



Halim Rahsaan Chairman of the Desegregation Monitoring Advisory Committee summarized the mid-year report to Portland School District by saying, "There is no reason the achievement gap between African American students and majority students cannot be eliminated."

Photo by Richard J. Brown

DMAC Annual Report Summary

DMAC's vision of truthful quality multiethnic-multicultural education for all children is still a torrid desire we shall follow through with until it becomes a reality in the curriculum of the Portland School District. There is no reason why the achievement gap between African American students and majority students cannot be eliminated.

We also must examine some of the reasons that account for the gap. There are some African American educators who feel that the performance gap is largely a behavioral problem; that it is the result of a remediable tendency of African American students to avoid intellectual engagement and competition. Their avoidance is rooted in the fears and self-doubt engendered by a major legacy of American racism; the strong negative stereotypes about African American intellectual capabilities. Teachers influenced by assessment data and other pervasive rumors of African American inferiority tend to expect less of these students; African American students tend to accept the judgment of their intellectual inferiority, and their resulting poor classroom effort and performance fulfills everyone's expectations.

African American students and students of color must be challenged in the

classroom to increase their intellectual activity and the techniques to develop discipline in good study habits. We have to make an effort to change the way children of color think about their intellectual development, encouraging them to attribute their intellectual success to ability and their intellectual failures to a lack of effort. Failure, rather than being allowed to destroy the student's self-confidence, should be seen instead as feedback indicating the need for more intense effort or for a different approach to the task.

There is no particular reason why the Portland Public School District should not ensure that African American students cannot fare well in terms of academic achievement. The African American students must be brought to the realization that they can be excellent actors on the world's stage, that there are both historical and contemporary role models for them to emulate. In order to accomplish this, the achievement gap requires that the educational providers and administrators be knowledgeable about the African past, the cultural make-up of that clientele, and more importantly, the social, economic, and political factors which shape the reality of African people all over the world.

Grammy Award-nominee Vanessa Bell Armstrong will be in concert March 8 at the Benson High School Auditorium, 546 N.E. 12th Ave. The Rance Allen Group will also perform at the Benson High in the same concert, 8:00 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Reserved tickets, \$16.50. Ticket outlets: Christian Supply, Stevens & Sons, Lloyd Center, House of Sound, 3634 N.E. Williams Ave. 287-1960.

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The Portland Alumnae chapter is proud to present a conference designed to increase awareness of the political process.

SCHEDULE:

9:30-10:00 a.m. — Arrival and last minute registration
10:00-11:00 a.m. — Session 1
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. — Session 2
12:15-1:45 p.m. — Lunch

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
The Honorable Margaret Carter
Representative, State of Oregon
Eighteenth District

2:00-3:00 p.m. — Session 3
3:00-5:00 p.m. — Reception

COST:

\$10 if pre-registered by March 1
\$15 at the door
Lunch and Reception Included

CONFERENCE TOPICS:

- I. Running for Public Office
- II. How to Lobby for and Impact Legislation
- III. Financing A Campaign
- IV. Problems Blacks Face in the Political Arena
- V. Accessing Political Boards and Commissions
- VI. Getting Funds from Your Local Government

For more information on registration and conference speakers contact Jeanne Hartog, 4300 N.E. Fremont, Room 230, 249-2855.

Matching History, Black and White A New Concept in Teaching Black History

Philadelphia, PA — A Philadelphia research and publishing firm has developed a unique way of explaining Black history to all audiences. It is called "Matching History, Black and White." This is a collection of twenty sixty second spots on video. Shown are a Black achiever and a white achiever in the same picture. Each has made noticeable contributions in the same field.

For example one frame shows Dr. Jonas Salk who developed the polio vaccine in 1955. Also in this frame is Dr. Percy Julian, Black, who in 1932, developed a medicine which eased the pain of arthritis. He also discovered a medicine for the treatment of glaucoma, a disease of the eyes which can lead to blindness.

Mark Hyman Associates, Inc. is the firm which researched and developed "Matching History, Black and White." Mark Hyman, president of the firm, is the author of four books on Black history. Three of the books comprise a series called *Blacks Before America*. These books detail the black experience during antiquity, among the Egyptians, Romans, Greeks and in the Bible. "Matching History, Black and White" deals with the achievements of Blacks in America and their counterparts in the

white community.

Hyman said of the video on "Black and White achievements, without offending anyone gives little known information. The video presents to children and adults alike some of the superior, world important contributions of Black and white Americans. It says to all people that Blacks have helped move world technology, medicine, inventions, industry and the arts.

The targets for the video "Matching History, Blacks and White" are school districts throughout America, libraries and those business firms which need to sensitize their policymakers and marketing people.

A few of the remaining frames show John L. Lewis, the stormy, powerful labor leader of four decades ago. Also along with Black Philip Randolph organized the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Blacks thereby first walked through the doors of organized labor. The video also includes Fred Astaire and Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, tap dancers and U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall and present-day U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Mark Hyman Associates is located at 401 N. Broad Street, Suite 902, Philadelphia, PA 19108.

Support a Community Rose Festival Float

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Save Your Newspapers!

The Portland Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, Inc. has established an on-going account at the Sunflower Recycling Company, located at 2230 S.E. Grand Avenue in Portland, Oregon. At Division below the McLoughlin viaduct. Help us by dropping your newspaper off and telling the receivers that the paper is for the Portland Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, Inc. They will give you a receipt, which can be mailed to our office. The hours are 10-3 p.m. Monday through Saturday at Sunflower. The proceeds are for our patient emergency fund. For more information, call 249-1366. For your convenience a second location has been added! We also have an account at 701 N. Albina, 2 blocks north of Columbia Blvd.

OPB to Sponsor Teleconference on AIDS

"AIDS in the Workplace," a three-hour live teleconference scheduled for March 26, will be the first of five seminars offered this spring by Oregon Public Broadcasting and PBS in association with the National Narrowcast Service, a new video-based training service.

PBS, participating member stations and the Bureau of National Affairs are sponsoring the teleconference in an effort to respond to the many issues raised about AIDS. The live teleconference features interaction with top experts on employee relations, law, public policy, insurance, medicine and corporate planning.

"It is our hope that, through the teleconference, personnel administrators, human resource managers, corporate planners, union officials, medical experts, educators, insurance representa-

tives, EEO officers, labor attorneys and other interested parties will find some solutions to the significant implications of AIDS for corporations and the workforce," says Jerry Appy, OPB Executive Director.

The teleconference will attract participants to 100 locations throughout the country. Individuals can register for the Portland seminar by calling (312) 948-9006 between 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Viewing site location and other information will be given during telephone registration. Cost of the seminar, which includes a 250-page resource book, is \$160.00 per person. Early registration at a reduced fee of \$125.00 per person is available until March 7, 1986.

A descriptive brochure and information about the next teleconferences are available by calling OPB at 295-2412.

Jefferson Theatre Production Depicts South Africa's Problems

Events from the front page of the nation's newspapers and the evening television news programs will come alive in the Jefferson High School's second mainstage show *An Evening of Contemporary Theatre* March 6-7-8.

Two of the three one act plays which make up the evening's program deal with current issues — the problems facing South Africa and race relations in America's college classrooms. This unique theatre endeavor has involved educators, dramatists, student actors as well as the Portland School's Curriculum Department.

The Blues Is You In Me is directed by A. Lee Wilson, a local actor and recent winner of a "Willie" for his role in *Master Harold and the Boys*. Wilson is also widely recognized for his performances in works by Athol Fugard, a noted South African playwright.

The play is made up of readings, poetry, and an excerpt from Fugard's *Sizwe Bansi Is Dead*. Bill Bigelow, a Jefferson social studies teacher and widely recognized author of *Strangers in Their Own Country*, a curriculum guide on South Africa published by The Africa World Press, will introduce the play each night. He has been instrumental in the play's inception and development.

The importance of the problems in South Africa is summed up by Bigelow, "Apart from the obvious urgency of the South African situation, there are solid educational reasons to devote considerable time to these lessons. Spending time on South Africa is indirectly spending time on the whole world."

Theatre Department Head Carolyn Gratton explains that "We wanted to do an evening of contemporary theatre, but we wanted to present more than one view point." After extensive searches of current theatrical literature, the three one acts as an evening's program was proposed.

Because of the suitability of the plays' content, Eleanor Hardt, the district's curriculum specialist in social studies, will distribute materials to social studies teachers in all Portland middle schools and high schools.

"Seeing this production gives students the opportunity to be a part of contemporary political issues as they come to life on stage. The powerful, explosive messages in these pieces are important for all of us," said Ruthann Harley, Jefferson's community relations coordinator. "We want teachers and students from all over the city to be aware of this unique chance to see history," she continued.

The second one act play also deals with a contemporary issue — race as it impacts a student-teacher relationship. *Open Admissions* is a poignant, urban story in which a black college student admitted under an "open admissions" plan for minorities, confronts his white instructor. A hilarious comedy *The Actor's Nightmare* is the third part of the evening's program.

This unique theatre production promises to give theatergoers and student actors alike a chance to experience the front page headlines and examine the importance of these issues facing our world.

Welfare Hot Line

The Welfare Hotline offers free information and advice to Multnomah County residents about welfare and food stamps. A service of Legal Aid the Hotline has knowledgeable staff who answer questions and do negotiations and hearings for needy families having problems getting benefits from these programs. The number is 241-4111 and the line is open Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon and 12:30 through 5:00 p.m.

The first wedding to take place in the White House was that of Mrs. Lucy Payne Washington to Supreme Court Justice Thomas Todd in 1812. Lucy was the widow of George Washington's nephew and the sister of Mrs. James Madison.

INTERESTING FACTS

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The birds called terns migrate halfway around the world twice each year.

The Hoang typewriter, a device for typing in Chinese characters, has 5,700 characters on a keyboard 2 feet wide and 17 inches high.

The longest fight in the history of boxing took place in New Orleans on April 6-7, 1893. Andy Bowen and Jack Burke fought for 110 rounds — seven hours and 19 minutes — only to have the referee break up the fight and declare it "no contest."

We do not do business with South Africa.

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