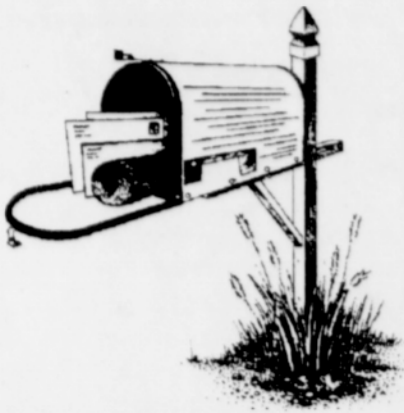


# EDITORIAL

The Portland Observer



## Letter To The Editor

Send your letters to the Editor to:  
Editor, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR, 97208

### Dear Editor:

This is a statement of facts regarding my medical care, at the V.A. Hospital in Portland Oregon. I have a history of hypertension which was brought to my attention, in March 17, 1967, while still in active service at Ft. Hood, Texas Medical Hold Co. My blood pressure was 140/90, since that time, I have had a blood pressure reading as high as 208/110, on May 21, 1990. I came to Portland, Oregon in 1989.

I had never visited Oregon, but was stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington. Being raised in Texas, I was attracted to the forest. Shortly after my arrival in Portland, I was about out of medicine. So I went to get a refill at the V.A. pharmacy which I received. At that time, I was advised that in order to receive additional medicine, I would have to make an appointment to see a doctor. Bare in mind, that I am not against progress to research. My medical records from the V.A. hospital Oakland, CA, and doctor records from Dr. Otis Round, private physician, was made available. I ended up taking 25 pills a day. I don't know for how long until on one of my visits, I returned the pills. There was no change

in my blood pressure. I always felt lifeless. The doctor made no comment except asking me what I was taking now. I informed the doctor that I was on my original medication, in which I was only taking three pills a day.

On the next visit, without making eye contact, the doctor said, "You know they pay money to people with blood pressure like yours." I made no comment. On a later visit, I was advised that if I would take this radiation treatment, it may show a better picture of what was going on inside of me. After a few visits, I became somewhat convinced that it might help in solving my blood pressure problem so, an appointment was made. Upon arrival, I received an authorization form to sign. The content of the form was down right frightening. I don't remember the form word for word, but it stated that this procedure was strictly voluntary, and had been known, in some cases, to be fatal and cause cancer. The radiation should leave the body in about 3 days, the only persons who will know about this test will be you, us and the Food and Drug Administration. I would be contacted every 2 to 5 years. I refused the test.

Since I have been in Portland, I

have had from CAT Scans, to MRI's which showed no medical disorder or problem. The first suggestion was that I had an adrenal gland problem. I asked the doctor what does the adrenal glands have to do with blood pressure. He said that it may or may not have anything to do with it. He stated that it was only a short operation on your side 1 1/2 inches long. An appointment was made to see the surgeon. I asked the surgeon what does adrenal glands have to do with blood pressure. He said, "Nothing". He then stated that, in most cases, they do a small incision on the side, but in my case, they want to cut me wide open so they could see everything. I did not have the surgery.

Shortly after that, I was approached by the same doctor who had suggested the adrenal gland operation. He stated that there was a simple test that was normally done while in the hospital, but he had talked to staff and felt that it was O.K. to do the procedure in the clinic. It was only to check my hormones. The test was done by injecting a solution through an I.V. Within seconds, I could not breathe or speak. I thought I was dying. Slowly I regained control. The

doctor sent for a nurse and kept me in the office for at least 1 1/2 hours. I had to get assistance from Congress to be assigned a permanent doctor. I was seen by at least six different doctors. None would answer my questions, but would suggest that I talk with my other doctor. One of the first statements made by my new doctor was, "You went to see Congress?" Whenever I would ask questions, my appointment would be set back as far as four months. At first, my appointments were twice a month.

I have been on medication for years and one thing I do know is that you do not stop all medication at once. On my next visit, my new doctor told me to stop all medication and take one pill. I questioned this procedure and the doctor said that he believed this pill would do it and that sometimes, one pill will work. I followed the doctor's advice and within one day, by blood pressure went up to 208/110. This was on May 31, 1990. I was fortunate to have some of my regular medicine.

I hope I am not taking up too much time, but please listen to what I have to say next. The same doctor, who injected me to check my hor-

mones, said, "I am convinced that irreversible damage had already been done, we will have to wait and see." The doctor's next predictions was that unless something is done in the next 9 months, this is what will happen:

1. Rapid weight loss
2. Cramps in the limbs and joints
3. Bad stomach cramps with severe headaches
4. Foul smelling odor in bowel movements
5. Extreme high fever along with nose sores
6. Kidney or heart failure

At the onset of each prediction, my heart would pound so hard, that I could seem to hear it. As suddenly as it started, it would stop until the next phase. The rapid loss of weight lasted from about four days to a week. I received all kinds of tests, except a urine test. I asked why no urine test was done. I received no answer. I feel that the test were given to find out what stage of the predictions I was in. After that visit, which was the last visit, I asked the same questions about what has happened to me. The doctors said, "You are doing fine." My appointments have been set off for six

months. Soon after number 2, 3, 4, of the predictions happened, almost immediately. As of today, November 2, 1993, I have not been to the V.A. Hospital, although I have been in fear of my life. All this, because I would not take an operation - that all tests said I didn't need. At first, I thought it was coincidence. Now, I know it is real. I just experienced prediction number 5, where for almost four days, my temperature was up and down from normal to 102.9 degrees. When I asked the other doctors about my condition, they all say I am doing fine and they have no idea what was injected in me because that it was sometime back and the records are not available.

I have feared the V.A. Hospital for sometime. When I was able to work, I did not use the V.A. Now after all that has happened, I fear for my life. This letter may not be able to help me, since as one of the doctors put it, "...irreversible damage had already been done...", but maybe it will spare someone else. Besides, the people have the right to know what is going on.

Another Vietnam Veteran

## Portland Christian Schools Seeks Diversity

BY DAVID W. ROBINSON

"It is the mission of Portland Christian Schools to educate students in the truth of God's Word in every area of instruction and activity so that their lives may be transformed by the renewing of their minds."

We've all heard it: "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." Our children, our students live in fear and violence. Drugs, gangs, poverty, and despair mark their horizon, and make it hard to resist the temptation to give up on life. Our community is losing many of the promising young lives it needs if it is to prosper in the future.

Parents, community leaders, pastors and those in our business community are looking for solutions. How do we save our children? How can we help them to see the possibilities that life has to offer? How can lasting values, ones that are based upon the Lord's eternal Word, be transmitted to our students, so that they can grasp their future with hope and joy?

The word is out! There is an

alternative for minority students looking for a quality Christian education in Portland-Vancouver. Portland Christian Schools is a non-denominational evangelical Christian school, with classes ranging from day care through the 12th grade. Our three campus system in Portland and Vancouver is the largest private school in the area (according to The Business Journal), with nearly 1,000 students in attendance in Portland and Vancouver. Portland Christian is fully accredited (grades 7-12) with both the association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), and the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges (NASC). The school has been in continuous operation since 1947, serving Christian families who are seeking a Christian education of excellence for their children.

Under the well known leadership of Pastor Steve Holt, Mr. Tim Holt, Executive Director of Minority Youth Concerns Action Program (MYCAP), and the Rev. Willie Banks,

Portland Christian has instituted an exciting new program, called the Minority Student Development Fund. This has been established to encourage Christian minority students to attend a quality program. We are also seeking to raise the support necessary to help our minority brothers and sisters who may be interested in attending the school, but who find that they cannot afford the tuition. In this way, we hope to exemplify the diversity and breadth of the Lord's Kingdom, and allow our students to experience the richness of God's grace to all of His children.

What would this require? The cost of educating students at Portland Christian is roughly half that of the public schools. For example, a kindergarten child may attend our full-day kindergarten program for only \$191.67 per month, or \$2,300 per year.

An elementary student costs \$300 per month, or \$3,600 per year; a junior high student attends for \$320

per month, or \$3,840 per year, while a senior high student pays \$372.50 per month, or \$4,470 per year. Student discounts are applied for more than one child per family, with a maximum payment of \$7,900 per family, regardless of the number of children. This compares quite favorably with other private schools in Portland-Vancouver area, with per student rates of up to \$9,000-\$10,000, and no discounting.

Even at these lower tuition rates, however, many cannot afford to attend Portland Christian. The response of the school has been to institute an aggressive fund raising effort to raise the money necessary to cover the cost of adding minority students to the school. Churches, businesses, civic groups, and individual donors are being encouraged to support this worthy program for Christian youth. A number of firms and individuals have already expressed interest in helping our children in this way.

How can you help? Portland

Christian is seeking help in two ways.

First, the school is seeking funds to underwrite students. It is our goal to raise between \$50,000 and \$100,000 annually for minority tuition aid. If you or your church, civic group, or business would be interested in underwriting students, this would be a very tangible way of helping the project.

Second subject to funding, Portland Christian is always interested in qualified Christian students for its program. Families who would like their children to have an alternative to a landscape of fear, and would like them to develop Biblical values while enjoying an education of excellence, should contact the school concerning enrollment. Those who can afford the tuition may apply directly; those who cannot, may place their name on the list for consideration by the Minority Student Aid Committee. As funds become available, qualified students will be reviewed for admission.

Portland Christian has a vision

and a burden for minority Christian students in our area. For more information about the program, or to make a donation to the minority student aid fund, contact the Portland Christian Development Office at (503) 256-3960. Pastor Holt or Rev. Banks would be glad to discuss ways for you to become more involved with Portland Christian. Speakers are available to appear at your church, business, or civic meetings. We can show you how a Christian education makes an incredible investment in the future of our community, and how it changes the lives of the students and families who commit themselves to it.

Our children are our most precious resource! We should give them every opportunity to develop the minds that God gave them, and refuse the despair that threatens to swallow their lives.

Join the Portland Christian Schools in this important new program for our community and our children!

### The Portland Observer

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