



For the children of Atlanta and for all children who are hungry, suffer and live in fear.

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# Block grants threaten health, education programs

The Reagan budget, recently adopted by the House and well on its way to final passage, requires cuts in domestic programs of \$50 billion from what would be required to monitor programs at the current level. This is expected to be followed by a cut of an additional \$80 billion in the next two years.

Next the administration proposes to destroy many of the social

programs serving the poor and minorities through the adoption of "community block grants" to the states. The effect would be to repeal 66 pieces of legislation that establish programs ranging from child health services, Community Service Administration, education for handicapped children, etc. It also removes federal requirements for civil rights, citizen participation,

quality control, priorities, fiscal accountability, freedom of information. States would be allowed to spend the funds as they choose.

The plan is to lump these services into a series of block grants, provide the states with 25 per cent less money this year (less in years to come) and to allow the states to choose the programs and the target populations they will serve.

There are two health block grants; one is health services and the other preventative health. Among the programs that would be repealed are migrant health, research and development, community mental health, services to the elderly, rehabilitation for blind and disabled, family planning, genetic disease, etc.

Social service block grants would

repeal foster care funds, child welfare services, child abuse prevention, vocational rehabilitation, poverty programs, community economic development grants, etc.

The education block grants would erase emergency school aid, community school programs, gifted and talented, career education, adult education, programs for educationally disadvantaged, etc.

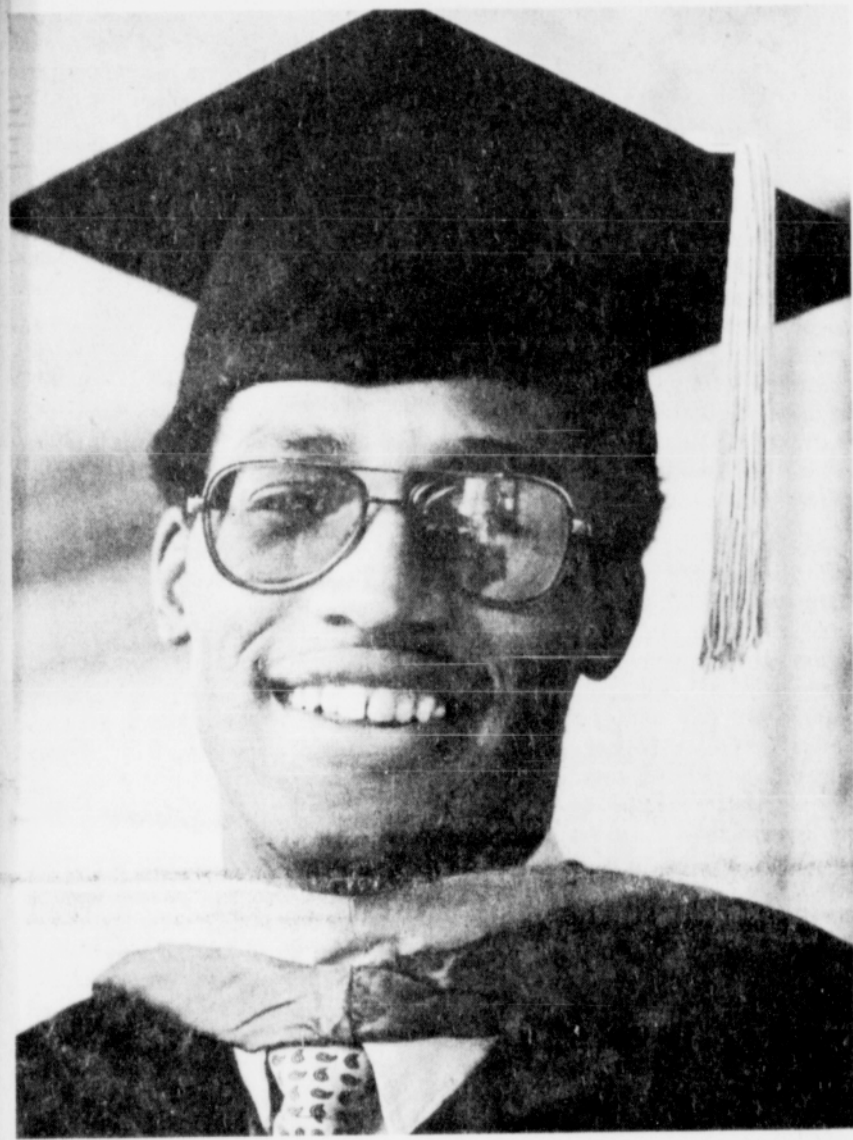
Another bill of concern is the Administrative Reform Act that will give the President the right to abolish any program by executive order if Congress does not object within 90 days.

Many believe that these proposals are just the first steps in a strategy to abandon federal involvement in meeting human needs.

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

July 2, 1981  
Volume XI Number 37  
25¢ Per Copy

USPS 959-680-855



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## Dental School honors Smith

James Smith, son of Russell J. Smith of Northeast Portland, received two major awards recently from the School of Dentistry at the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center in Portland.

Smith was the recipient of the Ernest A. Hurley Humanitarian Award, presented to those students who exemplify service to their fellows, faculty, and community; and the Stephen P. Peglow

Memorial Fund Award. The Peglow Award is given to a graduating senior, nominated by members of the senior class and then selected by the class and faculty, who is most representative of all the desirable qualities of a dentist. In addition to demonstrating useful knowledge, the awardee must have essential qualities of integrity, humility, compassion, skill, sensitivity to patient needs and dedication to service.

## 'I am the Black child'

"I am a Black child. You have brought me into this world, about which I know nothing. You hold in your hand my destiny. You determine whether I succeed or fail. Give me, I beg you, a world where I can walk tall and proud. Train me, as is your duty unto me, to love myself, my people and to build our Black nation."

Grassroot News, N.W. - Those concluding thoughts of the timeless poem "I am the Black Child," underlined the sentiments and knowledge exchanged during the first Annual Black Child Conference held last weekend, sponsored by the Black Educational Center.

The weekend conference operated under the banner of "Who Will Speak For Us? Preparing Black children to meet the challenges of the future." It opened with a panel discussion of the effects of media images on the Black child. Gregory Gudger from the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission opened the discussion. "The media, as a whole, has not been very kind to Black people because the images projected of Black people has not been very accurate. That is very damaging, especially to our

children" he explained.

An example cited was a recent special done by a local TV station about the Indo-Chinese. Every negative remark about the Indo-Chinese was made by Blacks. The station's reply was that this was not a deliberate act but at the same time it was the most unconscionable act."

Present at this panel was clinical psychologist, Jasper Ormond. He said, "Self-hatred and fear is the result of the media image projected to Black children. This has been used to mentally control people to a point where they feel so helpless about their conditions, that they would begin to complain to the white media for not protecting them properly. That's a hell of a statement. This country is based on a very serious psychological myth that white people are superior and Black people are inferior. It is important for the stability of this country that the myth is constantly perpetrated.

"This is a very insidious image being projected through the media to our children. At this time, I feel it's somewhat ludicrous to expect the white media to project Black people in any positive light. Their well-being is dependent on not

projecting Black people in a very positive light and that's a very systematic process."

The conclusions reached by this segment of the conference was for parents to screen the T.V. programs, cut the TV off, and for Black people to develop control over various mediums of the media.

Dr. Derrick Bell, Jr., Law Dean for the University of Oregon was the keynote speaker as the conference continued with workshops ranging from Black Adoption to combatting the social oppression of Black children. In his address, Dr. Bell summarized the educational process of integration.

"Almost 30 years after *Brown v. The Board of Education*, we are still trying to decide whether integrated or segregated school are best for our children. During the long struggle to integrate as required by the courts and ignored by the rest of the country, came the slow realization that racism comes in integrated as well as segregated forms. And nobody knows that better than Black people in Portland, Oregon.

"This has brought back the remembered revelation that no one can free us except ourselves. The education of our children is too important to delegate to others.

## City of Portland addresses refugee concerns

Community tensions and acts of harassment against Indo-Chinese refugees that caught the attention of the staff of Commissioner Charles Jordan last fall brought about the appointment of a Refugee Coordinator in the Commissioner's office. Dr. Patricia Rumer has been appointed to the position, funded by the federal Office of Refugee Settlement for one year.

The position, according to Dr. Rumer, will gather information on refugees in Portland, coordinate efforts of groups now working with refugees, involve City bureaus in providing services in a manner that can include refugees, and help educate the public about the culture and heritage of the various refugee groups living in the City.

"The many refugees coming to Portland are changing the City," she said. "The many new cultural groups can bring a positive experience to the city and I would like to part of that process."

Oregon is fourth in the nation in percent of refugees. In Portland most refugees are from Southeast Asia and are primarily from six groups -- Chinese, Vietnamese, Cambodians, Laotians, Mien and Hmong. Each of these groups has one or more languages and distinctive cultural patterns.

Other refugees coming into Portland include a few Cubans, Ethiopians, Afghanistans, and a small number of East Europeans and Russians.

The primary problem for refugees is employment; seventy percent of the Indo-Chinese refugees receive public assistance. This assistance, although provided through the state Adult and Family Services Department, is 100 per cent funded by the federal government for up to three years. Cubans, who have conditional entrance and are not legally

considered refugees, are not eligible for assistance except food stamps, unless they would otherwise be eligible as elderly, disabled or dependent children. Federal funds are available for Cubans but the State of Oregon refused money because it is not allowed to select who can come into the state.

A potential for increased tension is the high rate of unemployment in the City - over 10 per cent - and the competition among refugees and other minority groups for rapidly vanishing jobs. Since refugees tend to settle in low-income areas already occupied by minorities and poor whites, the opportunities for tension are multiplied. This potential conflict makes understanding and coalition building even more important.

Refugees who can be expected to arrive in the future are Afghanistans now in Pakistan and West Germany awaiting acceptance to the US, Ethiopians and others from the Horn of Africa, and growing numbers from Central America. A political battle is raging over whether more refugees should be accepted. Law now requires that refugees be "political" and not "economic", and in practice requires that they come from socialist nations and not from pro-US dictatorships. Many humanitarians now believe that displaced people would be better served by locating them in nearby countries with familiar language and culture than by bringing them to the US where they are in a strange and not always friendly environment.

Dr. Rumer's tasks will be varied. She has already begun to meet with agencies that are providing services to refugees and with the forum of refugee serving agencies. She will coordinate their efforts and include

organizations of refugee people. Commissioner Jordan has asked City bureaus to appoint members to a Refugee Task Force to insure City services are made available.

Dr. Rumer came to the job well experienced in community organization. She worked in rural development in Guatemala for the American Friends Service Committee, did a needs assessment on Hispanics in Portland for the

United Church of Christ; organized child care and education programs for 4-C, Ecumenical Ministries, Northwest Regional Educational Training Lab, and Nero and Associates. She recently received her doctorate in Urban Studies from Portland State University where she wrote her doctoral thesis on the Community Coalition for School Integration.



Summer brings the old and the young to Peninsula Park.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)



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