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Vocational Training Effort

Portland businessmen and the Portland School District are joining forces in a new program aimed at training young people for employment during and after their high school years.

Called Vocational Exploration in the Private Sector (VEPS), the new venture is funded by a \$100,000 grant from the U. S. Office of Education and will be directed by Mrs. Lois Gates.

The school district will provide counseling and remedial training for the students and will help employers establish training programs, according to Mrs. Gates. The employers will supervise the students on the job and will train them for specific occupational areas, she said.

The ultimate aim of the pilot program will be to establish on-the-job training as a part of the regular curriculum for high school students, according to Mrs. Gates.

To be eligible for the program teenagers must be juniors or seniors in Portland high schools and must qualify as economically disadvantaged or as potential dropouts. The students are selected by school work-experience coordinators.

While they are in the training program, the students will be paid \$1.60 an hour through the Neighborhood Youth corps. Employers will rebate \$1.60 an

hour to the school district for each hour a student spends on the job.

Mrs. Gates said 50 students have been selected to begin training during the last week of July. She expects about 200 more students to take part in the program after school starts in the fall.

The Portland branch of the National Alliance of Businessmen, under the direction of Don Floren, will arrange for job openings for the students and also will help employers in developing training programs. A wide variety of businesses already have indicated a willingness to participate in the VEPS program, according to Mrs. Gates.

Mrs. Lois Gates, director of the VEPS program, and Don Floren, director of the National Alliance of Businessmen in Portland, will be at the VEPS office Tuesday afternoon to open the office and orient students to the program. The office is located at 1501 N.E. Fremont St. and the activities are scheduled to begin about 1:30 p.m. The telephone number at the office is 288-9159.

Mr. Floren will be prepared to make a short statement about VEPS and both he and Mrs. Gates will be happy to answer questions.

Safe boating no accident

Every year, the number of boating accidents and fatalities increases, despite the efforts of many organizations teaching water safety. This is due to the increasing number of people buying their first boats and then, without any training or previous experience, launching the boats and embarking on what may turn out to be disastrous voyages.

It is highly desirable to have boat owners and operators take at least a basic course in seamanship before "going to sea." These courses are available most anywhere in the country and are sponsored by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, power squadrons, boating clubs, yacht clubs, and even sports stores.

Recently, while attending the President's Cup Races on the Potomac River, many of us were aghast to see a small homemade rowboat out in the middle of the river with five very scared adults holding on for dear life every time another boat went past. The boat was overloaded. There were no life jackets on board. One oar was lost, and only two of the five could swim. We took them aboard our boat and put them ashore. Another accident averted, but how soon will the same unsafe thing happen again?

There are some fatal mistakes that boat owners or skippers make that account for over 95 percent of the accidents. Study the following and learn from the mistakes of others. Then, join in with the hundreds of thousands who go back to the sea in boats and enjoy every minute of it - safely.

Overloading. Too much weight spells death for many a small-boat occupant. Typical is this case. Four men set off on a fishing trip in a 14 1/2-foot boat with a 25-horsepower engine. The men's weight alone was 800 pounds, not counting fishing gear. As the boat sped along its bottom sat deep in water, so that only five inches of the boat's side protruded from the water. Not far out, a slight wind sent waves over the bow. Soon swamped, the boat sank, and two of the men drowned. Common sense should have dictated that only five inches of freeboard, as it is called, was dangerous. The men should have realized that only small wave five inches high

would get in the boat. The Coast Guard has a simple rule: "If the boat looks or feels overloaded, it probably is, so don't take it out." No Life-Saving Device. This is the Number One deadly error for boaters. The law requires that all small boats have Coast Guard-approved buoyant cushion, ring buoy, or buoyant vest for each person, but the difficulty is that the law can't force people to use them. Many a boater who has voiced complaint to the ownership and use of such life-saving devices has gone to his death.

"It would be desirable for everyone to wear a life jacket at all times when on the water in a boat," says the Coast Guard. "And certainly, non-swimmers, young children, the aged and physically handicapped in a small open boat should always wear one."

Overconfidence. Amazingly, it's not the cocky novice at the helm who accounts for the majority of boat accidents. The disturbing fact is that more than half the boat accidents last year involved operators 26 to 50 years old with more than 500 hours of operating experience. Partly to blame is overconfidence, a tendency to throw caution to the waves because they know "no matter what comes, I can handle the situation."

The safe boater, no matter how expert he may be, enters every new situation cautiously and recognizes both his own and the boat's limitations.

Violating "Rules of the Road." Boats, like autos, are subject to traffic laws that govern yielding the right-of-way, speed, lights, etc. The fellow who disobeys these rules is asking for trouble. One skipper, towing a water skier, failed to yield the right-of-way and crashed broadside into a motor boat, hurling a 12-year-old occupant to her death. Another boater, speeding at night without lights, ran down and killed a 16-year-old bather. One fellow, who "forgot" the meaning of a red light, rammed at full speed into a sea wall.

Rules of the road vary according to the body of water - lakes, rivers, or oceans. A skipper must know and obey laws applying to the area in which he is operating. It will keep him alive and out of a lawsuit.

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Northwest's Newest

PORTLAND OBSERVER

This is your paper, because you have demanded it. — Something of interest to everyone.

Vol. 1 No. 43 Portland, Ore. AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER Thursday July 29 1971 10¢ per copy

Job Bank Report

The job outlook continued to improve, as measured by Area Job Bank openings. The professional field did not share in the general improvement. Demand for draftsmen and engineers was rather slack. In the medical field orders levelled off for technologists and fell in the nursing profession. There was some opportunity for manager trainees.

The office clerical field exhibited considerable activity. Orders were up substantially for bookkeeper, key punch operator, and office machine operator. Demand rose moderately for secretary, receptionist, and clerk general office. The supply of office personnel will soon be augmented by students and graduates. Retail sales openings slackened off considerably. On the other hand, there were more orders for insurance, commission, and house-to-house salesmen. There was still considerable unmet demand for solicitors.

The strong demand for waitress, bus boy, and bar maid continued, openings for cook, combination girl, and institutional cook rose considerably. Food service jobs are hard to fill in outlying locations. There were fewer calls for motel maid, nurse aide, and watchman. On the other hand, demand rose for porter and cosmetologist.

Local Leagues throughout the United States are invited to participate in this project. The study project may well result in helping to restore voting rights to many of the de facto disenfranchised voters, and this will be a significant public service to the community at large.

LEAGUE STUDIES LAWS

The League of Women Voters of the United States has recently announced the receipt of a grant in the sum of \$351,000 from the Ford Foundation. This grant will make possible programs under the League's Education Fund.

An election systems survey will be carried out in cooperation with the National Municipal League. Mrs. Jane Cease, president of the Portland League, stated that this is a community-oriented study designed to discover what obstacles to registration and voting whether procedural, administrative, or attitude-generated -- have the effect of keeping citizens away from the polls.

To develop among trainees and associates a sense of increased economic security. To foster and nurture a sense of self-pride which will give the trainee confidence in himself and enable him to participate with dignity in the total society.

To stimulate loyalty and pride in the community... a sense of brotherhood involving all religious, racial, cultural, economic, political and other groups.

To adapt the training program to meet the challenge of changing technological advances and current business needs.

To develop an awareness of man's relationships and responsibilities to his fellow man, along with the ability to act in a constructive manner in the community and the world.

Hence, Opportunities Industrialization Center will seek to develop the "whole man."

POIC Mass Meeting

Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center will hold its first annual mass meeting on Sunday, August 1, at the Church of God in Christ, 1737 N. E. Alberta at 3:30 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to inform residents that Portland OIC will be training 200 enrollees in various occupations and the objective is to place 40 percent of these enrollees in meaningful jobs which will have an impact on the community equal to three million dollars in savings to the taxpayers.

Opportunity Industrialization is a national organization and the national objectives are: To train or retrain millions of men and women with untapped talents and unknown skills, who are unemployed or underemployed.

To involve the total community in the awareness of the value of preparation, thereby stimulating and inspiring individuals to seek higher levels of productivity, creativity, and achievement.

To develop among trainees and associates a sense of increased economic security. To foster and nurture a sense of self-pride which will give the trainee confidence in himself and enable him to participate with dignity in the total society.

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Business Crime

The common garden variety of thievery continues to be the biggest factor in crime against small and independent business, but shoplifting is coming up fast increasing in some areas 70 to 100 percent.

In fact, shoplifting, which appears to be heading toward epidemic proportions is the only criminal act against independent business which is showing gains, according to the continuous surveys of the National Federation of Independent Business.

An analysis of the returns from the first and second quarter of the year, with approximately 30,000 respondents covered in each quarter shows 13 percent reporting losses from theft, which is the same as reported in the first quarter. Losses reported from robbery dropped from 3 percent of the respondents in the first quarter to 2 percent; from burglary, 8 to 7 percent, while losses reported from vandalism remained at one percent.

However, losses from shoplifting jumped in the last quarter from 10 percent up to 12 percent. As to be expected the biggest percentage suffering these losses were retailers. However, wholesalers, service organizations, and professional organizations which maintain counter or showcase displays of goods also report losses from this source.

Losses due to riots show up as a negligible fraction of a percent. The incidents of both robbery and burglary hold fairly constant in all the independent business vocations with the exception of burglary from finance firms going below the average with only 2 percent reporting suffering from this type of crime.

The independent builder-contractor and the independent transportation firms are the hardest hit by both vandalism and theft. Among the builders, 15 percent reported losses from vandalism and 23 percent from theft. Among transportation firms, 10 percent reported losses from vandalism and 28 percent from theft.

Forty-one percent of all independent firms report losses suffered from some

of these categories reporting losses of this size. There are definite regional differences in the reports of losses from shoplifting. While in most geographical areas the reports of losses from this cause is below the national average, in the middle Atlantic states it has jumped a third from 10 percent reporting shoplifting losses early in the year to a current 15 percent.

In the South Atlantic states respondents reporting shoplifting losses have more than doubled so far this year, from a low of 7 percent to the present 15 percent and in the Mountain states the jump in the same period of time has gone from 10 percent to 17 percent.

Golf Tourney

The 27th annual tournament of Leisure Hour Golf Club will be held at Bowman's Country Club this year.

Events begin with the usual two-man bestball tournament scheduled for Sunday, August 1, followed by the annual get-acquainted picnic on the resort picnic grounds.

The first 18 holes of the 36 hole tournament will begin on Monday with Tee-Time at 8:00 a.m. for both days.

A soul food buffet dinner is planned for Monday at Bowman's at 6:00 p.m., and music for dancing is provided by the Monarch on Monday evening rather than Tuesday this year.

The awards dinner is scheduled for Tuesday evening at 6:00 p.m., according to Mr. Leon McKenzie, Tournament Chairman.

Employment in the poverty neighborhoods of the Nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas was unchanged, but unemployment rose from 9.0 to 10.1 percent (seasonally adjusted) between the first and second quarters of 1971, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. These neighborhoods account for approximately 7 1/2 percent of the country's population and labor force.

The second quarter 1971 increase in unemployment followed 2 quarters in which the rate was the same (9.0 percent). The unemployment rate in the other urban neighborhoods of the 100 largest areas remained at 5.8 percent for the second consecutive quarter, while the rate for the Nation as a whole, at 6.0 percent, was not essentially different from the rates of the previous 2 quarters (5.9 percent).

Community College's OSPIRG

Portland - Lane Community College officially joined the growing list of private, community, and state colleges and universities belonging to OSPIRG at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group Sunday afternoon, July 18, in Eugene. Students from Lane Community College's OSPIRG organizing group went before the L.C.C. Board of Directors on Wednesday, July 14, and successfully presented a voluntary OSPIRG funding procedure.

The OSPIRG State Board of Directors also formed a newsletter subcommittee of the Public Relations Committee; adopted by-laws presented by that committee; discussed fall orientation programs for new students on the fifteen colleges and universities presently represented in OSPIRG; and are pursuing possible office locations in Portland. The Staff Hiring Evaluation Committee is continuing to review approximately 150 resumes submitted by lawyers, scientists, administrators, and ecologists from many parts of the United States. A report from the ad hoc committee which organized an OSPIRG booth at the recent

National Environmental Health Association Conference said the booth was a great success, and mentioned that it had won the 3rd place award granted by the conference delegates. Theuniqueness both consisted of a place for conference members to drink coffee, snack on cookies, and talk with OSPIRG students about the organization.

The State Board unanimously passed a proposal from a University of Oregon representative that State Board committees include an additional alternate representative from each member school, and that any member of the public be allowed to serve on OSPIRG committees without voting rights, as designated by the Chairman of the State Board or the committee chairman.

The next State Board of Directors meeting will be held Sunday, August 1, at an as yet unknown location, pending final decision of a Meeting Location Subcommittee. Persons wishing to attend the meeting should contact the Portland State University OSPIRG office at 223-4545, or write: Post Office Box 1364, Portland, Oregon 97207.

Vets get benefits

It is estimated that during the 12 months ending June 30, 1972 that 5,900 newly - returned veterans will collect approximately \$4.3 million with an average weekly benefit amount of \$54.50. There were 89,947 total weeks of unemployment insurance benefits paid during Fiscal 1971 to newly-retained veterans and it is estimated that around 80,000 weeks will be paid in Fiscal Year 1972, Morgan said.

Unemployment insurance benefit payments for newly-retained ex - servicemen are authorized under the Ex-Servicemen Un - employment Compensation Act of 1958 and are paid under Congressional appropriation. Eligible newly-retained ex-servicemen are entitled to 26 weeks and 13 weeks of extended unemployment insurance benefits if they cannot find suitable work during that time. Claims may be filed at any office of the State Employment Division just as for regular un - employment insurance benefits.

At the same time, Morgan said, the Employment Division contacted all returning veterans to give them information on services available to help them find jobs. These programs are continuing under a concentrated effort of co - operating agencies under the Governors Jobs for Veterans Task Force, spearheaded by the Employment Division in all of its local offices, MORGAN STATED.

Morgan said that the average unemployment benefit check to veterans during the 1971 Fiscal Year was \$50.10. Under the new Employment Division law, which upped the maximum benefit amount to \$62 a week, starting July 1,

Employment Situation

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Labor Force and Employment The population and labor force in poverty neighborhoods were little changed from the first to the second quarter of 1971, after declining in most of the previous quarters. Employment in poverty neighborhoods averaged 5.5 million, seasonally adjusted, about the same as in the first quarter of the year.

Of the total number of persons in poverty areas who were employed in the second quarter of 1971, about 16 percent were working part time. This was the same proportion as a year ago and was also equal to the proportion of workers currently working part time in the other urban neighborhoods. The number of persons on part time for economic reasons (such as due to slack work or material shortages) in poverty neighborhoods, at 4.8 percent of the employed total, was twice the proportion in the other urban areas.

Unemployment Unemployment among both adult men and women in poverty areas increased in the second quarter of the year, on a seasonally adjusted basis. The adult male rate rose from 7.1 to 8.3 percent between the 2 quarters. The rate for adult women moved up over the quarter from 7.8 to 8.9 percent. At 27.8 per-

cent, the unemployment rate for teenagers was down slightly from the first quarter. Jobless rates for both whites (9.1 percent) and Negroes (11.9 percent) in urban poverty neighborhoods moved up over the quarter, but the rise in the white rate was proportionately greater than that for Negroes. As a result, the ratio of Negro-to-white jobless rates in these neighborhoods dropped slightly; during the same period, the comparable ratios in both the Nation as a whole and in the other urban neighborhoods edged up.

Among white workers, unemployment rates were up for three major labor force groups, with the largest increase occurring in the teenage rate - from 18.1 to 23.8 percent over the quarter. For Negroes, jobless rates rose for both adult men and women in the April-June period, with the increases about in line with those among white adults. However, the unemployment rate for Negro teenagers fell from 44.9 to 36.2 percent.

Between the second quarter of 1970 and the second quarter of 1971, the labor force in urban poverty areas declined by 155,000 as the population in these areas also dropped. The proportion of the population 16 years of age and over in the labor force also edged down over the year, from 56.9 percent of the population to 55.5 percent. This decline in poverty area labor force participation was slightly larger than that which took place in other urban neighborhoods. Employment in poverty neighborhoods dropped by 310,000 over the year, while unemployment increased by 165,000.

Over the past year, unemployment rates in poverty areas have moved steadily upward among the major age-sex groups. The sharpest increase took place among adult women, whose jobless rate rose by about three-fourths, while the rates for adult men and teenagers increased by about one-third and one-fourth, respectively. The unemployment rate among white workers rose by one-half, from 6.0 to 9.1 percent over the year, while that for Negroes by one-third, from 8.8 to 11.9 percent (seasonally adjusted).

Mayor acts to halt City in Lien practice



HOME NEARLY LOST --- Television personality Gerry Pratt (left) explains to a dismayed Willie Joshua (right) how the City of Portland planned to sell Joshua's \$7,950 home for \$26.45 to pay delinquent tax lien. Pratt's timely disclosure, based on an exhaustive investigation into Portland City Hall practice of auctioning off private properties to pay overdue tax bills, prevented speculators from seizing homes of Joshua, at 3706 N. Haight Ave., and several others. Pratt's investigation also triggered action by Mayor Terry Schruck to eliminate inequitable practice from Portland's city charter. Looking on is Ted Channel. Joshua's lien was paid by the Freedom Bank.

Ever hear of a \$7,950 home being sold for \$26.45? Willie Joshua almost did when his home at 3706 N. Haight Ave. was almost sold out from under him to pay a delinquent tax lien owed to the City of Portland.

Joshua was one of several home owners who faced the loss of their properties as a result of the seemingly time honored practice whereby the city "auctions" off deeds to speculators for the amount of unpaid taxes, usually just a fraction of the properties' assessed valuation.

This antiquated system of collecting taxes came to light last Friday in an article by Gerry Pratt published on the front page of The Oregonian.

The revelation by Pratt, business-economic analyst and television personality, triggered action at Portland's City Hall.

Pratt's disclosures also served to inform Joshua and several others they were about to lose their homes because, they claimed, they had never been notified by the city that the tax bills were due.

As a result of Pratt's articles, Mayor Terry Schruck ordered the city attorney's office to draft a proposed amendment to the City Charter for placement on the ballot in a special election this fall.

The major's proposal called for the elimination of the "auction" required in the charter, turning over the unpaid bills to the city's assessment and collection fund.