

# Cawthorne joins School Board, Newman resigns

Herb Cawthorne was elected to the Portland School Board to fill the vacancy created by the death of Phyllis Wiener by a 4 to 2 vote. Voting for Cawthorne were Frank McNamara, Steve Buel, Bill Scott and Wally Priestley. Cawthorne's selection was greeted by a standing ovation from the large audience. The audience swelled throughout the evening as others who had heard the news rushed to the administration building to be present.

The ceremony installing Cawthorne on the Board was followed by an emotional resignation by Jonathan Newman, who credited his decision to the fact that the six member all-male Board had failed to appoint a woman. The resignation was effective immediately and Newman

took a seat in the audience for the remainder of the meeting.

Newman is the author of most of the district's desegregation program, which has been under fire from the Community Coalition for School Integration and now from the Black United Front. Current efforts to change the desegregation effort to a more equitable plan began with the announcement of the controversial "Newman Plan" which would have barred some Boise and King students from Jefferson High School.

Cawthorne credits his appointment to the united efforts of the Black community on the desegregation issue. He told the *Observer*:

"Deep down, the success of the appointment was a shock. I had originally applied to place the issues

of inequity and discrimination against the Black community before a Board of Education that had heretofore refused to listen.

"I thought my presence would insure a progressive candidate, hopefully a Black woman. As it turns out, the appointment is symbolic for the Black community of Portland. It proves that we can attain political office without backdoor dealings and denying our heritage and our commitments to a community-in-struggle.

"I hope people in our community will help me speak with understanding and authority. I will continue to speak my mind and lay before the community a clear vision of the best kind of education our children can receive. My vision will have to be

supplemented, sharpened and informed by the willingness of others to get involved and stay involved.

"What has happened in the last three weeks is a great testimony for what unity can do. This community can no longer tolerate Black leadership that separates itself -- that thinks it's better than the people in the community.

"In light of this new realization, there will be many Black leaders who are going to have to rethink their posture and redefine their philosophy. This community will no longer allow them to gain their positions because of their Black heritage and then deny the community that gave them strength."

Cawthorne said his appointment is not the School District's answer to

the threat of boycott. "It is absurd to think that my appointment will, be itself, stop the boycott just as it has been absurd for some people in the Black community to think that the boycott was being used to gain my appointment. It has been said again and again -- the only thing that will stop the boycott is the absolute willingness of the Board to develop a comprehensive plan that will alter the present inequities, meet the demands that have been expressed."

The Board voted to send McNamara to the BUF leadership to begin talks toward dealing with the demands. The Board's desegregation committee -- Cawthorne, Joe Rieke and McNamara -- will meet Thursday evening.

The Black United Front will also

meet Thursday night to continue boycott plans.

"We are very happy and pleased," Ronnie Herndon, co-chairman of the BUF, said. "Herb's appointment is a success for the community. He is there because of the community's unity around the issues. It is also a personal victory; it shows what we can achieve by taking a strong stand. We don't have to compromise our convictions in order to gain political office."

Cawthorne's appointment does not automatically stop the boycott, Herndon said. "There has to be policy changes by the Board. I am pleased that four members voted for Cawthorne and I hope that this indicates a willingness to move to a more equitable system."

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Newly appointed member, Herb Cawthorne, takes his seat with the Portland Public Schools Board of Education.



Herb Cawthorne swears to uphold the Constitution and perform his duties as a member of the Portland School Board.

### An open letter to the Church Community

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

You have been following the developments of the Black United Front, an organization with wide support in the Black community which is planning a boycott of schools for this September. While none of us wants to boycott the schools, it is imperative that we express our unequivocal dissatisfaction with the present system. We seek the reduction of scattering, resulting in a 40 per cent enrollment of Black children in the schools involved in desegregation. We want a two-way transfer system, equitable to both Blacks and whites, and we are calling for the establishment of two middle schools in the Black community. These demands are fair and just. They are supported by a series of other demands which, we are certain, will go far in improving the quality of education for our children.

The Black United Front, as the chief body which is leading this fight, needs your support. Long before the movement was announced the Black United Front held a luncheon for ministers to discuss the ideas. Later there was a breakfast to further refine the issues. The BUF realized that "a spiritual beginning" was the best way to kick off such an important movement. I would like to call upon each of you to lend a helping hand and to support our community, for we are asking only for that which the white community enjoys without struggle, without sacrifice.

On Sunday, August 19th, we are asking every church to take up a special collection. Funds will be used to print the program for the boycott, to buy food, and to purchase special instructional services. I am making a personal appeal to your church to participate in this worthy collection.

Also, on Friday, August 31st, 7:30 p.m. we are holding a rally at Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church to demonstrate our unity. It will be a rally to put our religious principles into action for the good of our children. Please spread the word and support this beautiful effort to bring the entire church community together for achieving a better quality education for Black children.

Yours, in the brotherhood of Christ,  
Reverend John H. Jackson

## NAACP Founder's Day draws Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks will be the featured speaker for the NAACP, Portland Branch, Founder's Day Banquet. Ms. Parks began the Montgomery Boycott by refusing to give up her seat to a white man, a boycott that launched Dr. Martin Luther King into national leadership and led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Banquet will commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the local

branch, which was chartered on September 1, 1914. It will also serve as a vehicle for rededication to the goals of civil rights and to work to meet the needs of the Portland community especially in the areas of education, employment, housing and youth leadership.

Special guests will be Judge Charles Johnson of Seattle, national board member; Theresa Hall Pit-

man; Verna Canson, Director of the Western Region; Attorney Don Haley, President of the Northwest Conference of Branches; and NAACP branch presidents.

The Banquet will be held on September 1st at the Red Lion Inn -- Jantzen Beach, Columbia Ball Room, at 7:30 p.m. A no-host cocktail hour will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Tickets can be obtained from Mr. Hicks (229-4422) or Bethel AME Church (288-5429). Mr. Hicks, President of the Portland Branch, urges corporations, clubs, agencies, etc. to purchase tables of ten, which will provide them a savings of \$50. Tickets are \$25.

Chairman of the Freedom Fund Committee, which is presenting the Banquet, is Mrs. Grayce Kennedy.

## Some thoughts on the problem

by Wm. H. McClendon

"Black intelligence should be viewed as the ability of Blacks to defend themselves against their environment in general and white people, in particular, and the purpose of such intelligent behavior is to insure the survival of the race."  
Marcus Garvey

For the first time in over 70 years of direct appeals to this school district Black people may be about to observe the School Board give some measure of positive attention to matters that will bring about concrete improvements in the education of Black children. This may happen because Black people have persisted whenever possible in demonstrating that they really do know more about the needs of their people than those highly vaunted authorities of the dominant population.

The operation of this school system using policies of concealment, connivance, deception and evasion in its accommodation of Black students are without merit. It is a widely held belief in the Black community that this *modus operandi* is attributable to the managerial style of the Superintendent and his cohorts. It is the determination of the Black United Front to bring about recognizable beneficial changes.

At the most recent Board meeting there was an extensive utiliza-

tion of imprecise and flexible rhetoric in the administration's response to inquiries made about the inequities suffered by Black children. Prior to this, apprehensions were voiced about the adamant stands white parents would take against having their children participate in cross-busing schemes. The BUF never intended to interfere with these parents' rights to choose. Its commitment is to obtain the same rights for the Black population. This means that the unequal and troublesome facets of student dispersal and middle school facilities for Black children will be corrected, no more, no less.

### Analysis

The response to this initially was "it could lead to separatism." The fact is that this school administration under the guise of pursuing the mythical and impossible objective, integration, allowed segregation to become crystallized. Now, Blacks know as well as whites that integration is not the opposite of segregation!

The Black community must give careful thought to reading of the signals that have been sent out by the remaining School Board member who did not vote for Herb Cawthorne. The concern here is that the candidate whom he supported is quoted in another

publication, in an interview, as saying, "I think change works behind the scenes, and I consider myself very effective in behind-the-scenes action." Such a position raises serious questions about the candidates' sense of identity and indicates a confused and unreliable state of politicization. It can also be viewed as a low-level, unremarkable attempt to be thought of as useful by whites. If so that is to be deplored without reservations. Black people committed to struggle learned long ago that if the principles underlying their struggle were correct then there must never be any concealed or esoteric arrangements entered into with the opposition or the oppressor. The only result from such activity is that Blacks will be either the victims or co-conspirators in a lousy bargaining, compromise or sell-out.

Most of the dilemmas and controversies of this period have their roots in the unbridled latitude that some SATS had in this community over the past 40 years to play their sick, sterile, little games of "white boss favor hunting." These widders created many frustrations for Blacks seeking to acquire autonomy over their own lives. The special problem element in relation to all of this is that whites who display any affinity for Black people who give such performances are bad news. The Black community should view them with skepticism.

## Board hears desegregation report

The Portland School Board heard Superintendent Robert Blanchard's report on his activities to respond to the recommendations of the Community Coalition for School Integration and the School Board's resolutions adopted in January. The discussion was a prelude to dealing with the demands of the Black United Front.

The major concern of the Coalition and the BUF is that Portland's "voluntary" desegregation program places the greatest burden on Black students by mandatorily transferring them from their neighborhood schools while white children move only voluntarily; that Black children who are bussed are widely scattered; and that the absence of mandatory transfers of whites leaves the Albina elementary schools segregated.

Dr. Blanchard, along with Dr. Ernie Hartzog, responded with an attempt to demonstrate that white children bear equal burden for desegregation. He reported that because of middle school reorganization across the city 5,049 white students have had to move from one school to another while 1,774 Black students move because they have no local school with their grade level. Also 802 minority children accept voluntary administrative transfers, while 828 white children volunteer to attend the Early Childhood Education Centers in Albina.

Jonathan Newman attempted to explain that middle school reorgani-

zation is directly related to desegregation. "The point we have never been able to get across is that middle school reorganization is directly related to integration and that far more majority children are mandatorily transferred than minority children." The middle school, he explained, is the basis for an integrated cluster. The controversy, in his opinion, is where the middle school is located. The District has located them on the borders of Albina rather than in the heart of the area, where he believes they would be majority Black.

He cited Fernwood, Beaumont (1979), Columbia/Whitaker and Ockley Green (1980) as directly effecting desegregation and creating integrated clusters. Among the middle schools to which Dr. Blanchard referred as having caused white children to be mandatorily transferred are Binsmead, Sellwood, Hosford, and Markham, all located far from Albina where the only Black students involved are those who are bussed in.

Blanchard also pointed out that Albina schools are not the only ones without upper grades. There are several other primary schools from which students attend adjacent upper grade centers or K-8 schools. These were compared to Eliot and King (Area 1) where students are bussed across town to numerous schools.

Dr. Blanchard admitted that although he speaks about "two way" busing, this refers to white children transferred from one white

school to another because of reorganization and that no white children are assigned to a majority Black school. He admitted that in clusters such as Sabin-Alameda-Beaumont, no white children had been assigned to the Black school and that an opportunity for desegregation had not been used.

Dr. Blanchard made a distinction between "two way" busing and "cross busing", stating that Portland has "two way" busing.

Newman stated that all white transfers to Benson and Washington/Monroe could be considered as "integrative" since those schools are also attended by minority students. The Jefferson magnet draws 104 white students in full and part time programs, while 293 minority students attend Benson and Washington/Monroe. Students who attend other than their neighborhood school, not including Benson and Washington/Monroe, number 652 minorities and 65 whites.

### Early Childhood Centers

Dr. Hartzog reported that due to increased recruiting more white children will attend the ECEs this year. White children attend Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten in seven Albina schools and are in- (Please turn to page 2 col. 4)

For Colored Girls... will play at Cabell Center this weekend rather than an Opening Night Cabaret as previously announced. (Please see Page 5 column 1.)