

To All Public Servants

To All Public Servants:

As the Yuletide Season approaches we are reminded of the valued service rendered by the Public Servants of our city, county and state. The knowledge you impart and the guidance you give to the people of this great country of ours make your profession one great importance to all of us.

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to you for a job well done. Such work like yours helps our community, state and nation to keep the principles embedded in our consti-

tution. This is what makes this land of ours a great country. Keep the good work going!

If during the balance of the year we can be of assistance to you in your various activities of service to mankind, please do not hesitate to call us.

Portland Observer sends Seasons' Greeting to you and yours. May your Christmas be joyous and may the next year bring good health and happiness to you and those dear to you.

The Portland Observer
Staff members



Hatred is a Disease

There exists a racist group which advocates the arming of white students and the ultimate killing of all blacks who attend integrated schools.

In a taped telephone message, the speaker for the group, who would appear to be a white youth, defames black people, calls them apes and generally preaches white supremacy.

In this enlightened age where electronics reigns supreme, it would seem that there would be some regulatory power that would police this type of slander and put an end to all the hatred that is being preached via the telephone wire.

In the past, attempts to have these phone messages taken out of circulation have met with utter failure. These messages are instruments that will tear down all the progress that has taken place in this nation over the past hundred years.

There are many things wrong with this country and, from all indications, it will take some time to get things straightened out, but some small amount of progress has been made and it seems extremely foolish to lose that progress because of the whims of some irresponsible people who would like to see this nation involved in an internal war.

Messages that preach hate also preach destruction for this nation. Until some effective, enforceable laws are passed dealing with these phone calls and all the hate literature that goes through mails daily, there will be someone trying to create turmoil where peace reigns.

Hatred is a disease and these people seek to make it an epidemic. Only level heads and effective laws can deal with these people. The sooner this is done, the better off the nation will be. It has been proven that hatred breeds hatred and we need to try another plan of attack if we are to survive.

Low-Potential Students

A new project for low-potential students has been launched. The Vocational Training Project for Low-Potential Students began operation in the fall of 1970 in remodeled headquarters at 1820 N.E. 40th Avenue. The Project is operated by the Portland Public Schools; it is directed by Dr. Vernon Thomas; and it is designed to help mildly mentally retarded youngsters between the ages of 17 and 22 who exhibit an exceptionally low potential become socially competent and economically self-sufficient.

The Portland school system in cooperation with the State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) has for many years provided facilities for the training and job-placement of the majority of youngsters certified as mildly mentally retarded. However, youngsters with the lowest potential were found to need a more intensive course of evaluation and training than existing facilities could provide. The Vocational Training Project for Low-Potential Students is designed to fill this need.

Enrollees in the Project in-

Few Black State Troopers

A special survey of state police forces found that "no more than 250 of the nation's 40,000 state policemen are black." Available figures suggest that another 500 state troopers are from other racial minorities. At least 10 states have no black troopers and only five states have as many as 10. The mail and telephone survey got responses from 46 of the 50 states. California has the highest number of non-white officers - 80 blacks and 174 from other minorities. Four other states - Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania - have between 13 and 23 black patrolmen. Oklahoma has 102 minority officers other than black and most of them are Indians. A full report and table on findings in next issue.

Black Merit Academy Formed

The director of the Afro-American studies program at Indiana University has formed the Black Merit Academy to recognize outstanding achievements in that field. Prof. Henry E. Simmons, founder and acting president of the academy, said recognition would be given to achievement in three areas: academic excellence in courses related to the black experience, contributions to black community. Simmons has appointed an interim steering committee of black scholars from several universities and the first annual meeting of the academy is scheduled for next summer. Plans call for publication of a newsletter, beginning in January, and a journal starting next fall.

clude certified mentally retarded students, recent graduates, and dropouts recommended to the Project either by the schools or the DVR.

The Project can accommodate up to 32 enrollees a day. Each spends three hours a day at the Center. Enrollees who are students spend the rest of the day at school.

The Project is staffed by the director, a counselor, and three vocational instructors all trained or experienced in working with the mildly mentally retarded.

At the Project, the enrollee is tested, trained, and evaluated in a variety of home-living situations and vocational roles--including assembly line work and clerical type work such as filing, marking, and packaging.

He (or she) spends half his time in a workshop doing piecework for pay. This experience is especially valuable in increasing motivation and endurance. He spends the other half of his time in one of two training rooms learning more specialized skills in accordance with a vocational plan established by the counselor.

Typically the enrollee is returned to school full-time or the DVR for placement after about eight weeks, or when he has acquired the social and vocational skills consistent with getting and keeping a job.

The Center is completely maintained by the enrollees. Enrollees also run a small snack shop where staff and fellow-workers can buy homemade cookies, coffee or other snacks.

The less you sleep at night, the more efficient and hard working you're apt to be. Sounds strange, but that's what psychiatrists at Boston State Hospital found out in a study of 400 men aged 20 to 40.

As reported, men who habitually sleep more than nine hours a night tend to be introverted, passive, and mildly depressed. Men who get along with six hours sleep or less were efficient, hardworking, and achievement oriented.

as advertised in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

OPINION LEADERS COME IN SEVERAL COLORS.



The times are different. Times are better although we all remember the good old simple days. The days of yesterday we can remember when color was a convenient guide to what was what and who was who? Well, the times they are a'changing.

Consider the conversation a friend of ours overheard in an apartment house elevator. Two matrons were chatting.

"You used to be able to walk up to one of them in the lobby and ask if she had a free day," complained the first.

"But you don't dare now," said the other, "She might turn out to be your neighbor."

"Exactly. Or your kid's teacher."

"Or your Local Planning Board Representative."

"Or (like some of the people in the Photo above) a personnel specialist, writer, researcher, communications executive or social worker on a professional call - or a social one, or a member of model cities."

Black people, you see, have come a long way since the "good old days." Their opinions are being heard and felt, and for responsible black opinion leaders in Portland, there is one "must" newspaper - THE PORTLAND OBSERVER.

The Portland Observer has

something of interest for everyone.

The Portland Observer tells which Nixon policies affect them most and how.

The Portland Observer tells them what Mayor Evers, and other Black lawmakers are doing.

The Portland Observer tells them about Black artists, inventors, business men and student leaders you never heard of.

And black writers, black law enforcement officials, black churchmen and we even bring to other readers, people of other ethnic groups.

The Observer tells them about inside story of City Hall and city officials also what happens in Salem. For local and national news it is found in the Observer.

People of all color look forward to the Observer every Thursday. Most of them will never see the other papers. So what Observer reader thinks of your products is what the Black community at large thinks eventually of your products.

So now that you know what's what and who's who, shouldn't we get together? Just say when.

CALL: Mr. Groves

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ALFRED LEE HENDERSON, Publisher and Editor



As Christmas comes to you this year, we warmly wish that it may bring a holy meaning ever deeper, hopes ever brighter, and joyous blessings ever richer.

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