

CAREER & EDUCATION

Parent's Corner

BY RON HERNDON

Parents, your love and advocacy for your children will determine if they receive an education that enables them to graduate from college. Yes, from the moment your child enters pre-school, they should be convinced college graduation is their academic goal.



Only you can prevent your child from becoming one of these numbers: Consider the Children's Defense Fund's State of America's Children 2011 report: Most children and 79 percent or more of black and Hispanic children in public schools cannot read or do math at grade level in the fourth, eighth or 12th grades.

Volumes of research indicate that if a child is reading at grade level in the third grade (8-years-old) they have a very good chance of graduating from high school. Failing to meet these standards is a tragic example of why parents must be full-time advocates for their children and prevent them from being crushed by educational failures.

Consider more dismal numbers for Portland Public Schools: Just 21

Your Child's Future is in Your Hands



Each of these Albina Head Start students put on the colors and emblems of colleges and universities to send the message that preparing for a college education should begin in pre-school.

percent of Hispanic, 17 percent of black and 60 percent of white students exceed OAKS reading standards in the third grade. By the 10th grade, just 37 percent of Hispanic, 30 percent of black, and 63 percent of white students are on track to graduate. By the senior year in high school, just 4 percent of black students, 4 percent of Hispanic students and 36 percent of white students meet ACT college level benchmarks. These are the numbers.

Where does this lead? The PEW

Research Center reports that the median wealth of white U.S. households in 2009 was \$113,149, compared with \$6,325 for Hispanics and \$5,677 for blacks. About 35 percent of black households and 31 percent of Hispanic households had zero or negative net worth in 2009.

Parents, here's some tips to avoid this hellishly, abysmal future for your children:

Before your child enters kindergarten, read to them every day and make sure they can write their name,

know and recognize the alphabet, and count and recognize numbers from at least one through 30. Help your child read simple four and five word sentences. Teach them primary colors and the basic shapes; circle, square, pyramid and rectangle.

If your child is using bad words (cussin'), purposely beating up/hurting other children, or being disrespectful to adults, you must stop this behavior now. If you don't, this behavior in public schools can become a one way ticket to special

education.

For children in the 1st through 8th grades, let principals and teachers know the goal for your child is college graduation; every class and subject should lead to that goal. Ask principals and teachers when or if your child will meet local and state standards in reading, math, science and all other core subjects. Get that information in writing.

Ask teachers how much they expect your child to gain each grading period in reading, math, science and all other subjects. Get that information in writing. Make sure your child is enrolled in a foreign language while in primary school; Mandarin (Chinese language) if possible.

Make sure your child has homework every day that is related to classwork. Your child must have a quiet place to study at home; no TV, video games, internet, Facebook, text messaging or radio while studying.

Parents, this gets us started and you can do it! If you don't do this for your child, no one else will. Your child's future is in your hands. Your child must not become one of the numbers. More next week.

Ron Herndon is a long-time advocate for educational opportunities for African-American children. He has served a director of Head Start in Portland since 1975.

Whole Library goes Mobile

Free app connects smartphone users

Multnomah County Library's new, free mobile application makes it possible for library cardholders to use their library from almost any smartphone or Internet-enabled mobile device.

With the app, library patrons can

search the catalog for books, movies and music; place and cancel holds; renew items; and check their accounts. They can also access librarians directly by chat, text or phone; select e-books, audiobooks and music for download; find the

nearest library; connect via social media; and more.

Compatible with nearly all popular mobile phone platforms, the app is available from the library website, the iPhone App Store and Android Market.

Funding for mobile app service was provided through financial assistance from The Library Foundation.

The library created the app as a first step in a comprehensive mobile strategy to meet library patrons at their points of need, and beyond the walls of the library. With the exponential growth in smartphone use nationally and locally, the mobile app will help meet this key patron demand.

"This app helps us continue to provide the best, most relevant

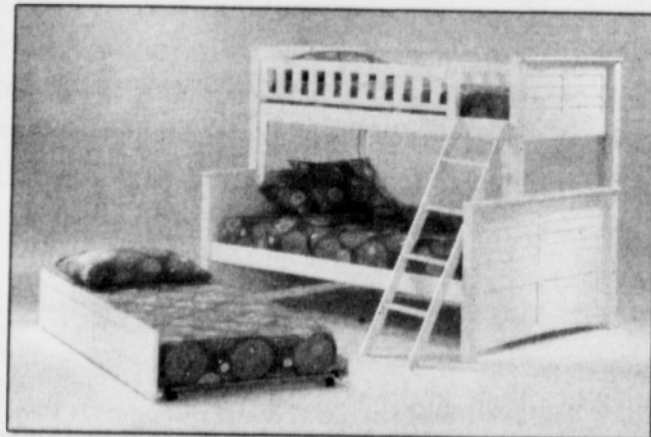
service to Multnomah County Library patrons," said Director of Libraries Vailey Oehlke. "Putting popular and essential library functions in the hands of cardholders makes using the library faster, more convenient, and anticipates a connected world where mobile devices will be a primary access point for library experience, content and services."

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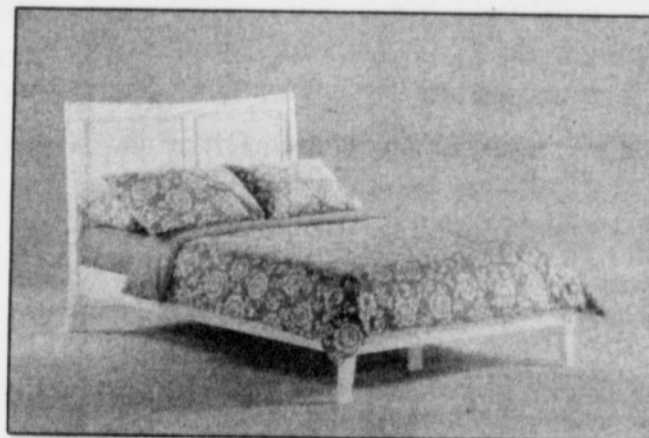
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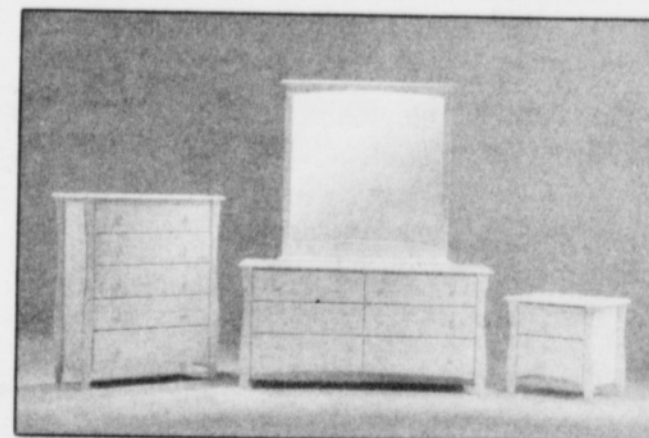
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