

Albina schools demonstrate low achievement

The Albina Schools scored worst on the new testing system. In achievement test scores designed to measure pupils' achievements as related to the Portland School Districts' curriculum, all Albina schools except Irvington rated low.

The school district has initiated city-wide testing, using the same tests, so an accurate comparison of schools can be made. Previously testing was done by area — using different tests — so accurate comparisons could not be made.

The tests provide a basic score, the RIT (Rasch Achievement Unit) which gives a 200 score to average fifth grade performance and ranges from 140 (very low third grade) to 260

(very high eighth grade).

The district averages reading scores for fourth graders in the fall of 1978 was 192.33. At the top of the scale is Bridlemile with 203.81.

At the bottom of the scale are:

King ECE *	177.73
Sabin ECE *	178.56
Lents	180.19
Boise *	181.26
Whitman	182.83
Woodlawn *	183.83

Eleventh from the bottom is Vernon (185.55) and fifteenth is Faubian (187.02).

The six Albina schools (which include fourth graders) also rank in the last nine schools in mathematics. The district average is 190.44, Gray

is first with 200.54. At the lower end are:

King ECE *	177.40
Woodlawn ECE *	179.69
Sabin ECE *	181.49
Boise ECE *	181.68
Whitman	182.67
Sunnyside	182.89
Lent	183.67
Vernon ECE *	183.95
Faubian *	184.30

In reading, Gray fifth graders lead with a score of 213.40, the district average being 200.13.

From the bottom are:

King *	182.41
Kenton	191.04
Lents	191.05
Portsmouth	192.03

Sabin *	192.08
Boise *	192.50
Woodlawn *	192.75
Whitman	192.95

(fourth graders average)

Beech	193.10
Vernon *	193.64

Fifth graders at Gray also lead the district in mathematics with an RIT score of 213.64. The district average is 200.80.

At the bottom end of the scale are:

King *	186.76
Lane	192.47

(fourth graders average)

Portsmouth	192.70
Vernon *	193.13
George	193.60
Sabin *	194.00

Boise *	194.22
Woodlawn *	194.64

Dave McCrea, principal of Boise Elementary School, said he is not particularly concerned about his school's test scores relative to the other schools. "What I am concerned about is how each child progresses during the year. If our students raise their achievement by a grade level or more during the school year, then we are making progress."

McCrea blames the schools' poor showing on a number of factors — a low socio-economic neighborhood, high turnover of students, and a multitude of factors that are currently unknown to educators. One real handicap is Boise's turnover. This

year Boise received 180 new students, forty-four percent of the student body. Most of those students were low achievers.

Also, ten percent of the Boise student body is from Southeast Asia, with many of the students still knowing little English.

"We can't do anything about the students we get," McCrea explained, "but if we don't move them up while we have them, that is our responsibility." When comparing only the students who took the tests as fourth graders in the fall of 1977 and also took the tests in the fall of 1978, there was an improvement of 12 points, or approximately two grade levels. (Please turn to Page 2 Column 1)

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Jury hears defendant describe shooting

Judge James Ellis recessed the trial of Gregory Burbach until Thursday to determine whether information relating to the background of the man he killed should be given to the jury. Burbach, white, is being tried for manslaughter in the December shooting of Lewis Mangum, Black, at the Fremont Tradewell store.

Witnesses have testified that Mangum had come to the store earlier in the day, while drunk and abusive, and before he left had attempted to get Burbach, a security guard, to go outside and fight with him. Mangum was angry that Burbach had previously followed him around the store. Bill Petron, the store manager told Burbach that Mangum had a butcher knife in his belt.

Tony Coleman, a box boy, related that Burbach had said he wanted to take Burbach's belt off and whip his

behind with it. Coleman also had asked Burbach following the shooting why he had killed Mangum? Burbach had replied that he had been told never to draw his gun unless he intended to kill.

The jury heard a tape recording of a detective's interview with Burbach following the killing. In the interview Burbach said he had worked for Wackenhut for only four weeks and had been at Tradewell for one and one-half weeks. His only training in the use of a gun was two films and they emphasized safety and the right of self-defense, not the use of a weapon. He said he had never held a gun, did not like guns and, "I've never shot a pistol in my life."

A Bible college student and part-time evangelist, 25-year-old Burbach said the gun belonged to Tradewell and that he obtained it from the

store manager each day and left it in the safe when he left work.

Burbach said when Mangum again entered the store just before closing time he attempted to stay away from him while Petron went to send him away. He described Mangum's approach to him, with hands raised and clenched, asking Burbach if he would shoot him. Burbach said he had a right to shoot to defend himself or to defend Petron. Burbach then pulled his gun but held it to his side.

At that point Petron went to call the police. Burbach said in the interview that Mangum took two steps toward him, Burbach stepped back a step, then shot from the hip. After Mangum fell, he talked to Burbach, asking him why he did it. Burbach replied, "I thought you had a knife, I was afraid."

Petron had earlier testified that he had asked Mangum if he had a knife, and that Mangum had said no and opened his jacket to demonstrate. Petron described Burbach as scared, pale and shaking.

The state is asking for a verdict of manslaughter based on Burbach's acting under extreme emotional stress. Burbach is claiming self-defense. Burbach's attorney, Al Hogue, is seeking to have information regarding Mangum's 1976 offense of carrying a concealed weapon (a sawed off shotgun) and a 1968 assault conviction presented to the jury to support the contention that Mangum was violent and that Burbach could reasonably expect that he would have caused him severe injury or death.

The case is expected to go to the jury Thursday.

Minorities and the American Press

Affirmative steps now required

by Herb L. Cawthorne

The American press is aggressive, relentless and self-righteous when it comes to criticizing the progress and failures of other institutions. This is, of course, journalism's great value to the American republic. But when it comes to scrutinizing itself, the press is as negligent as a self-centered youth who has been invited to engage in self-criticism.

That is why a recent article in the *Columbia Journalism Review* serves such a fine purpose. Written by Nick Katz, the article, "Minority Struggle for a Place in the Newsroom," claims that the newspaper industry's progress is purging its own history of racial exclusion is "halting, uneven, and far too modest to celebrate."

Nonetheless, there has been progress worth noting. In 1968, there were 400 minority journalists, today there are 1700, representing a bit more than four percent of the profession. Students from Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American backgrounds have enrolled in schools of journalism in record numbers. The

fervor of the protests of the 60's has at least created a crack in the door; the grinding struggle of the 70's and 80's must now insure that these "modest" accomplishments are maintained and expanded.

The future must recognize, as does Robert Maynard, chairman of the Institute for Journalism Education, that "integration of the press is no longer a protest issue; it's a matter of process."

To encourage the process, some editors and publishers have given weight to well-defined programs which affirmatively express their determination to include minority journalists in the newspaper business. "Where given the opportunity," wrote Katz, "these minority journalists are helping newspapers provide more accurate coverage of America's complex, multi-racial society."

The shock wave of the turbulent eruptions of Black and minority protests have rendered "modest" gains. It will be the slow, committed crawl of positive actions which will continue the movement toward fair

representation in the newsrooms of America. Even now 68% of the nation's dailies have no minority reporters and, though minority people make up 17% of the population, they constitute only four percent of the professional journalists.

Katz asserts that "... the American press is backward in its failure to hire and promote minority journalists; the press fails to report adequately the poverty, racism, and despair which bred the riots of the sixties. It still does not adequately portray the lives and aspirations of non-white Americans."

The protest is over. The process now focuses on "a second generation" of issues. Tokenism, rigid assignments, tougher standards, stiffer editing, formidable opposition in promotion, and resentment among peers are a few of the issues which the "process" must now confront. And the process must involve affirmative action.

The hope of affirmative action requires the well-defined, committed leadership of editors and publishers.

Yet this leadership has been generally hard to find. Why is this so?

In the distorted debate over so-called "reverse discrimination," a distortion to which the press has made sizeable contribution, affirmative action has been equated with reducing the caliber of quality reporting. This is not an accurate perception.

Programs which positively assert the management's commitment seek two significant aims: To enable people formerly disenfranchised by undemocratic methods to enter and compete in the field of journalism, and, at the same time, to insure that the profession does not suffer in quality as a result.

A just society cannot simply acknowledge the wrongdoing of decades and decades of inequity and, then, having made the acknowledgement, consider itself absolved of responsibility for the lingering disadvantageous effects of those years of discriminatory action.

Those who oppose the taking of affirmative steps to assist in hiring (Please turn to Page 4 Column 1)



Norma Jean Darden, co-author, autographs copies of her book "Spoon Bread and Strawberry Wine" at downtown Fredericks Book Department. (Photo: Frank DeSantis)

Cookbook maintains tradition

"Spoon Bread and Strawberry Wine" is the deliciously intriguing title of a new cookbook just out in some of the local book marts. There are cookbooks and there are cookbooks but, this one being autographed by one of the authors is bordering on the nature of a delightful nostalgic handbook for a homemaker. "Recipes and Reminiscences of a Family" is an apt sub-title.

A first book for two sisters, Norma Jean Darden and Carole Darden, "Spoon Bread and Strawberry Wine" was seven years from the planning to the printing and release while the sisters researched and recorded their rich family lore to produce it.

On the book's jacket the Misses Darden tell how they went about

visiting the various branches of their family in North Carolina, Alabama, Virginia and Ohio "collecting" traditional recipes, rare photographs, family health and beauty secrets, and recollections of special family celebrations and rituals."

They begin with grandpa Charles H. Darden who was born a slave and who settled (at sixteen) with a wife in Wilson, North Carolina. It seems this couple "had thirteen children, one of whom is the father of the authors of the book." Inside the book, "they describe in detail his adventures, and his misadventures including even Papa Darden's strawberry wine-making secrets." This wine he sold in his general store at a nickel a glass.

Other featured members of the (Please turn to Page 5 Column 3)

Former representative visits Portland

by Kathryn H. Bogle

Easy to meet, full of personal charm and possessed with a warm disarming smile, Yvonne Brathwaite Burke came to Portland to speak about "Blacks and Women in Politics." Her public address, a part of the Lewis and Clark College spring forum on the humanities, was given at the Agnes Flanagan Chapel on the campus, Thursday, April 26th.

Mrs. Burke is the same composed and competent lady who riveted attention of the hundreds who heard her in person and who thrilled millions of Black people who saw and heard her on the television broadcast back in 1972 during the Democratic National Convention.

There she stood, Yvonne Brathwaite at the podium, dainty and crisp, in that vast smoke-filled hall with noisy crowds of delegates from every state in the Union — all of them excited and charged up to the hilt with pushing for their own candidate, bouncing their banners, and their balloons, and she, as vice chairwoman of that whole convention, a woman, a Black woman, called for order, and got it. The respect for her

ability grew with every move she made and with every decision she made on motions and business before that tremendous gathering.

All that part of her career is over, at least for now, with Attorney Burke's decision to leave the national congressional scene and withdraw to the comparative quiet of the state in which she makes her home. Now she has her five-year-old daughter, Autumn, and a busy law practice in Los Angeles on which to center her time.

An attempt to become Attorney General for the State of California did not come to fruition, but Mrs. Burke does not feel that this necessarily ends her political career. She does feel that there is important legislation involving women, and much that affects Blacks that will call forth her interest and energies.

Mrs. Burke spoke informally to students on the campus during her visit and suggested to women students present that politics is one of the easier fields for women to enter — once they have found the money to run. "After all," she said, "a woman for President of these United States is just a matter of time."



YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE

(Photo: Tina Wells)

Sears suit challenges government

(Editor's Note: Following the April 26 Observer article regarding a picket of Sears' Grand Avenue store at noon on May 5th, W. G. Casterline, Northwest Director of Public Relations for Sears, contacted us to request that information regarding Sears' view of their suit be presented to our readers. What follows is information provided by Sears, along with comments by civil rights leaders.)

Sears, Roebuck and Co. filed a suit against the U.S. government on January 24, 1979, charging that the government has created an unbalanced civilian workforce which restricts employment opportunities of American citizens.

A January 24th Sears press release notes, "Federal agencies are trying to hold private employers liable for the workforce the government itself created, the suit says. It points out that the workforce in which white males are dominant was created through the G.I. Bill of Rights, veterans preference laws, the selective service system, restriction on the number of women and blacks in the armed forces and the types of military assignments available to

them, vocational and other educational programs.

"The suit filed by Sears today notes that the 1978 amendment to the Age Discrimination in Employment Act further restricts job opportunities for women and minorities.

"These and other laws and policies created and continue to shape the civilian workforce, the suit says, making it more difficult for minorities and women to get jobs and promotions in the Federal government and private industry.

The suit also charges that Federal agencies have:

- Failed to enforce civil rights laws, including education and housing provisions, intended to provide industry with a well-qualified workforce;
- Violated anti-discrimination provisions themselves;
- Created conflicting compliance requirements which result in discrimination against all employees;
- Blamed private employers for the government's failures, and
- Violated the constitutional rights of Sears and other general merchandise retailers.

The Sears suit seeks court orders that would:

- Prohibit the use against employers of any statistical disparities from the civilian labor force traceable to compliance with veterans acts and the Age Discrimination Act;
- Prohibit enforcement of the 1978 amendment to the Age Discrimination Act;
- Declare the EEOC's contention that employment of women in part-time jobs violates Title VII is an incorrect and invalid interpretation of applicable laws;
- Prohibit the use of a statistical approach to show compliance until the government has taken steps to reshape the national workforce and has produced adequate statistics;
- Declare that the Sears voluntary Mandatory Achievement of Goals Plan complies with the law;
- Require the defendants to issue uniform guidelines to instruct employers how to resolve existing conflicts between affirmative action requirements based on race and sex and those based on veterans status, age, and physical or mental handicap (please turn to page 2 col. 1)