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Youth receiving awards were (Front L-R): Johann Olive, Mican Willis, Johntai Olive, Vincent LaBlue, John Toran and (Rear-Center)

Jesse Brazzle Jr. John Olive and Jesse Brazzle (R & L rear) are Youth Development Enterprise coordinators.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

Youth Development Enterprise Youth Receive Awards for Service

Youth Development Enterprise just consummated their 4th year of summer community services. This past summer, 1987, the youth did most of their work in the N.E. Irvington area of Portland, Oregon.

Services consisted primarily of on-the-spot auto wash (\$2.00 donation) and cutting yards for a minimum donation of \$3.00.

Youth received several compliments from neighbors regarding their work.

John Olive and Jesse Brazzle, both youth coordinators, said that the primary purpose for the summer youth program was to provide a positive male image for young youth, teaching them the importance of physical work and doing a good job. Youth who participated were of pre-employment age ranging from 9 to 13 years of age, who received weekly checks for their services from the donations earned from their work.

This year a fall-winter program will go into affect. Youth coordinators have been contacted by Sickle Cell Foundation and City Fire Department personnel to help youth add another dimension to their training and service.

Youth receiving awards and not pictured are Frank Jones, Chris Welch and Jermaine Freison.

Youth Development Enterprise serves the community as a component of the Christian Brotherhood Association of Portland, Oregon. The motto of the group is "to help youth build a better tomorrow today."

Adult men interested should contact either Jesse Brazzle, 287-2949 or John Olive, 248-8790 for more details.

We would sincerely like to thank Portland Observer in their support of showing the community what we're trying to accomplish.

Higher Minimum Wage Will Destroy Job Opportunities for Thousands of Black Teenagers

More than one million teenagers will lose their jobs, including 100,000 blacks, by 1991 as a direct result of enacting proposed legislation to increase and then index the hourly minimum wage, according to a recent witness before the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

Dr. Finis Welch, a UCLA professor of economics and chairman of Union Research Corp., in remarks following his July 17 testimony before the committee said that a plan to raise the minimum wage from \$3.35 to \$4.65 by 1990 and then index it to 50 percent of the average non-supervisory employee's hourly wage would increase pressures on young, entry-level workers trying to find and keep jobs.

"By increasing the minimum wage, we're raising one more hurdle to those trying to break into the job market," Welch said in describing the economic consensus that every minimum wage increase leads to job loss. "We're saying that if you can't make more than the minimum now then you can't work at all in the future."

Under the proposed legislation, an indexed minimum wage would reach \$5.25 an hour in 1991 and result in a total teenage job loss of 1.1 million, according to Welch's calculations. Disemployed adults would raise total job loss figures even higher, he said.

Employees on the bottom rung of the economic ladder are the first to lose their jobs as businesses face higher labor costs without increasing productivity. Often unable to offset these costs through higher consumer prices, businesses are forced to cut back on hours and services to make up the difference, Welch said.

"The losers of a higher minimum wage are those people—black teenagers, entry-level workers, the working poor—who supporters of an increased wage most want to help," Welch said. "A higher minimum wage is little consolation if you can't find a job."

Welch, joining others who oppose a minimum wage increase, also called for new programs, and private and public sector initiatives that would address specifically the needs of the disadvantaged, including unemployed black teenagers.

"Do you suppose that President Roosevelt suspected when he signed the 1938 minimum wage law that we would see a time when black teenagers were only half as likely as whites to find jobs; when black youth unemployment rates approached 50 percent and when 9.5 percent of all black men aged 20 to 24 who have not completed high school would be in jail?" Welch said in his congressional testimony.

National Sickle Cell Month

September, 1987 marks the twelfth anniversary of National Sickle Cell Month. Once again the National Association For Sickle Cell Disease, Inc. (NASCD) and its more than 80 member organizations throughout the nation will focus on educating the general public about sickle cell disease: a blood disorder which affects primarily Black Americans, as well as South Americans, Latin Americans, Africans, West Indians, Greeks, Italians, Sicilians, Turks and Asians.

One of the highlights of Sickle Cell Month is selecting the National Poster Child. Erica Leta Hughey, a six year old from Fayetteville, North Carolina, has been selected the 1987-88 National Poster Child for the National Association For Sickle Cell Disease.



National Association for Sickle Cell Disease, Inc., 1987-88 Poster Child, Erica Leta Hughey, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Erica is an outgoing youngster whose hobbies are painting, travelling, drawing, and being photographed. She attends Benjamin Martin Elementary School.

Erica was nominated by Operation Sickle Cell of Fayetteville, a chapter of NASCD. Her sponsors described her as an extremely bright, articulate, and attractive little girl who enjoys being in the limelight.

A committee of volunteers selected Erica from 21 local Poster Child candidates submitted by NASCD Chapters. The judges included Julie Blood, businesswoman; Josephine Alexander, Basileus, Chi Eta Phi Sorority; and Mereline Wilson, President, Top Ladies of Distinction, Los Angeles Chapter.

Family Income Up

Real median income of Black families has increased significantly since 1982 when the last economic recession ended, according to the Department of Commerce's Census Bureau.

The median income in 1986 for all Black families (\$17,600) and for Black married-couple families (\$26,580) increased by about 14 percent from 1982.

Black families with a female householder, no husband present, had a median income in 1986 of \$9,300, up 9.8 percent from 1982.

Since 1982, real family income has grown by 10.2 percent for all White families and 11.3 percent for White married-couple families. The median income of all Hispanic families and married-couple families both increased by about 9 percent. The differences between the percentage increases for White and Black families were not statistically different from comparable Hispanic families.

Neither the number of poor nor the poverty rate changed significantly for Blacks or Whites between 1985 and 1986. The number of Hispanics in poverty did not change, but the rate declined. The poverty rate in 1986 for Blacks was 31.1 percent (9.0 million) compared with 27.3 percent for Hispanics (5.1 million) and 11.0 percent for Whites (22.2 million).

The 1986 poverty rate for Blacks was lower than during the most recent peak in 1983 when it was 35.7 percent.

The 1986 poverty rate for Whites has declined since 1983 when it was 12.1 percent. The 1986 poverty rate among persons of Hispanic origin was not different from the 1983 rate.

The 1986 poverty level for a family of four was \$11,203. The income and poverty data are based on money income only, before any deductions, and do not include the value of noncash benefits, such as food stamps, public housing, and Medicaid.

As in all surveys, the data are subject to sampling variability and other sources of error.

Copies of "Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1986," Series P-60, No. 157 (advance report), may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.