

Community

Shannon Perry

4 The Houston Sun August 19, 2008

Free Health Screening event to the Houston on Saturday, August 23, 2008

Comcast and TBS are kicking off more great episodes of Tyler Perry's House of Payne in HD on Comcast's Digital Cable. TBS is bringing more of the hilarious hit sitcom to HD and will be the ONLY home of brand new, better than ever episodes beginning December 2008. House of Payne, which debuted in summer 2007, ranks as ad-supported cable's #1 original sitcom of all time among adults 18-49. It also ranked as last summer's #1 show on television among African-American adults 18-49. Now TBS is eager to give something back to the community that's shown such terrific support for the show. Comcast and TBS will bring the House of Payne: No Payne. No Gain. Health Screening Event, free of charge, to Houston, TX

on Saturday, August 23 at "Keeping the Music Alive" Wellness Fair at Herman Park.

"This is a special opportunity for us to supply our affiliate partners with programming and events that are highly relevant to the African American community and, our communities overall," said Gary Brockman, vice president of network marketing and operations, TNS.

The No Payne. No Gain. Health Screening Event is designed to raise awareness of specific health issues that are of special concern to the African-American community, particularly diabetes and heart disease. TBS's House of Payne is a hilarious comedy show, but afflictions like diabetes, high blood pressure and heart

disease are no laughing matter. By traveling to communities that need these health screenings most, the risk of these diseases can be reduced and

known to medicine: early detection and education.

The No Payne. No Gain. Free Health Screening Event will offer



hopefully lives saved by rolling out two of the most powerful weapons

these much-needed tools: § Free health screenings offered by

certified medical technicians, including glucose, blood pressure and correct height-to-weight ratio tests.

§ Educational information about diabetes, obesity and heart disease.

§ Advice about health issues, including how to stay healthy and look for warning signs.

No Payne. No Gain. Will not be all charts and stethoscopes. There will be fun and prizes, as well. Free entertainment will keep the atmosphere upbeat and inviting, with plenty of giveaways, including branded promotional premiums. Plus enter to win a HD TV!

The "Keeping the Music Alive" Wellness Event will be held at Herman Park, 1 Herman Circle, Houston, TX before the evening concert. The

Wellness fair hours are Saturday, from 3:00 - 6:30 PM.

TBS, a division of Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., is television's top-rated comedy network. It serves as home to such original comedy series as My Boys, The Bill Engvall Show, Tyler Perry's House of Payne, 10 Items or Less and Frank TV; hot contemporary comedies like The Office, My Name is Earl, Sex and the City, Everybody Loves Raymond, Family Guy, King of Queens, Seinfeld and Friends; specials like Funniest Commercials of the Year; special events, such as The Comedy Festival in Las Vegas and Just For Laughs: A Very Funny Festival in Chicago; blockbuster movies; and hosted movie showcases.

Friendswood Chamber of Commerce appreciation night at The Hampton Pearland

The Hampton Pearland, an assisted living community at 2121 Seaside Blvd., will host a Friendswood Chamber of Commerce Appreciation Night on Thursday, Aug. 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. This event offers an opportunity to meet and mingle with The Hamp-

ton staff, residents and friends. The event is free and open to members and partners of the Friendswood Chamber. Space is limited, so a reservation is requested. For more information or to R.S.V.P., call 281-464-8740.

70 years ago, Thurgood Marshall helped Maryland's black teachers gain employment

NNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Thurgood Marshall's first class action lawsuit and one of his earliest legal actions to help blacks being treated unfairly started 70 years ago this summer when Marshall met with black Anne Arundel County teachers.

Phillip L. Brown, a 99-year-old retired teacher and principal, still remembers meeting with Marshall at the old Bates High School. Black teachers in Anne Arundel had called the NAACP in New York because white teachers were being paid more.

"The problem for the NAACP was finding a plaintiff, getting someone to

raise their head," writer and political analyst C. Fraser Smith said.

Starting in June 1938, the 30-year-old Marshall and Brown and other NAACP officials began working on a federal lawsuit to seek equal rights for teachers.

Smith said there was "no question" the 1938 case shaped civil rights history in Maryland and eventually America. "It was a long, hard road from 1938 to 1954," he said.

Blacks, both students and teachers, faced numerous obstacles in Anne Arundel County in 1938. They went to separate schools, teachers were paid

less and blacks only went to class 140 days a year, not 180 days like whites. Further, when black schools were crowded, each student only went to class four hours a day and teachers had to teach 12 hours a day.

"When the Supreme Court made its separate but equal ruling (in an 1896 case), they made sure they had separate, but they didn't worry much about equal," Brown said.

Blacks trying to become teachers in Maryland met opposition because the University of Maryland said race was reason enough not to let blacks go to graduate school. Instead, Mary-

land paid blacks to go to New York University for education degrees.

Indeed, Marshall, originally from Baltimore, had to go to another law school because the University of Maryland School of Law wouldn't accept him. He was the first U.S. Supreme Court Justice who was black.

But that was years after state legislators told Brown, Marshall and the black teachers of Maryland the state didn't have the money to pay them equal wages — despite many black teachers being better educated and more experienced.

Study finds minorities more likely to be paddled in school

IBBY QUAID

WASHINGTON (AP) — Paddlings, swats, licks. A quarter of a million schoolchildren got them last year — and blacks, American Indians and kids with disabilities got a disproportionate share of the punishment, according to a study by a human rights group.

Even little kids can be paddled. Heather Porter, who lives in Crockett, Texas, was startled to hear her little boy, then 3, say he'd been spanked at school. Porter was never told, despite a policy at the public preschool that parents be notified.

"We were pretty ticked off, to say the least. The reason he got paddled was because he was untying his shoes and playing with the air conditioner thermostat," Porter said. "He was being a 3-year-old."

For the study released Wednesday, Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union used Education Department data to show that, while paddling has been declining, racial disparity persists. Researchers also interviewed students, parents and school personnel in Texas and Mississippi, states that account for 40 percent of the 223,190 kids who were paddled at least once in the 2006-2007 school year.

Porter could have filled out a form telling the school not to paddle her son, if only she had realized he might be paddled.

Yet many parents find that such forms are ignored, the study said.

Widespread paddling can make it unlikely that forms will be checked. A teacher interviewed by Human Rights Watch, Tiffany Bartlett, said that when she taught in the Mississippi Delta, the policy was to lock the classroom doors when the bell rang, leaving stragglers to be paddled by an administrator patrolling the hallways. Bartlett now is a school teacher in Austin, Texas.

And even if schools make a mistake, they are unlikely to face lawsuits. In places where corporal punishment is allowed, teachers and principals generally have legal immunity from assault laws, the study said.

"One of the things we've seen over and over again is that parents have difficulty getting redress, if a child is paddled and severely injured, or paddled in violation of parents' wishes," said Alice Farmer, the study's author.

A majority of states have outlawed it, but corporal punishment remains widespread across the South. Behind Texas and Mississippi were Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Florida and Missouri.

African American students are more than twice as likely to be paddled. The disparity persists even in places with large black populations, the study found. Similarly, Native Americans were more than twice as likely to be paddled, the study found.

The study also found:

In states where paddling is most common, black girls were paddled

more than twice as often as white girls.

"Boys are three times as likely to be paddled as girls."

Special education kids were more likely to be paddled.

More than 100 countries worldwide have banned paddling in schools, including all of Europe, Farmer said. "International human rights law puts a pretty strong prohibition on corporal punishment," she said.

In rural Drew, Miss., Nickolous Luckett still remembers the paddlings he got in fifth and seventh grades. One happened when he called a teacher by her first name, the other when a classmate said, wrongly, that he threw a spitball.

"I didn't get any bruises, but they still hurt, and from that point on, I told myself and my parents I wasn't going to take any more paddlings," said Luckett, who is about to be a sophomore at the University of Mississippi.

It's not an easy choice. In many schools, kids can avoid a paddling if they accept suspension or detention, or for younger kids, if they skip recess. But often, a child opts for the short-term sting of the paddle.

And sometimes teachers don't have the option of after-school detention, because there are no buses to take kids home later.

During the three years Evan Couzo taught in the Mississippi Delta, he refused to paddle kids, offering detention instead. But others — teachers, parents, even kids — were accustomed to pad-

dling.

"Just about everyone at the beginning of the year said, 'If he or she gives you any trouble, you can paddle them. You can send them home, and I'll paddle them. Or you can have me come out to the school, and we can both paddle them.'"

"It's really just a part of the culture of the school environment there," Couzo said.

There is scant research on whether paddling is effective in the classroom. But many studies have shown it doesn't work at home, said Elizabeth Gershoff, a University of Michigan associate professor of social work.

"The use of corporal punishment is associated almost overwhelmingly with negative effects, and that it increases children's problem behavior over time," Gershoff said.

Children may learn to solve problems using aggression, and a sense of resentment might make them act out more, Gershoff said.

The practice is banned in 29 states, most recently in Delaware and Pennsylvania. While some education groups haven't taken a position on the issue, the national PTA believes paddling should be banned everywhere.

"We teach our children that violence is wrong, yet corporal punishment teaches children that violence is a way to solve problems," said Jan Harp Domene, the group's president. "It perpetuates a cycle of child abuse. It teaches children to hit someone smaller and weaker when angry."

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