

Vanderbilt adjust to black studies

When Akbar Muhammad, son of Black Muslim leader Elijah Muhammad, was first contacted about becoming black studies director at Vanderbilt University, he didn't know quite what to think. He was aware of Vanderbilt's reputation as a major, white, Southern University—a school never known for its hospitality to blacks, but then again not totally identified with any sort of all-out resistance to racial equality.

He was skeptical, to put it mildly, but still the South had always intrigued him. He had never lived there, had been born and raised in Chicago, but his parents were originally from Georgia, and he often wondered what the region was like. He told Wendell Holladay, Vanderbilt's dean of Arts and Sciences, that he was interested.

Vanderbilt officials, of course, had a few doubts of their own. They had not been sure what to expect from the son of the Black Muslim prophet, a young man who still retained a strong admiration for his father and his father's movement, even if his own religious views had moved in the direction of Muslim orthodoxy. Nevertheless, the Vanderbilt leaders, no doubt feeling the pressure of the times, were pleased that Akbar's perspective was impeccably black. They also had learned very soon that at the University of Edinburgh where he was studying and teaching, Muhammad had a very good scholastic reputation. And although some Vanderbilt administrators may have been troubled by the fact that Muhammad did not yet have his Ph.D., his recommendations were good, both abroad and in the United States, and the university made its offer.

In July of 1970, after a rather lengthy exchange of letters, Vanderbilt paid Muhammad's way from Scotland to Nashville, Tenn., so that he could see the campus for himself and meet some of the people he would be working with. As he remembers it,

he was not especially impressed.

"I was not pleased by the replies I got to the questions I asked," he says. "I had the feeling that people, particularly in some of the university's departments, were not ready for change." And it became apparent to him very quickly that change was needed.

Vanderbilt, at that time, did have a black studies program of sorts. But it consisted mainly of an inter-departmental major involving existing courses in the departments of history, sociology and political science. Nearly all of the courses, although dealing with the black experience, were taught by whites. Muhammad questioned, as he still does, the ability of whites to teach such courses effectively, and he informed the Vanderbilt administration that as black studies director, he would want authority to work with professors in structuring their courses and selecting the textbooks.

He told Vanderbilt he would accept the offer, and in January of this year, he moved to Nashville. "I came to Vanderbilt to try out the situation," he says. "It was really a hunger for a new experience.

I wanted to see what it would be like to coordinate a program for a very, very small minority of black students on a predominantly white Southern campus."

Vanderbilt administrators seem to appreciate Muhammad's position. "Professor Muhammad is just a tremendous asset to this university," says Hobbs. "He is a first rate scholar and an exceptional person in every way." And while Muhammad is less lavish in his praise of the administrators, he also says that he has been able to work with them so far. But he makes it clear that, in his mind, there is still a long way to go. "And my bags," he says, "are always there to be packed."

Telephone numbers Change

Telephone numbers are changing as of November 21 for some 1,000 telephones in Multnomah County departments and offices.

The change, according to Pacific Northwest Bell Portland Division Manager E.L. Pfeifer, taking place over the November 20-21 weekend will involve placing a new electronic phone system in service to serve County phones at the Juvenile Detention

Home, the Public Works department, the County Health department and all offices at the County Courthouse.

The new numbers, to be listed in PNB Portland area phone directories that will be delivered starting November 30, will start with the prefix "248."

The electronic phone system will permit direct dialing to phones in the system without the call being handled by a switchboard operator. Switchboard positions now in use at various county locations will be replaced by two table-top consoles located at the Courthouse.

Console attendants will handle calls to the County's new general information number -- 248-3511 -- to provide information on county listings not included in the directory.

Among the many County phone numbers to be changed include those for the Sheriff's offices at the Courthouse. The new number to call for emergency purposes will be 248-3911, and the number for normal business calls will be 248-3265.

Other new numbers that are expected to receive heavy calling as in the past from Multnomah County residents include:
District Attorney's office--248-3162,
Juvenile Court and Home--248-3460,
Registrar of Elections----248-3720,
Medical Services--248-3710,
Board of County Commissioners--248-3304,
Tax Information--248-3320.



Black star is a sensation

The new American singing sensation, Lovelace Watkins, leaves Heathrow airport in London with his wife, Bene, on a flight to Australia for a nine-week tour.

Tri-Met runs special buses

Tri-Met will run special buses all nine days of the Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Nov. 12 through 20, it was announced by General Manager Tom King.

Buses will leave downtown Portland hourly, beginning at 12:32 p.m. They will depart from S.W. 6th Ave. between Yamhill and Morrison, proceeding down 6th Ave. to N.W. Everett, across the Steel Bridge to the S.W. 6th departure point.

Single cash fares will be 50 cents, King said. Passengers with valid transfers from routes into downtown will pay an additional 15 cents for the P-I run. Students and senior citizens pay their regular rates of fare plus 15 cents.

Questions about the bus service to the P-I will be answered by Tri-Met's information department, 233-3511.

District prepares Nomination petitions

Candidates for three four-year directorships on the Portland Board of Education may pick up nomination petitions at the School District No. 1 administration building.

Certificates of nomination and other petition forms may be obtained from the deputy school clerk's office, Room 301, 631 N.E. Clackamas St.

Positions 1, 2 and 3 -- now held respectively by Jonathan Newman, Paul Howe and Frank Case -- will be subject to voter decisions during the May 23, 1972 primary election. The terms begin next July 1 and end June 30, 1976.

The three incumbents have not yet declared their intentions to seek reelection. The four remaining board members -- still having two of their four-year terms to be served -- are Norman Lindstedt (Posi-

tion 4), Mrs. William McCoy (5), R.W. DeWeese (6) and Robert L. Ridgley (7).

To qualify for a ballot position, candidates must be registered voters of the school district. Their petitions must include signatures of 300 registered district voters plus a \$10 filing fee. To avoid the filing fee, some 1,908 signatures of registered district voters must be obtained.

Certificates of nomination and acceptance of nomination must be filed before 5 p.m. March 14, 1972 with John Weldon, Multnomah County director of records and elections, 1040 S.E. Morrison St.

For further information call: James M. Voigt, Public Information Specialist, 234-3392, Ext. 36.

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For example, did you know that, during the last year, more than 2,000 cars were abandoned on Portland streets alone?

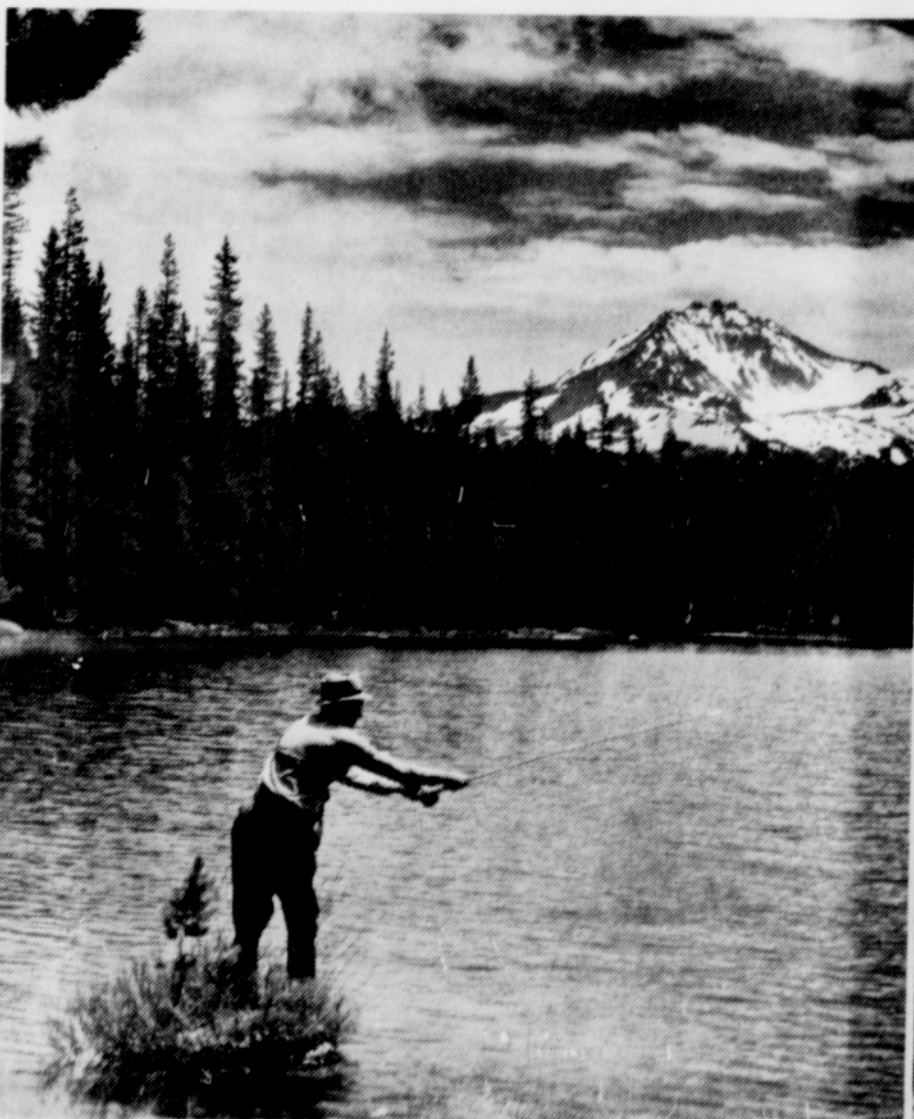
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To keep ahead of your ever-growing electrical demands, PGE is building new generating plants which are essential for reliable electric service. Energy from the atom, which is clean to make and clean to use, will provide adequate supplies of electricity while preserving Oregon's matchless environment. If you'd like a free booklet on "Why Oregon needs more power," write or phone PGE.

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