

## Rhythm-blues hall of fame proposed

A number of black musicians in Los Angeles have stepped up their 10-year campaign to build a "Rhythm-and-Blues Hall of Fame." The proposed museum is designed to preserve the black music form that inspired today's "Soul" and "Rock" fads. Many of those involved were at their height of popularity in the 1940's and 1950's when R-and-B was the "pop" music favored most by black youths. Much of the legal groundwork, such as obtaining a California state charter and tax-exempt status, has been completed, and the creators have begun concentrating on developing concrete plans. Bank leader and promoter Johnny Otis estimates the outline should be ready early next year.

Otis told RRIC that in addition to enshrining R-and-B artists, the Hall of Fame would offer musical training and scholarships to inner-city youths and provide temporary assistance to R-and-B artists facing financial difficulty. "We envision a center resembling the kind of clubs we had to play in the old days, though may be not quite that funky," Otis said. "I'm happy to see that people are interested in the music our people have produced," Otis said. "But Rhythm-n-Blues still is a little neglected, though things finally are getting better."

He was referring to the 1970 Monterey (Calif.) Jazz Festival, in which he and other former R-and-B greats were starred performers during the annual blues segment museum project. They first received national publicity during Otis's recent guest appearance on "Home-wood," an educational TV show originating in Los Angeles. "It's something like Country-and-Western music. People used to look down on it, but now it's respectable, and they have THEIR Hall of Fame in Nashville," Otis observed. "In the old days," he recalled, "we were musical step-children in the black world. What we played wasn't considered 'true' blues — which is a bunch of bull because our music was actually urbanized blues. Jazzmen also frowned on us."

## Board asks court for consolidation

The Richmond, Va., school board has asked U.S. District Court to order the consolidation of the Richmond school system with the school systems of adjacent Henrico and Chesterfield counties. Richmond, which is under federal court order to establish a unitary, nonracial system, has 64 per cent black and 36 per cent white students.

If the three systems are consolidated, the racial proportion would be about 67 per cent white and 33 per cent black. Judge Robert R. Merbige Jr. will hold a hearing Nov. 18 on the Richmond board's motion to make officials of Henrico and Chesterfield counties and the state of Virginia parties to Richmond's school desegregation suit. Federal courts have shied from crossing political boundaries on school desegregation suits, although Judge J. Skelly Wright, in his 1967 ruling in the Washington, D.C., school case, recommended that adjacent districts cooperate on a voluntary basis in a racial distribution of students.

At an Atlanta seminar on school desegregation last year, U.S. Fourth Circuit Court Judge J. Baxton Craven Jr. predicted that this issue would soon come before the courts.

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## Council of Great City Schools

Frank Case, a member of the Board of Education of the Portland Public Schools, has been elected to the nine-member Executive Committee of the Council of Great City Schools. Membership on the Executive Committee is determined by the Board of Directors. Council membership is composed of one Board member and the Superintendent from each of the member districts.

The Council is composed of representatives from 21 major school districts in the United States. Portland is the smallest large city school district in the Council which includes among its membership the school districts of New York City, Dallas, Baltimore, Milwaukee, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles and ten others.

Case was elected to the post at a meeting of the group recently in Dallas, Texas. Membership in the council is comprised of both superintendents and members of the Boards of Education of the large city school districts. Portland has been a member of the Council for less than a year.

"Election of Case to the post is a significant honor both for the district and for Mr. Case," according to Dr. Robert W. Blanchard, Superintendent of the Portland Public Schools.

Dr. Blanchard said Mr. Case's election was a tribute to the leadership not only of Mr. Case but the Board of Education as well, and evidence of its national reputation. He said that it is unusual for a representative of a district which only recently joined the Council to be elected to a position of leadership.

"Portland was asked to join the Council only last spring," Dr. Blanchard said, "because of the national reputation of the Board of Education in the area of educational change and innovation in attempting to meet and solve the problems of urban education."

Dr. Blanchard also pointed out that Case's election to the Executive Council continues the strong tradition of involvement by the Portland School Board in national educational affairs. He pointed out that another Board member, Robert R. Ridgley, is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the National School Boards Association.

Function of the Council, Case said, is to provide opportunity for large city school districts to meet to discuss common urban school problems. The current thrust of the Council is to provide research and information for career education, management information, and information on federal legislation. Mr. Case also pointed out that the Council is the only group in which both members of Boards of Education and Superintendents of Schools participate together on a continuing basis.

Case said he regarded his election to the post, which runs until 1972, as a "reflection of the national recognition of the reasoned approach of Portland School District to change in education." He added that with both he and Mr. Ridgley serving on the boards of national education organizations, Portland will be in a unique position to influence the course of federal funding for education.

Case said that this means that the district can help to be sure that urban school districts get the help they need to better equip themselves to meet the problems of urban education in the 70's.

"The people of Portland can point with a great deal of pride to their schools even though there is much work yet to be done both in continuing to upgrade the general education program and modernization of out-dated physical facilities," Mr. Case said.

"I hope that my participation at the national level as a member of the Executive Committee of the Great City Schools will help bring additional talents and federal resources to the Portland School District so that we might better face the tremendous job ahead of us in Portland and in urban education generally," Case concluded.

## Speech team scores in competition

Portland Community College speech students are scoring well in competition with other colleges, and currently lead all junior colleges in point competition.

In the first tourney of the year, at Lewis and Clark recently, PCC placed five finalists in the tough competition generated by 29 colleges and universities participating, and Lonnie Anderson, of (3122 S. Glenmorrie Drive) Lake Oswego, took first place in oratory, and placed third in junior men's interpretation.

Other finalists in the Lewis & Clark meet were Lorien Ternahan of (3737 S.E. Carlton) Portland, senior women's oratory; Grant Hoss of (3333 S.E. 39th) Portland, senior men's interpretation.

Also participating were Dick Whitson, of (19615 S.W. Rasa Rd.) Aloha; Bob and Alice Reid, husband-wife team, of (226 N. W. Glisan) Portland; Charles Watkins of (6770 S. W. Oakwood Drive) Beaverton; and Phil Lund, of (5310 N. Williams) Portland.

Other members of the team are Greg Capshaw of (2330 S.W. 239th) Hillsboro, and John Wrigley of (11795 S.W. Camden Lane) Beaverton.

The team will participate in the Western Speech Association Tournament at the Portland Hilton Hotel Nov. 26-28.

Speech instructor Stan Schmidt, of Portland, is the speech team coach.

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