



Deborah Hicks and Al Jamison will play leading roles in Portland Black Repertory Theater production of "Wine In The Wilderness." (Photo: Abubakar. Please see Page 5.)

Portland School Board rejects cross-bussing

The Portland School Board made its projected decision, Monday night, that white children will not join Black children in bearing the burden of racial desegregation in the Portland schools.

School Board member Jonathan Newman read the Board's resolution which, after reaffirming the Board's "affirmative duty to prevent and eliminate the racial isolation of minority children in each of its schools and to achieve and maintain a racially integrated educational program for the benefit of all students of the district," states:

In order to continue progress toward integration and at the same time to assure greater equity, inter-racial understanding and improve the quality of education for all children, the Board seeks, within the policies of the Board and State Board of Education desegregation policies and guidelines, to accomplish the following:

1. To reduce substantially the number of receiving schools to which children from a particular neighborhood are transferred, while preserving appropriate latitude for parent choices of schools.

2. To establish appropriate priorities for attendance at Early Childhood Centers, especially as related to children resident in the attendance area of the Early Childhood Center.

3. To increase the attendance of majority students in Early Childhood Centers, particularly in the later primary grades.

4. To provide appropriate latitude for parents of primary grade students resident in the attendance area of the school which is or becomes a middle school to choose the primary school which their children will attend within the middle school cluster.

5. To provide a middle school for children resident in the attendance areas of Boise and Eliot so that Boise and Eliot are part of a middle school cluster or clusters. The Board requests the Superintendent to include Boise and Eliot in his considerations of possible middle school sites, when examining locations of a middle school for a cluster which includes Boise or Eliot, and to advise the Board with respect thereto.

6. To provide on the west side an upper grade center or centers on an interim basis for children resident in the attendance areas of Area 1 King and Humboldt, and, as expeditiously as possible, a middle school or schools so that Area 1 King and Humboldt are each part of a middle school cluster or clusters.

7. To establish the middle schools referred to in (5) and (6) above under Board policy which states that the District will develop middle schools as expeditiously as physical plants, qualified staff and community acceptance make the transition possible.

The Board requests the Superintendent to advise it as to the configuration of each middle school cluster referred to in (5) and (6), the staffing needs and availability, the preferred location for each middle school, the availability of necessary renovation funds to provide building improvements to accommodate improved educational programs, and any other pertinent factors. The Board, following receipt of the Superintendent's advice, will describe the appropriate cluster, the recommended location of the middle school in that cluster, the building renovations and other pertinent factors associated with the proposed transition, and the procedures by which it will determine whether community acceptance in

that cluster is sufficient to make the transition to the middle school possible.

8. To increase recruitment of majority students for attendance at middle schools from attendance areas for which middle school clusters are not yet established.

9. To include the Area 1 portion of Woodlawn in the Ockley Green middle school cluster.

10. To provide appropriate latitude for parents of upper elementary grade students resident in the attendance area of an Early Childhood Center in a middle school cluster to choose schools other than that middle school for their children to attend.

The resolution also asked the Superintendent to advise it on how those objectives can be achieved.

Board member Wally Priestley moved that the Board postpone action until the following meeting to allow citizen and Board response to the proposal. The motion failed for lack of a second. Following the request for postponement from many members of the public Priestley again moved for postponement. Evie Crowell seconded but the motion failed to pass.

Coalition Response

Harry Ward, Chairman of the Community Coalition for School In-

tegration, responded for the Coalition:

Any approach for desegregation must have the same kind of voluntary and mandatory components for both the Minority and the White students involved.

It is very important that you as a School Board make it very clear to all of Portland that the burdens and opportunities of any desegregation program will be equitably shared.

We restated our principles and we will restate the major inequities as we see them in the current program. These inequities need to be addressed and changed to equitable policies and programs.

1. Since the adoption of Board Resolution No. 3553 in March of 1970, the Black community has been faced with mandatory elimination of grade levels and mandatory busing. This has not happened in any other community in the District.

2. When Black students volunteer to be bused out of their assigned schools, they are expected to attend schools outside their neighborhood for the duration of their school years. In many cases, these students cannot come back to the assigned school because their grade level has been eliminated.

When White students volunteer to be bused out of their neighborhood, (Please turn to Page 7 Column 1)

School decision angers Jordan

Commissioner Charles Jordan told the *Observer* that he was extremely disappointed by the School Board's action in rejecting any considerations of pairing Black and white schools.

"I honestly can't recall when I was so hurt. In the last five years — with all the problems I've had to deal with — I've never been so hurt and angry."

"Harry Ward, in his opening remarks, opened the door. He said the Coalition was not adamant about pairing, that maybe there is another way."

"The Board could have passed its resolution in a more positive way. They could have left the door open instead of slamming it shut. They could have agreed to continue discussions of a way to transfer children that would be fair and still

desegregate the schools."

"There is a more appropriate way to embrace citizens who have worked so hard — to say 'let us put our heads together.'"

Jordan praised the Coalition members for their dedication and urged the members to stay together. "We all need to pause and let the air clear, but meaningful dialogue must continue."

"The Coalition shouldn't despair. It would be easy to be discouraged now. Some good has come from their effort and there is more to come."

"The principles are the same; the Board can't disagree with the Coalition's principles. The effort now has to be to go on with the effort to get the School Board and Dr. Blanchard to find ways to carry out those principles."

Berry family charges police brutality

Kevin Berry, eighteen-year-old son of Edward and Mary Berry, report that he witnessed and was the target of police brutality the night of January 17, 1979.

Berry states that he and three other young men drove into the parking lot at Union Avenue and Shaver Street to use the telephone. Jesse Montgomery went to the phone booth; Ivory White stayed in the car. Berry and David Bell walked across the parking lot toward the restaurant.

Two police officers drove up in a patrol car, stopped Bell and Berry, told them to put their hands on their heads and searched them, checked their ID and released them. They refused to reveal the reason for the search.

Another patrol car arrived, with two more officers. As these officers approached they noticed a young lady on a bicycle — Patty Cohens. Although Miss Cohens is seventeen years old she is small of stature and was first described as about thirteen years old. According to Berry, an officer told Miss Cohens to get away or they would arrest her. She retorted that she was doing nothing and they could leave her alone.

A fracas occurred in which Miss Cohens was grabbed by the officers, resisted, was searched, and in the mele kicked an officer in the groin. thier ID and released them. Berry said the officers refused to reveal the reason for the search.

"I turned around and saw her face

was bloody. Then this officer hit her on the forehead with his flashlight, three times."

Other officers were holding her up, holding her arms and they were searching her — sticking their hands under her clothing.

Berry and others called to the police to stop hitting her — that she was just a child. Others tried to get officers names but they were denied.

"I was shocked at the way they acted — the profanity and language they used. I said, 'You ain't nothing without a gun.' " He reports that three officers grabbed him, followed by others. He was forced to the ground, restrained and put in a police car. Berry claims the officers used unnecessary force in their dealings with him.

When Ivory White approached the car to tell Berry he would call his parents and to ask for the car keys, White was pushed against the car, searched and put in another car.

Floyd Williams was walking around trying to get officers' names and badge numbers. He was placed in the car with Ivory.

David Bell rushed to a phone and called Mrs. Mary Berry, Kevin's mother, telling her the police "are killing Kevin." He told her to go quickly to 15th and Fremont — that the police ordinarily take young Blacks to that corner rather than directly downtown. He told her that he had been taken there and beaten.

Mrs. Berry said she got her

husband out of bed and they drove to the Tradewell parking lot at 15th and Fremont where they saw six police cars and numerous police officers milling around.

Mrs. Berry, nearly hysterical, ran up to some of the officers screaming over and over, "What have you done to my child?" As she approached she saw a bicycle in the trunk of one car and the top and trunk of that car was covered with blood. "The back of the car was crimson red." Thinking her son was in the car she tried to approach but was warned back by officers.

Then David Bell came running up and told her Kevin was in another car. She could see the girl slouched over in the bloody car and also saw Kevin bent over in the other car. As she tried to get to Kevin, an officer raised his fist and warned her to go away or they would do the same to her. She then knelt to pray, still asking, "What have you done to my child?"

The officers then got in their cars and "drove off in every direction." One car blocked the Berry's exit so they could not follow the car holding Kevin.

Kevin continues his story. When they arrived at 15th and Fremont, the officers got out and discussed the incident. "They were running around, slapping hands, saying 'Give me five,' and talking about what a big success they had."

Kevin described the profanity and

racial abuse as shocking to him. After they left 15th and Fremont and drove south on Union Avenue, two Blacks in a car saw him in the squad car and started to escort the car. Berry said the officers in the car — talking about getting some "niggers" — called for help and eventually stopped that car. They searched the occupants, called on the radio for their records, and one officer said "I hope his license is suspended. I'd like to get the —."

The men were angry, and one officer loosened the cover on his gun holster. These men were released but Berry says the officers called another car and told them to get them for something — "anything."

Approaching the County Courthouse, Berry said one officer said to watch for Berry's parents, if they were there to go to another entrance. The parents had not arrived, but they waited for some time for the elevator, while the racial abuses continued.

Berry claims that at no time was he told that he was under arrest or given his rights. "When I was ready to be released, I saw the charges on the paper I signed." Berry had been arrested for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Commissioner Charles Jordan said a complaint has been received and that the Police Bureau Department of Internal Affairs is investigating the incident.



Harry C. Ward receives congratulations from his wife, Geri, following presentation of the Russell A. Peyton Award. The award is made annually by the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission for outstanding efforts in the field of human rights.

Secretary of State Norma Paulus praised Ward's work as a volunteer in many areas of civil rights, but especially in education. She pointed out the fact that "today one arm of government honors him while last night an arm of the same government didn't really slap him in the face but it didn't pat him on the back either." Speaking of the Portland School Board's failure to deal with the issue of equity, Ms. Paulus said, "I think they are more cautious and more conservative than the people they represent. I apparently have more faith in the faith in the people of the West Hills than the School Board has."

Ms. Paulus also spoke of the scism between feminism and race, saying most feminists would consider the effort to rid the nation of racism as the more important. "Without rights for minority races, there will be none for women. I want in no way to equate our fight with that for racial equality."

Mayor Neil Goldschmidt said justice and equality are slow in coming and few are making the effort. "When were the good ever in the majority?"

Williams trial halted for investigation of victim's record

The murder trial of Al Williams, advertising manager for the *Portland Observer*, was recessed until Monday, January 29th, to allow time for an investigation of the victim's criminal record in California. The state's final witness, a supervisor at Esco who had been called as a witness to the character of William Morrison, the man who was killed, blurted out under cross examination by the defense attorney that Morrison was on parole or probation when hired.

Des Connall, attorney for Williams, asked the court for a dismissal on the grounds that the

District Attorney's office had informed the defense that Morrison had no criminal record and that his criminal record could have a substantial bearing on the case. Judge James Ellis refused to dismiss but declared a recess so Connall could contact the Parole Board.

Morrison's parole record — he had been supervised by the State of Oregon while in Portland — indicated that he had an extensive criminal record dating from the age of 16 that included petty theft, burglary, and grand theft auto and that at least one crime involved a weapon. The file also indicated that Morrison had

problems with alcohol and drugs and had an explosive temper.

After reviewing the parole file, Connall again moved for a dismissal but Judge Ellis denied. He stated that although the evidence had been wrongfully withheld and therefore the defendant had been denied the opportunity to use it during the trial, dismissal was "too extreme a remedy". He recessed the trial until Monday to give Connall an opportunity to further investigate Morrisons record and background.

Morrison was killed during a racial incident at Winchell's Donut Shop on Union and Jessup. According to

Williams, Morrison and Gary Paugh came into the donut shop where he and a woman friend were getting coffee. Morrison said, "I'm going to get me a couple of niggers!" He repeated the threat again, pulled out a buck knife, and Williams struck him. During the struggle that followed, Williams was cut on the hand. Paugh then pushed Williams against the wall and struck him in the face.

During the fight Williams and Miss McAllister asked the waitress to call the police and she indicated that she had. Williams went outside to his (Please turn to page 8, col. 1)