

Report urges indian school administrator be moved



SALEM (AP) — A new report recommends reassigning the top administrator at Chemawa Indian School because of nagging problems that the school board claims are blown out of proportion.

The report said that Chemawa needs to improve its educational programs and its labor-management relations. It also questions whether the federally financed school, which is run by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, has an adequate budget.

"The lack of vision and values to guide the school is evident. Students seem to be blamed for problems and difficulties, rather than being the focus of decisions," the report said.

But the Chemawa school board wants the eight-member team of educators who submitted the report to rewrite it. The board says it is confusing, weak on proof and potentially defamatory.

Gerald Gray, the administrator of the 104-year-old boarding school north of Salem, has declined to comment on the report until the school board makes it public in meetings this week.

Joe Coburn, a board member from Aloha, said he doubted that the board would reassign Gray, even if it has the authority to do it.

"There are a lot of other alternatives," Coburn said. Coburn said that each section of the report was done by one person, so the recommendation to reassign Gray was only one opinion among eight.

Coburn linked much of the frustration at the school to poor resources, personality conflicts and students facing family, drug and alcohol problems.

Willard Bill, an associate dean at North Seattle Community College, led the team that wrote the report. He confirmed that each team member had responsibility for one part but he said nobody objected to the recommendation to reassign Gray.

"It's just kind of a diversion from looking at the report," he said of Coburn's comments.

So far, the board has seemed more interested in what to keep out of the report than its recommendations, Bill said.

Van Peters, who oversees Chemawa from the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Portland, said the distance separating the board members from the school is a problem, but they are kept current about the school.

Chemawa's five school board members are spread out across several of the 17 states the school serves. They usually meet four times a year.

"I would say they've got a pretty good grasp of what's going on," Peters said.

Critics of the way the school is operated say they fear that the recommendations will be ignored after previous reports showed similar problems, including student violence.

"They've done investigation upon investigation, and they come up with the same recommendations," said Carol Allen, a member of the Gila River Pima tribe in Arizona whose two sons attend Chemawa.

'(The board members have) done investigation upon investigation, and they come up with the same recommendations.'

— Carol Allen, member, Gila River Pima tribe

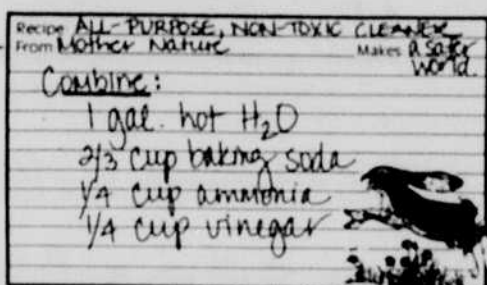
The team spent three days in January at Chemawa, interviewing students, staff members and management. Students complained of fighting and too much drinking and drug use.

Students also told the team that once they arrived on campus, they found that promised classes did not exist, that course work was too easy and that the library did not have enough books. A poor relationship with administrators makes things worse, the report said.

"Student and staff morale are a serious problem," it said. "Both staff and students are intimidated and threatened by the central administration."

The report found that Chemawa usually enrolls an average of 480 students at the beginning of the year. By mid-year, an average of 370 remain.

"We really met some good students there," said Bill, whose parents attended the school. "I just can't give up on that. That's what's motivating me."



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Center counsels cult members

PORTLAND (AP) — The manager of a center that tracks religious cults says nearly anyone can be talked into joining one of the thousands of groups that promise a better life.

"They are normal, everyday folks. But they happen to be at an emotional downturn," said W. Kent Burtner, manager of the fledgling Cult Resource Center of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

The 46-year-old theologian, a former Roman Catholic priest turned lecturer and author, has counseled more than a thousand families involved with cults.

Burtner has worked from Anchorage to Santa Fe, N.M., as a pastor, chaplain and educator, and is a contributing author to the Christian book, *Cults, Sects and the New Age*, by the Rev. James J. LeBar.

Burtner said the 1960s and 1970s are often regarded as the peak years for cults but many international groups, such as the

Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon, continue as new cults appear and others splinter and die.

"The danger is that most people don't want to do this," Burtner said of his efforts to track such groups and educate people about them.

The cult center was formed last fall and provides information and speakers to church and civic groups. It also gives counseling referrals to families concerned about friends and relatives being involved with cults.

"The bottom line," Burtner said, "is that given the right set of circumstances, there isn't anyone who could not be gotten into a cult."

Many people join cults because they are trying to cope with massive social changes, such as the Industrial Revolution or a war, Burtner said.

"Some are helpful and endure," he said. "The problem now is that some of them are

doing people a lot of harm."

Burtner said harmful cults generally are run by leaders who seek power over others and draw in converts bit by bit, without the benefit of informed consent.

"There's a common thread of deception and abuse of social and psychological control," he said.

His first involvement with cults came in 1969 while he was a student at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, Calif., Burtner said.

A woman asked him for help because she was upset about her daughter's radical personality change through involvement with a cult, so he began keeping a file.

By the time he had finished one of his first jobs serving as campus pastor at the University a few years later, his first case had grown into a filing cabinet full of information.

Police cleared; racism suit looms

PORTLAND (AP) — A federal jury has cleared Portland police of using excessive force against a black man during a traffic stop in 1990, but the man's attorney claims the verdict issued by an all-white jury was racist.

Jay Durante Loggins sued the Portland Police Bureau over his arrest on Sept. 25, 1990. He claimed that as many as nine officers kicked and hit him on the head with fists and a nightstick after he had been handcuffed.

Testimony, however, revealed that only four officers responded to the scene and one did not participate in the arrest.

A jury agreed unanimously on Friday that the other three officers, D.C. Kelley, E.A. Hendricks and Nathan Hoerauf, were justified in their actions.

Portland attorney Ferris F. Boothe said the decision was racist.

"The police officers are two nice, clean-cut looking guys and the jury decided against the blacks. That's why it was racist," Boothe said.

However, he added, he didn't expect Loggins to appeal.

Mary T. Danford, senior deputy city attorney, said two of the officers followed Loggins' car when he left a house known for drug activity.

Boothe said Loggins stopped at a man's house to be paid for some welding equipment and to show him his antique knife collection.

Police officers said Loggins was driving recklessly, and they pulled him over. When Loggins reached for his glove compartment and made other quick movements, the officers ordered him to

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— Ferris F. Boothe, Portland attorney

raise his hands.

Loggins thought they also told him to get out of the car, Boothe said. At the same time, he was trying to get rid of an antique knife he was carrying.

One of the officers testified he saw Loggins throw a shoulder harness into the back seat and concluded that Loggins was armed. Boothe said his client did have a gun, but it was locked in the glove compartment.

Once out of the car, police said Loggins refused to stop moving and was clutching something shiny in his hand.

The officers jumped on him and handcuffed him, Danford said.

The shiny object turned out to be a set of car keys, not a gun.

Still, Danford said, the use of force against Loggins was justified.

"He elevated what could have been a normal traffic stop into a high-risk situation that could have put the officers in danger."

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