

Portland Educational Network Stresses Mentoring, Mediation

Mentoring and mediation programs in Portland's public schools will receive special emphasis in upcoming months as the Portland Educational Network (PEN) completes the second year of its three-year urban university federal grant.

PEN, based at Portland State University, is an educational collaborative group that aims to increase student access to quality education and improve student success in the classroom. A major part of PEN's work centers around the endangered Urban Child and Youth Project. The project is funded by a \$1.6 million, three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The program links PSU with Portland Public Schools, the city of Portland, Metro and a host of business and community organizations.

PEN is placing special emphasis on mentoring and mediation programs linking PSU students with urban youth, said Drew Mahalic, acting project director for the Endangered Urban Child and Youth Project.

Mentoring programs encourage college students to befriend and help urban youth while encouraging them to pursue careers and education after high school. In many cases, mentors help serve as surrogate parents, as many youngsters today find themselves growing up in one-parent households.

"The research is conclusive that kids are more successful when they have a mentor role model to learn

with," said Mahalic.

PSU currently is offering a course in "Mentoring Endangered Youth in Community," taught by Connie Dawson, an instructor in PSU's School of Education. As part of the class, PSU students work with urban youth at Jefferson and Marshall high schools. They also work with young students in "cluster schools" -- elementary and middle schools in the neighborhood of Jefferson and Marshall high school.

"We see this course as essential to linking the student resources of PSU with the needs of urban kids," Mahalic said. Mahalic plans to set up similar links between college students and urban youth through programs at other colleges and universities in the Portland area.

This summer and fall, PEN will conduct a series of mediation training sessions for public school teachers, social service professionals, urban schoolchildren and community leaders. A mediation trainer has been hired to conduct the sessions, which teach individuals how to solve problems by talking to each other rather than by violence or taking severe reactive measures.

"Many believe mediation is the most important skill to prevent violent behavior," Mahalic said. "Many people see the containment and elimination of violence as the issue in the schools."

In conjunction with the training sessions, PEN will hold a mediation

symposium at PSU this summer. The symposium will allow persons already involved in mediation in Portland schools to gauge their progress and discuss steps needed to secure additional mediation training.

About \$15,000 in urban grant money will be used to provide the training sessions. That includes money to pay for substitute teachers within the Portland Public Schools, so that full-time teachers can attend the two-day training workshops.

"This is a heavy investment, but we believe it will be well received by the participants. Mediation can live on after the urban grant goes away," Mahalic said. "If teachers and students are trained properly, they can use these skills year after year. Mediation can be implemented in a short time period with long-term effects."

To supplement the mediation program, PEN and PSU will offer a course in mediation. Robert Gould, founder of the Oregon Peace Institute, will teach the course, which will be offered during the upcoming summer, fall and winter terms at PSU.

"The point here is to secure more college students to become more directly involved in urban youth, and to fulfill the need of training urban kids in the skills of mediation," Mahalic said. "Through this course, PSU students will learn about mediation, perfect those skills, and become involved in teaching those skills to youngsters in the urban schools."

Secretary Mike Espy Outlines Steps

Taken To End Discrimination At USDA

Major changes have been made at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the past 14 months specifically to assist African-American and other socially disadvantaged farmers.

The changes are aimed at stopping discrimination of African-American and socially disadvantaged farmers and reversing the decline in farm ownership by both groups.

"To address historic patterns of discrimination and increase USDA's sensitivity to the concerns of minorities, women, and others, I have articulated and am working to enforce the strongest Equal Opportunity and Civil Right policy in the history of USDA," said Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy.

Espy noted that African-American and socially disadvantaged farmers are also victims of the same powerful economic trends that have reduced the overall farm population and concentrated land ownership. Because of this, he has worked closely with Congress to ensure that funding would be provided for technical assistance and outreach to minority and socially disadvantaged farmers in the budgets for FY 94 and 95. Since Espy came to office, more than \$495 million has been appropriated to minority farmer programs.

"The plight of the minority farmer is critical. No one can expect years of neglect to be reversed in a few months. We are taking the necessary steps in order to begin to reverse what has been done. In addition, I have appointed the most diverse group ever to key positions of authority to help lead the USDA," Espy said.

Efforts are also being made to reverse past trends of inadequate services to minority farmers. Farmers Home Administration's (FmHA) national office program management performance goals for socially disadvantaged farm-

ers direct local offices to use 100 percent of ownership and operating loans targeted to this group and increase the percentage of farms sold or leased to socially disadvantaged farmers.

Also, FmHA has directed state offices to report outreach activities and accomplishments to the Secretary's office. FmHA's inventory property regulations have been revised to give priority to socially disadvantaged applicants when selling inventory property.

Other initiatives undertaken by this administration that will assist minority farmers include:

- The recently announced increase in price support levels as well as generally lower commodity acreage reduction program levels than were applicable in previous crop years.
- An independent review of FmHA loan accelerations to ensure that all distressed farmers are being treated fairly.
- Implementing an automatic tracking system to ensure that all farm loans, without exception, are processed in a timely fashion.
- Targeting of \$3.5 million in funds for FmHA to work through 1890 institutions to provide technical assistance to small farmers.

"I am committed to assuring that USDA is providing, and will continue to provide, more efficient, cost effective, timely, sensitive and customer friendly services to minority and other small farmers whose needs have too often been neglected," said Espy.

Tabizon Named Employment Department Assistant Director

Daniel Tabizon, a 16-year veteran of Oregon state government, will become the Employment Department's new Assistant Director June 1, Employment Department Director Pamela Mattson announced today.

Tabizon is currently Administrator of the Internal Support Division at the Department of Administrative Services.

He has also served as Administrative Services Director at OLCC; Training and Staff Development Manager, Corrections Division; Equal Opportunity Manager, Mental Health Division; Special Programs Manager, Department of Human Resources; and Volunteer Services Coordinator, Public Welfare Division. Tabizon has also worked with NIKE, Inc. developing corporate employment guidelines and preparing corporate recruitment and staffing strategies for NIKE's domestic workforce.

"I am delighted that Dan will be joining our team. He has worked in the private sector, he has worked for many years in government, and he has a passion about our mission - which is to promote the employment of Oregonians," Mattson said. "As Assistant Director, Dan will carry a significant part of our challenging agenda, with both internal and external roles."

South Africa Continued: A Different Viewpoint

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

It seems that last week's article provoked some rather serious and somber thoughts among the readers. It was meant to do just that. People of color in this world (nor others) can ill-afford more of the sort of naive expectations of an instantaneous justice and healing to be accomplished by a single grandiose and highly emotional grasp for long-overdue liberties (like freedom marches on a nation's capital).

There can be ugly repercussions from such a retreat from the realities of a cruel and invidious world. We hope that readers and observers on both continents will base their opinions (and hopes) on far more critical reporting than that to be furnished by the corporate establishment press. The "medium is the message," indeed that is so. Interspersed here, you will find references to several books on South Africa that "mine a deep vein" of that nation's cruel history (to coin a phrase). The notes, bibliographies and references are the best and have withstood critical assessment.

There is "The Randlords: The Exploitations of South Africa's Mining Magnates," by Geoffrey Wheatcroft, Atheneum, 1986. This 312-page book is a treasure. The following quote is from the dust jacket.

"In the late 1860s, South Africa was the forgotten end of the earth, remote, empty and poor. Within 30 years it was irrevocably changed by the discovery of fabulous riches in diamonds and in gold. To these fields

went every buccaneer, swindler and adventurer at the turn of the century, where many of them made staggeringly huge fortunes.

"The 'Randlords,' as they were called, were men of ferocious feuds and ambitions -- men like Cecil Rhodes, who began life as a vicars son and ended it with sinister ideals of Teutonic world domination." In other words, a preacher's son turned Nazi. A strange quirk of fate that the incalculable wealth of two men, one famous, Alfred Nobel ("Nobel Prize" - Inventor of dynamite) and the other infamous, Rhodes ("Rhodes Scholarship"), should have financed and/or expedited two disastrous world wars -- while their names continue to command global respect.

By 1887, Rhodes was approaching the pinnacle of his powers to control and manipulate lives, lands and wealth of the southern end of the great African continent. Power on the European continent went hand and hand with this development, and American did not remain untouched. The man was involved in the finest detail of managing slave native labor, quite like King Leopold III of Belgium who stipulated exactly how the hand of offending blacks should be cut off (Belgian Congo, now "Zaire"). Rhodes introduced a bill in the Cape government -- "Master and Servant Bill" -- that gave employers the right of corporal punishment over native labor. The press called this legislation the, "Every-Man-To-Wallopp-His-Own-Nigger-Bill" (p.148).

After these successes in 1887, Rhodes turned his attention to intensifying the exploitation of the northern parts of the South African Peninsula, Northern and Southern Rhodesia, as it was once called (now, "Zambia," a protectorate with the British commonwealth and "Zimbabwe," an allegedly independent republic but closely controlled by the present South African government and western intelligence services). It was in his rush to secure and increase production in these new gold fields that Rhodes built his "machine gun and rope" reputation.

Some of the readers are right up on things, pointing out that those 10 critical minerals left off the U.S. embargo list against South Africa are mostly those critical to the military manufacturing of Oregon's Teledyne Wah Chang plant at Albany. (Does that answer your question as to how they can get by with so many environmental violations? Or the sides the U.S. finds itself on in places like Angola?) I'm sure that Nelson Mandela understands all this, but what can he/should he do about it.

Now, while you ponder these happy thoughts until next week, also read "Cecil Rhodes and the Pursuit of Power" by Robert I. Rotberg, Oxford U. Press, 1988. I have both books (among others) in my library and strongly recommend them for those who want to understand who and how the world is really run. Continued next week.

Volunteers of America

Volunteers of America of Oregon, Inc. has joined in partnership with eleven other not-for-profit organizations in its vehicle donation program. The partner organizations will now be able to accept donations of vehicles from their constituents as VOA will process the donations. The processing includes collecting data from donors, towing, and resale of the vehicles. Most of the proceeds return to the partner agency and VOA receives a fee per vehicle.

"This is a very positive program. Not only does it provide a service for the not-for-profits but also for those

people who want to make a donation. VOA has helped us provide that service to the public. It is a win win situation," said Carol Law, Director of Development for the Parry Center for Children.

Partners in VOA's program currently include American Heart Association, The Dougy Center, Serendipity, AUTISM III, Mt. St. Joseph's Residential & Care Center, Parry Center for Children, Albertina Kerr Center, Multiple Sclerosis of Portland, Oregon, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the Portland Center for Hearing

and Speech, and The American Red Cross Oregon Trail Chapter.

Donations of vehicles include cars, trucks, boats or recreational vehicles. Towing is provided free, and the donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Volunteers of America of Oregon, Inc. is a human service organization serving our community since 1896 through children and family services, senior services and community corrections. VOA is a nationwide organization with branches in over 200 communities.

JCPENNEY STYLING SALON



UNIQUELY YOU.

Whether it's soft curls or a sophisticated relaxed look, your hairstyle says a lot about you. So tell the world you feel like a million - with style that doesn't cost a fortune, from the Styling Salon at JCPenney.

For the salon nearest you, call 1-800-542-5565.

A WHOLE NEW LOOK

Jefferson High School

Choir and Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert



WEDNESDAY

June 1, 1994

7:00 p.m.

Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center

5340 N. Interstate Ave.

Free Admission

Denny's Settles For \$46 Million

Continued from front

issue and advertising of toll-free numbers to identify claims.

Denny's also said it has agreed to settle a 1993 complaint filed by a children's choir with the Prince William County, Virginia Human Rights Commission.

The complaint alleged that Denny's refused service to 132 members and chaperons of the Martin Luther King, Jr. All Children's Choir because of their race.