

Measure 5 ax may cut award-winning teacher's job



TIGARD (AP) — Barbara Bannister was Oregon's winner of the 1991 Presidential Award for Math and Science Teaching and has won several other honors during 15 years in the classroom, but she may be out of work soon.

She spent most of her career at Portland Public Schools, but the Tigard-Tualatin School District's strong commitment to elementary science drew her to that district.

However, as a first-year teacher, Bannister's job at James Templeton Elementary School may wind up on the chopping block under budget cuts forced by 1990's Ballot Measure 5.

To school officials, Bannister is a prime example of how they've been able to provide the best for students in this fast-growing suburb in Washington County.

Until now, that is. The consequences of Measure 5 and the Oregon Legislature's proposed school budget cuts are coming home to the district in the state's most affluent county.

"It's real scary," said Bannister. "I'm not assured of a job just because I have a presidential award. I don't know. It's hard to teach these days."

Until this year, the district's biggest problem had been hiring enough teachers and building enough classrooms to keep pace with its student growth from rapid housing development.

However, next year the district is looking at cutting 186 staff positions, including 105 teachers, to help fill a \$12.7 million shortfall. Layoff notices will go out to teachers next week.

Ironically, in the Tigard-Tualatin area, voters have approved every property tax levy and bond measure in the last decade.

And the Tigard School Board kept pace with other well-to-do districts last year, agreeing to give teachers annual pay increases of 6 percent over each of the next three years.

Bannister's classroom symbolizes the district's commitment to education. It is filled with a row of computers, an assortment of caged bugs and animals, and a rich variety of books and science supplies. So does the new high school that opened this year, along with a new middle school.

"We've always been able to do the things we thought were best for kids," said Rich Carlson, an attorney who heads the school board. "We always had the financial capability to do that. Now, we don't."

The Tigard schools are in the same position as the 81 school districts in the state that have not received increases in state aid since Measure 5 passed in 1990.

These districts — which include most of the urban and suburban schools that educate the bulk of Oregon's youths — had been spending above the state average on schools and were primarily responsible for the state's generally good reputation for education.

Lately, Tigard's rapid growth — it has added 2,400 children in the last three years alone — has left the district with financial problems that threaten to reverse its progress. Tigard has not gotten any more state aid for its extra students as the state instead diverted money to poorer districts.

Native American activist aims for pride



DENVER (AP) — Twenty years ago he led a 71-day occupation at Wounded Knee, S.D., and federal agents hauled him away. He defaced a statue of Christopher Columbus, and the court said it was free speech.

He was charged with murder and exonerated. He joined the Moonies once, and he tried running for president twice.

During the past quarter-century, the American Indian's most visible activist and crusader has been Russell Means.

The takeover of Wounded Knee by 300 members of the American Indian Movement on Feb. 27, 1973, was the Indians' "finest hour," Means says.

The armed Indian activists occupied Wounded Knee, sight of an Indian massacre by federal troops in 1890, to demand a Senate investigation of the plight of American Indians. The occupation ended with two AIM members killed and two federal agents wounded.

Before the Wounded Knee occupation, Means said in an interview, "There was no advocate for Indian people anywhere in the United States of America. Now, virtually every Indian community are advocates for themselves."

With his dark, chiseled features worn by his 53 years and his many experiences, Means seldom smiles. But his recollections are peppered with laughter as he describes the odd turns his life has taken.

"I've always been in defense of being an Indian," he says.

One of his earliest memories is going to the first-grade in Huron, S.D., in 1945 and being taunted by a younger boy — blond-haired and fair-skinned.

"He called me a nigger," Means says. "I didn't know what 'nigger' meant — so I liked the term."

But then he told his grandmother about the incident, and she set him straight. He was being disparaged, not praised.

That first exposure to racism helped shape his view of the world.

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— Russell Means, Oglala Lakota activist

dignity of the Indian in America," Means says.

His first aspiration was to be a high school history teacher, but he changed his mind and became an accountant, wanting "to be rich." He took a job in 1967 with a government-funded Indian relocation experiment in Cleveland.

Two years later, he discovered AIM. Its members were "very well-prepared and came with expertise," he recalled.

Means soon became an activist in his own right. He and several other Indian activists disrupted Cleveland's 175th anniversary celebration, and he participated in a week-long takeover of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., the very entity that had given him the job in Cleveland.

Since then, Means has lived the life of an Oglala Lakota militant activist, and he looks the part, dressed in denim, wearing Indian jewelry and his long black braids wrapped in leather-studded braid covers.

Just ask Hollywood.

Means played a key supporting role in the movie *The Last of the Mohicans*, depicting the stoic Mohican elder Chingachook. He is pleased that he has been accepted by a medium that he thought would be forever closed to him.

"It's a tremendous voice, a tremendous tool," he says.

Means wants to produce a movie to educate the American people about Indians and is discussing the project with several production studios.

"I've become more optimistic," he says. "The doors are opening. I'm going to create ... it's a movement of our ancestors."

Woman denied salary will sue Northwestern

CHICAGO (AP) — Zeng-Li Yang thought she had the promise of \$12,000 a year to go with a job at Northwestern University and her new life in America.

She received no money for two years. And when her husband sought pay on her behalf, she was beaten up by the man who recruited and eventually fired her.

The story of Yang, a graduate of a Beijing university, has produced protests and petitions on campus.

Yang turned down \$32,000 offered by Northwestern, choosing to file a lawsuit. It was the second recent lawsuit involving alleged mistreatment of women at Northwestern.

Yang's history with the university began in 1990, when she was recruited from Beijing College of Traditional Chinese Medicine by Lang Xia, one of her former teachers.

A 1990 letter to Yang from Professor J. Peter Rosenfeld said she would work at Northwestern from Sept. 1, 1990, to May 31, 1993, for an annual salary of \$12,000, according to a copy of the letter provided by Yang's lawyer, Jonathan Lustig.

She cared for and observed rats at a psychology laboratory in a study of the effects of opiate derivatives, Lustig said.

To survive without pay, Yang chopped vegetables in a student cafeteria and her husband worked as a busboy, Lustig said. They lived in a one-room apartment with furniture donated by a church, he said.

Northwestern said in a statement last week that Yang signed an agreement with Xia that she wouldn't get paid, though Yang denies it and Northwestern wouldn't produce a copy of the agreement.

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