

COLORING CONTEST



Contest rules

- Any child 12 years and under may enter the contest.
- Send all entries — with your name and address — to: Portland Observer, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208, by November 25, 1973.
- Prizes of \$5 will be awarded in three categories:
 - Under 6 years
 - Six through 9 years
 - 10 through 12 years
- The decision of the judges is final.

Parker leads team

Joe Parker, a Senior at Willamette University, will play his last game for the Bearcats on November 17th. Parker, 175 pounds and 6'2", led his team to a win against the College of Idaho Saturday when he caught an 80-yard pass thrown by Dave Titus. Parker had five receptions for 125 yards in that game.

Parker is a co-captain of the team, which plays its final game against Whitworth College on November 17th.

Vocational schools bear watching

Large numbers of people are seeking specialized job training through private vocational schools. Although such education can lead to higher pay and better pay, often the training is a waste of effort and money. Consumers should be alerted to the deceptive practices used to lure them to enroll as students.

Deception can be by outright untrue statements or by failure to reveal a fact. For example, the salesman or school may "guarantee" that graduates will be placed in a suitable job. The student then finds out that this will not or cannot be done. Also, a school might advertise in the help wanted column of a newspaper or magazine. It may promote certain jobs as "high paying" and suggest that no prior training is necessary. Usually such ads are really only come-ons to get people to enroll and are not legitimate job offers at all.

Misrepresentation by omission occurs if the school indicates that anyone who enrolls in a particular course will automatically qualify for a job in that field. It does not mention, though, that there may be other requirements besides school training (for instance, a civil service examination, state licensing, apprenticeship, union membership or minimum age). Still another pitfall is that the training itself may be poor. But even if it is a high quality course, it may be of little use for two reasons: there are no job openings for the skill involved, or the

employers themselves would rather train new employees.

Beware of schools that claim their instruction is excellent because they are either approved for veterans or accredited. Approval for veterans does not mean the school offers quality training.

Schools are not approved under the G.I. Bill; courses are if they meet certain minimum requirements established by law. The approval means veterans may take a course and receive G.I. benefits. Likewise, accreditation means only that a school meets minimum standards set by a private, non-governmental agency. It does not mean that a school is good. However, if the accrediting agency is recognized by the U.S. Office of Education, students at the accredited school may be eligible for federal or state aid.

A consumer can protect himself or herself from a bad investment by doing the following:

- Inquire from the school about:
 - Its refund policy.
 - The drop out rate (if unusually high, the courses may have been too difficult for other students; if very low, the school may be too easy and a "degree mill").
 - Whether the cost of the course includes such things as textbooks, supplies, transportation to and from residential training and room and board.
 - Whether it is certified to do business in Oregon.
 - The names, addresses

Boost assists students

BOOST (Bettering Oregon's Opportunity for Saving Talent) is a state-funded program to find persons who need special help to attend a post-secondary institution and to match them with programs to meet their needs. It is operated by the Office of Higher School Relations of the State System of Higher Education and works in cooperation with special programs at most colleges, community colleges and vocational schools in the state for minority, disadvantaged or handicapped students.

Persons no longer in high school can get in touch with the program by calling the BOOST office at 229-4870, or by dropping in at the office on the Portland State University Campus, 1633 S.W. Park.

Students in high schools should soon be reached by a team of BOOST counselors canvassing the metropolitan area. North Portland schools are covered by Ken Marshall, director of the program, who will be meeting with students at Grant, Adams and Washington high schools. Ozie Johnson will counsel students at the Albina Youth Opportunity School, and Jefferson and Benson high schools. In addition, Madeline Jepson, Claudia Purkayle and Jean Fernandez will visit outlying areas of the city.

BOOST helps participants choose a school, get accepted and obtain financial aid, if needed. "We'll pick a student up on any level, even if it's at the eighth grade level," Madeline Jepson says. "We'll send him to a G.E.D. (high school equivalency) center. We're also working with returning veterans getting them back into the educational mainstream."

"We have a number of options for students," Madeline says. "We don't say you have to go to college to get an academic background. You can go to a beauty school or a technical school if you prefer."

There are programs for special students at every institution in the State System of Higher Education. Community colleges have "open-door" admission policies which enable dropouts or students who may have had poor high school grades to enroll and demonstrate that they are capable of doing college work. BOOST places some students in special programs like Upward Bound, designed for students who have the ability to do college

work but need remedial education and tutoring. Other programs are prepared for students whose only disadvantage is coming from a low-income family or being physically handicapped.

There are programs in the Portland area at PSU and community colleges, as well as programs at colleges out of the city where students live on campus in dormitories.

"Just last week a woman, 42, with six children came in and said she would like an education," Madeline says. "She said there is no way she can get off Welfare until she has an education."

BOOST will help her find an educational program and help her with the red tape of ad-

mission and financial aid applications.

Eligibility is based on desire for an education, with consideration given to the family's income, size and other special circumstances. Handicapped persons or those from minority or non-English speaking families are most often eligible, along with Model Cities residents.

Madeline adds, "I would rather have 10 people come in who are not eligible than have one eligible person not come in because he thinks he is ineligible." She explains that even if a person can't be helped by the BOOST program, BOOST can help him apply for work-study or loan programs which may make it possible to attend college.

Now in its fourth year in Oregon, BOOST counseled 450 persons last year and enabled 296 of them to attend college. Others were placed in G.E.D. programs and upon completion will be eligible for college.

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