BY SUSAN SHORTER

THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY IS REQUESTED AT

A Very Private Party

To celebrate an anniversary or any other particularly important day, serve this light and colorful menu. Transform salmon steaks into something really memorable with a delicate souffle topping and serve them with golden tarragon flavored rice. Express your love with Individual Strawberry Tortes and showcase the season's pick of the crop.

SALMON STEAK FOR TWO

3 tablespoons Parkay margarine, melted
1 tablespoon dry white wine
2 (1½ to 2 lbs.) salmon steaks, 1 inch thick
1 egg white
3 tablespoons Kraft real mayonnaise
1 tablespoon green onion slices
¼ teaspoon dry mustard

Combine margarine and wine. Place fish on greased rack of broiler pan. Broil 5 to 6 minutes on each side or until fish flakes easily with fork, brushing frequently with margarine mixture. Beat egg white until stiff peaks form. Fold in combined mayonnaise, onions and mustard. Spoon onto fish; broil until lightly browned. 2 servings.

Variation: Substitute halibut steaks for salmon.

RICE ELEGANTE

½ cup rice
2 tablespoons Parkay margarine
1 cup water
½ teaspoon dried tarragon leaves, crushed
Dash of pepper
½ cup thinly sliced celery
¼ cup (1 oz.) Kraft grated parmesan cheese

In saucepan, saute rice in margarine until lightly browned. Add water and seasonings; bring to boil. Cover; simmer 10 minutes. Add celery; continue simmering 15 minutes or until rice is tender. Stir in cheese. Serve with additional cheese, if desired. 2 servings.

INDIVIDUAL STRAWBERRY TORTES

3 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons cornstarch
Dash of salt
1⅓ cups milk
1 tablespoon Parkay margarine
½ teaspoon vanilla
1 cup thawed La Creme whipped topping with real cream
2 sponge cake dessert cups, split horizontally
Strawberry halves

Combine sugar, cornstarch and salt in saucepan; gradually add milk. Cook, stirring constantly, over medium heat until mixture is thickened. Boil 1 minute. Remove from heat; stir in margarine and vanilla. Cool; mix until well blended. Fold in whipped topping. For each serving, spread each cake layer with cream mixture; stack. Top with strawberries. 2 servings.

. . . **Johnston** Continued from page 9

the question of stigma only seems to arise when black persons are the beneficiaries.

When white males were receiving 100 percent of the positions in some places, did anyone point out that more qualified blacks were excluded? Did anyone say we should stop these practices because it was stigmatizing all white workers? And when was the last time someone suggested that we stop giving preferences to alumni children because people might question their credentials? In fact, given the myriad kinds of preferences that exist in this country, why don't we hear more about this thing called "stigma"? The reason is simple: The idea of stigma is a lie — a vicious lie designed to make black persons feel guilty about sharing in the American dream.

The dream in this country is, and always has been, getting a chance to make it. Some people get that chance because of who they know, some because of what they know. Others have had to rely on "getting a break." For blacks and other minorities, these breaks often never come. Affirmative action often provides that opportunity. When people talk about stigma they try to suggest that affirmative action is the victory when it is really only a chance to compete in the race. Booker T. Washington said that success was measured by the obstacles which one has to overcome while trying to succeed. Affirmative action is simply an aid in overcoming one of the early obstacles.

Blacks may get their foot in the door through affirmative action, but it's still a fight to get to the other side. It is ludicrous, for example, to question the abilities of a black surgeon because the medical school attended had an affirmative action plan. The subsequent training and experience of that individual should speak for itself. The black person who successfully negotiates such paths often is better, tougher and more willing to meet challenges than his white counterpart. Rather than suggesting that such blacks are stigmatized, those who so glibly cite the words of the Constitution and other revered documents in opposition to affirmative action should recognize that these individuals are the true representatives of the American dream. They have been given a chance and they have made that chance work for them.

It is simply disingenuous to raise issues of color-blindness in our color-conscious society. The present reality is that race continues to be a significant **negative** factor in decisions today. The reality is that the system hasn't worked for minorities. It's not that blacks can't make it; the system won't let them make it. Those who would subvert the spirit of our national guarantees by dwelling on distorted interpretations of words and phrases only serve to perpetuate the unfairness and segregation in our society. As Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun noted in the **Bakke** case:

"In order to get beyond racism, we must first take account of race ... [a]nd in order to treat some persons equally, we must treat them differently. We cannot ... let the Equal Protection Clause perpetuate racial supremacy."

If we truly aspire to a color-blind society, we must not be seduced by the clever use of words and assertions that the battle for civil rights is almost over and that affirmative action is not necessary. We must not rest with the rhetoric of equality when there is still much work to be done on the reality of inequality. ■

BOOKS

BY ARTHUR FLOWERS

The Black Folks Guide To Making Big Money In America
George Subira $11.00, Pub: Very Serious Business Enterprises. POB Newark NJ 07012 (201) 375-8740

A well written and very accessible book on a subject that frightens so many (making money). Subira effectively demystifies wealth and the process of acquiring it. It is well constructed, explaining first the true nature of wealth and how it is produced and then laying out the attitudes and the behavior patterns of "fortune builders". The sections on what cultural patterns tend to inhibit blacks in the struggle for wealth are priceless. Mr. Subira's no-nonsense frankness about the pursuit of wealth is refreshing and of particular interest is the section on the advantages and disadvantages of being a black woman interested in "making it" in America. The bibliography is in itself a valuable learning tool. In publishing and distributing his book himself, Mr. Subira proves that he practices what he preaches.

When and Where I Enter Paula Giddings
The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America. Bantam Books $10.95 408 pages

A "big" book that will be significant for many years to come, this study of the role that black women have played both in the black struggle and in the struggle for women's rights is a grand affair. Ms. Giddings' thesis is that black women have been pivotal in both of these struggles. By interspacing bios of such significant and interesting women as M. M. Bethune, Ida B. Wells, Rosa Parks and Shirley Chisolm with piercing exposition, Ms. Giddings not only keeps the narrative alive and interesting but is able to dramatically illustrate the relationship between the actions of significant individuals and groups and the broad sweep of historical process, thereby giving both needed perspective. Her analysis of social process is sharp and black women's often stressful role in the black and feminist movements and their on-going struggle for self-discrimination and empowerment is very thoroughly and clearly depicted. Though she pulls no punches the dispassionate objectivity of her presentation doesn't leave a sour taste in the sensitive male mouth. Her position on black women as the important "link between two of the most significant social reform movements in America." is convincing. When, in the future, books about the contributions of black women are written, Ms. Giddings will surely be included.

Arthur Flowers is author of De Mojo Blues, Executive Director, New Renaissance Writers.