

PORTLAND OBSERVER

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A Black Owned Publication

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ALFRED LEE HENDERSON, Publisher and Editor

People count not machines

There is more behind the move of The Portland Observer to considerably larger quarters at 2201 N. Killingsworth than the moving of equipment and gaining additional machines. Even though the move will allow The Portland Observer to carry on the complete function of publishing this weekly newspaper without any work done elsewhere, what is far more important is that we are preparing for people.

With the kinds of help we are receiving from many in and out of Portland the reality of a strong and healthy newspaper for the Model Cities area is in the process of becoming a reality. We have plans of making The Portland Observer a training ground for people in the printing industry. Here they will learn the trade of publishing a paper, and if things go as planned will be trained in the functions of a commercial printing plant.

There are not many, if any, minority people in this industry. The good Lord willing we'll prepare able people to make a living in typesetting, press operation, make up, photography, to mention a few. At the same time we intend to concentrate on making The Portland Observer a newspaper which truly serves the people. A personal voice for the individual who often feels that no one represents him.

The goals are high and we expect the trail not to be easy; but we seek to do what a newspaper is suppose to do: Primarily to be a public watch dog. We are of course proud of the move to larger quarters but we know that we owe the growth to our readers and advertisers without which we could do nothing.

The last one?

In an interview with the press, President Nixon has said that the war in Viet Nam is ending, and added, "In fact, I seriously doubt if we will ever have another war. This is probably the very last one." If this statement is to have a chance of proving true, the United States must end the war in Viet Nam while retaining a position of honor and strength. If this is to happen, it is imperative that the moral force of world opinion be brought to bear to compel humane treatment of U.S. prisoners of war, held under diabolically cruel conditions in the stockades and penitentiaries of North Viet Nam.

The Reader's Digest, in its April issue, has sought to mobilize public opinion and generate an upsurging public protest in the form of millions of signed statements to be delivered

Youth Care Funds

Each department and division of State government is covered by an appropriations bill. House Bill (HB) 2045 would appropriate approximately \$31 million from the General Fund to the Corrections Division. Of this money, Youth Care Facilities would receive \$763,214.

Youth Care Facilities are an alternative to sending delinquent youth to MacLaren School for Boys or Hillcrest School of Oregon for girls. Youth Care Facilities also take youths who might otherwise be returned from juvenile Detention to an unchanged family situation.

HB 2045 is in the Joint Ways and Means Committee. Senators on the Committee are George Eivers, Edward Fadeley, E.D. Potts, Jason Boe, Lynn Newbry, Betty Roberts, and Berkeley Lent. Representatives are Philip Lang, William Gwinn, Bill Stevenson, Hugh McGilvra, Allen Pynn, Rod McKenzie, and Stafford Hansell.

ed through the American Red Cross to the government of North Viet Nam. The Digest article, entitled "Inside the Prisons of Hanoi" should be read by every American. It is a report of actual POW conditions as described by some of the men who have been released and by informed sources in Washington Saigon and Paris. It describes such conditions as prisoners being caged or tethered like animals so that villagers could file past to strike them or urinate on their bodies. It speaks of constant hunger, steady weight loss, nausea and and hopelessness of the "Hanoi Hilton," an old French penitentiary, in which prisoners are kept in tiny cement-walled, heavily-barred cells and sleep on cement slabs or rough boards stretched across sawhorses. Progressive starvation, isolation from other human contact, the numbing cold, lack of medical care for wounds, as well as illnesses or injuries contracted during captivity, are part of the picture.

Wages

Fort Dodge, Iowa, Messenger "It should not be forgotten that so far as some potential workers are concerned-- the handicapped, the aged, those with less than average competence and the young-- a minimum wage is far from an unmixed blessing. It condemns many thousands to idleness, as employers cannot afford to pay the wages required for what these people can accomplish. The record has established that every time the minimum wage goes up more fringe workers lose their job opportunities. There would seem to be no good reason for doubting that it will happen again particularly if, as seems likely, it comes at a time when unemployment already is disturbingly high."

School measure fails

The final tally of the vote on Portland School District's request for a \$36 million building bond issue and a \$7 million operating budget, registered a 2 to one turn down.

While state wide school wonders why Portland's measure was defeated. We believe that the major element in Portland's School District's money measure being turned down was the lack of understanding concerning middle schools.

At numerous public meetings real questions about middle schools were never answered definitely or were side-stepped.

Portland School District has not been able to satisfy many people's feelings that schools being re-shuffled and re-labeled "middle schools" was not just putting old goods in a new bag.

That the remodeling of schools is a need which is obvious to anyone making a visit to most any three or four schools; but now the concern is for quality educational programs.

Portlanders haven't been convinced that such quality exists nor that the approval of the districts asking price of \$43 million will provide the quality.

Socially, many of the racial problems of schools such as Jefferson and Roosevelt have remained unsettled in the main and drug abuse still runs rampant.

Academically high school graduates have poor qualifications for jobs and vocational programs are lagging.

The Portland School Board and administration could better plan and show the people some hope for success and not expect the voters to approve a system which hasn't convinced the public they are getting their money's worth.

The City of Roses school system is indeed in need of repair and needs much more creative direction than shown the past (at least) ten years.

WELFARE statement

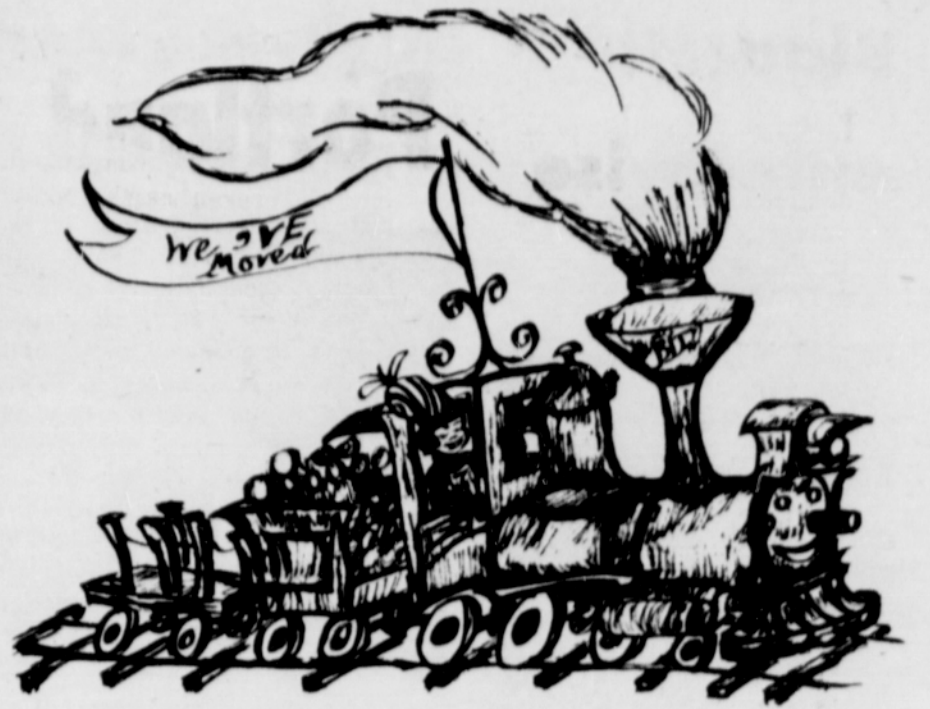
A Statement by a Welfare Child
To all the people who don't care about me and kids like me

My Mom cries a lot and I know she loves me but I needed a pair of shoes for school and she couldn't get them for me, so I took a pair from a store. I didn't want to but I didn't have any money to buy them and I want to go to school so I won't have to go on Welfare like Mom. We don't have enough to eat all the time either and I didn't have a coat for a long time this winter. Nobody likes welfare and they don't like us welfare kids, but nobody wants to do anything to help us get off of welfare.

I know enough about politics to know I don't have any rights. I don't have the right to ask for more to eat or to be warm or to even have a house to live in. I don't vote so I don't count. Those people in Salem decide whether I will be hungry and cold or not, and I've been cold and hungry a long time.

But I am told I must respect the people who do this to me. I try to -I try very hard.

"Welfare Crisis Committee"



We have moved to 2201 N. Killingsworth to serve you better phone 283-2486

From Our Readers

The Portland Observer welcomes letters to the editor. Whether they are critical of this newspaper or commentaries on the problems of our society, all will be given just consideration for printing in this column. We reserve the right to edit according to our space limitations.

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