

Rejected From Nursing School 20 Yrs Ago Because She Was Black

Loretta Ganter always knew she would be a nurse. Society, however, did not make it easy. Despite her qualifications, she was turned down by a leading Portland, Oregon nursing program. Ms. Ganter is black, and the hospital did not permit blacks into its dormitories.



Loretta Ganter, head nurse at Oregon Surgery Center.

That was 20 years ago. Today, Ms. Ganter is head nurse at the Oregon Surgery Center, the first free-standing outpatient surgery unit in Portland, which she helped to design in 1983. "In today's world this isn't an unusual thing for a nurse to be asked to do," says Ms. Ganter, who has seen many changes in her profession over the years as well as a reduction of racial prejudice.

"My high school advisor actually told me to give up," she recalls. "She said, 'You have to be realistic, Loretta,' and told me that maybe I could be an LVN (licensed vocational nurse). Well, I ignored her 'realistic' advice. I always knew I wanted to be a full-fledged registered nurse, and that was what I was going to be."

Her dreams proved more realistic than she was told. After being turned down, she enrolled in another school to become an LVN, and worked full time while completing

PCC Students Present Wine Expert

Howard McAllister of Oregon Vineyard Tours will speak about wines and Oregon wineries at 12 noon Wednesday, November 5, at the Sylvania Campus of Portland Community College, 12000 S.W. 49th Ave. His appearance is being sponsored by the Associated Students of PCC.

The free program will be in the Spruce Room, College Center building on campus. The public is invited.

Further information is available from ASPCC, 244 6111, Ext. 4361.

Air Force Contract Awarded

The U.S. Air Force has awarded a contract to Myra T. Willard Enterprises to perform an independent study of contamination control on the Space Shuttle. Myra T. Willard Enterprises is a Eugene, Oregon-based aerospace consulting firm.

Final Summer Figures Show Enrollment Increase

Enrollment for the 1986 summer term was up more than 30 percent over the summer of 1985, according to the Mt. Hood Community College final enrollment report for the term.

Total headcount revealed that 5,318 students attended the 1986 summer session, compared to 3,859 who attended the year before. The increase in enrollment also accounts for a rise in total FTE, or the full-time equivalency number. FTE was up 21.2 percent over summer of 1985 and 8 percent over the summer of 1984. This will increase reimbursement revenues from the state, according to research director Dan Walleri. Walleri prepared the final report.

The engineering and industrial division's enrollment decreased while other divisions showed significant increases this last summer. The performing and visual arts division peaked the increases with a headcount exceeding the summer of 1985 figures by more than 100 percent.

her four-year program to become an RN. At the same time, Ms. Ganter raised two sons with her husband, Charles (the Ganters have been married for 26 years).

Ironically, Ms. Ganter's career was launched at the very hospital that had at first turned her down. During her 15-year tenure, she became the first black nurse in Oregon to head a surgical nursing team. She also served as a consultant to

the hospital.

Today, she reflects on the change in nursing roles. "Our input as nurses is appreciated now. Today's nurse must understand that medicine is also a business. He or she should be prepared to review finances, attend planning meetings, and have opinions about corporate strategy."

On a typical walk down a corridor of the Oregon Surgery Center, Ms.

Ganter stops to say hello to an elderly cataract patient, reassures the mother of a young boy in knee surgery, directs one of her nurses to an operating room, and is approached by the administrator for her opinion on a revised monthly budget.

"The days of simply handing the doctor a sponge are behind us," says Ms. Ganter. "As the face of medicine keeps changing, so will the face of nursing."



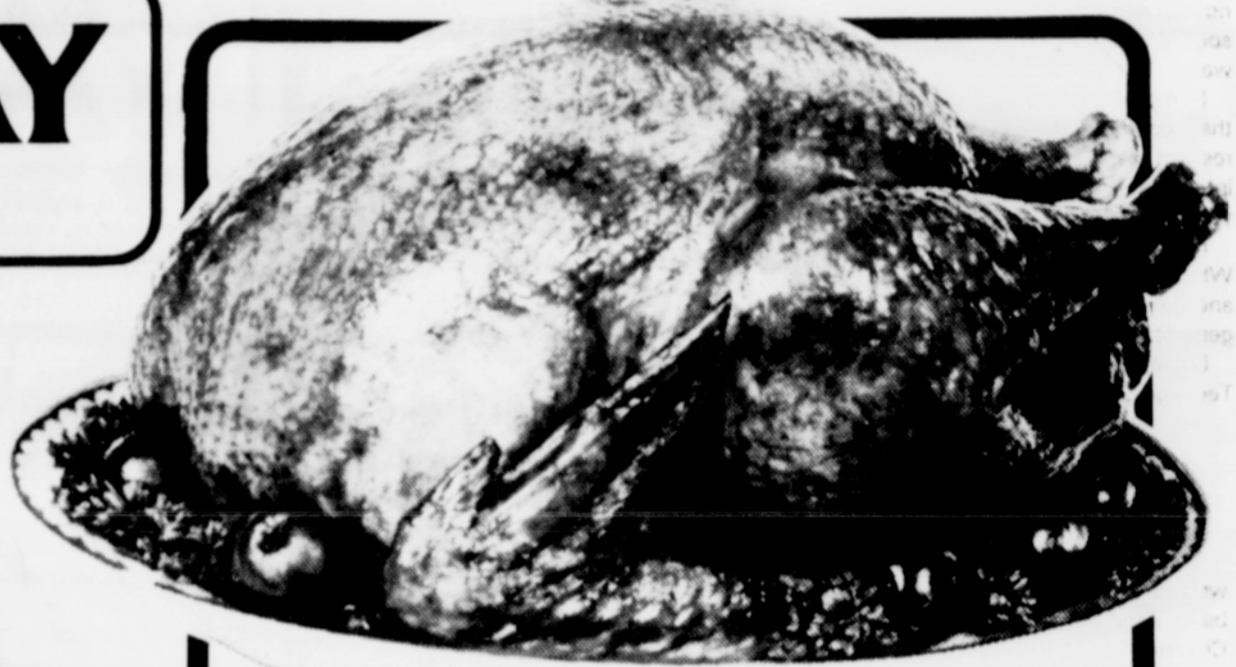
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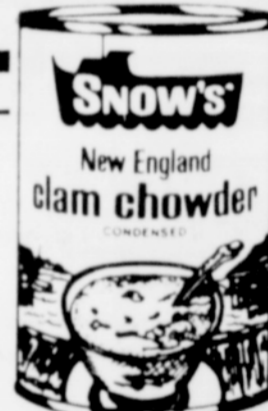
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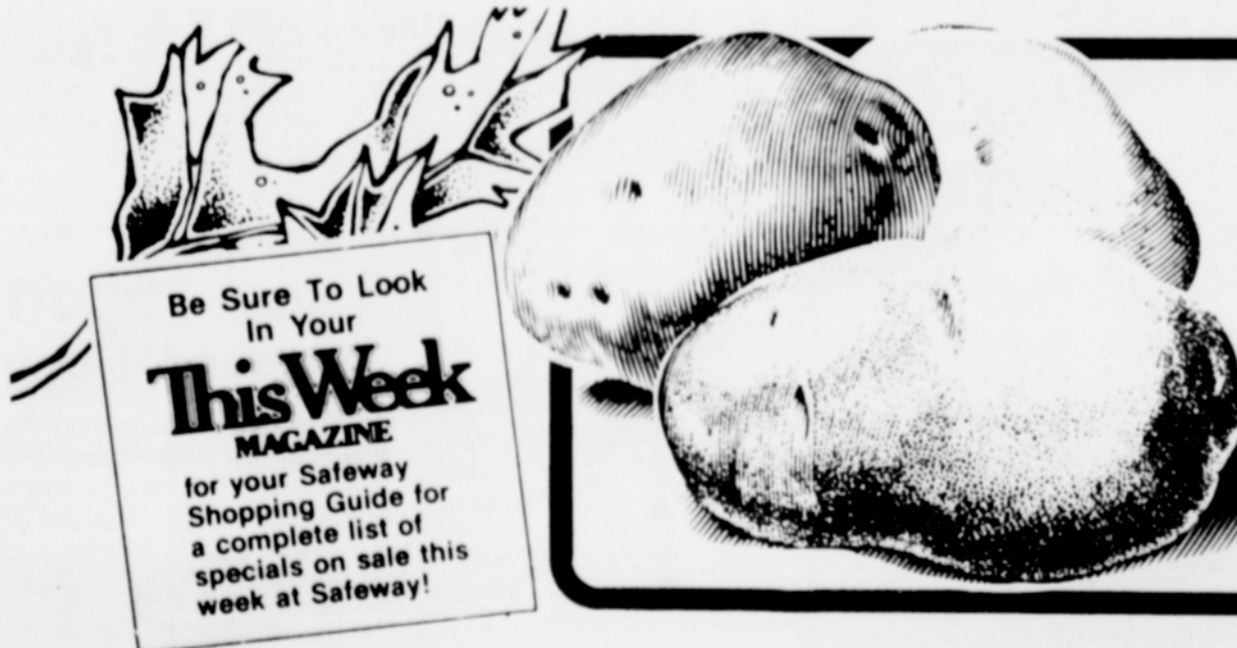
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