program is set to resume February, and Gordon has hopes for it to continue. "Soci says to this particular population, 'You're nobody,'" he says. "If reach half we would be extremely happy. What we want to do, want to send the message to them we're gonna try."

TO: Ms. Joanne Painter
FROM: LARRY GARY
DATE: 1/22/92
PAGES: 1
REMARKS: 1

U.S. Midnight Basketball Tourney to be in Oberlin

By CINDY LEISE

C-T Staff Writer

OBERLIN — Oberlin College will tip-off a national Midnight Basketball League tournament next summer, drawing at least 400 young people from across the country.

Some 37 teams are expected to participate in the G. Van Standifer Memorial Tournament to be held Sunday, July 31, 1994, through Aug. 6, 1994, said Betty Panagiotou, president of the governing board of the Lorain County Midnight Basketball League.

Midnight Basketball is for men and women, ages 17-25, who are described to be "at-risk" for either dropping out of

school or turning to drugs and alcohol. The program began six years ago in Landover, Md. Thirty-five other cities have adopted it.

"It'll be very exciting," Panagiotou said of the tournament. "We expect it to be a major, major event."

It will take place in conjunction with the National Conference of the Midnight Basketball Leagues.

Those in Midnight Basketball programs must participate in an educational program that stresses the importance of education, cultural

See BASKETBALL, A-6

Basketball

FROM A-1

diversity and staying drug free.

Panagiotou estimated the tournament will feature at least 400 participants plus parents and chaperones. The individual leagues will have to raise money to pay for the trip, she said.

The Lorain County Midnight Basketball League is comprised of divisions in Elyria, Lorain and Oberlin.

In its fledgling year last summer, games were held only in Elyria, but Panagiotou said games will be held in the other cities this season.

While rules of Midnight Basketball allow women to play, there haven't been any female participants in Lorain County yet, Panagiotou said. One woman volunteered to coach a team in Oberlin, she said.

She's hopeful some women will try and get onto Lorain County teams this year. "They'll probably be drafting soon," she said.

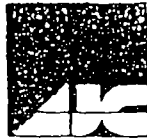


AS OF JUNE 9, 1992

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL LEAGUES

CITY	CO-SPONSOR	CONTACT	PHONE
P.G. CNTY. MD.	MBL OF P.G. CNTY	V. STANDIFER	(301)772-1711
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MELBOURNE, FL.	LEISURE SVCS.	ART ROBBINS	(407)255-4608
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SAN FRANCISCO, CA.	EHM CMNTY CNTR.	LARRY GRAY	(415)921-6276
BRIDGEPORT, CONN.	UNITED WAY	JACK WILLIAMS	(203)334-5106
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MIAMI FLORIDA	MIAMI MBL	GEO. KNOX	(305)374-1212
LORAIN CNTY. OHIO	LORAIN CNTY. MBL.	RON. RUCKER	(216)323-3364
FT. PIERCE FL.	FT. PIERCE H.A.	CLARENCE BROWN	(407)461-7281
CLEARWATER, FL.	COMMUNITY CNTR.	MICHAEL CRONIN	(813)461-1818
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LANGING, MICHIGAN	B. A. D.	LARRY JOHNSON	(517)484-3070
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NEW ORLEANS, LA	MBL OF NEW ORLEANS	PETE PEPITON	(504)393-1908
WAYCROSS, GA.	MBL OF WARE CNTY	CARLOS NELSON	(912)285-3108

News:



The American Jewish
Committee

CLEVELAND CHAPTER
625 Hanna Building
Cleveland, OH 44115
(216) 781-6035
Fax: (216) 781-7519

YOUR COVERAGE INVITED

Mrs. Helen Lieberman, a social activist from Capetown, South Africa, has been invited back to Cleveland to spend the day with leaders and members of Cleveland's **Midnight Basketball League**, on Saturday, June 19, 1993, at the Lonnie Burten Recreation Center, 2511 E. 46th St. Her visit will begin at 11:00 A.M.

Mrs. Lieberman was in Cleveland on May 21, 1993 to address a meeting co-sponsored by the Cleveland Chapters of the **NAACP** and **The American Jewish Committee**. She spoke about the successful development of schools, recreational programs and cottage industries in some of the black townships near Capetown, and how leadership was developed from among the participants in the projects.

"Mrs. Lieberman's story was so inspirational that we decided that she should talk directly to the young people who are currently involved in our program," said **Yvonne Pointer**, Commissioner of Cleveland's Midnight Basketball League. "We believe that our participants can learn a great deal about taking control of their own environment and developing stronger leadership. I'm pleased that the Midnight Basketball League's Executive Director **Wayne Moss** was able to make arrangements for the meeting and that The American Jewish Committee's Cleveland Chapter agreed to help us in this effort."

Contact: Martin J. Plax, The American Jewish Committee, 781-6035

The Chronicle

VOL.12 NO.17 JUNE 10,1993 A Publication Serving—Beloit,



Beloit, WI--Beloit's community and city leaders along with players and coaches were present for Beloit's Midnight basketball league banquet Tuesday, May 25, 1993, held at the Salvation Army. Pictured left to right: Mardie Farr, Yvonne Pointer, the "Mother of Midnight Basketball," as quest speaker, City Manager, Daniel Kelley, League Commissioner Charles Tubbs and Rev. Paul Kilgore. The League kicked off it's second season Thursday night at the Beloit Y.M.C.A.

RECOGNITIONS, HONORS, AWARDS

IN MEMORY OF

GLORIA POINTER



GLORIA'S AWARD—Gloria Pointer's mother, Yvonne Pointer, and her 11-year-old brother Raymon Pointer hold the trophy for the best Junior High cheerleading squad. The winning squad was from Alexander Hamilton Junior High School. The trophy was presented in honor of Gloria Pointer, a former cheerleader at Harry E. Davis, who was slain last December. The idea for the award was conceived by Don Wooten, of the Cleveland Public Schools Student Activities. Audubon Junior High School came in second place, and Gloria's former teammates came in third. (Photos By Sharon Jefferson)

Gloria Dexter

The black power I admire the most is Gloria Dexter.

I met Gloria my first year A.C.D. She was with me in 7th grade together. We had alot of classes together. Then one day we just started talking and from that day on we were good friends.

Gloria had alot of qualities that made her different from the other kids. Something that made people follow her. A little better from the crowd. She was also intelligent, and a pretty young lady. She was very funny and friendly. She got along with almost everyone. It was hard not to like her.

I have known Gloria for 3 years. I really thought of her. She always made me

She always talked to me
about everything. I would
tell her some of my problems
and she would try to help
me with solving them.
We had some good times
and I will cherish them times
forever.

I really miss Gloria. She
was not only my good friend,
but my mother also.

By:
J. J. Gatti
Francisco

Ex 4

* Alonia Pereira *

Alonia Pereira was a girl who I knew only for a short time. She was a bright, pretty & funny person. I thought she was a good cheerleader. If I would have gotten to know her better we could of been good friends. It was a tragic event when we heard about her being beaten and murdered. I did cry a little but not much because I knew I would see her again some day in heaven. I know she must of looked awful on the day of the funeral but now she's in heaven and is probably beautiful. I remember the day I met her we really weren't to fond of each other but as time went on in the halls we did talk. She was the one who got me interested in the school activities like going to the basketball games. After the games were over she would always take time about her boyfriend. She was a good friend to everyone.

John F. Spangher

Gloria will be sadly missed by the members of homeroom 125 and the OWA class. Gloria was always full of life and had a ready smile for everyone.

We feel privileged to have had Gloria in our homeroom and classes and hope that this tragedy will serve to prevent this from ever happening again. If safer conditions are provided to our students who walk to school and if each of us becomes more safety conscious as a result of this, then Gloria will not have died in vain. Her loving memory will be with us always.

Mrs. Petty-Homeroom Teacher
and members of homeroom 125

I remember Gloria as a bright and loving person whom I also loved and cared for very much. She was very outgoing and respectful and kind. So, let us wipe the tears from our eyes, hold our heads up high and remember her as she was. I know that she will always be with us as long as we remember her. Gloria has just gone to sleep.

by Anastasia McHaney

We are all going to miss Gloria. She was more than a classmate to me. She was like a sister. We used to go to the library and walk to school together every day. She made our O.W.A. class brighter and happier.

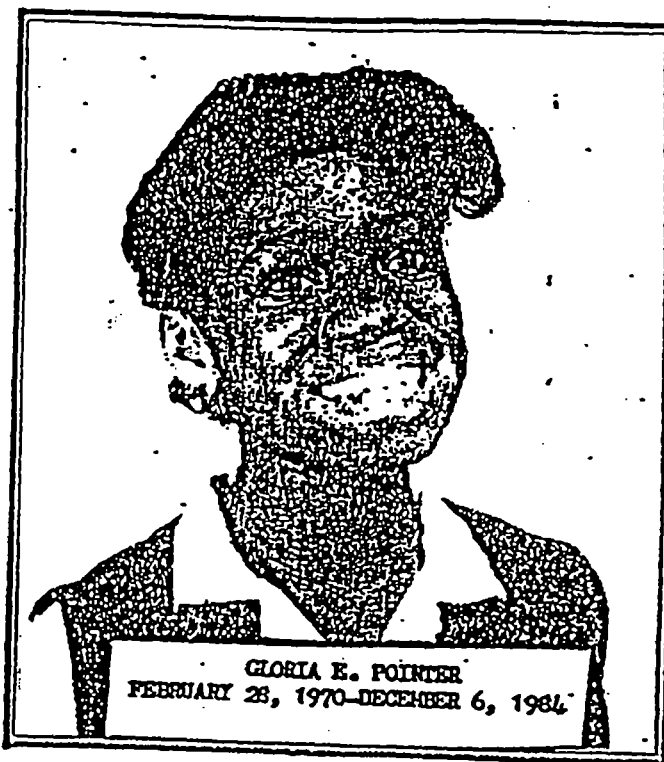
Cora Harvey

To Our Friend and Classmate



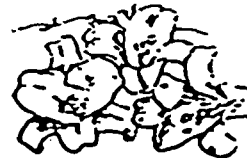
Once
I love you
Sometimes
I miss you
Always
I'll care for you
Never
Will I forget you

Tina Booker



To smooth G.--
You know me
I'll Mike Jordan
123. Yep, it's
Elliott. I
miss you very
much and I
will never
forget you.

Elliott
Dawson



I am writing this in remembrance of Gloria Pointer whom we all enjoyed knowing and who was very dear to us. We all know that there is still a place in our hearts where she will always be. We should rejoice that she is in a land of happiness and that she is looking down on us wanting us to be happy and go on with life. Let us offer our support and prayers to her family.

Monica Parker

Gloria was a special girl and I loved her a lot. I enjoyed being with her and I miss her very much. She always made me happy when I was very sad and this is what I will miss most about her. Thank you Gloria for all the good times.

Jackie Roseberry

I know we will all miss Gloria because she was so nice and funny and a good friend to be with. We were good friends and used to talk on the phone about everything. I feel lonely and sad and wonder why this happened but there are no easy answers. With love—

Kim Jones

Dear Gloria

You know that since you have passed we have missed you very much. The pain will never totally go away but at least in time the pain will lessen.

We are sad that you are gone but happy that you are in the hands of God. You will always be my friend.

Love,
Shelia Langford

I'm going to miss you, Gloria in gym and Think class because you were always smiling and happy.

Francine Lewis



IN MEMORY OF GLORIA POINTER
FRIEND AND CLASSMATE

Gloria was more than a classmate to us - she was a member of our family.

Without Gloria the circle will no longer be complete but she left us a legacy of love that will never be forgotten.

Her friendliness, vivacity, her smile and the spirit she brought into our room each day will remain uppermost in our memories.

We were proud and happy to have had Gloria in our class and our deepest and heartfelt sympathies go out to her family.

Mrs. Petty - Homeroom Teacher
and Homeroom 125

Gloria Pointer remembered with athletic award

CARMEN M. WHALEY
Post Staff Reporter

of the students who graduated from Harry E. Davis Jr. High School on June 19, 1989 are

not to remember Gloria Pointer.

Her memory is alive. It lives in the very being of her

Mrs. Yvonne Pointer's eyes, but in the hearts and of every parent across the

December 6, 1984, 14-year-old Gloria left her home on East 11th, en route to Harry E. Davis Jr. High School. She left a few minutes earlier that day she intended to stop at her father's house to pick up a car, a new hairstyle. That last day she was going to receive a perfect attendance

Gloria didn't show up at her father's house, the friend went to school and notified officials. Officials waited until about 11 a.m., then called the mother. Gloria's partially clad body was found about 10:30 a.m., that day in a back stairwell leading to the basement of an East 11th apartment building. She had been raped and brutally killed.

Years have passed, and her murder remains unsolved.

Yvonne Pointer, mother of the murdered teenager is a very extraordinary woman. She has written and dedicated a moving and poignant book of poetry in memory of her daughter.

Having gone through one of the most tragic ordeals in her life, Mrs. Pointer has slowly returned to the mainstream of life. The pain is still there, memories of unfulfilled hopes and dreams surface daily, yet out of Yvonne Pointer's nightmare, there has emerged a new awareness. A profound need to help other parents, and people in general cope with the tragedy of losing children through violent crime.

Because Gloria Pointer was an athlete, Harry E. Davis has established the Gloria Pointer Athletic Award. This year two graduates were recipients of the award.

Tomica Carter, said she was thrilled to receive the award. "I am very close to Mrs. Pointer, and receiving this award keeps Gloria's memory alive to me." Tomica aspires to be a guidance counselor.

Lashaunne Pitmon said that he was happy that he had been selected to win the award. "I feel that Gloria was a good person and a good athlete. I never thought I'd go this far in one school year." Lashaunne wants to become an airplane mechanic.



TOMICA CARTER AND LASHAUNNE PITMON, are recipients of the Gloria Pointer Athletic Award.



City of Cleveland

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE

For Councilman Fannie M. Lewis and Council President George L. Forbes

By Councilmen Barnes, Bolden, Cannon, Ciolek, J. Johnson, K. Johnson, Jones, D. Kucinich, G. Kucinich, Lynch, Miller, Polensek, Rokakis, Smith, Turner, Westbrook, Woods, Zayac.

WHEREAS, this Council extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the passing of Gloria Pointer, whose young life was abruptly ended December 5, 1984 at age 14 years; and

WHEREAS, Gloria will be lovingly remembered for her intelligence, her scholarship, and her involvement in her community. Gloria was very active in the church. She was on the Junior Usher Board; she was an active choir member; a nursery helper; and a member of the Young People Willing Workers at the Prayer Temple Church; and

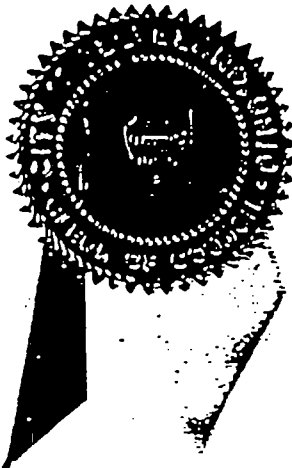
WHEREAS, Gloria demonstrated a lively and sincere interest in her education. She was an honoree for perfect attendance and was never tardy. She participated in school as she participated in her community. She was a cheerleader, an active member of the school track team and a member of the basketball team; and

WHEREAS, above all, Gloria was that very special kind of young person who was a particular joy to her parents, especially her mother, Yvonne. Gloria was a source of constant help and assistance to her mother in the home, always willing to help out and never disrespectful. She was, as her mother describes her: "Her mother wishes that every daughter could be the kind of daughter that Gloria was"; and

WHEREAS, Gloria leaves behind her most loving mother, Yvonne Rashid; stepfather, Nadir Rashid; father, Gary Mills; grandparents, LueElla and Henderson Pointer and Mrs. Jordan Mills; and a host of other relatives and friends; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Council extends its most heartfelt sympathy on the death of Gloria Pointer, a youngster of promise and love, to her family, teachers and many friends who mourn her loss deeply.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of Council be and she is hereby requested to transmit a copy of this Resolution of Condolence to Councilman Fannie M. Lewis for proper presentation.




George L. Forbes, President of Council

I, Mercedes Cotner, Clerk of Council of the City of Cleveland, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of this Resolution of Condolence.

WITNESS my hand and seal at Cleveland, Ohio, this Tenth day of December, 1984.


Mercedes Cotner, Clerk of Council



United States Congress

T R I B U T E

A CHILD'S FAITH.

"Jesus loves me, this I know
For the Bible tells me so
Little children ask no more.
For love is all they're looking for
And in a small child's shining eyes
The faith of all the ages lies
And tiny hands and tousled heads
That kneel in prayer by little beds
Are closer to the dear Lord's heart
And of his kindgom more a part
Oh, Father grant once more to men
A simple childlike faith again
And, with a small child's trusting eyes
May all men come to realize
That faith alone can save man's soul
And lead him to a higher goal."

GLORIA POINTER was affectionately known as a sweet loving child who touched everyone with her sweet personality and smile.

We indeed pay tribute to GLORIA POINTER for her sweet, gentle and thoughtful ways of inspiring many of her family and friends who knew her.

Although her time here was not long, GLORIA POINTER brought unspeakable joy and enriched the lives of us all.

As we worship in this home going celebration, we pray that the family and friends fully understand the great worth of a child's life who touched all that knew her.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis Stokes
Member of Congress



MAGAZINE ARTICLES CONCERNING

MS YVONNE POINTER

November 1997

Two Dollars

northern ohio **LIVE**

INSIDE:
Minority Business Leaders
LIVE's 3rd Annual After-Five Gala

UNSUNG HEROES
Northern Ohioans Who Have
Gone Beyond the Call of Duty

THAT'S SHOW BIZ
Classical Music Promoters Are Taking Cues
From Their Peers in Pop

MILLIONAIRES' ROW
Looking Back to Euclid Avenue's Golden Era

Plus: The Akron Art Museum Turns 70,
Cleveland Crunch Coach Trevor Dawkins,
Agnes de Mille at Cleveland Ballet, Marking
Diabetes Month, Bragging On Beachwood,
Holiday Gifts, and More





Yvonne Pointer

On a blustery morning in December 1984, thirteen-year-old Gloria Pointer was on her way to school to receive an award for attendance and punctuality, when she was abducted, raped and murdered in a stairwell on East 105th Street in Cleveland. The murder remains unsolved, but the case will never fade from the heart of her mother, Yvonne Pointer. "It's like walking around in your worst nightmare," she says. "Your body is going to work, fixing dinner, but the person inside is very close to death. The only thing that helped that part of me come alive was when I could make a difference to others. My focus began to shift to wondering who's going to do something to help these people who are killing our children. I really talked to God; I told him I need something to help our young people."

Inspiration came from a Chicago program which encouraged "high-risk" city youths to compete in basketball games from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Pointer's tireless efforts launched Cleveland's Midnight Basketball League which, along with uniforms and coaching, gives eighteen- to twenty-five-year-old men mandatory job training, drug counseling, parenting workshops, GED preparation and scholarship opportunities. In Glenarden, Maryland, where a similar program was developed in 1986, crime has been reduced by sixty-seven percent during league hours.

Pointer has established a Gloria Pointer Scholarship through Cleveland Scholarship Programs, founded a support group called Positive Plus, is active in the Parents of Murdered Children Association, and works with at-risk children at Providence House. On November 7, 1991, Governor George Voinovich inducted her into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame. Pointer, who prays and fasts regularly, says, "I feel like God should be getting this reward, not me."

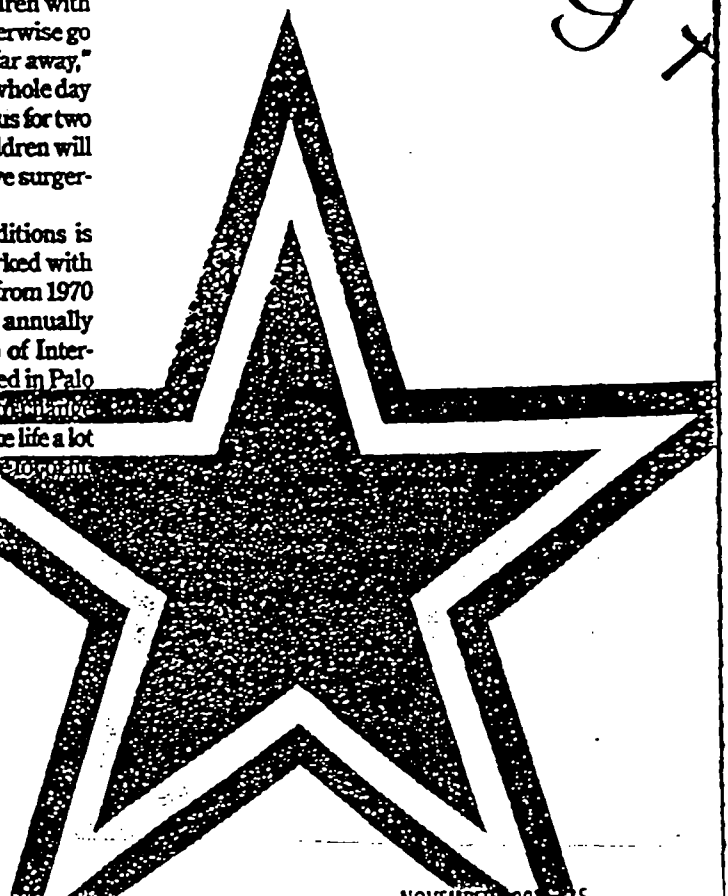
Richard Dowden

"These young people think if they have a child with a defect, they're being punished by God," says Richard Dowden of his patients in Portoviejo, Ecuador. "The only way to atone for what they did wrong is to take really good care of these children. When we correct the deformity, that's a sign God has forgiven them."

Dowden has made it his mission to correct these deformities for the native population—a mix of Inca, Quechua Indian and Spanish—living in the western foothills of the Andes. Each November, he leaves his plastic-surgery practice at the Cleveland Clinic to lead a thirty-member team of volunteers to Portoviejo, where they spend two weeks providing free surgery to adults and children with cleft lips and palates that would otherwise go untreated. "Some patients live so far away," Dowden says, "they have to walk a whole day just to reach a bus stop, then ride a bus for two or three days to get to us. Most children will need at least two, usually four or five surgeries before they're twenty."

Operating under primitive conditions is nothing new for Dowden, who worked with the Flying Doctor Service in Africa from 1970 to 1972 and has visited Ecuador annually since 1983 under the sponsorship of Interplast, a nonprofit organization based in Palo Alto, California. "We're not going to change the world," he says, "but we can make life a lot better for some families and a whole lot for little kids." □

Unsung



W CLEVELAND WOMAN

Volume 9 No. 3 \$1.95

July/August 1991

**SHE'S
Calling
The Plays
At Kent**

**Private
School
Closeup**

**CAREER
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**1991
ULTIMATE
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NEW CLEVELAND WOMAN

Volume 9, No. 4 \$195

September 1991

CLEVELAND'S

100

MOST

POWERFUL

WOMEN



ALTH CAP
ICES

CLEVELAND'S 100 MOST POWERFUL WOMEN

by Mary P. Wilhelm

In the days of the French Revolution when Napoleon was oozing power through his swords and bayonets, there probably wasn't much debate about what power meant or who had it. The guys with the swords had it and everybody else didn't. Today, we link power to everything from lunches to Reeboks. So when the NCW staff decided to compile a list of Cleveland's 100 most powerful women to celebrate our 100th issue, I balked. I have difficulty applying a word used to describe the soles of my tennis shoes to women I admire. And given my Type A, compulsive nature, how could I translate power into a standardized checklist format? (Let's see, Ms. Self Actualized fits A, B and D but there's no sign of any C—cross her off!)

I took these problems to our readers, women working hard in the trenches, and asked for your help. After many heated discussions with various women about power and who has it, the consensus was unanimous: everyone defines it differently. There's sexual power, political power, physical power, spiritual power, vested and derived power, perceived power and financial power. But the bottom line is that we know it when we see it. Even though no two women I spoke to gave the same definition of power, I kept getting the same names of women who have it.

You will find women on the list whose power is very visible in Cleveland, the obvious choices—Ruth Miller, Karen Horn. Unadulterated power. But you will also find Belleruth Naparstek listed, a clinical social worker who has developed a series of guided imagery tapes to help chronically ill people manage their pain. That's the power to heal. And there is Sarah Sager, the cantor at Fairmount Temple. Her power is her voice which I am told raises the hair on the back of your neck, it's so incredible.

I kept getting nominations for the four women partners at Hahn Loeser and Parks. I tried repeatedly to get somebody to pick one partner for the list. I suggested choosing on the basis of seniority, or community involvement, or who picks up the tab for lunch—but no one would. I was told over and over that these women work together; they're a team. Collaboration, that's power.

The last 10 "Women to Watch" on the list are powerful up-and-comers. Kathy Kemp was born with cerebral palsy, is wheelchair-bound and is president of a data base and book indexing firm. She is a powerful entrepreneur. NCW felt her personal power at our recent networking event when she could not access our speaker easily in her wheelchair. She persisted, heard the speaker, and enlightened us all in the process. That is power.

The NCW staff thanks Kathy and all of the women on this list for their inspiration. Thanks also to the many women who helped compile this list and to the readers who have seen NCW through 100 issues.

There are many powerful women in Cleveland; this list honors only 100 of them. We welcome your nominations for next year's list.

100 MOST POWERFUL WOMEN

1. Josephine R. Abady
Artistic Director
Cleveland Play House

2. Carolyn W. Allen, J.D.
Director
Department of Public Safety, City of Cleveland

3. Elizabeth K. Balraj, M.D.
County Coroner
Assistant Professor CWRU Medical School

4. Erlene Belton, M.A.
Senior Vice President of Human Resources
Progressive

5. Wilma F. Bergfeld, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Head, Dermatology Clinical Research and
Dermatopathology
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
President, 1992 American Academy of Dermatol-
ogy

6. Mary Bill

7. Rena J. Blumberg
Community Relations Director
WDOK-FM/WRRM-AM

8. Alexandria B. Boone, M.S.
President and CEO
GAP Productions, Inc.

9. Mary O. Boyle
President
Board of County Commissioners

10. Marilyn Brentlinger
President
Cleveland Play House Board of Trustees

11. Jeanette Grasselli Brown
Distinguished Visiting Professor and Chairman
Ohio University

12. Janet L. Bullard
Senior Vice President
Society National Bank

13. Jane L. Campbell, M.A.
State of Ohio Representative

14. Victoria Cargill, M.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine
Cleveland Clinic Foundation

15. Carol Cartwright, Ph.D.
President
Kent State University

16. Isabella Chesson
Owner
Isabella's and That Place on Bellflower

17. VI Colombi
Civic Activist

18. Betty Cope
General Manager and President
WVIZ-TV Channel 25

19. Margot James Copeland, M.A.
President
The Junior League of Cleveland, Inc.

20. Sharon Couflet, R.N., M.B.A., M.S.N.
Chairperson, Division of Nursing
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

21. Rosemary Covington
Assistant General Manager
Marketing & Development
Greater Cleveland Transit Authority

22. Janet Bennett Eadie
Executive Director
WomenSpace

23. Melinda Estes, M.D.
Associate Chief of Staff
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

24. Harriet Fader
Executive Director
Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland

25. Carol A. Frankel, M.B.A.
Founder and Chairman
Creative Production Services, Inc.

26. Claire Freeman
Executive Director
Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority

27. Denise Marie Fugo
President
Sammy's In-The-Flats

28. Susan Garrison, M.A.
Vice President and Regional Facility Administrator
Kaiser Permanente

29. Gita Gidwani, M.D.
President of The North American Society for
Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

30. Donna Glazer
Senior Real Estate Consultant
Smythe Cramer Company

31. Molly Glazer
President
Cuyahoga County Library Board

32. Sally Gries
President
Gries Financial Corp.

33. Women partners at Hahn, Loeser and Parks
Pat E. Morgenstern-Clarmen, J.D.
Deborah A. Coleman, J.D.
Patricia A. Hemann, J.D.
Frances Mitchell Schaul, J.D.

34. Ann Harsh
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
The MetroHealth System

35. Bernadine Healy, M.D.
Director
National Institutes of Health

36. Carol Hoover
Senior Vice President

37. Karen Horn
Chairman and CEO
Bank One, Cleveland
 38. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, J.D.
Cuyahoga County
Prosecutor
 39. Mary Ann Jorgenson, J.D.
Partner
Squire, Sanders and Dempsey
 40. Martha Joseph
Philanthropist and Volunteer
 41. Betty Kemper
President and CEO
Eliza Jennings Group
 42. Gloria Pace Kling
Vice President of Planning, Allocations and
Government Relations
United Way Services
 43. Eileen Korey
Health Reporter
WKYC-TV Channel 3
 44. Susan N. La Jole, Ph.D.
Associate Director
The Cleveland Foundation
 45. Joan Lamson, M.B.A.
President
CasSite Systems, Inc.
 46. Story Landis, Ph.D.
Chairperson of The Department of Neuro Sciences
Case Western Reserve University School of
Medicine
 47. Deforia Lane, Ph.D.
Director of Musical Therapy
The Ireland Cancer Center at University Hospitals
of Cleveland
 48. Gail C. Larson
Senior Vice President and General Manager
University MacDonald Womens Hospital
 49. Maxine Levin
Philanthropist
 50. Fannie Lewis
Councilwoman
City of Cleveland
 51. Sr. Maria Lochr, S.N.D., Ph.D.
President
Notre Dame College of Ohio
 52. Marilyn Gell Mason
Director
The Cleveland Public Library
 53. Nancy McCann
Director of Marketing
Tower City Center
 54. Darlene Evans McCoy, J.D.
Chief of Staff
Office of the Mayor, City of Cleveland
 55. Patricia Mead
President of Corporate Relocation Management
Realty One
 56. Ruth Miller, Ph.D.
President
Tower City Center
 57. Sydel L. Miller
Executive Vice President
Matrix Essentials, Inc.
 58. Lindsay J. Morgenthaler
Civic Volunteer
 59. Belleruth Naparstek
Clinical Social Worker
Author of "Heath Journeys"
 60. Norma Nelson
Small Business Association, Cleveland office
 61. Karen Newborn, J.D.
Partner
Baker and Hostetler
 62. Karen Nusbaum
President
9 to 5, National Association of Working Women
 63. Mary Rose Oaker, M.A.
U.S. Representative
 64. Cheryl O'Donnell
General Manager
The Ritz-Carlton, Cleveland
 65. Margaret O'Neill
Civic Volunteer
 66. Kate Paul, M.A.
Senior Vice President and Regional Manager
Kaiser Permanente
 67. Mary Lee Pilla
Litigation Counsel
Nestle U.S.A., Inc.
 68. Sherrill Paul
Founder and President
Trolley Tours of Cleveland
 69. Yvonne Polinter
Community Activist
 70. Donna Kelly Rego, M.S.
Chairperson, Board of Trustees
The MetroHealth System
 71. Carol Rivchun, M.A.
Vice President of Marketing
The Greater Cleveland Growth Association
 72. Barbara Robinson
Chairperson
Ohio Arts Council
 73. Ramona Robinson
Anchor
WUAB-TV Channel 43
 74. Shelly Roth
Vice President
Pierre's French Ice Cream
 75. Judith M. Ruggie
Director
Leadership Cleveland, a program of the Greater
Cleveland Growth Association
 76. Sarah Sagar
Cantor
Anshe Chesed-Fairmount Temple
 77. Diann G. Scaravilli
Civic Leader and Radio Personality
Past President, Junior League of Cleveland;
Trustee at Cleveland State University and Benefit
Chairperson of Playhouse Square Center Galas
 78. Sue R. Seidman, M.B.A.
Senior Consulting Team Member
DMA Group
 79. Karen Shanahan
Vice President of Human Resources
BP America
 80. Adele Zeidman Silver
Manager of Public Information
The Cleveland Museum of Art
 81. Wilma Smith, M.A.
Anchor
WEWS-TV 5
 82. Linda Sogg
Judge
Common Pleas Court
 83. Karen Weaver Spero
President
Spero Financial Services, Inc.
 84. Virginia K. Swenson
Mayor
Highland Heights
 85. Mary J. Taylor, Ph.D.
Director
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
 86. Nancy Vetrone
President
Original Copy Centers Inc.
 87. Farah M. Walters
Executive Director
University Hospitals of Cleveland
 88. Margaret Wong, J.D.
President
Margaret Wong and Associates
 89. Rose Wong
President
Pearl of the Orient/East and The Amethyst Grille
 90. Artha Woods
Clerk of Council
City of Cleveland
-
- ## WOMEN TO WATCH
-
91. Ann Bradford
President
Bradford Public Relations
 92. Sheri H. Edison
Owner
United Edison, Inc.
 93. Lois Goodman
President
Work and Family Consulting Group, Inc.
 94. Cathy Hougan
Executive Director
The Arthritis Foundation, Cleveland Branch
 95. Joan Hulburt
Owner
Booksetters
 96. Kathy Kemp, M.A., M.S.
President
Assimilate, Inc.
 97. Susanna H. Krey
Vice President
St. Vincent Charity Hospital and Health Center
 98. Kay J. Montgomery
Prosecutor
City of Shaker Heights
 99. Judy Opslach
Outreach Coordinator
Project Learn
 100. Edna Sawedy
Senior Vice President of Corporate Planning
Society Management Company

QUELLES FEMMES!

Lynn Wolfram
Chemist/Research Manager
BP America

"My job is a fascinating mixture of highly technical work and people management. I analyze everything from crude oil from the North Slope of Alaska to materials used for the nose cones of space shuttles. I strongly believe that women in science

continue to need strong role models and mentors. True mentors always find time for other women—they help them to set goals and take charge of their lives and careers, they take time to contact others about employment and educational opportunities, and they help them devise ways to combine their family and work lives."

Kay Eaton

Co-founder of Sacred Space with CeCe Miller Sacred Space stands for Spirituality Art Center: Recreative-Evolutionary-Directed Space.

"The primary focus of Sacred Space is spiritual enrichment through the experience of ritual and creative expression; meeting the needs of women seeking spiritual integrity. In Sacred Space, stories are shared and sisterhood is affirmed. We celebrate women

through poetry, song, stories, chant, art and dance. Sacred Space honors and lifts up women's experience in prayer and Scripture and directs energy toward building inclusivity among women of diverse backgrounds, cultures and faith perspectives. Women are encouraged to value their own thoughts, feelings and experiences."

Norita Berman
Financial Consultant
Merrill Lynch

"Being male or female is not important in the investment field; knowledge of your product is paramount. My objective is to match the goals and risk tolerance levels of clients with the appropriate investment alternatives. Providing excellent service is always key to maintaining good client rela-

tionships and engendering loyalty. I am active in the community through involvement in the Jewish Community Federation, the Cleveland Clinic, and other organizations which gives me an opportunity to network and to observe others I admire in a leadership capacity."

Elizabeth K. Balraj, M.D.
Cuyahoga County Coroner

"I have been fortunate to have had numerous individuals play a big role in shaping my life. In India where I received most of my education, I was fortunate to associate very closely with women of Indian origin and from various parts of the world who held positions of authority—teachers, professors, department heads, principals and deans of colleges. The majority of my mentors and role models were women who had accomplished and contributed a great deal to their communities. These were women who excelled both in their family lives and in their careers."

Catherine Mazanec
Partner, Ernst and Whinney

"Network to get what you need by being active and visible, attending professional society meetings and talking to the industry leaders there. Tag along with your successful associates and have them introduce you. Try to find something you have in common—your school, neighborhood, and maintain contact with new acquaintances. Call them for lunch. If you need a mentor, look for someone who is interested in you and your career, then work hard to exceed his or her expectations."

Deborah A. Coleman
Attorney at Law and Partner
Hahn, Loeser and Parks

"Our clients' problems often must be addressed by a multi-disciplinary team. I find it valuable to get to know professionals from other fields so that I know where to turn when these teams are assembled. Our professional recruiting is handled by a committee, with input from those in the office

edited by Mary P. Wilhelm

who interview the candidates. Intelligence, initiative and good "people skills" are key qualities in our evaluation. I also think that prior work experience—before or during one's schooling—is a big plus."

Dr. Kathleen Ferrone Neal
Superintendent of Strongsville Schools

"Educational administration is largely a man's field; I came up through the ranks as a teacher. I didn't have a mentor per se. Mostly I was helped by my own peers. My relationships with them and my experience serving on committees helped me to learn leadership skills. Some tips for your resume: I look for someone who has had a wide range of experiences in education vs. a very specialized person. I look for someone who has proven experience motivating people because that's the only way things get done. There's a great deal of opportunity now in the educational administration field."

Yvonne Pointer
Community Activist

"In 1984 my oldest daughter, Gloria Evett Pointer, was abducted, raped and brutally murdered. Her murder has motivated me to right some wrongs in this world. I knew within my heart that changes had to be made towards a safer community. I began to talk to like-minded people and went to meetings where like-minded people were. My message and concerns began to attract people such as Lee Fisher, Jeff Johnson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones and many community leaders. This is how the Midnight Basketball Program was started which gives 18-25 year old men known to be "at risk" for potential involvement in crime a recreational outlet during the hours of 10 pm and 2 am, when crimes are most likely to be committed. Often people don't become involved because they feel that they don't have anything to contribute. If each person can just reach one, then eventually we will transform our community."

Dream vacations in Jamaica, Ghana and Alaska

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**Laying
Down the
Weapons:
Healing
for Sisters
With an
Attitude**

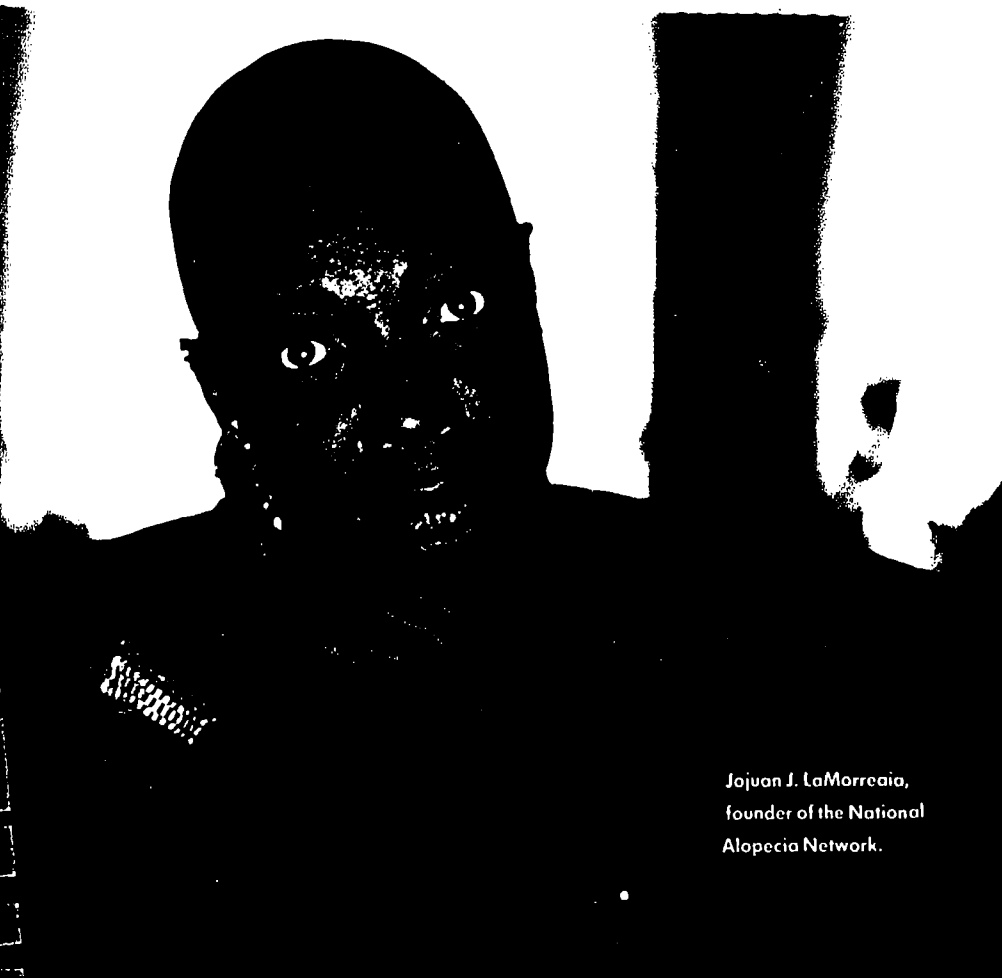
**Mary J. Blige,
Miki Howard
and Tonya
Pinkins
Offstage**



Women Who Turned Tragedy into Triumph
Report • Nikki Giovanni and Mae Jemison

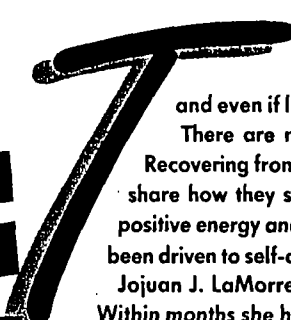
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GREAT



Jojuan J. LaMorreaia,
founder of the National
Alopecia Network.

WHERE DOES ONE FIND THE STRENGTH TO COME BACK FROM TRAGEDY? THESE WOMEN FACED DESPAIR AND FOUND THE COURAGE TO GO ON LIVING. HERE ARE THEIR TRIUMPHANT STORIES BY VANESSA J. GALLMAN



Tragedy is a part of living. Its random unfairness forces us to question who we are, what we are doing with our lives and even if life is worth it.

There are no rules on how to cope with setbacks, nor could there be. Recovering from emotional pain is as individual as we are. Here, three women share how they survived difficult times by redefining themselves, tapping into positive energy and committing themselves to larger purposes. Many would have been driven to self-destruction by what these women have faced.

Jojuan J. LaMorreaia noticed a bald spot near the nape of her neck in 1977. Within months she had lost all her hair, including eyelashes and eyebrows, to an incurable disease called alopecia.

Yvonne Pointer's 14-year-old daughter was abducted, raped and murdered on her way to school. She was due to get an award for perfect attendance that day in 1984. The murderer has not been found.

Gloria St. James was addicted to heroin for 13 years, to angel dust for five years and to crack for one and a half years. Her addiction led to 66 arrests and an eight-month imprisonment in Rikers Island.

None of these women has reached what she considers her greatest heights. Not one would say either her work on herself or for others is finished. But they have come out of their experience emotionally stronger, more mentally focused and spiritually aware. They have come back from the depths of despair reborn—and shining a light for others to follow. In the following pages, in their own words, they share their stories. ▽

PHOTOGRAPHER DEAN TOKUNOSHOOTING STAR

JOJUAN J. LAMORREAIA Motivational Speaker

It took me about 30 attempts before I walked out the door that first time without my wig. For ten years I had been a slave to those synthetic illusions of hair.

I hated bolting upstairs whenever someone came to the door. I hated walking with my head down to keep the wind from blowing it off, and I always feared rejection when I had to confess to a significant other that I had no hair.

The loss of my crowning glory devastated me. For about a year I was depressed, withdrawn and suicidal. I went from doctor to doctor, tried all kinds of treatments, even steroids—getting 30 to 40 injections into my scalp at one time. But the only thing that grew was my body: I gained about 70 pounds.

So I put on my wigs and went on with my life. But I still hated my baldness. Then during a week of praying and fasting, God healed my mind. I woke up early one morning and twice I heard a voice say: "Use what you've got." And that's when I knew I had to let go of the wigs.

On that day in 1987, I didn't wear my wig. I refused to continue to hide in shame and embarrassment for something I had no control over. I realized I had been too concerned about what people thought. People stared and cars slowed, but many said, "Go on, sister!"

We get so caught up with fitting into an image that we forget who we are. I am more than just hair. So when I make television appearances and lecture around the country, my message is about overcoming obstacles. I talk to people about finding the power in adversity, about turning tragedies into triumphs.

Now I like looking different. After all, losing hair is not like losing an arm. There is nothing hair will help me do, and nothing the lack of hair keeps me from doing. If they had an instant cure tomorrow, I don't think I would be in line. What would be the point?

LaMorreaia, 42, is the founder of the National Alopecia Network and the Center for Self-Esteem, both organizations are based in Detroit. She has lectured internationally and has appeared on about a dozen national TV shows.

YVONNE POINTER Children's Advocate

For more than three years, after my daughter's death, I didn't feel comfortable on dates. Anyone could be her murderer. It still haunts me: Am I talking to him now? Sitting beside him?

Gloria's murder took away the trust, my faith and my confidence. And there was no color anywhere, everything was a drab gray. I could look up at the sky and not even see that it was blue or that the grass was green.

Coming back from tragedy means finding the color again—not just seeing it, but learning to appreciate it. I've gotten to the point where there



LaMorreaia's wig brush reminds her of those painful days when she needed "synthetic illusions" of hair.

is someone special, and I can close my eyes without thinking I'll get strangled.

I am often criticized because my work with young people has received so much attention. People question my motives: "You don't act like a mother whose child has been murdered."

But if everybody did even a little bit to help children, it wouldn't make what I do so special. Maybe by putting my arms around these young people I am trying to erase a sense of failure because I was not able to protect Gloria. It's like having a bottomless pit inside, and you're always trying to fill the hole. But you know you can never fill it.

Some days I didn't know which way was up or down. But life was not going to wait for me to decide. I had to pick a direction, even if it was wrong. I've walked in darkness long enough to know that you can't always wait to know where you are going.

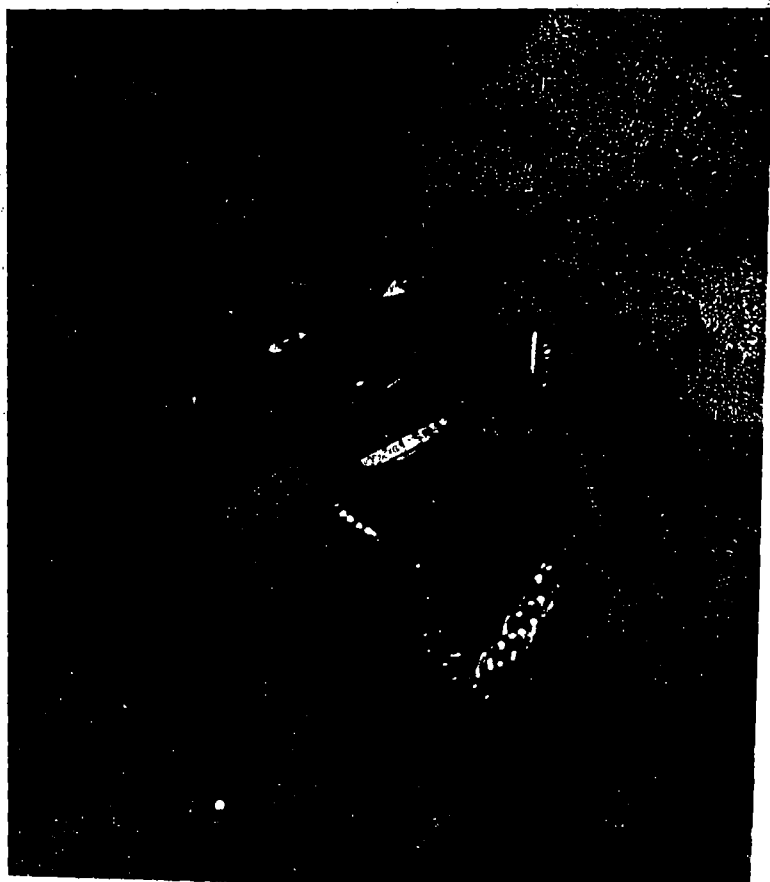
People do themselves an injustice when they don't learn to value the valleys in their lives as well as the mountaintops. If you accept whatever you are go-

ing through at the time as where you are supposed to be, it gives you the freedom to learn the lessons that will make you better.

Sometimes I still look up and expect to see Gloria. But I don't want anyone feeling sorry for me, because there is a lot of light in my life. I want people to look at me and see they can be all right, despite tragedy.

Pointer, 40, regional liaison to the Ohio Attorney General, was honored as the 908th Daily Point of Light for her work with youth. Among her projects is a midnight basketball program designed to keep young people off the streets. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 78]

After Yvonne Pointer's daughter was brutally murdered, her world and everything in it turned gray. But now she's slowly learning to trust life again.



GLORIA ST. JAMES Public-Health Educator

This is not a fairy tale. Someone once stuck a gun in my mouth because I took his money. Once I overdosed, and the people with me robbed me and left me for dead.

I must have robbed every cab in The Bronx, and when I had jobs I embezzled. I've slept on rooftops and eaten out of garbage cans. I abandoned my daughter for years and slept with men just to get money for drugs. I didn't even know what a shower was. I was a bum who walked on the back of my shoes. The life I lived I would not wish on my own enemy.

Crack was the worst experience. With heroin, I had limits and boundaries; with crack, there were no limits. No pride or self-respect. Just low-down dirty. But just when you think you have hit rock bottom, there is a trapdoor. I fell through



PHOTOGRAPH BY VALENTINE MAKEUP IN BROWN/CLEAN

that trapdoor when I was arrested for the sixty-sixth time for stealing three cans of tuna fish. I was sent to Rikers Island prison.

But I feel that God saved my life. While I was there, I accepted that there was a higher power that loved me as I was. I started telling myself that I was not inadequate, that I could overcome bad habits.

They laughed at me in prison and called me a "Holy Roller." But I had never let anything stop me when I wanted a hit. So I had to decide whether I was going to give up or get up. And I wanted to get up.

It's still a struggle. I haven't used drugs or been arrested for more than 11 years, but I always have to fight against the old me. On the streets, they say you are "married to the pipe." And it's just like any other relationship—you may have been abused, but you remember only the good times.

Now I'm working at Rikers. When I look at some of the women, it just grabs my heart because I can tell they have a spark of hope when they see me. It makes me feel useful. But I also remember: There but for the grace of God go I.

St. James, 40, works for the New York City Department of Health's Bureau of Correctional Health Services. She is currently studying for a master's degree in business administration at New York's Hunter College. ♦

Gloria St. James, free of drugs for more than a decade, today counsels others and has also reunited with her daughter.

These three women have overcome life-altering adversities, but small incidents, such as losing a job or breaking up with a boyfriend, can also be a personal challenge. Dr. Linda James Myers, professor of psychology, psychiatry and Black studies at Ohio University, tells us how to cope:

Be patient with yourself. If you rush the recovery process and set unrealistic goals, you may not meet your expectations. Recovery won't happen overnight.

Think positively. In very difficult times, one may feel so low that the only way to go is up. But try to identify the good in a situation. Don't view adversity as a limiting experience but rather as an opportunity to enhance your personal growth.

Avoid feeling sorry for yourself. If you choose to wallow in self-pity, you will prolong your suffering and impede the recovery process.

Have a spiritual base. According to Myers, those who are "spiritually grounded" have less difficulty dealing with adversity. Whether it is a strong religious background, a philosophy or an inner faith, use your spiritual base as a focal point for recovery.

Try to put things in perspective. Adversity can play an important role in our individual growth and development. Negative experiences can be an opportunity for personal growth. It has been said that life is governed by the law of opposites and that to truly know and appreciate good, one must also know bad.

Don't be afraid to ask for help. Contact the Association of Black Psychologists for information about programs and specialists in your area. Call (202) 722-0808, or write to the Association of Black Psychologists, P.O. Box 55999, Washington, D.C. 20040-5999.

HOW YOU CAN HELP A FRIEND

Lend an understanding ear. For many people, talking through one's problems can help put things in perspective. It is fine to express understanding, but never minimize the significance of the person's experience. In most cases someone who is trying to overcome adversity will need a sounding board for his or her ideas and feelings.

Recognize the stages of recovery. The four basic stages of the recovery process are anger, denial, negotiation and acceptance. Try to identify the stage in which your friend is so that you can help her recover.

Be patient and supportive. During these trying times, your friend will be going through a range of emotions and various mood swings.

Bring insight and humor into the situation. Laughing can be therapeutic. Humor can ease the tension your friend is experiencing and momentarily take her mind off her problem.

—MONICA JOHNSON
Vanessa J. Gallman is a reporter for The Washington Post.

April 8 - 22, 1993

MOTHERS, MAY I?

By Yvonne Pointer

I recall playing the game "Mother, May I" as a child. The object was to advance forward, only with the permission of the mother that stood a distance in front of you. It was then, at such a young age, that I was learning the importance of the word, Mother.

My heart is extremely heavy once again, over the news of the little baby that was found on the side of the road in Geauga County. I thought, my God, what kind of mother would just throw her child away like that? The answer became very clear after moments of pondering, "A MOTHER, would never do that!" According to the American Heritage Dictionary, the definition of mother is one who watches over, nourishes and protects. So whoever did such a horrendous, hideous and dreadful act was just a female that gave birth to a child, not a mother. I thought, "How unappreciated mothers sometimes feel. So this article is dedicated to those of you, who have weathered the storms of motherhood. I applaud you. Those of you who often find yourselves on the brink of depression and despair desperately searching for the edge of the world, but continuing to pray for strength. I applaud you, who have taken on the responsibility, willingly of advancing your children forward.

Mother's, may I applaud you for your dedication and commitment to

your children when your days are long, your bills are due, and dinner must be cooked, clothes must be washed, homework must be checked and there is no time for a Calgon bath.

Mothers may I applaud you because continue to mix the flour and sugar that transforms into the cake in the overworked oven. Mothers, may I applaud those of you who form the lines that lead to intelligence, while attending parent/teachers conferences, seminars and library lectures all in one day, because your children's excellence is high on your priority list. Mother's may I applaud you that have to go it alone even when the scriptures clearly states that two are better than one, for if the one falls, the other shall lift him up. Mother's may I applaud you for adding additional bolts to the doors of the minds of your innocent ones, when the demons of destruction attempted to enter and demolish that which you had birthed. Mother's may I applaud you for your tenacity, your inner strength, your hope and belief in a better day for not only your child, but for those you shelter and protect that passed through the canal of another, teaching them that trouble does not last always.

No, a mother would not have done such a thing, disarding her baby as if he had no significance to this world. What do you think would have happened if my mother who birthed ten children, watched over

each of us, nourished us--even if it was sometimes pancakes for dinner (smile) we still had a meal--would have declined the importance of advancing me further? Then you would not be reading this article. I especially applaud My Mother, LueElla Pointer and appreciate her weathering the storm. So Mothers everywhere. May I say, Thank You!

MOTHER, MAY I?

Mother may I tell you, how I never told you of
The joy you brought into my life by giving me your love?
May I also tell you, how sorry I am for the time that I
Was disobedient, and hard headed and even made you cry?

Mother may I tell you of my love for you so dear.
And thank you for the many times you held me oh so near?
The warmth of your love would always seem to ease life's pain
That came to me on many occasions, but you never once complained.

So Mother may I tell you, if I never do,
How very, very thankful I am that God sent me you.

EVERYDAY PEOPLE

By Yvonne Pointer

As we focus on the month of February, which is set aside to celebrate Black History, I cannot help but wonder just who these Black History-makers were anyway? I mean, were they the brightest? The most educated? The strongest? The most religious?

These thoughts made me want to look further into the lives of these that we now pay homage too. Do you know what I discovered? They were "Everyday People". People like Fannie Lou Hammer, Mary McLeod Bethune, Harriet Tubman and the list goes on and on. They were grandmothers, aunts, sisters, and nieces. They awoke each morning to the sound of the clock, they labored over hot stoves, they washed the soiled clothes of children they bore. They attended Sunday School as children and were often seen on bent knee by those around them. They shed streams of tears and the sound of their laughter often resounded among the star filled skies. They were people without necessities, nevertheless their smiles seemed to brighten the day, in spite of their temporal difficulties. They feared their oppressors and walked in the very shadows of death. Their rent was due, their hours of labor were long, their days seemed

never ending and yet they kept a song. So just who were these history-makers, and what makes us sing their songs of praise, while they lay asleep, free from the cares of this old world? What made them any different from you or I? This also makes me wonder.

What does it take to make a history-maker? Can't you just imagine Mary McLeod Bethune in the cotton fields of South Carolina as a child desiring to be educated. Searching and longing for a school room in which to learn. Finally achieving her desire, in spite of the five mile distance that she had to walk daily, she lived her dream with each step that she took. The daughter of slaves who would later be called the educator of many. I'm told that it began with the baking of sweet potato pies and a willingness to be used by God.

She was an everyday person who looked through the window of life with visionary views and noticed injustices. Many of which did not affect them directly, but they realized that an injustice to a person anywhere was a injustice to people everywhere. People who had determined that the brain did not operate based on the color of the skin, but the ability to go beyond the obvious.

There are history-makers among us today, people that our grandchildren will read about in the future. People who are "everyday" and not easily noticed with the naked eye, because their deeds are muffled by the flashing lights of those that occupy the platforms of life. Nevertheless, they are going to be remembered by many.

These are the people People I know I will never forget. I will distribute their legacy among many. People like Dwayne Browder and his God-given gift to walk through the trenches and remain unharmed and dedicated. People like Gil Walker of Chicago, Illinois who create a path that will be followed by many. People like the children in the Cleveland Public School System that will defy the odds and turn our world around. The list goes on and on.

So as we celebrate this month labeled "Black History Month," just look around you and you will see the everyday people who resemble the history-makers. Maybe then you will take up your cross and follow them through the pages of life that will lead to your own history-making events.

