

# YOU

ourselves. She told us that we could be anything that we wanted to be if we tried hard enough. She told us that there would always be some people who would

board. She did not want that for her children. Through her constant encouragement, all of us managed to graduate from high school. The summer after gradua-

streets in and out of juke joints. Here is a dollar to help you a little bit. I miss you very much. Your mother, Harriett."

I always managed to get home for Mother's Day. We'd go to church and the men always wore little rose buds in the lapels of their jackets. Every Mother's Day more than other times, remember the thousands of conversations she and I had. She would give advise and she would always go with me when I would go to see Miss Irilla or Miss Fields or Miss Lucy. She was proud of me because I had brought honor on the family. I was proud of her because she had brought character, strength, decency, honesty, independence, and a kind of moral responsibility that I have rarely seen since.

Something else which I remember is when I saw Harry Truman on television and said: "That's what I want to be. I want to be the president." She looked at me with piercing eyes and said simply: "OK."

So, fifteen years after her death I say to her: "This Bud's For You."



**Professor Fitzgerald is director of ethnic studies at University of Nevada-Las Vegas**

try to hold us back or to make us feel bad but we were not to pay any attention to them. We were told to work hard, be respectful, tell the truth and bring honor to the family. She always told us that she was proud of us and that she loved us.

Over the years, she washed many a tubful of clothes and pressed many shirts, skirts, pants and dresses and sheets to pay the tuition to send us to Holy Family Catholic school. She had us become altar boys so we could learn Latin. She had us sing in the church choir and the school glee club. She had us all play sports. She insisted that we all be on the honor rolls and get gold stars after our names. She also insisted that we not be pushed around. She told us that if anybody hit us that we should hit them back.

Once, on a Saturday afternoon, she and the children were walking on Franklin Street in front of Abrams Department Store when a man came out of the door and I accidentally bumped into him. He drew back his hand to strike me and I heard my mother's voice say: "If you hit that boy you might as well give your soul to Jesus because your ... will belong to me."

She got dirt under her fingernails working in fields and her hands were pruned from washing clothes on a scrub-

tion, for me, I worked all summer as a painter. The following fall I became the very first member ever in the history of my family to go to college.

My mother told me to bring honor to the family. There was not much money in my home. Yet, each and every week I received a letter, written with a pencil from her. It always started out the same way: "How are you. Fine I do hope. We are well and hope you are the same. Keep your clothes clean and read your books. Don't be down there running the

## WAITING CHILDREN

Lawrence is an engaging and social black boy who has been in foster care since his birth. At four years of age, Lawrence has a delightful sense of humor and a winning smile. Although not especially handsome, Lawrence will captivate you with his charm and personality.

Lawrence is a mildly retarded child. Currently he is attending an all-day specialized school program in which he is making steady progress. His speech has recently become spontaneous, but he still makes many of his needs known by gestures. In addition, he has a slight eye problem which is corrected by glasses. Although Lawrence will always be developmentally delayed, he is quite eager to learn and easily taught. He responds to positive attention and dislikes scoldings. Lawrence follows directions well and tries hard to please.

Lawrence has learned to dress and undress himself and he eats without assistance in spite of his poor jaw control which affects his eating patterns. He is receiving eating and chewing therapy to in-



crease his control. Lawrence is not yet toilet trained, but he is currently being taught independent toilet skills with anticipated success.

Lawrence is a very happy and curious child. He gets along well with both adults and the children in his special school program. He loves music and especially likes to sing and dance. Lawrence needs

adoptive parents who can give him the attention he needs and the encouragement to continue to progress. Lawrence is responsive to loving attention and he should blossom in the warmth and security of a permanent adoptive home. Lawrence has been waiting all his life for a "forever" family. How much longer will he be kept waiting?

### HOW YOU CAN ADOPT

The Las Vegas SENTINEL, working with AASK (Aid to Adoption of Special kids) hopes to find homes for these children. AASK is looking for people who can give love and nurturing to hard-to-place children.

If you'd like more information on how to adopt a special child or how you can help financially support the AASK program, please call 876-7420 or write AASK Adoption Agency, 3305 W. Spring Mountain Road, Suite 92, Las Vegas, 98102.

Adoption is a specific legal matter, and the Las Vegas SENTINEL can answer no questions concerning the children.

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## EBONY'S GALLERY OF FAME



LEONTYNE PRICE, born Laurel, Mississippi, February 10, 1927, concert and opera singer; Merit Award for role of Tosca in NBC-TV opera, has sung in every major opera house in the world; awarded the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, 1965, Spingarn medalist 1965.

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