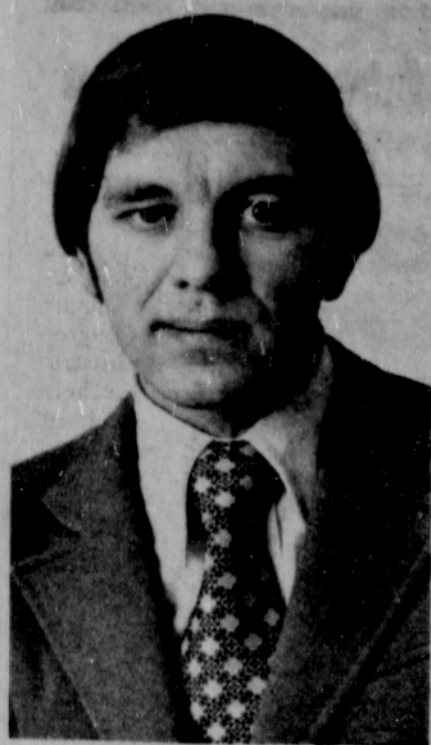


School Board candidate supports Coalition position



STEVE BUEL

The following is a statement made to the Board of Education by Steve Buel, candidate for the Portland School Board. Buel has announced that he is seeking the position now held by Evie Crowell.

I firmly believe this school districts desegregation efforts to date have been woefully inadequate, discouraging and degrading. Yet I don't like busing and doubt if members of the Coalition like it any better than I do.

Gates featured

Mrs. Osly J. Gates will deliver the 1979 McPherson Memorial Lecture in Spokane, Washington. The lecture honors The Reverend J. Gordon McPherson, early western author and editor, who had an active civil rights and humanitarian concern. He once edited *The Spokane Forum* and other periodicals; one of same is briefly cited in the 1976 book "The People of Utah" published by the Utah Historical Society. The Gates' address combines an analysis of one of her father's editorials and the historical perspective concerning same.

Mrs. Gates has served as a resource consultant. In 1968, she was chairman of an in-service seminar project for Oregon teachers (co-sponsored by Citizens for Interracial Understanding). After the initial sponsorship, Portland State University continued the history aspect of the project for approximately six successive summers. Mrs. Gates has served on regional and national evaluation panels for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. She was a delegate to the 14th U.S.-Japan Student Conference in Tokyo, Japan in 1953.

In 1971, Mrs. Gates was one of 25 women in the United States invited to attend the two-week conference for non-scientists "Science, Society and Our World" sponsored at Tufts University by the National Science Foundation, Oakridge Associated Universities and Tufts University. She was awarded a grant, on a competitive basis, for said conference.

Mrs. Gates, who writes under the name J.M. Gates, is included in such biographical references as "Who's Who in the West," "Contemporary Authors," "The Dictionary of International Biography," "The World Who's Who of Women," "Who's Who of American Women" (6th, 7th and 8th ed.), "Two Thousand Women of Achievement" (2nd ed.), etc. . . .

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But some of the best minds in this city have worked on the problems for the last several months and their conclusion is two way busing. We can't seem to get away from it if we are to have a reasonable solution. While I think it might be possible to change some school boundaries to lessen the number of children being bused, and still move equitably toward the goal of desegregation, I do support the Coalition's conclusions.

But if we are to accept the Coalition's proposals we need to carefully consider the following points.

The Portland School District has been in constant upheaval for the last several years. Such things as the unclear and unfair policies for changing to middle schools and making school closures, the all too often transferring of principals, the mass dispersal of students under the present desegregation policy, the constant renovation of buildings,

and the creation of magnet and early childhood programs have created a great deal of instability.

Because of this we need to make sure a new desegregation policy is not one which the administration can treat as a new toy, by constantly juggling, reorganizing, and reprioritizing it. We need a clear document which takes effect for a given number of years. We need real commitment to a program and a set date, maybe six or seven years, when we can fully re-examine what has happened and go through the recent process in a more cooperative manner. If, following the Schwab Report, we had had a specific timeline built in for reanalyzing its results we wouldn't be where we are now.

The selection process for school pairing has to be carefully thought out. The School Board is not the most trusted political body in this city. Because of this the selection process needs to be determined by

some method other than in-house administrative mandate. This would also lessen bitterness and ill-feelings, something the school district doesn't need anymore of. It is essential that a selection process be developed which is not political.

Finally, let's not forget the children. The burdens which this and any other desegregation proposal puts on them are almost intolerable. We need to assure that the schools involved in this proposal are the very best in the state. We need to rise above petty pride and admit Portland's elementary schools need to radically improve, and then improve them. We need to make them places of joy and high educational attainment, places in which our children can reach for their ideals and ours, places which our society has created out of concern not obligation and places we can be proud of because they embody the spirit of freedom as well as fairness.

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