

# AN OPEN LETTER TO OREGON'S 1986 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ... AND THEIR FRIENDS

This spring many of you will receive the high school diploma that you have waited for so long. Congratulations! We're proud of you.

But before you begin the excitement and activities of graduation week and the summer ahead, please take just a moment to think about some people -- some who may have been your friends, brothers or sisters -- who didn't make it to this important day. Or maybe some who made it to graduation but have been stopped short of further achievement because of the heartbreaking tragedy of a traffic accident.

The month of May has long been the starting line for a race with death and injury on our highways for young people. Graduation has traditionally been the starting gun. As June, July and August come and go, the highest monthly totals of the year occur. We hope that you can set a new, less tragic mark for future graduating classes.

You see, traffic accidents are a particular problem for people your age. The life expectancy of every age group in the U.S. has increased during the past 75 years except one -- teenagers whose death rate is higher today than 20 years ago mainly due to auto crashes. About 9,000 American teens are killed every year in traffic accidents. But, let's bring that a little closer to home...of the 571 persons who died on Oregon highways in 1984, 115 of those were age 16 through 19; 5,637 in that age group were injured.

You and your friends need not become one of those statistics. The formula for survival is so simple:

- \* Obey all traffic laws and drive within the posted speed -- a traffic violation is just an accident that didn't happen.
- \* Buckle up your seat belt every trip and make sure all passengers do the same -- sure, seat belts may be uncomfortable at times, not macho and wrinkle your clothes; but the alternative may be two weeks in the hospital or crutches for six months, a seriously maimed friend facing years of plastic surgery or, even worse, death.
- \* Choose to not drink and drive. The legal age to purchase, possess or consume alcohol is 21.
- \* Drive defensively -- most accidents are caused by driver error and are preventable.

As you celebrate this great time in your lives, please keep in mind the survival formula recommended by Western Insurance Information Service, the Oregon Highway Users Conference and Oregon Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders. We're many businesses and associations who work together for safe, efficient highway transportation. But, we are also parents, brothers, sisters, friends and neighbors of yours who care about you and want you around for a while.

Have a great graduation and vacation! And please - BE CAREFUL OUT THERE; TAKE CARE OF ONE ANOTHER.

Oregon Highway Users Conference

WESTERN INSURANCE INFORMATION SERVICE

Oregon Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders, Inc.



## Youth Get Help From Private Industry Council

After graduating from Lincoln High School in 1985, Leah Jackson was suddenly faced with supporting herself and her dreams for higher education. Today she is doing just that. A communications student at Portland State University, Leah, now 19, works afternoons as a First Interstate Bank teller. She praises the bank for giving her a chance and the Portland Private Industry Council for preparing her for and referring her to a summer training position as a teller.

A native of Portland, Leah had always known she would go to college. In her junior year she had applied and was accepted by both Clark and Spellman colleges in Atlanta. But when her mother was laid off, Leah realized she would have to do it on her own.

Leah quickly learned how few skills she had, how inexperienced she was as an interviewer and presenting herself to prospective employers. She turned to the Portland Private Industry Council and applied and was accepted in the Private Industry Council's Summer Youth Employment Program.

Leah now says that the Summer Program employment specialist encouraged her to apply and gave her the one-on-one attention she desperately needed. She adds, "I recommend the Private Industry Council for anybody just out of school and looking for work. I have a good job and the people at the Private Industry Council helped me gain the confidence to apply for and keep my job."

Leah is now anxiously looking ahead to taking the certified teller course and exam offered by First Interstate Bank employees with a year on the job. When she has her certification, Leah Jackson plans to look into transferring somewhere in the western United States and continue her education in a new and different environment. That is how she had always planned to get her higher education.

**\*Editor's Note:**

The Portland Private Industry Council encourages economically disadvantaged youth between the ages of 16 and 21 to apply for a variety of work experience and training opportunities available this summer as part of Portland's Summer Youth Employment Program. Call 249-8447, or visit the Private Industry Council's Youth Employment Institute, located at 1704 N.E. 26th Avenue. For more information call John Rakowitz at 241-4600.

## Be a Role Model for Future Generations, Clark Seniors are Told

Black Americans must face the realities of our age by refusing to blame others for our predicaments, while providing solutions, instead of excuses, Clark College's commencement speaker said Monday.

Speaking to a crowd of more than 2,000 at the Fox Theatre, Robert J. Brown, formerly the special assistant to the president during the Nixon administration, applauded the graduates' accomplishment, while offering them a challenge for the future.

"We can no longer afford to use white racism as an excuse for our own failures," said Brown, a long-time Republican who recently called for the resignation of United States Civil Rights Commission Chairman Clarence Pendleton. "We too, share some of the blame and some of the shame. When you go out into the world, will you be part of the problem, or a step toward the solution?"

Pointing out the dire need in black communities for both morally and materially successful role models, Brown, the founder and president of a successful North Carolina marketing and public relations firm, called it "vitally important" that we not lose touch with the value systems of our forefathers.

"You must impress upon them that the true measures of a man or woman is not in how many children you can bring into the world, but whether you can take care of them and help them grow into responsible citizens," said Brown, who insisted he never had more than one pair of shoes while growing up.

Declaring that discrimination is not an issue of black and white or rich and poor -- but right and wrong -- Brown chastised Pendleton, who is black, for what he termed his attempt to "turn back the clock" on black progress by systematically dismantling the civil rights apparatus.

"The message to the Clarence Pendletons of the world is that you don't have to tear somebody else down to lift yourself up," said Brown, who was instrumental in bringing more federal money to black colleges as anyone. "Black people are unified now like we have not been in several years. We have found something that we can all agree on -- that the chairman's approach to civil rights is wrong and against our best interest."

In addition to the B.S. and B.A. degrees granted to Clark's undergrads Monday, four people, including speaker Brown, were presented honorary doctorate degrees. Rev. Cornelius Henderson, a Covington native who spearheaded the growth of Ben Hill United Methodist Church from 200 members in 1975 to over 4,000 today, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity. Long-time Clark Board of Trustees member Louis Regenstein, an attorney with the prestigious firm of Kilpatrick, Cody, Rogers, McCatchey and Regenstein, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, as was speaker Brown. Atlanta City Council President Marvin S. Arrington, one of the first black graduates from Emory University's School of Law, was presented the degree of Doctor of Humanities. Arrington ('63) and Henderson ('56) are Clark graduates.

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## Guide for College Bound Students

A new book addressing the special needs of the growing number of women who manage job and family responsibilities while going to college has been published by the College Board.

The book, entitled *The College Board Guide to Going to College While Working: Strategies for Success*, is designed specifically to help such women (and men) make informed decisions about college before and after admission.

"In just ten years, more than half of all college students will be part-time students who have responsibilities for a job, family, or both in addition to college studies," said Gene Hawes, the book's author, an authority in the fields of career and college guidance.

"Most of this expanding part-time student population will be women," Hawes added.

"Although women who have such responsibilities cannot -- and do not -- make the decision to attend college lightly, they lack a network of peers and centralized resources to turn to for advice, alert them to options, and reassure them along the way," he said.

This book is designed to fill in those gaps in information, Hawes said. "In essence, it helps a woman find the resources she needs from the first step of investigating college as an option, through the successful management of a program of studies."

In his book, Hawes shows women how they can evaluate their talents, interests, and career goals in order to develop college plans, identify and select the most suitable colleges and degree programs, and explore sources of financial aid to pay for college.

The *College Board Guide to Going to College While Working* (9.95) is available in local bookstores or by mail from: College Board Publications, Department E15, Box 886, New York, New York 10101.

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## "New York, New York"

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center will exhibit the works of photographic artist, Shedrich Williams on June 2-29, 1986 at the IFCC, 5340 North Interstate Avenue.

The exhibition, entitled "New York, New York, 1981-1986" captures the atmosphere of the people and environment of New York in the distinctive style of Mr. Williams' black and white photography which achieves the emotional element of time, space and light.



Leah Jackson, Bank Teller & 1985 Summer Youth Employment Program Graduate says,

**"Call Your Private Industry Council It Works"**

# NEED A JOB?

## Out of School and 16-21 years old?

# Let Us Help!

## Call 249-8447

For Information: call, visit or write

**Portland Private Industry Council, Inc.**

Youth Employment Institute • 1704 N.E. 26th Ave. • Portland, Oregon • (503) 249-8447