

Schools teach children to hate to read, expert says

Dr. Fitzhugh Dodson, prominent clinical psychologist and author of the best seller "How to Parent", was interviewed by the Observer this week while he vacationed on the Oregon Coast with his family. Dodson is no stranger to Oregon since it was while he was pastoring at Palatine Presbyterian Church that he changed careers in mid-stream and began his study of psychology.

Dr. Dodson has been recognized as one of the three leading child care authorities in the United States. His book *How to Parent* has sold over 1/2 million copies and has been translated into eight languages. He is also the author of the chapter on

Parenthood in the college text *Life and Health*. He is also the author of *Dr. Dodson's Whiz Bang Super-Economy Parent Survival Kit*. His most recent book, *How to Father*, was released last spring and is the first book to cover all of the stages of development from birth to age 21 from the point of view of the father.

Dr. Dodson has in the course of his career taught pre-school and each of the 12 grades, as well as college and graduate school, which places him in an unusually good position to speak on education. He is the founder of the internationally famous La Primera Pre-School Center.

Portland Observer: Why aren't the schools teaching students to read?
Dr. Dodson: For a very simple reason. I would like you to contrast the way in which children learn to speak and the way in which children learn to read. If you take children and observe them in a nursery in a hospital just after birth, those children, who obviously do not know how to speak the English language, will between the ages of birth and three learn to speak the English language. There are perhaps a few autistic children who will not learn to speak because of emotional difficulties. Buy by and large we can safely say that almost 100 percent of children learn to speak the English language. One of the reasons they will learn to speak is because nobody teaches them; therefore, they have nobody who teaches them and louses up the teaching process. However, those same children who learn to speak the English language, without much trouble, when it comes to learning to read, many of those children, do not learn to read or will learn to read badly. Why? One of the reasons is that the people who teach them to read in school will louse up the job. That is unfortunate because the teachers are not paid to louse up the job. And they really do not want to louse up the job, when they become teachers of reading in the first grade. Their purpose is not to prevent children from reading, but to teach them. However, many teachers are

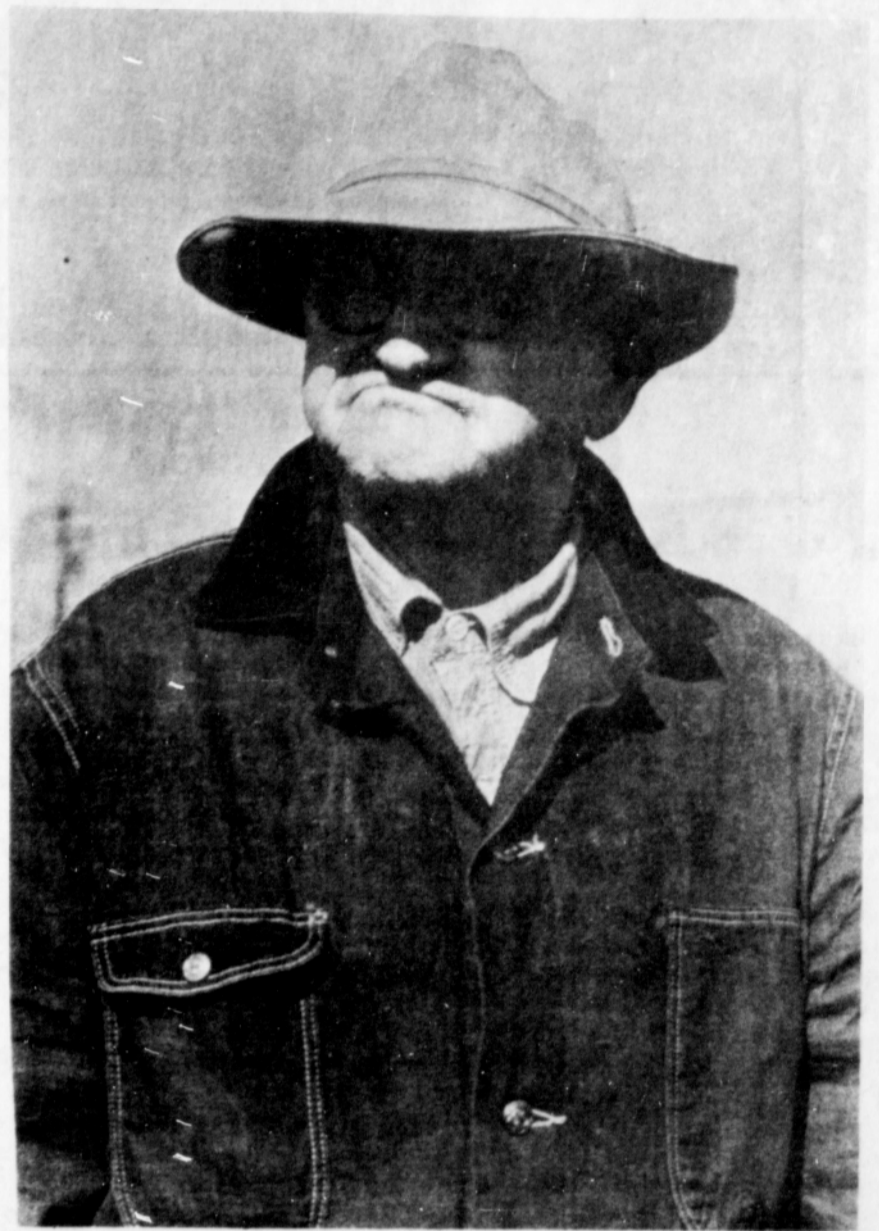
mistakenly taught that they should teach children to read by the look and say method, or I would prefer to say the look and guess method. And this pretty effectively messes up the process. Dr. Gene Chall of Harvard has summarized ten years of solid research on teaching children to read, and she found that of the various phonics methods, there was not one method superior to any of the others, but all of the phonics methods were far superior to the look and say methods. She summed up her results by pointing out that the English language was a code and the phonics is by far the best way of cracking that code. Yet, in spite of her results, many schools do not begin by teaching the phonics method,

or they dilute and explain to parents, who unfortunately do not know how inaccurate these words are, that they're really teaching the best mixture of both phonics and look and say. This is equivalent in my opinion to a gas station attendant telling you that he's really going to do the best for your car by a 50% mixture of gasoline and molasses.

In my opinion it is a real tragedy, and a needless tragedy, that after having loused up the teaching of reading in the first grade, we then spend an enormous amount of money with reading specialists and remedial classes to try to repair what we messed up in the first place. This is roughly the same as if you made a naturally right handed child write left handed for a year, then when he is clumsy and badly uncoordinated, go back and try to repair the damage by shifting hands and allowing him to use his right hand, which he should have been using in the first place. That's basically why children don't learn to read.

Rudolph Flesch pointed this out many years ago in his book *Why Johnny Can't Read*, but the education establishment, undeterred by masses of scientific evidence, plows steadily on in the wrong direction.

Observer: How successful do you think the schools are (Please turn to pg. 3, col. 4)



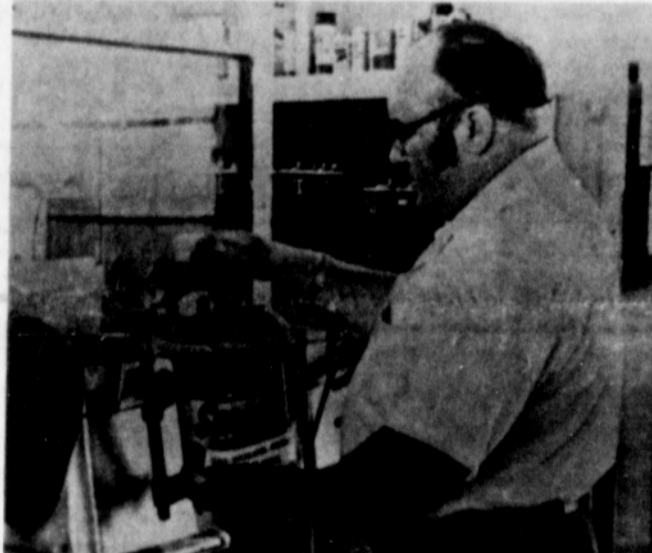
THE INDEPENDENT OREGONIAN - August is County Fair month all over Oregon.

DAILY TV Directory

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Paint manufacturer locates in Albina

A new manufacturing-retail business has moved into Albina. Although a manufacturer and distributor of paints, Pacific Paint Corporation offers for retail sale all types of paints and painting accessories.



John Gee, owner of Pacific Paint Corporation, mixes paint to customer's specifications.

Owner John Gee has been in the paint business since 1947. Originally a paint salesman and owner of a retail outlet, he had the opportunity to obtain the northwest distributorship for Seal Cote paints 13 years ago. After going to the main plant in Ohio to learn the basics of paint manufacture, he opened his factory in Southeast Portland.

Pacific Paint Corporation offers quality paints at reasonable prices, but to appeal to the gambling instinct of his many customers,

Gee has revived an old idea - the wheel of fortune. As a special Saturday event, the customer is allowed a (Please turn to pg. 6, col. 4)

Employee receives honor UMW sues contractor

Linda Gay, 5617 N.E. 11th, was recently presented with Allstate Insurance Company's highest employee honor, the Good Hands Award.

The United Minority Workers (UMW) have filed a suit in federal court against John D. Todd of Todd Building Company, a Roseburg, Oregon corporation. The suit charges that Todd has broken a contract he entered into with the United Minority Workers in September of 1973.

Employees through UMW and inform UMW regularly regarding minority employment. In November of 1973, Todd was served with a show-cause order by GSA requiring him to demonstrate why he was not fulfilling his affirmative action requirements. Since that time, according to Nate Proby, director of UMW, Todd's records have reflected minority hiring but in 15 trips to Eugene, Proby has not found the reported numbers of minorities to be working. Government regulations, he explains, require GSA to give the contractor three weeks warning before an on-the-job audit, and this gives the contractor time to put minorities to work who are later terminated or "quit".

In its last report, Todd Construction Company reported 10,316 man hours, including 1,599 minority man hours. Of these, 226 hours were performed by Blacks in carpentry and labor, according to the report. Proby also charged that not only has Todd failed to hire an acceptable number of minorities, but he has not reported his affirmative action efforts to UMW, nor has he sought minority workers through UMW. Proby received one request for a plumber, and last week received his first equal opportunity report. The job is now 45 percent completed. Aside from the contract with UMW, Todd has the usual federal requirements that he actively seek out and employ minority workers on all phases of the job. The suit asks that Todd be required to cease racial discrimination and to hire minorities in sufficient numbers to come into compliance with the contract, and seeks \$50,000 in damages.

Electrical Workers get woman member

Charlye Molden recently became the first woman in the Northwest to be placed in the electrical trades by the Metro Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee at Portland, Oregon, the U.S. Department of Labor reported.

Apprenticeship and Training for Oregon, said "Not only is Ms. Molden the first woman to be placed in the trade here, but she is the first Black woman in the nation to be joining the ranks of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) as an inside electrical apprentice."

that the Labor Department should note this landmark incident to Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan's tribute to America's women workers during Women's Week. Members of the Metro Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee at Portland and the National Electrical Contractors Association can look with pride on their dedicated efforts to eliminate sex discrimination in employment and to open new opportunities for women in the work force.



Hunt leads Scouts

New district executive for the "Big Thunder" district of the Columbia Pacific Council, Boy Scouts of America, is Chris Hunt, formerly district executive in the Chief Seattle Council. Hunt's appointment is to a district which reaches from Northeast Portland to St. Helens. He and his wife have purchased a home at 9461 N. Calhoun in the St. Johns area and will move there in September. Mrs. Hunt is currently completing work on a master's degree in Library Science at the University of Washington. She is also a violinist and was concertmaster of the Washington State University Orchestra. Hunt was chairman of the board of the Thalia Symphony, a Seattle community orchestra, while the couple lived in Seattle.

AIM attacks local problem

"He is at best a 'latent racist,'" Glenna Page, state director of the American Indian Movement, said of Portland's Police Chief Bruce Baker. Mrs. Page and a group from AIM visited with Chief Baker to discuss the harassment of Indian people in Portland. According to Mrs. Page it is common for Indians to be intimidated, insulted, searched and referred to as "drunks". The group came away from the meeting feeling that not much had been accomplished. Their offers to assist with training police officers about Indian culture and problems specific to them were not accepted and Chief Baker seemed to feel that "we have always done it this way."

tribes gathered to support the demands of the Oglala Sioux that their treaty be honored. Locally, AIM seeks to unify the various groups of Indians - urban, suburban, reservations, etc. - to see that the needs of all are met and to provide a united front. One of the local problems now receiving attention is the theft of Indian artifacts and belongings, many of which have been in families for centuries. There have been several robberies of homes on the Umatilla Reservation where irreplaceable articles have been stolen. Another problem is grave robbery - not only of

ancient burial grounds but of recent burials as well. One young man recently saw a dress at an artifact sale that he had seen a woman buried in three years ago. Petroglyphs from the Columbia River are showing up in possession of individuals and of the Corps of Engineers. AIM has been informed that the Corps is preparing to sell four petroglyphs to Skidmore, Owens and Merrill for one of their buildings. AIM claims possession of these petroglyphs for the Indian tribes and intends to recover them and return them to the reservation. AIM intends to ask Indians

NEWS of the
WORLD • NATION • STATE

The World

The Canadian government has promised to investigate the arrest of a U.S. Army deserter at the border in Blaine, Washington. Witnesses said Ronald Anderson was removed from Canadian soil by American officials after he had successfully crossed the border.

An American oil company has discovered oil about 200 miles off the coast of South Vietnam. About eight companies are drilling in the Vietnam area.

French Jewish leaders have asked the French government to take action against what they call the greatest wave of anti-semitism in that country since World War II.

The Nation

As public schools across the country are preparing to reopen, the National Committee for Citizens in Education alerted parents to a new Federal law that gives them and their children important new protections for their right of privacy.

Part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1974 (signed by President Ford on August 21st), the new law states that in any public school receiving Federal funds, parents must be allowed to see their children's school records and must be given the opportunity to challenge erroneous or irrelevant information. Further, the law says that school administrators cannot release school records to outside parties without parental consent.

The income gap between Blacks and whites grew larger in the years from 1969 to 1973 according to a new study by the U.S. Census Bureau. In 1969 the median income for Blacks was 61 percent of the white family average, but by 1973 had dropped to 58 percent.

Between 1965 and 1969, the Black average family income rose by 32 percent in actual buying power after inflation was taken into account. Between 1969 and 1973 income after inflation decreased 2 percent for Black families but increased 6.1 percent for white families.

Blacks are major contenders in several races for seats in Congress this November. Among those considered to have a good chance of election are:

Harold Ford of Memphis, now a Democratic state senator, is running in a district about 42 percent Black. He is attempting to unseat Republican Representative Dan Kuykendall.

Norman Hodges of Los Angeles. A Republican, Hodges is running in the 31st District against Democratic Representative Charles H. Wilson.

Mathew Perry, an attorney from Columbia, South Carolina, who won a decisive victory in the Democratic victory, faces Republican incumbent Floyd Spence.

The State

The Black Heritage Committee of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Oregon will be having pictures and other historical materials relating to Black Oregonians and the Black Experience on exhibit at the Salem State Fair through Saturday, August 31st. The fair will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. each night.

The Salem School District faces a teacher's strike next week after ten months of negotiations over salary increases and fringe benefits have broken down. The School Board states it will not accept binding arbitration and is seeking temporary teachers to open the schools.

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