

# OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES

By Kathryn Hall Bogle

Police Officer Washington wears a pony-tail hair-do.

The length is cut to police regulation requirements, and there is a bright colorful comb or barette to keep it in place. It helps Officer Dorothy Washington to express a bit of feminine individuality along with the regulation-blue uniform she wears every day on duty.

Dorothy Washington is a probationer among the police of the City of Portland. She won her appointment just four short months ago after successfully completing her civil service examinations.

Why would a 27-year-old Black woman, attractive and curvaceous, with a degree in sociology from U.C.L.A., want to be a policewoman?

"I like the freedom there is in being a police officer," Washington says. "I like to take on a task and complete it on my own. Ordinarily, there are no 'hold-overs' waiting to be served or continued through other days or weeks and so on. Certainly, there are rules to be followed and judgments to be applied, but we are on our own out there.

"Of course, as a probationer, I am under the supervision of a coach who stays with me through this period of my education. I've been very fortunate to have James Wood as my coach. He is a police officer with 14 years of experience with the Portland Bureau and he sees to it that I have a real chance at demonstrating what I can do in working with people."

Dorothy Washington, a Portlander by birth, and a 1972 graduate of Jefferson High School, last worked as a Mental Health Therapist at the Riverside Psychiatric Hospital here in Portland. Before that her experience in that field included four years of working with emotionally disturbed children in a hospital setting in Los Angeles following her graduation from college there.

Washington also likes the study of law and its application and she once considered law as a chosen profession. She is looking forward



Police Officer Dorothy Washington and Officer James Wood, coach of probationary officers, stop to talk with citizen.

(Photo: Thomas Golden)

to the nine weeks of more advanced training she, as a probationer, will receive at the police academy. When asked if she had received any special guidance in regard to an officer's handling of racial minorities, Officer Washington said there had been none given her thus far. She does not know whether or not this instruction is to come later at the police academy.

The matter of civil rights has been "touched on" in basic training Washington has received.

Probationers "condition their own bodies," Washington asserts, though the facilities of the gymnasium are open. With her own sense of what is healthful for her, Washington is an experienced sportswoman. She rides horseback, she jogs 1 1/2 miles every day, skates, swims and plays tennis. Push-ups and sit-ups are fairly routine for her.

All the male officers are accepting of women in their ranks and the public has generally accepted the fact of the presence of a Black woman in authoritative uniform, according to Officer Washington. Once, and only once, has Washington had to cope with a racial epithet hurled at her, and then, she said, she had ignored it. The white male officer with her took charge by ordering the person to "desist and vacate the scene." There has been no repeat incident.

Dorothy Washington's family was concerned about her safety in the beginning but they now accept her decision. Black friends and white friends have been complimentary in their encouragement to Washington. Even the accused go along in cooperations with her demands of them.

Meanwhile, Dorothy Washington

is already planning a long future with the City's Police Bureau. She wants to be a detective some day. And, maybe, work with children again in some combination of the two.

Says she: "Having to wear a uniform is not bad. You don't need to wonder what to put on for the day. You know. Uniforms are free. The college bound people of all races should investigate the police bureau for some good possibilities for aid in their educations. We certainly need more Blacks on the force. The pay? That's the bottom line. How does \$1500 a month, to start, sound?"

Sounds good, Dorothy. We are proud of you.

## Student immunization required

Parents of children enrolling in Portland Public Schools this fall should be aware of the following immunization requirements:

\*Students enrolling for the first time in an Oregon school in kindergarten or first grade must present a physician's record of their immunization.

\*Students transferring to Portland schools from other schools in Oregon must request that their immunization records be sent to the school in which they are enrolling.

\*Students enrolling from out-of-state in grades other than kindergarten or first grade have 30 days in which to present their immunization records.

Required immunizations are diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, rubeola (10-day measles), rubella (3-day measles) and polio.

Forms for the immunization series are available from physicians, county health clinics, the Multnomah County Education Service District and all Portland schools.

Although the 1981 Oregon Legislature passed a bill extending immunization requirements to pre-kindergarten through grade 12, a 1973 Oregon law requiring immunizations only of new students and transfers from out-of-state will continue to be in effect this fall, according to Marv Rasmussen, health services director, Portland Public Schools.

Implementation date for the new broader law has not been set, Rasmussen said, pending writing of the rules and regulations to implement the legislation.

Parents may have children immunized by their physician or at one of the following Multnomah County Immunization Clinics:

**Health Services Center, 340 NE 122nd Ave., 248-3651, Wednesdays 1-6 pm.**

**Westside-Gill Bldg., 426 SW Stark St., 3rd Floor, 248-5140, Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9-11 am.**

**Multi-Service Center, 5022 N Vancouver Ave., 248-5183, Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 9-11:30 am, 1-3:30 pm.**

**North Portland, 8914 N Woolsey, 248-5301, Tues., Wed., Fri., 2-4 pm.**

**Belmont 924 SE 45th, 248-5078, Tuesdays 1-4 pm (except Sept. 1st only - extended clinic - Tues. 8:30-11:30 am).**

**Indochinese Health Clinic, 2130 SW 5th, 248-3149, Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., 9-11 am, 1-3:30 pm.**

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## From the Front Door

by Tom Boothe

From the front door, I wish to share the general portion of my back to school speech to our Exodus Clean Team youth members, with you.

"Youth members of the Exodus Clean Team you represent the future of our Community, our Neighborhood and it will be within your power to take responsibility in guiding your Community into the light of Respect, Cleanliness and a caring Consciousness.

Listen carefully to me now, take what you here learned this summer, take all the good things you have done this summer, take them with you to your School, and in to your classrooms, and onto the playgrounds, and into the cafeteria, and even into the bathrooms.

Take what you have learned about the importance of **CLEANLINESS** with you always.

Take what you have learned about the importance of **CARING**.

Take what you have learned about the great value of being **COURTEOUS**.

Take what you have learned about how important it is to complete your assignments and how important it is to listen and pay attention and by **CONSCIENTIOUS**.

Yes, take this summer's experience with you always, but most of all remember to use this knowledge, remember that all things including this most valuable knowledge is worthless if you do not use it, so please remember to put it to use.

I am not going to keep you long today, but before we are dismissed I want to thank you for all the good things you did for your community and the City of Portland this summer of 1981, for that I wish to give you a physical token of our appreciation, Mr. Daryl Griffith will do the Honor of this, Mr. Griffith."

The rest of the meeting was conducted by Mr. Daryl Griffith who had worked directly with the Children all Summer. We gave them gifts and the children along with us adults were touched by the deep relationships that had been developed over the summer between the children and ourselves.

I think you might agree with me, I would rather experience a short Clean and caring Summer, with warm, Courteous feelings, then to experience a long hot summer, full of frustrations, anger and cold hostile feelings any year.

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