

The Northwest's Best Weekly  
 A Black Owned Publication

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ALFRED LEE HENDERSON, Publisher and Editor

**Black Business Guideline**

The spring issue of Master in Business Administration has an article on "The Consortium" which, citizens of the Albina Community and black business in Portland should use as a guideline.

The objective of the group is to recruit highly motivated and qualified blacks into rigorous counseling programs in order to hasten the entry of well-trained blacks into management positions.

During 1971 a total of 65 fellowships for programs will be granted.

The true measure of success, however, lies not just in numbers but in the answers: "Have college graduates accepted managerial positions in business?" and "How are these blacks performing out in their field?"

The New York Consortium is proud to report that 44 out of its 51 MBA's or 86% are, or soon will be, in management positions in corporate business. Two graduates have started their own consulting firm, and one works with an organization which assists minority persons in beginning and operating small business.

While the kinds of positions which Consortium candidates have accepted are varied, there is a definite trend. The drift of most is in the direction of financial analysis, marketing, production management, control and information systems, accounting, and banking.

Several reasons are offered for this trend toward the more acute areas of business. Most of the blacks, the group has met from the business world are in personnel or college relations, urban affairs, or community relations-type areas. These blacks generally come from educational backgrounds which are not business oriented, and they seem to be in dead-end positions with little or no chance for upward mobility. As one student puts it, "It's not easy rapping with a black who can only tell another black the titles of openings and nothing about the duties, responsibilities, and potential for growth, even if you're interested in positions." Or as another said, "I want to get into the action: I want to find out if business really means equal opportunity."

So far the people that have been worked with, thought salary was important but not of prime importance. They felt secure that their salaries would not be less than those of their white counterparts. They were, however, concerned primarily about how a black would be treated by the rank and file in the company while they insisted on getting a reading as to what the attitudes of the company were toward the social and economic plight of blacks, they weren't as interested in past records on equal opportunity as they were in implementation of positive action programs of correction.

The consensus is that the jobs are challenging, very meaningful, and educational. There is plenty of work to do, not enough time in which to do it. Problems which arise, solutions which sometimes are hard to come by, compliments, and try-it-again gestures--all healthy gestures--all healthy corporate signals. Most important, though the people feel they have a job to do, and know they are doing it pretty well.

After being placed the people remain close to the program. They praise the efforts, helped to formulate the policies, strengthen its objectives and stimulate it to make necessary and important changes. What had developed is an honest-to-goodness exchange of ideas, admiration, and offers of assistance. A worthwhile group must make frequent referrals to the program and interview prospective people.



Valedictory Address

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Participants have contributed in other ways. They have had a tremendous impact on schools and the institutions that participate by referring individuals to the program. They have dispelled faculty fears that blacks will lower the standards of the school. The attrition of blacks due to poor academic performance has been no higher than that of their white counterparts. They have helped form and direct organizations within the schools to assist small black business enterprises. Black students have served on committees dealing with problems and concerns of minority students helping to raise the level of social awareness in schools.

Portland needs now, more than ever, such a working group to start and continue a program to move more blacks into careers in business. People in the black business community are the only ones who can adequately counsel and assist in these efforts. Blacks are needed in business positions. The lack of management skills among minorities must come to an end, and the leadership, encouragement and financial support must come from business leaders, minority group leaders, educators and interested persons.

**Letter to the editor**

Dear Mr. Henderson:  
 Thank you for including me on your mailing list of the "Portland Observer." I have read each copy with interest. You have an outstanding paper that will provide the community a valuable service.

I would like to clarify one minor point concerning the article in the June 10 edition on moving the "Crabtree" from Brookings to Portland. The "Army" unit that helped you was the 3670th Heavy Equipment Maintenance Company, Oregon Army National Guard.

We congratulate you on your fine publication and wish you continued success.

Sincerely yours,  
 Claude W. Biehn  
 LTC, GS, OREARNG  
 Chief, O&T Division

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if he was one of the then-favored "blue eyes," said: "I don't know. I have brown eyes."

When in the movie a real fight between boys was related, one of the white youngsters said about the "inferior" boy who started the fight: "I would have done the same thing."

The Seaback sessions, with two more one-week groups scheduled under federal funding through the Model Cities program here, is not all work and play--acting on racial matters.

The students hike, swim and boat together, dig into a salmon bake on the beach, keep the counselors counting heads, and solve group problems.

South Africa has made a positive move toward reducing racial tensions by easing the penalties for violations of the demeaning pass laws.

The South African countenance heretofore has been flinty and unbending. Thousands of South African blacks were jailed for failure to show the proper pass. The punishment for pass law violation was as silly as that in our country for failure to pay alimony. A jailed man cannot get out to pay alimony and a jailed black South African cannot produce a pass.

So the South African government has set up bureaus of information to which black citizens are sent for assistance in furnishing pass information and in locating the missing pass books. No longer is a violator sent to jail.

Any South African policeman may ask for passes at any time, day or night, with or without reason. Here at home a policeman can ask for one's driving license and automobile registration at the time of a traffic violation. But not when one is otherwise attending to his business.



ROY WILKINS

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It is estimated that a very substantial part of the total jail population in South Africa consists of those charged with violations of the pass laws. It remains to be seen whether the individual South African policeman can remember the new rule and refrain from the usual treatment of black citizens.

by Richard Wilson

Washington, D.C. -- Maybe the administration did not leak out the Pentagon's 2.5 million word, 40-volume report on the incidence of the Vietnam war but it is a windfall for President Nixon just the same.

The report in all its massive detail shows as nothing else could how the Kennedy-Johnson administrations took over the limited-risk commitments of the Eisenhower administration in Southeast Asia and made them into a large-scale high-casualty war which Nixon is liquidating.

In this respect the Vietnam war-wind down is like the Korean war, a conflict undertaken in a Democratic administration and brought to an end in a Republican administration.

It is somewhat ironic, but a tribute to the New York Times news judgment and enterprise, that it should have obtained and published such devastating documentation. The Times has not admired the way Nixon has been getting out of the war but by its own standards it has even less reason to admire the way President Johnson's Kennedy-Johnson escalation seems particularly absurd.

The college demonstrators and their professional mentors can't be convinced that this is anything else but a sneaky Nixon version of McNamara's war, but more mature elements will certainly be able to see the difference.

Protests which might have been valid at the end of the Johnson administration or at the Democratic National Convention have lost any semblance of a rational basis.

Nixon keeps saying that to end a war is easy but he is finding it hard as hell. It is hard to lose the illusions that led Johnson, McNamara and former Secretary of Defense Taylor, et al, got into the war.

In view of the record as it is now so painstakingly set forth it is hard to imagine how the Democratic presidential candidates, who were right here on the scene but did not make known any opposition to the war in its incidence, could make any credible issue on the way Nixon is trying to end the mess on at least a half-way constructive basis.

To relate the Cambodian and Laos diversions in the process of withdrawal with the Taylor into commitments they could not fulfill. And it is even harder to emerge from this darkness of disillusionment into the light of a well ended war with concepts of honor and good purpose intact.

If we survive this one without shattered self-respect, it will not be due to the forbearance now of those who remained silent when, in advance of the presidential election of

Negro Americans rightly insist that government must make a definite, affirmative move to correct inequities. They also demand--and again correctly--that the benefits of any such move reach down into the grass roots population and not be confined to selected individuals at the top. The new policy on pass laws in South Africa affects all black people without exception. It could not be any more a grass roots regulation than it is. And nothing could be more affirmative or widespread than a favorable change in the pass law procedure.

Even if it is on the survival basis of "hang-together-or-we'll-all-hang-separately," the South African government's altered stance on blacks warrants most careful consideration. The president of the Ivory Coast has said that talks could be a step toward changing South Africa's separatist racial policy. For the time being, that may be optimistic.

However, a black population as tightly restricted as is that in South Africa, with all the government machinery as well as the government guns arrayed against it, must welcome any lessening of the bonds. The black posture, physical and psychological, is such that the only way one can go is up.

Mr. Vorster's moves and the tentative reaction of some of the black African states but sharpen the conviction of thoughtful Negro Americans that the preachers of racial separatism in this country are offering a gold brick solution to a tough problem.

The tortuous way out of an immensely complicated and intertwined race situation in America is integration "on an equal footing," in the Vorster language. His "we are of Africa" applies here to black and white Americans: "we are of America."

**Interpretive report**

1964, great plans were afoot for the heaviest bombing operation the U.S. ever undertook. And in that year it was Barry Goldwater who was pilloried for being trigger happy!

There is enough blame to go all the way around. Nixon as a private citizen and public man supported the war. Johnson changed his mind about the bombing, finally brought escalation to a halt and began to entertain ideas for a wind-down and withdrawal advanced by Clark Clifford.

Johnson will have his own story to tell in his memoirs soon to be published but it is not likely to alter the record of covert, clandestine and finally deceptive advancement into a major war which the Pentagon itself has written.

Where were the Democratic presidential candidates during the great deception? Harold Hughes was governor of Iowa --saying nothing. Edmund S. Muskie was in the Senate --saying nothing but now remembering that he had doubts.

Hubert H. Humphrey was vice president and saying plenty--all of it in support of President Johnson's policy in Asia.

Nor are columnists who thought America could do what it put its mind to do exempt from blame. They suffered, too, from the World War II mentality that the United

States had a mission and could carry it out for the betterment of world peace and security. Some who doubted the wisdom of the escalation, but agreed with the objectives, could see no alternative to supporting the adventure once it had begun.

The Nixon White House says it serves no constructive purpose to arouse anew the bitterness and recriminations bound to flow from the Pentagon's self-analysis. But maybe it will if it only slightly chastens those who now make Nixon's way out of the war more difficult by accusing him of the deception they so freely attribute to Johnson.

The contrast is sharp and clear. Nixon is getting out of the war that Johnson got into, and the record shows it.

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