

PORTLAND, OREGON
P A I D
U.S. POSTAGE
PERMIT NO. 1766
Mrs. Frances Schoen
University of Ore. Library
Eugene, Or. 97403

"Teenagers discuss crisis: VD epidemic in Portland"

National statistics reveal that 77 percent of the reported venereal disease cases involved young people between the ages of 15 and 24. Of these, 25 percent of the cases concerned youngsters between 15 and 19.

In Oregon there were 2257 reported cases of venereal disease in 1971 in the 15 to 19 age bracket, an increase of 271.6 per cent in five years. In Multnomah County there was an increase of 209.5 per cent. Twenty-five percent of the cases of Gonorrhea in Ore-

gon in 1971 involved young people between 15 and 19. In the same year, 35.3% of the reported cases were minors. The Observer talked to the youngsters in the 15 to 19 year range to find out how they feel about the existence of such an "epidemic" and to obtain their suggestions for possible solutions.

Our first question was an obvious one... "Do you feel that there is a problem with a VD epidemic in the Portland area or is the situation being over-emphasized or blown out of proportion?"

We received a variety of answers:

"I don't hear that much about it and I cannot discuss it with my parents."

Several teens answered, "I read about it and hear it discussed on the street, but I never hear about people getting it."

Another stated, "Well, I am too young to be part of it." "I don't know of anybody personally that has it, so it doesn't seem very real to me."

Another person, "I am not that kind of person."

There was much discussion of whether VD is a moral or a health problem.

A 19 year old stated, "If society made it a health problem instead of a moral problem, people would get help." "People are afraid to get treatment if they think it is a moral issue, if it's like a health problem, we can go and get help without talking to our parents."

"You don't have to be immoral to have VD, you just might be human and make a mistake."

Many teenagers feel that

there is a communications problem in the home, so we asked the students if they found it difficult to discuss sex and VD in particular with their parents. Most parents should be pleased with the replies. "It is a lot easier to talk to your parents now a days."

One mother is said to have commented, "If we talked to our mothers the way they talk to their mothers' now, they would have been shocked."

There were few who said, "We don't talk at home."

An interesting observation made by one teen, "I don't

think they are as well educated on the subject as the high school kids who study about it... I don't think they know that much about it because they weren't educated that way. I think our parents are aware of the national statistics but I don't think they know it is a problem in Portland."

Boys and girls found it easier to talk to mothers than to fathers.

Others said, "I don't feel uncomfortable talking to either of my parents." While one expressed, "I feel alright a-

bout talking to my parents but I just don't feel I need to ask my sisters and brothers, besides my sister or my brother told me... but I always have a question I don't understand... and how can you go to your sister and ask her about it when she might not know the answer?"

Several Blacks stated it was a "White problem" and not a Black problem.

Another youngster said, "Well, you know this is the way to show that you really love me... but it isn't, I mean if you really love someone you

can wait... I think it's morals."

"The majority of them use it (a situation of passion) as an excuse."

Education concerning sex and venereal disease in the school has long been a topic of heated discussion across the nation. We asked the students if they felt they had been properly educated as to the causes and effects of venereal disease, and if the classes started early enough.

"Enough to know that you

(Please see page 7 col. 1)

PORTLAND



OBSERVER

Volume 2 No 26 Portland, Oregon

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD THAT REALLY CARES ABOUT PEOPLE

Thursday March 30, 1972 10¢ per copy

Portland young Black teacher slain in Child Care Center



McCoy vacates post

Bill McCoy, Chairman of the Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee, vacated his position at the regular monthly meeting on March 23rd.

McCoy was the only black county party chairman in the state's history.

McCoy vacated the office in compliance with party by-laws that state that a candidate for a remunerative public office cannot hold a position on the Central Committee Executive Board. McCoy is a candidate for State Representative from Ninth Subdistrict #15.

Also resigning for the same reason were: Jim Ashbough, District Representative from the West Side Subdistrict; Glen

Otto, Alternate Vice-Chairman; and Ruth Osborne, East County Sub-district Representative.

McCoy is also a candidate for the National Committee from the State of Oregon and for a delegate position to the Democratic National Convention. He will be the first black to serve in either capacity.

McCoy was serving his second term as chairman. His administration increased the number of precinct committeemen and women, opened the floor of the Central Committee to the members and secured new office space. For the first time in 12 years, the Multnomah County Democratic Party is out of debt.

Busing: A hot political issue

by Dr. Lee P. Brown

Busing will probably be the most heatedly debated issue during this election year. For that reason, it is imperative that members of Black Community explore the question and develop definitive positions on the subject.

For us in Portland, busing must be looked at on two levels. First, on the national level and second on the local level.

On the national level, there are two plans relating to busing that affect Black people. Number one, there is the Nixon Plan. This plan takes us back to the days of Plessy vs. Ferguson and the "separate but equal" doctrine, which only served to make unequal education for Blacks the law of the land, as well as the custom. The Nixon plan should be viewed for what it is -- an apartheid.

Number two, there are the plans developed under court order. These plans only serve to place Black children under the control of white school boards which have not demonstrated any visible signs of compassion for quality edu-

cational systems in the Black Community. A study of the schools in any large Black Community will substantiate this allegation (including Portland). Using busing for the sole purpose of racial balance is a condition that should be vigorously opposed by the Black Community. There is no empirical evidence to suggest that a Black child's educational achievement level increase just because he sits next to a white student. Thus, we must reject as false the notion that Black children cannot learn except with whites.

Essentially, Blacks should oppose both of these plans in that both make busing an absolute, rather than an option to be exercised by Black people. Both take away the determination from the Black community to control the education of Black children.

Locally, the real issue should be high quality education for Black children -- and white children too for that matter. Our concern should not be equal or proportionate distribution of Black and white children for the purpose of

achieving "racial balance." Rather, we should be concerned with the needs of the children, and not the color of their skins. For Black people, the issue should not be busing, per se; rather the issue must be superior quality education for our children. Busing should be only one of several options available to us.

In summary, busing should be only one option available to Black people. It should be the Black Community that has the say in exercising that option.

Black Panther inquiry suppressed

"Neither the Federal Government nor the state sought to establish the truth" in the killing of two Black Panther party leaders during a raid on a Chicago flat in 1969, the report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Black Panthers and Law Enforcement officials contends.

The independent commission was formed by 27 persons in civil rights, law, politics and business after Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were killed and four other persons wounded in a raid by Illinois State's Attorney's police. The current co-chairmen of the group are Roy Wilkins, executive director of the NAACP, and Ramsey Clark, former United States Attorney General.

According to the commission report, Mr. Hampton "was shot from the doorway to his bedroom as he lay drugged and defenseless in bed."

The report said that an atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust existed at the time of the raid. It said: "This commission found the situation had grown so critical by the time of the Hampton-Clark incident that many ghetto inhabitants no longer looked to the police for assistance in even the most harrowing of circumstances, for fear of risking personal abuse at the hands of the police."

suit filed

A suit was filed March 13th in Multnomah County Circuit Court on behalf of Kent Ford, Poor Citizens for Fair Districting and others regarding the division of the poor and black communities into four legislative districts.

After the new districts were announced, the group petitioned the State Supreme Court which denied the petition "without prejudice." The Court said the question of the division of electors community by economic class or racial bias was not a question of either the state constitution or state law. Dismissal without prejudice in effect made necessary the new court suit.

The suit asks for a declaratory judgment. It will be scheduled in about 5 to 6 months.

Children unaware of killing-because of skilled staff

Ronald Coleman, acting supervisor of Hughs Memorial Child Care Center, was fatally wounded at the center Tuesday morning. Coleman was shot in the stairway leading to the upstairs rooms. The alleged killer, Kenneth Clark, surrendered to the police about an hour later.

Twenty-two children, ages 3 to 6, and their teachers were in the basement child care center. The children did not witness the murder and were immediately removed from the center to a teacher's home nearby. Mrs. Robert Bailey, Head Teacher, credited the quick thinking of the staff in preventing the children from witnessing the aftermath of the killing. The children were transferred to other child care centers in the area for the remainder of the week.

Ronald Coleman, 24, was born in Portland. He attended Madison High School, where he was a star half-back, and graduated from Washington High School. He attended the University of Oregon, the University of Washington and Mt. Hood Community College.

Coleman had been employed as a teacher at Hughs Memorial Child Care Center since it opened in the Spring of 1971. Previously, he was a social worker at Albina Child Development Center. Coleman also officiated at basketball games for the Portland Park Bureau. He was married and had two children.



During the Esquire's fashion show last Sunday, Paul Knails, right, and George Rankins agree that it is a woman's world, however, men make it more interesting for women. Below, spectators watch with enthusiasm.



(Please turn to p. 8 col. 4)



The Jefferson High School team is Number 1 in the State of Oregon

Benj. Franklin's
BLOOMING GARDEN

FREE
Garden Seeds

Plant flower or vegetable seeds this spring to enjoy next summer. Get a packet free while they last at any of our offices. And start saving, too, for a bright future with the Benj. Franklin

Benj. Franklin
FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSN.
Robert H. Hazen, Pres. • 18 Offices • Phone 224-3333
Home Office: Franklin Bldg., Portland, Oregon 97204