

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

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A Black Owned Publication

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ALFRED LEE HENDERSON, Publisher and Editor

## Voice of reason



WILLIAM R. DEIZ

Are Hard to Read Because Each Capital Letter Slows the Eye Down a Little. SENTENCES IN WHICH ONLY CAPITAL LETTERS ARE USED ARE EVEN HARDER TO READ.

Some issues we've been capitalizing only the first words of headlines on the editorial page. Now we've extended the practice throughout the paper. It may seem a little strange at first. When you get used to it - if you aren't used to it already - you'll probably wonder why newspapers ever did it any other way.

There was the voice, firm and persistent -- taking the battle to the oppressor himself, caught in the middle, a voice calling for reason in an irrational time

The voice, of course, belonged to Whitney M. Young, Jr. who when he died at the age of 49, had probably done more for the cause of green power among black people than any one man in this century.

He was born in Kentucky and educated there, then he received his masters in social work in Minnesota.

It was while a sergeant in the Army, in a unit of blacks commanded by southern whites, that he began being the Whitney Young that was to take him into the thick of the battle for black rights.

It was World War II and Young was determined that the men in his unit be treated with dignity.

It was a constant vigil, negotiating the legitimate complaints of blacks with unsympathetic white officers, but it was a task he took upon himself willingly.

It wasn't a pleasant experience, being caught in the middle.

His men must have wondered why he seemingly moved so slowly on matters that were so pressing to them; while the officers must have felt threatened by the stubborn streak they saw in this man who was determined to see justice done.

He talked to those officers and he persuaded them to change.

But talk takes time, and when one's head is submerged beneath 20 tons of horse manure, one doesn't have too much time for talk.

And so some of the men in Young's unit must have become critical of this sergeant, and you can't really blame them-- they were suffocating.

But you see their suffocation was by no means of Young's fault.

He felt strongly that the way to relieve their misery was by pointing out its existence to those in a position to relieve misery-- the officers-- and not by ranting and raving and using up precious oxygen.

Whitney Young's style should serve as an important lesson to anyone faced with problems caused by race.

The lesson is that in an area as complex as whites have made relations between the races, a multi-pronged approach is the surest method of success.

Whitney Young's right along with Martin Luther Kings and Malcolm Xs are all needed in the fight for equality.

They all have particular missions to perform.

## You may have missed

If you've noticed something different about the way this newspaper looks lately and haven't been able to figure out what it is, we'll let you in on the secret.

It's the headlines. Instead of capitalizing all the main words, we're capitalizing only the first word and any other words that would be capitalized in ordinary writing.

THE IDEA is that headlines ought to read pretty much like sentences. Sentences in Which Most Words Are Capitalized

## Answers from VA

(EDITORS NOTE: Veterans and their dependents are asking thousands of questions concerning the benefits their Government provides for them through the Veterans Administration. Below are some representative queries. Additional information may be obtained at any VA office).  
Q -- I receive VA compensation for a service-connected disability. Am I also eligible for medication from the VA?  
A -- Yes, a veteran is eligible for medication from the Veterans Administration if it is required for a service-connected disability.

Q -- I have recently been awarded Dependency and Indemnity Compensation as the widow of a veteran killed on active duty. I am also a veteran and have my certificate of eligibility for a home loan. May I now obtain two VA home loans -- one on my husband's service and one on mine?  
A -- No. An unmarried widow of a man who died while on active duty or who died from a service-connected disability is eligible for a home loan based on her husband's entitlement, but only if she is not eligible on the basis of her own active duty.

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