

# Young Lessons in Ethics

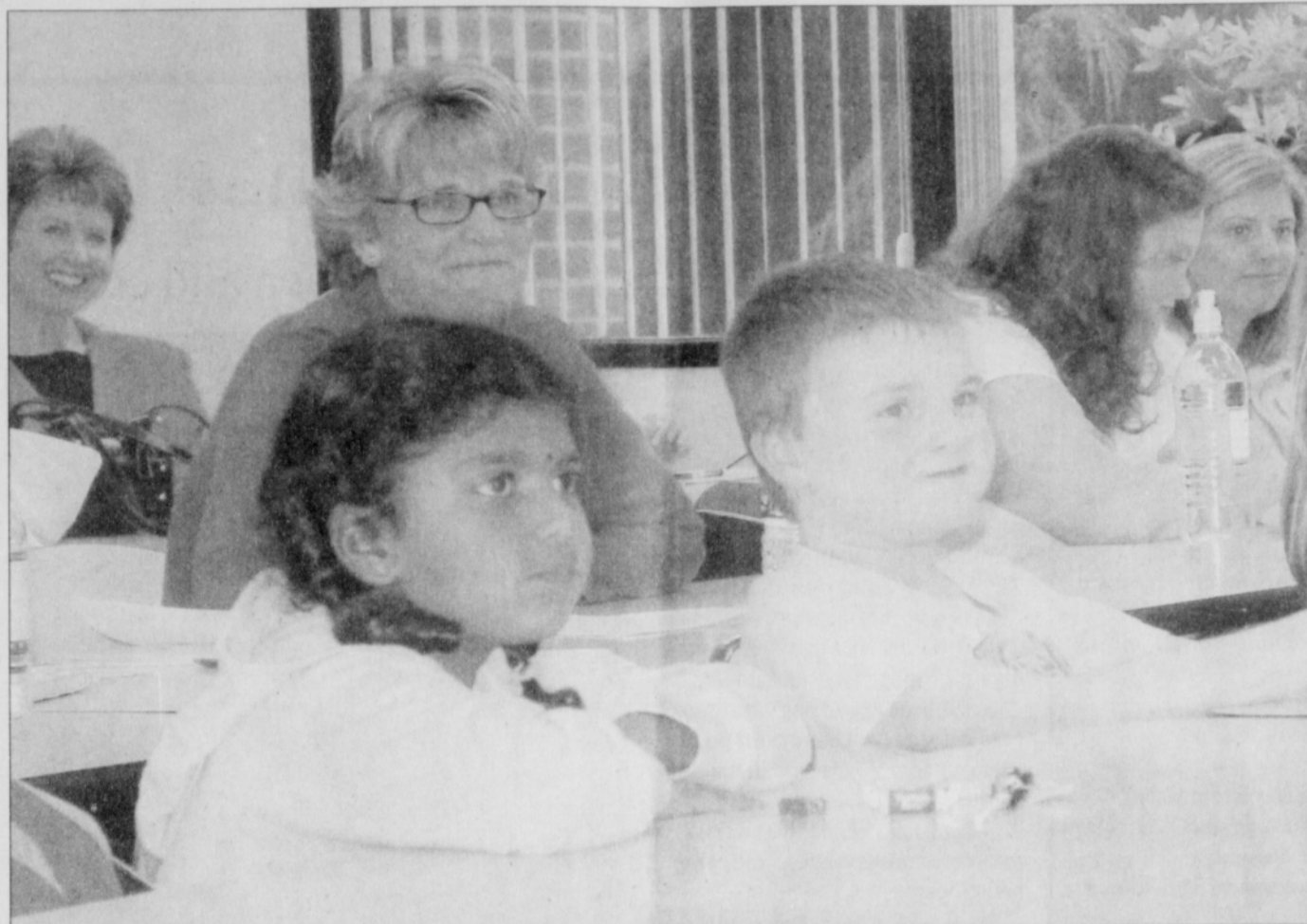
## Concordia helps build life foundations

If a cashier mistakenly hands you too much change, should you give the money back? Or if you work in a restaurant where servers pool their tips, is it right to pocket the tip money left on a table you served and not share it?

These were just two of the issues a group of elementary-school children, ranging in ages from 6 to 12, discussed on Tuesday, May 17, during a special presentation called "Basics of Ethics" given by the students in Concordia University's "Ethical Foundations for Organizations" class.

Through role-playing and interactive games, the students took turns demonstrating the values of respect, honesty, responsibility, and leadership in the workplace. Following each segment, they asked their young special guests to share ways they can apply these four key values at school and at home with their families.

After learning that workplace gos-



sip not only hurts feelings but also hurts productivity, the children all agreed that talking behind their classmates' backs doesn't benefit anyone and takes time away from their schoolwork.

They also learned that dishonesty, such as not correcting the cashier's error, has larger consequences. The cashier may lose her job, the store loses profit, and even the customer may experience a lingering feeling of guilt.

Concordia University is a private, Lutheran liberal arts college in northeast Portland.

Andrea Prasad, 6, and Joshua Truman, 9, take to heart lessons in stealing, being respectful and being responsible during Concordia University's special presentation on ethics.

## Local Student Honored



Arya Patryce Morman

Arya Patryce Morman, a sophomore at De La Salle High School was recently honored for her academic success during the current school year. She achieved her goal of making the Dean's list for the second year in a row. In addition, she has been recognized as one of the leading scorers on the Knights' girl's basketball team.

Arya is the daughter of Joseph Lewis Morman (deceased) and Rev. Renee Ward, pastor of Zion CME Church in Portland.

## Benson Graduate Joins Marines

Marine Corps Pvt. Arthur M. Sherriff III, a 2000 Benson High School graduate and son of Jana and Arthur Sherriff, recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif.

Designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally, the instruction is marked by an extreme physical conditioning program and hours of classroom and field assignments which included first aid, uniform regulations, combat water survival, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat and assorted weapons training.

Sherriff and other recruits also received instruction on the Marine Corps' core values—honor, courage and commitment, and what the core values mean in guiding personal and professional conduct.

# COURAGEOUS

## AFRICAN AMERICANS



by Ron Weber

## Black Soldiers Build the Alcan Highway

On Nov. 22, 1942 the largest highway project ever built by the United States was officially opened. The 1,500 mile highway cost \$130 million dollars and was finished in only eight months.

Over 10,000 workers completed the project, including 3,700 African-American soldiers who were at first only allowed to "operate" picks and shovels. Believing that the black military men were not intelligent enough to operate tractors, backhoes, trenchers, and paving equipment, white supervisors limited their role.

At one point, the project was in danger of failing, as a bridge was needed to be built in record time. WWII was gaining momentum and America was afraid that the Japanese would take Alaska. A group of black engineers from the 95<sup>th</sup> Engineering Regiment took on the task of designing and building the bridge in three days. They completed their mission, greatly surprising white leaders.

The 95<sup>th</sup> won much well-deserved praise and recognition. As a result of their efforts, the men were then asked to design and build several other bridges along the treacherous highway that cut straight through the harshest of Canadian forests. Their success brought great joy to fellow African-American troops and proved to the world that they were not only intelligent enough to design structures, but also had the ability to drive and operate sophisticated equipment. Their quick and accurate bridge design also shocked the engineering world of the time, which was solely white.

After the road was completed, thousands of American troops, black and white drove tens of thousands of vehicles to Alaska where a strong defense was set in place



World War II Black Regiment troops who helped build the Alcan Highway, the largest highway project ever built.

none too soon. All of the roads and bridges that were constructed by African-American troops stood the tests of both heavy WWII demands and time. Thousands of Japanese troops invaded Alaska (Aleutian Islands) in some of the bloodiest battles of the war.

Thanks to the efforts of the 95<sup>th</sup> and many other Americans, the Alcan Highway provided a transportation route that would become one of the turning points of the war. Without this highway and its many bridges we would have certainly faced Japanese soldiers on our home front in the "Lower 48."

Although African Americans were denied much of the comforts given to the white soldiers, they stayed on task. With picks and shovels, they followed the bulldozers to get into areas that could not be reached by the large cats. Limbs had to be cut off each of the thousands of trees that were cut and the large logs then hand rolled into place. All downed limbs and other debris had to be dragged and raked

into piles off to the sides. The rain poured and the snow fell, but the men kept working hard in their sopping wet clothes. All the while their boots were filled with cold water and snowflakes.

The conditions for both black and white soldiers were deplorable. But as in past wars, desertion, fighting and alcoholism were rare among the African Americans. They were obedient troops and hard dedicated workers, truly a credit to their race.

In the end, white troops began to understand that blacks could do anything they could. Thanks to the efforts of the 95<sup>th</sup> and other black units, President Harry Truman finally signed legislation in 1948 that outlawed segregation in the military. The African-American Soldiers had shown their true metal and earned their spot along side of the whites once and for all.

Rob Weber is a writer and speaker on African-American history and regular contributor to the Portland Observer.



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