



HOW MANY APPLES? Urban 4-H Leader Robert Dabritz, Boise School teacher, turned a math lesson into an apple jamboree this week. Two hundred and twenty pounds of apples were crushed into apple cider for everyone. The cider project was a 4-H activity for Dabritz club members who gleaned the apples at an orchard in Sherwood. This week the nation is celebrating National 4-H Week, October 5-11. Travis and Youa planning project (left); Kristen Drews with the finished product.

Cell Talk

By Asmar Abdul Seifullah
aka Joe West

Richard Johnson is the only Black Vocational Instructor at Oregon State Penitentiary. He is a man that refuses to be stagnated by the times. "Life is a most demanding proposition and if Blackmen aren't equal to the challenge they will fall to the wayside," said Richard.

Sometimes the challenge means venturing outside the inner city into a world that's more often than not hostile and devouring. Life outside the inner city is often a trying experience for ghetto born Blacks. The cozy cubby holes that Blacks dig for themselves inside the poverty dens and soul music aren't secure enough to cope with the rising cost of living. The world in general has become more competitive -- everything is changing except the overall economic position of Black people. There has been a small degree of social acceptance, civil rights laws are on the books but the real meat of social-economic stability -- the "Almighty Dollar" is still eluding Black people.

Black people are finding that the jobs that were once promised them don't exist anymore or they're being occupied by immigrants and poor whites. Consequently Blacks economically are in a do or die situation. Essentially productivity and progress on a majority scale are the means that will justify Black-

folks ends.

Richard Johnson drives 47 miles daily to provide his wife and four children with economic stability. He has invested 4 years in apprenticeship, 3 years schooling for Vocational Training duties and 12 years on the job experience to secure his present position. Richard said that he has an education that he is determined to make work for himself. "My life hasn't been easy, I was a high school drop-out and I had a very difficult time finding a place for myself in today's society. I'm a mulatto and as a child I had communication problems with my peer group. I went to an all-white grade school and later attended Jefferson High school. Man it was rough. Nobody wants to identify with a mulatto. Whites pretend they don't see you and Blacks treat you like you're a traitor; no one stops to realize that you came from the union of two human beings. But I've made it through those hard times and I'll survive whatever else comes my way. I'm not bitter but I am determined," said Richard.

Richard Johnson enjoys his job. He states that the environment affords him the opportunity to teach Blacks, Chicanos and other minorities that don't have good academic education, a trade that will allow them to compete in a

competitive society. "What I do here effects society at large all across the country. Because these men, my students, are destined for residents in communities everywhere," said Richard. When asked how he got along with his students Richard said that everybody relates to him well and that everybody pulls together. The men instruct each other whenever possible and if a man is having a problem I work with him on a one to one basis. I'm successful because I treat them as equals. I'm not here to assert my authority and the men realize that they can relax around me. It's really a mellow experience. I just wish that more Blacks would seek employment at the penitentiary," commented Richard.

Since coming to work at Oregon State Penitentiary Richard said that he hasn't experienced any racial barriers. He states that the prison administration has been cooperative in helping him adjust to the atmosphere but he places acceptance by the prisoners in priority. "When I leave here after a days work, I want to feel like I've accomplished something. Financial stability and socialization are two reasons why I took this job but helping these brothers is added icing on the cake. These dudes are worth saving and I'm glad that I'm able to do my

part," Richard related.

It's a satisfactory feeling knowing that there is at least one person in the Vocational Training program that's able to relate to the unique problems that Blacks have in adjusting to the prison system. It's vitally important that more Blacks seek employment behind the walls. The prison administration is actively recruiting minorities and the job opportunities are favorable for Blacks in particular. The presence of more Blacks on staff will insure rehabilitation for Black prisoners and it will change the overall complexion of the system. Corrections is still virgin territory and Blacks should try to cash in on the bonanza before the rush is on. Nothing changes from the outside, not even the ghettos we inhabit. Brothers here need the support and guidance of Blacks on staff. Remember that whatever goes on here effects the Black community because many of the Black prisoners confined behind these walls will return to Albina.

You can solve a very serious problem and get paid for it in the process -- the next time you look for a job apply at Oregon State Penitentiary. We pray Allah that these lines serve as encouragement to some unemployed brother or sister. There is work at Oregon State Penitentiary if you want it!!

PCC program offers apprenticeship training

"Earn as you learn" is the motto of the Apprenticeship and Trade Extension Program at Portland Community College.

That means earning up to 75 percent of the journeyman's wage while learning a trade according to Bill True, apprenticeship coordinator at the Stadium Center. There are 135 apprenticeable occupations within the State of Oregon, with 75 of them in Portland and 20 major trades actively under apprenticeships at PCC.

These trades are: industrial truck mechanic, asbestos worker, boiler-maker, floor coverer, electrician, pipefitter, sheet metal worker, cement mason, meatcutter, stationary engineer, machinist, industrial equipment maintenance worker, painter, construction worker, iron worker, plumber, steamfitter, lather and plasterer, patternmaker, dry-wall finisher.

In cooperation with a joint committee of employers, labor unions, government agencies and various trade associations, PCC has accommodated the apprentices since 1961 when the college started.

The committee selects applicants according to their experience in the trade, their score from an aptitude test and on their attitude.

The tests and applications are filled out at the Apprenticeship Information Center at 1437 S.W. 4th Avenue in Portland. Individuals interested in the apprenticeships can also find job descriptions of the

trades at the center and what the current demand is for each.

In addition to the apprenticeships, PCC provides journeymen with a selection of supplemental trades courses that are creditable towards an associate degree.

"Rather than keep the apprenticeships isolated we tie them in with the career programs," True noted. "We try to utilize all of our resources for the community."

The age requirement under the state apprenticeship law is 16 which allows high school students to get involved. At the Stadium Center high school students from Roosevelt, Jefferson, Jackson, Wilson and Lincoln are learning construction and electronics as an alternative to earning their credits for graduation.

The junior and senior students are bused to Stadium Monday through Friday to work from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on either constructing a 8' x 12' building or learning how to repair electrical devices such as typewriters, small and large appliances and computers.

Tim Hunt, construction instructor, estimates that two-thirds of the students are interested in pursuing the trade after high school while others are experimenting with it and unsure of what they want to do later.

"I'm going to do carpentry work during the summer when I'm not in college," said Kevin Hunt, a senior

from Wilson High School. Hunt plans to become an engineer after college.

Another senior from Wilson, Derek Hanna, has been in the construction apprenticeship program

for a year. "Even if I don't go into it as a profession, I know this experience will help me later when I have a house to maintain."

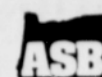
The classes at Stadium Center handle 30 students on a first-come, first-served basis.



ON BOARD - The year ahead promises a variety of special activities at Boise School, where Charles Stern, teacher and 4-H leader, will work with 4-H resource materials and support to provide new experiences for students. Charles works with more than 150 Indo-Chinese youngsters. He is pictured with 4-H volunteers, Heidi Hauge and Kate Wilkins.

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INTERESTING FACTS

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The first scheduled airplane passenger service in the world was between Tampa and St. Petersburg, Fla., in 1914, making regular flights 25 miles across Tampa Bay.

Lowest figure ever reached by the Dow-Jones stock average was on July 8, 1932 when it plunged to 41.22.

At the time of the Declaration of Independence, the population of New York City was only 21,000.

The first regular daily comic strip in America was "Mutt & Jeff".

Can you name the last 5 states to be admitted to the Union? They are Hawaii, Alaska, Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma.



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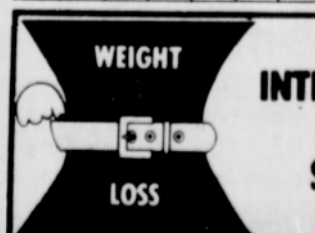
LOSE WEIGHT

STOP SMOKING

We'll help you lose weight the easy, no-exercise IHS way. Join your Spokane and Valley neighbors who have lost the pounds and inches they wanted. How much do YOU want to lose? 20 pounds? 40 pounds? 100? Circle the day you want to be 20 to 40 pounds lighter, then call IHS!

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