

# Kaiser executive meets new career challenge

By Kathryn Hall Bogle

Alvin Washington, a career executive, feels that change and new beginnings are fertile soil for growth—personal growth and gain.

It was with this perspective that he eagerly accepted the challenge his company, the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, dangled before his eyes a few weeks ago. The challenge meant that he would exchange the vice presidency in Portland and the associate spot with the regional manager of the Kaiser-Permanente Health Care program to go to Raleigh, North Carolina to introduce the Kaiser plan there. As a vice president and manager of the new region, he would have a secretary to start with and his wealth of experience to build a flourishing business in the field of health care planning where, currently, there is none.

In Portland, Washington pointed out, he leaves an area where one person out of every five living in this Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area is a member of Kaiser-Permanente Health Care program. The local plan has 3,600 employees to operate two hospitals, eight medical office buildings and five dental office buildings to take care of the needs of 59,000 potential patients enrolled in the Kaiser dental program and 268,000 enrolled in the medical programs. "Here we loom as the ninth largest business in the State of Oregon for revenues that, in 1983-84, were in excess of 200 million dollars," he said. Here, Washington shared the total responsibility for the operation of the Oregon-Washington region with Daniel O. Wagster, regional manager and top executive for Kaiser. Dr. Marvin Goldberg, regional medical director and president of N.W. Permanente, works with the medical staff in cooperation with Wagster and Washington.

"Half of my day is involved with group meetings as it requires the involvement of many people in completing our projects with understanding and group accord. For instance, Washington explained, "there is the regional program we mentioned for dental care, the department of planning and medical economics, a staff that gathers statistics and studies analysis to anticipate long range planning; we have 50 people in the computer services, then there is the business core to draw the guidelines or the health plan, and last—the department of professional liability.

I speak with these people every day.

"Kaiser looks into the care of the medically indigent of the area we serve and we look to legislative figures to involve the government in this care. This is familiar ground for me."

Washington is a member of the Oregon Health Council which helps to develop health planning policies for the State of Oregon. He was a member of the education committee of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, a board member of the Greater Portland Business Group on health which recommends ways to maintain cost containment in health care. (Kaiser patients stay in the hospital for 4.9 days as compared to 5.8 days for others in the community. Maternity patients may elect to go home after six to twelve hours. They may expect a home visit by an R.N. within 48 hours following discharge.)

Washington decided to make the move to Raleigh and build the Kaiser plan there from the ground up. He is confident he will be ready to open a fully-staffed installation with Raleigh clients waiting for service by January, 1985. He is confident because: "I've been with Kaiser six years and was the one person they chose out of 800 who applied at the opening level of health plan manager."

His background includes 25 years in the United States Air Force—he retired as a lieutenant colonel. He is a graduate of Wharton Business School, has attended University of Pennsylvania and Union School of Medicine.

He holds a M.S. degree in administration and management engineering from George Washington University, a master of science degree from Ohio State University and has a bachelors in Biology from Lincoln University. He has lived four years in Japan and was in China near the Russian border for a while. He speaks a little Japanese and a little French. When in the USAF, he was stationed in Norfolk, VA. His work, with 150 NATO staff representing 14 countries, involved significant travel to Europe's capitol cities: Athens, London, Oslo, Paris and Rome.

The rewards for accomplishing his new goals can be of great value to this goal-oriented career man. His wife, Jacqueline, their daughter, Jocelyn and their son, Alvin, Jr., go gladly to new territory. They know that something exciting is always waiting to happen—just ahead—this time, across the country.



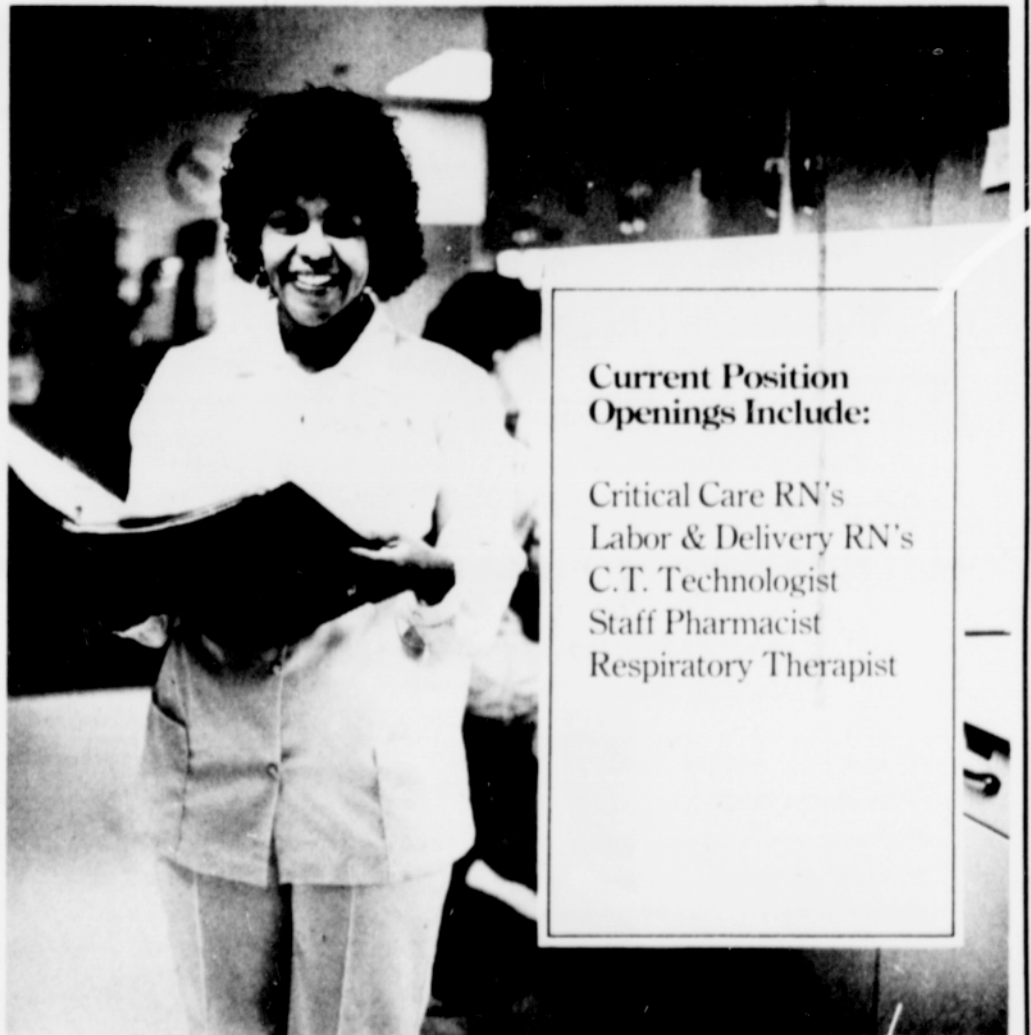
(l-r) Tim Carpenter, Mrs. Washington, Alvin Washington and Enoch Gasa.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

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## Consider a career in psychology

Psychologists are trained to evaluate, counsel and advise individuals and groups. If one is concerned with experiences and human behavior, psychology can be an exciting field of study. Some psychologists work in the field of pure science attempting to formulate knowledge while others are concerned with the application of psychological principles. Not all psychologists are limited to research and applied psychology. Some specialize in areas such as experimental, industrial, human factors, clinical, community, social, educational or consumer psychology to name a few. Private practice is attractive to many psychologists while still others work in educational institutions, private corporations, or for the federal government. Research suggests that over fifty percent of psychologists work at colleges and universities teaching and researching. Slightly more than twenty percent are in clinical and counseling practices and

nearly thirty per cent work in either management or administration.

To become a psychologist, one should begin preparing early during the undergraduate career years. Graduate training is nearly an absolute necessity. The most satisfying opportunities in psychology require a Ph.D. Specific requirements for admission may vary according to the college or university. Requirements for entering graduate programs should be sought by writing directly to the college or university one plans to attend. Over 1,500 colleges and universities offer a bachelor's degree program in psychology; about 325 a master's, about 165, a Ph.D.; and about 10, a Psy.D.

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 1981, the career outlook for Psychologists is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through the 80's. Earnings of a psychologist may range from \$10,700 to \$30,300 a year.

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