

EDITORIAL

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THANK YOU FOR READING THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

perspectives

When Reality Is Real, Not Virtual, II

You are quite right, those of you who said this 'reality' series is an excellent and necessary follow up to that "Identity and Motivation" series. A number of parents say you are "right on, for there is nothing like emphasizing a 'connection' to the resulting economic gain." Don't let your kids move from adolescent to obsolescence.

A parent who was a teacher at Madison High when I was on their career program, February 1987, now has two teenagers of her own who are involved in our Black Inventors Motivation Program. She still has several of the hand-outs I distributed. One in particular is of special significance to her; "I used the approach to revitalize a flagging interest in school work among my own kids."

The reference was to several hundred copies of a testimonial I had received from eighth grade teacher, (Mrs.) Fern Morey at Kellogg School. It was written October 13, 1970.

"I want to thank you for coming to Kellogg and talking to our 240 seventh and eighth grade students. Character shows from within, and your message about self discipline and attitudes was most timely. Your book, "Black Inventors," has

been an inspiration to some curious students. An interest in inventors as people working to improve conditions for humanity and not necessarily personal gain, speaks well of your influence on these young people.

As a side effect of your visit, "silent" Norman has become more communicative and has caught up on all his work. he even ran for Student Body President and although he didn't make it, he tried."

That is the kind of stuff that enables you to "keep on, keepin' on" through the years. Especially when you accumulate them from diverse and sundry locales; Oakland, Atlanta, Brooklyn, Chicago, Klamath Falls, Washington D.C., etc. There is one thing wrong, however, those were the 'salad days,' but now we read depressing headlines indicating that the inner city education situation has retrogressed. We will have some rather pointed commentary in later issues.

Right now, it seems that there is a significant problem in identifying and procuring relevant science equip-

ment and tools, electronics, optics, astronomy and the like. I am going to use the same successful approach I used in The Dalles, Oregon in support to kid's science club (1966).

At the time I had transferred from the accounting and data processing division to the electronics department. I had just won a National Science

Foundation award for The Dalles Junior High School-my mathematics-communications project was the first time in the

country "on-line computer terminals were placed in a junior high classroom and data interchanged with Portland and other cities." Unfortunately I was never able to see the Portland School District on the concept, though I was able to get the manager of the Associated Press to aid me in developing the structure.

So here are some sources for many types of the equipment and instruments that would be relevant to the operation of youth science clubs of various ages. Just one of the reasons

(just one) I joined the "Association of Oregon Industries (AOI)" was to meet those in the science and technology field who could provide real time advice and assistance in this field. I found out how valuable that was when working at the Aluminum plant in The Dalles, Oregon.

Write for the following catalogs:

The best supplier for beginners through college Junior: Pelescopes-Microscopes-Optics-Biology-Physics-Motors-Magnets Edmund Scientifics 1998 catalog for Science and Engineering Enthusiasts-Consumer Division, 800-728-6999, 101 East Gloucester Pike, Barrington NJ 08007-1380 (much unobtainable in Portland).

Micro Mark, The Small Tool Specialist (for metal working-also have many model kits) 1-800-225-1066, 340 Snyder Ave., Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922-1595.

The Woodworkers Store, 1-800-279-4441, 4365 Willow Drive, Medina, MN. 55340.

Every type of equipment for metal and woodworking Harbor Freight Tools, 1-800-423-2657, 3491 Mission Oaks Blvd. Camarillo, CA. 93011-6010

The rest of this story will be continued next week.



BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

Letter To The Editor

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

Dear Editor,

I wish to respond to the Portland Observer's April 22nd article on the Garlington Center. It is critically important that the community know that Multnomah County and the Department of Community and Family Services (DCFS) are committed to maintaining a stable, culturally competent service delivery system to the clients who are in need of critical mental health services in North/Northeast Portland.

For the past several weeks the Garlington Center, DCFS and the State of Oregon's Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Services Division (MHDSD) have been work-

ing together to find a resolution to Garlington's current financial situation. On April 3, 1998 Garlington received \$108,393 to pay staff salaries through April 30, 1998. The mutual agreement and conditions imposed were to fulfill receipt of the \$108,393 and not intended as a part of a "bridge grant option." The most recent financial projections re-

ceived from Garlington continue to show a deficit. As a result of this situation, Garlington lacks sufficient funds to pay their May 5, 1998 payroll. Therefore, on April 23, 1998, the County terminated their contractual agreement with Garlington Center.

Ensuring that clients in North/Northeast Portland continue to receive culturally competent services is

a top priority of the County and State. It is my hope that the Garlington Board will focus its energy on assisting the County and the State in developing a transition plan to assure that these services remain viable in North/Northeast Portland.

Sincerely, Lorenzo T. Poe, Director Department of Community and Family Services

RAINBOW PUSH COALITION

Leave No American Behind

This past weekend, Rev. Jesse Jackson traveled to Ohio University in Athens, OH in an attempt to reframe the national debate and focus attention on the class gap: the gap between the stock wealthy and the sweat poor.

Horizontal gaps of race and gender are based upon laws and customs that can be closed if the present laws are enforced. Including race and gender is not a zero-sum game. Inclusion invariably leads to growth.

But it is the vertical class gap that is leaving too many Americans behind. With deregulation, the roof is off for the wealthy. The floor has been removed for the poor. The middle class is anxious facing downsizing, outsourcing, and loss of benefits. The middle class feels the giant sucking sound of gravity's downward pull.

The very issues that seem racial in content when viewed from the lens of a place like Chicago turn out to be class when viewed from the lens of Appalachia. As Rev. Jackson said, "If I were to give the same speech in Harlem, America would miss the point. Race would have been used as a decoy."

Where Is Appalachia? Who Is Appalachian?

Appalachia extends from New York to Georgia and includes all or part of 13 states:

* Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South

Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia.

* Approximately 22 million people live in Appalachia.

"Distressed" Areas

For FY 1998, 97 Appalachian counties (eight in southeastern Ohio) were "distressed" according to the Appalachian Regional Commission. To qualify as a distressed area, a county must have all three of the following conditions:

* 8.6% of more unemployment from 1994-96. U.S. unemployment from 94-96 was 5.7%

* 67% or less (\$12,934) of U.S. 1995 per capita market income (excludes transfer payments).

* 150% or more 1990 U.S. poverty level (19.7% or More).

* Or two times the U.S. poverty rate (26.2%) and either 8.6% unemployment or 67% per capita market income.

Health Care in Appalachia
Twenty-five of twenty-nine counties in Appalachian Ohio have been designated as health professional Shortage Areas (HPSA), defined as a community with inadequate access to primary care physicians.

* Adams County, OH has a resident to physician ratio of 4,555 to 1.

* Vinton County, OH, with a total population of 11,951 people, has only one physician.

Education In Appalachia

Resegregation of schools and reduction of opportunity are based on a real estate tax base - class. So whether Appalachian or urban Chicago, our children

are underserved and underutilized.

* Vinton County (OH) High School does not have a lunchroom. If a student does not have any money to buy lunch at a nearby restaurant, that teenager must get his or her subsidized lunch at the elementary school, and sit down and eat with the little kids. Many students choose hunger over shame.

Doesn't Appalachia Attract Charitable Giving?

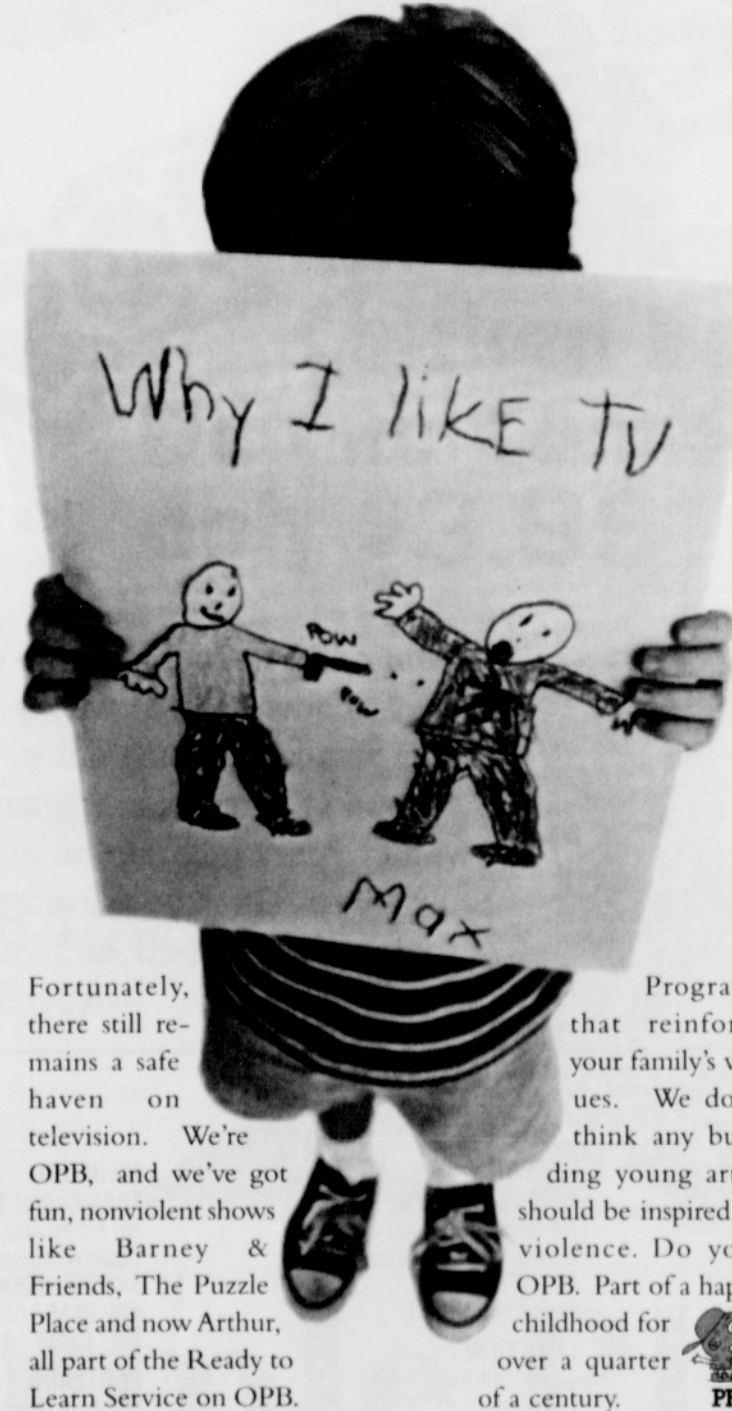
One might think that because the needs are so great, Appalachia would receive a disproportionately high share of charity. The sad truth is it does not.

The Donors Forum of Ohio recently analyzed the rate of growth of new private foundations and found:

* Between 1989 and 1992, foundations in Appalachian Ohio accounted for only 1 percent of all new grants.

* Appalachian Ohio represents 13% of the state's population and a much higher share of the state's poor. Rev. Jackson committed to help establish a Foundation for Appalachian Ohio to spur contributions and development.

Rev. Jackson stressed that in a time of such growth, wealth, prosperity, and with the stock market breaking records daily, "We are leaving far too many Americans behind and in the margins." He urged that we adopt the Marine creed - "Leave no American Behind."



Fortunately, there still remains a safe haven on television. We're OPB, and we've got fun, nonviolent shows like Barney & Friends, The Puzzle Place and now Arthur, all part of the Ready to Learn Service on OPB.

Programs that reinforce your family's values. We don't think any budding young artist should be inspired by violence. Do you? OPB. Part of a happy childhood for over a quarter of a century. PBS

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