



Bebe Moore Campbell

Author Bebe Moore Campbell, 56

A review in Washington Post Book World once read "If this is a fair world, Bebe Moore Campbell will be remembered as the most important African-American novelist of this century -- except for, maybe, Ralph Ellison and James Baldwin." Campbell, whose career included novels, articles and activism that addressed racial, family, social and medical issues - died in her home in Los

Angeles on November 27.

Her publicist, Linda Wharton Boyd, said she died from complications of brain cancer, with which she was diagnosed in February.

Mrs. Campbell's work explored the turbulent interplay between blacks and whites as well as men and women. She was part of the first wave of black novelists who made the lives of upwardly mobile black

people a routine subject for popular fiction.

Born Elizabeth Moore in Philadelphia in 1950, the only child of a couple who divorced, Campbell lived with her mother during the school year in Philadelphia and her father during summers in North Carolina.

"As a writer, she crafted honest and riveting prose, illuminating the legacies of slavery and freedom, and her ear for

the language and rhythms of urban life have given the world a perspective that is uniquely hers" said Mark A. Nordenberg, Chancellor at University of Pittsburgh where she graduated in 1971 with a degree in elementary education.

After graduation Mrs. Campbell taught, worked as a publicist and as the Washington correspondent for Black Enterprise before moving to

Los Angeles in 1984 to write full time.

She said that in the beginning it was hard to convince publishers that her work had a market. In a 1998 interview from Bookreporter.com she says "It was thought that black people didn't read or that white people wouldn't read books written by black people. When I was trying to get a book con-

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"Where there is no vision the people will perish..." Proverbs 29:18



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Underweight Women More Likely to Miscarry

Women who are underweight before they become pregnant are 72 percent more likely to suffer a miscarriage in the first three months of pregnancy, according to a study from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

The study of more than 6,600 women, aged 18-55, also found that underweight women can significantly reduce their risk of miscarriage in the first trimester by about 50 percent by taking supplements with folate or iron and by eating fresh fruits and vegetables every day.

Chocolate was also associated with reduced risk of miscarriage in this group of women.

The study is published in the current online edition of BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Reading Center Opens While Branch Library Closes for Renovations



Carl Winters, storyteller and Kalima King entertaining children and residents during opening celebration of the Western Addition Reading Center. Photo by Wade Woods.

By Wade Woods

The problem facing the people in the Western Addition while their Branch Library closes for renovation has been solved. Last Week saw the

opening of the Western Addition Reading Center, which is a partnership with the African American Art and Culture Complex, the San Francisco Public Library and the African American Historical and

Cultural Society. The concept for the reading center started over a year ago when it became evident that the Western Addition Branch would be shutting

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Rev. Cecil Williams (left) of Glide Memorial Church accepts a \$200,000 check from Wells Fargo Bank.

Glide, Wells Fargo Team Up To Help Needy

By Post Staff

Hundreds of volunteers and thousands of the homeless and hungry gathered at Glide Memorial United Methodist Church recently for its annual Thanksgiving Day Celebra-

a \$200,000 grant and an \$800,000 equity investment loan from Wells Fargo Bank, San Francisco's oldest and largest financial services company.

The funds will support Glide's Walk-In Center, a

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tract in the 80s these myths made me get turned down a lot. Things are better now but they have only been better for a relatively short period of time."

Her personal experiences in a two-career relationship led to Campbell's first book, *Successful Women, Angry Men: Backlash in the Two-Career Marriage*. Her tender childhood relationship with her father, a paraplegic, gave rise to her second, *Sweet Summer: Growing Up With and Without My Dad*. Her loving relationship with her own grandmother provided

insight into a 1998 novel, *Singing in the Comeback Choir*. In 2001, she authored *What You Owe Me*. Her final two books, a 2003 children's book, *Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry*, and a 2005 novel, *72-Hour Hold*, deal with bipolar disorder. Her first play, *Even With the Madness*, debuted in New York in 2003.

Throughout her career, she won awards honoring her writing, her activism, and her insights into social ills. At the University of Pittsburgh, she was given the Distinguished Alumni Award from the African

American Alumni Council. She was selected by *Essence* magazine as one of the world's 25 most inspiring women. She received the *Los Angeles Times*' "Best Book of 2001" for *What You Owe Me*; the NAACP Image Award for Literature for *Your Blues Ain't Like Mine*; and a New York Times Notable Book of the Year for the latter work.

Campbell is survived by her husband, Ellis Gordon Jr.; a stepson son, Ellis Gordon III; a daughter, Maia Campbell; her mother, Doris Moore; and two grandchildren.

Daddy Hunger

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can Art and Culture Complex will present a free screening of "Daddy Hunger," a film about the absence of fathers and how it affects the lives of their children. The documentary features interviews with "lifers" inside California state prisons; mothers who have raised their

children without a father's influence; and men, women, and youth who have experienced extreme consequences of this serious issue - growing up without a father. The film also features surprising commentary by the controversial Fillmore Slim; rapper, J.T. Tha Bigga Figga; poet Terry Moore and London Breed.

The film will be followed by a Q&A session facilitated by Dr. Joseph Marshall, Jr. Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Omega Boys Club. The event takes place Thursday, December 7 at the African American Art and Culture Complex. For more information call 415.346.0199.

1 in 32 Americans in Jail, On Parole

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ect, a Washington-based group supporting criminal justice reform, said in a statement. "Misguided policies that create harsher sentences for non-violent drug offenses are disproportionately responsible for the increasing rates of women in prisons and jails."

From 1995 to 2003, inmates in federal prison for drug offenses have accounted for 49 percent of total prison popula-

tice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics. The report breaks down inmate populations for state and federal prisons and local jails.

Racial disparities among prisoners persist. In the 25-29 age group, 8.1 percent of black men — about one in 13 — are incarcerated, compared with 2.6 percent of Hispanic men and 1.1 percent of white men. And it's not much different among women. By the end of

prison.

Certain states saw more significant changes in prison population. In South Dakota, the number of inmates increased 11 percent over the past year, more than any other state. Montana and Kentucky were next in line with increases of 10.4 percent and 7.9 percent, respectively. Georgia had the biggest decrease, losing 4.6 percent, followed by Maryland with a 2.4 percent decrease and Louisiana

Reading Center Opens

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down the library began looking around for space in which to provide services for the people that utilized the Branch and particularly the children to whom the branch library provided a safe haven for after school enjoyment and a place to do homework. The library approach London Breed, Director of the African American Art and Culture Complex who in turn referred them to the African American Historical and cultural Society. Al Williams President of the Society says "We began that conversation and saw it as a mutually beneficial relationship to allow them to establish the reading center in the Society's Library. This would allow us access to their users and expose them to the Society's library and material." Williams also points out

that while they were moving sections of the Society's library to make room for additional material from the City's Branch Library they gained of the use of two of the city library staff to update their archives and filter out outdated and redundant material.

The Reading Center will be a functioning circulation Library in which users can check out material and do research. Another thing that Mr. Williams is excited about is that the Society will now be able to stay open on a regular basis for use by young people. The library will maintain regular hours of operation from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm on Tuesdays and 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm Wednesday through Saturday. The Japanese collection of the Western Addition Branch will be housed at the presidio Branch on Sacramento Street during the refit.

While the bond measure passed in 2000 will provide for building and related cost, it cannot be used for furniture, fixtures and equipment needed to complete this project. Friends of the San Francisco Public Library and Western Addition have started a fundraising campaign to raise the necessary \$500,000. Western Addition residents will raise \$100,000 of the needed funding. All gifts of \$1,000 and above will be acknowledged on a prominently displayed plaque in the renovated Western Addition Library. Donors will also have naming opportunities for common areas and collections. Persons wishing to learn how they can get involved should contact Christine Leishman at Christine.leishman@friendssfpl.org

Police Foot Patrols

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ity in terms of watching what happens to the crime statistics from period to period and how the foot beats are effecting it.

Captain Dillon Points out that Officers on the foot beats are officers that want to be there and enjoy the interaction with the community. Two officers who fit that profile are home grown officers Darryl Rogers and James Richards. Rogers who grew up in the Fillmore and received his first hair cut at the Chicago Barbershop on Fillmore and Richards who is from Bernal Heights say that the Foot Beat is a rewarding experience. Officer Richards

who has been walking the Foot Beat in the Fillmore for one year says "I'm a big advocate of walking the foot beat, it's a really good thing, it helps improve the quality of life in the community. . You build a relationship and trust with the people you meet and I really, really enjoy it. I treat my beat as my community and I think that makes a big difference."

Officer Rogers echoes his partner's comments. "I was really surprised by the response I first got from the people in the community, they wave at you, honk their horns and give us praise for work were doing. These are my roots and I love it here."

The ordinance comes up for review in one year with a report to the Board of Supervisors.

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