

# Psychologist teaches nursing

by Kathryn H. Bogle

Answering the dictates of her "internal dial" to "Go West young woman"—Dr. Avis Graham did indeed "Go West" when she accepted an invitation to teach classes in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing in Portland.

Dr. Graham came to the Rose City in January of this year and, in accepting this very sensitive position, she became the first (and only) Black female Counseling Psychologist in the state of Oregon.

Much of her time before she came to Portland was occupied with individual and group therapy, group process and co-facilitation of groups which included medical doctors, psychologists, medical students, social workers, nurses and other health care professional workers.

Here in Portland, Dr. Graham's classes are made up of graduate students who want to specialize or to explore more deeply into one of the areas Dr. Graham is currently offering to her classes. At present the curriculum includes: Group and Family Therapy, Stress and Self Management, Theory Development and Community Psychiatry.

Some of Dr. Graham's students are already professionals who are qualified to accept their own clients or patients, but who want more expertise in dealing with the pathology they find in certain aspects of their work. They find Dr. Graham eminently qualified to help them because of her dual preparedness as a psychologist and as a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse.

As a graduate nurse, Dr. Graham is a product of Hunter College. From New York University came her Master's in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing with a minor in Adult Education. University of Missouri Department of Psychology added a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology.

The doctorate degree in Psychology was earned at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

"Big City" life is well known to Dr. Graham. Widely traveled in Africa and Europe, she is a native New Yorker, born and bred there. Her beginnings as a staff nurse were there. She became a Head Nurse very soon in her working career in the Bronx at the Municipal Center. She went on to be a health coordinator in a Headstart program in the Bronx but was soon escalated to be supervisor at the Hillside Psychiatric Hospital on Long Island.

Perspectives of human growth and development from conception to old age, are all within Dr. Graham's range of interest. Career planning and counseling have been a part of her daily life too.

Dr. Graham was a group facilitator of Human Sexuality Forums for



DR. AVIS GRAHAM

the University of Missouri-Columbia Medical Center in the behavioral science division in Columbia. She has trained counselors for the Rape Hotline for the YWCA and has contributed her consultation services to local Police Departments.

Concerns of Black people, concerns of Black professional women and concerns of men and women in general are concerns of Dr. Graham, also. She keeps in touch with Black Studies departments and with Affirmative Action groups wherever she may be. She keeps a two-way avenue of thought-exchange flowing easily.

The Northwest scene has not let this easterner down. Dr. Graham likes our ocean. She finds the Pacific just that. "It's reflective. It's serious. It's thought-provoking," she says, and adds, "Our Atlantic is busy, restless, and active—always something going on."

Our interest in ecology, and preservation of the wilderness areas of the Northwest intrigue Dr. Graham. The hope of showing the unspoiled areas of nature for posterity—"It is sentimental as well as practical"—brings her delight.

And the roses she enjoyed in Washington Park? Memory of their fragrances evokes a sense of security in Dr. Graham as she contrasts the wariness necessary when in Central Park pathways.

Dr. Graham feels that Black people have "potentially a better chance to develop themselves here in the west than in the east—better chances personally, and better as a Black person."

Memberships in professional organizations are maintained by Dr. Graham. She is a member of New York State Nurses Association; American Ortho-Psychiatric Association; American Association of Black Psychologists; and American Psychological Association.

For herself, Dr. Graham would like, "some day soon" to resume a private practice which she has conducted formerly. She might like to do this in the west. Maybe right here in Portland.

She likes us. We like knowing that she is here. We need her.

We hope Dr. Graham will stay with us—a long time.

# CSA conciliates ethnic/racial conflicts

Frequently seen in Portland, and probably more visible in coming months, are Bob Lamb and his staff from the Seattle office of the Community Relations Service.

When the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Relations Service (CRS) opened its Northwest Regional Office in Seattle in January of 1974, there may have been those who were not quite sure what it would do.

The Service's stated purpose was clear enough: to expand its racial conciliation/mediation assistance to Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska.

But the concept of using conciliation/mediation techniques to resolve racial discrimination disputes was not as widely understood, or accepted, as it is today.

Just what role could such a federal agency play in resolving race-related problems in the Northwest? It's a question that no longer needs an answer. In five years of energetic activity, the Seattle office has established itself as an integral part of the region's problem-solving structure, and as a champion of mutual respect for the rights of all.

"We're an action-oriented agency," says the Service's Director, Gilbert G. Pompa. "You can write us if you prefer, but a phone call will do just

as well. We leave the red tape to the agencies that run the money programs. Long application forms and waiting lines are not a part of our operations."

Following is a sampling of recent cases worked on by the Northwest Region:

- The alleged unwarranted shooting of a Black man by an Alaska state trooper which led the NAACP, clergy and state organizations to form a coalition to seek redress.

- School desegregation problems in Portland, Seattle and other cities.

- Complaints by Black inmates of unfair treatment in the Oregon State Penitentiary.

- Charges by Alaska native leaders of biased reporting about subsistence whaling, hunting, fishing and trapping. CRS helped sponsor a statewide conference at which Eskimos, Aleuts and Indians and news representatives set up a structure to improve reporting.

- A dispute between Puyallup Indians and Tacoma authorities over dredging the harbor.

Created by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, CRS was instructed by Congress "to provide assistance to communities and persons therein in resolving disputes, disagreements, or difficulties relating to discriminatory

practices based on race, color, or national origin . . ." That intentionally broad mandate gives the agency the freedom to cover the spectrum of discrimination issues that divide communities along racial/ethnic lines.

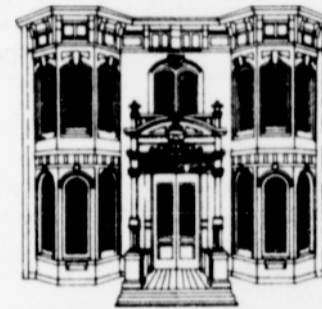
Diversity characterizes the workload of the Seattle Office. Lamb says his staff can never concentrate on just one problem.

"There are always several different things going on at once. For example, while I'm busy here in Seattle, say, working with the city to adopt an improved police firearms policy, other members of the staff might be in Juneau working on a school problem, or in Idaho consulting with corrections authorities about the alleged mistreatment of minority inmates.

"At the same time, each one of us is probably in phone contact with somebody waiting for us to get free so we can come and work on a different type of problem. We just do the best we can using our time and resources where the most serious and pressing problems are."

Counting Lamb himself, the office has a complement of four conciliators and mediators, supported by two clerical workers. Despite this small staff, CRS' Northwest Regional Office is making its presence felt.

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If you have a problem that is not covered in this list, please call and ask whether we can help. Chances are, we can. If not, we can recommend someone else for you to call. One way or the other, we want to see you get the kind of professional legal counsel you're entitled to.

The best time to call us, or any attorney, is before you are embroiled in a legal problem. This is called preventative law and it makes a lot of sense.

Regardless, when you call us we will arrange for an initial consultation at your convenience. Cost: \$20. We probably can't solve anything in this meeting, but it is a chance for you to explain your particular problem and for us to give you some idea of what it'll take to reach a solution. If you want us to proceed, we'll give you an estimate of the fees you should plan on. In writing.



# School Board nominations

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)  
Noon, to consider adding names to the list.

Any of the remaining 26 applicants can request to be added to the finalists, and can be added by a vote of three Board members. Also, Board members can nominate any of the 26 persons, and they will be added by a vote of three members.

Mrs. Osly J. Gates notified the *Observer* that she has asked that her name be added to the finalists. Mrs. Gates, who has been active in establishing textbook selection criteria and promoting multi-cultural education, has four years experience evaluating desegregation proposals for HEW at the regional and national levels. She holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration in accounting. She is a resident of the Cleveland area and her daughter is a graduate of Cleveland High School.

Also expected to be added to the list of finalists by Board members who were not on the screening committee is Herb Cawthorne. Director of the Educational Opportunities Program at Portland State University, Cawthorne is co-chairman of the Community Coalition for School Integration. Cawthorne, a graduate of the University of Oregon, is a writer and TV host. He has two children at Irvington School.

On August 7th, at 7:30 p.m., the Board will hold another public meeting to interview the three candidates and any that have been added. The appointment will be made at the regular meeting, August 13th at 7:30 p.m. All meetings will be held at the new educational center, 501 N. Dixon.

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