

Voluntary re-defined

Cawthorne explores school boundary changes

School Board member Herb Cawthorne will investigate the possibility of desegregating Portland's schools primarily through boundary changes. "I think that by shifting boundaries to bring more white students into the majority Black elementary schools we can provide every child with a desegregated school near home. This is an option the Board should examine."

Cawthorne has requested of Superintendent Blanchard an immediate analysis of possible boundary changes to provide schools with from 35 to 65 per cent minority enrollment and for five year projections.

"I like the idea of volunteerism," Cawthorne explained. "I believe parents should have choices -- that they should be allowed to send their

children where ever they believe they will get the type of education best suited to them.

"But I am committed to the principle that there must be room for every child in the school where he has a standard assignment. At the present time there is not room at Humboldt for all of the children who live in the Humboldt attendance area. If all the children in the

Columbia/Whitaker feeder schools went to that school there would be no room for them. Therefore it has been necessary to recruit Black children out of the community to other schools. Parents didn't really have a choice.

"If we redraw the attendance areas, insure that there is space for every child who lives in that area to go to his own school, and if we draw

these boundaries to create desegregated schools, then those who choose to leave can without feeling compelled.

Cawthorne explained that he will not support a plan that will require heavy recruiting of Blacks out of local schools. "There should be no recruiting at all. I have called it 'counseling' and by that I mean that parents and students should be

informed at the fifth grade level about the programs offered at the various middle schools. The decision to attend a school other than the standard assignment school should be based only on the type of program available.

"No child should be transferred because there is no room for him or because the quality of the local (Please turn to Page 2 column 1)

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Kandy Raiford appears to wonder if the stars at the Ice Capades started like this. (Photo: Richard Brown)

School District hiring excludes Black teachers

A genuine belief that a child can learn is the most important asset a teacher can have... Teachers whose attitudes reflect racial and social class bias will alienate the child, thus precluding any meaningful participation in the instructional process.

— Kenneth R. Washington,
School of Education
University of Mass. at Amhurst

During the past two school years more than half of the students expelled from school by the Portland Public Schools have been Black. Approximately fifteen per cent of the district's student enrollment is Black.

Many educators believe the major reason for the excessive expulsion and suspension of Black students is the deficient education provided in Albina schools in the first five grades. After attending segregated schools in which academic achievement tests from two to four years below the district average, Black children are sent to majority white schools where they are not only in a strange environment but cannot compete academically with the majority of their white peers. Their only access to attention is aggressive or exaggerated behavior, which becomes a tool for emotional survival.

The Black United Front, the Community Coalition for School Integration and The Minority Educator's Organization, have considered one key to improve academic achievement to be dedicated Black teachers in schools where there are concentrations of Black children.

The Singleton Rule

In 1975 the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare determined that the Portland school district discriminated in assignment of teachers and ordered the district to comply with the Singleton Rule. This rule provides that schools that have been found guilty of prior discrimination in teacher assignment assign between 75 per cent and 125 per cent of the district's percentage of minorities to each school. (If ten per cent of the teachers were minority, each school teaching staff should be between 7.5 and 12.5 per cent minority.)

Last week the School Board voted to advise HEW that it no longer plans to adhere to the Singleton Rule and, if HEW disagrees, to pursue court action against HEW.

Years of Discrimination

The Portland school district hired its first Black teachers in 1949, under

pressure from the Portland Urban League. Numbers of Black teachers remained small and the district maintained a policy that until the late 1960s assigned all Black teachers, even those certificated for high school, to elementary schools.

In July of 1969 Ruth Spencer, now chairman of the Oregon Minority Educators Organization, filed a complaint with the Oregon Bureau of Labor, charging the district with racial discrimination. Ms. Spencer had returned to Portland from Boston where she had been a supervisor/instructor for the Teacher Corps. A nn year employee with the district, she had applied for a supervisor position but was denied. Ms. Spencer had earned her master's degree from New York University, studying under Dr. Dan Dodson, prominently known for his research and planning in the area of school desegregation. Her degree was in Human Relations Education.

The complaint was investigated by the Civil Rights Division, which found "substantial support of the charges" and directed conciliation. When conciliation was not successful, the case was referred to the Attorney General for prosecution.

The case charged that not only had the district discriminated against Ms.

Spencer but that it had practiced discrimination against Black teachers for the previous 29 years.

A legal battle followed with the school district attempting to restrict the case to specific charges related to Ms. Spencer and to resist opening all of its personnel records to the Civil Rights Bureau. In nnnn the Oregon Supreme Court ruled that the district must open its records to the Bureau.

Black hiring

Under the guns of the Bureau of Labor, the district exanded its Black hiring and assignment to administration type positions. In 1970 there were approximately sixty Black teachers; by 1975 there were approximately 150.

The case became embroiled in politics -- including the resignation of Attorney Belton Hamilton and Civil Rights Bureau Director Russ Rogers over disputes between Attorney General Lee Johnson and Labor Commissioner Norm Nilsen over the handling of civil rights cases. There followed several years of inactivity during which a five year backlog of cases developed in the Civil Rights Bureau. Caught in the mire, the Spencer case remained in limbo until April of 1975 when the new Labor (Please turn to page 3 col. 1)

Portland native recruits for feds

By Kathryn Bogle

Are you young, Black and gifted? You are? Then Edward Perkins just may have a message for you!

Dr. Perkins came to Portland and the Pacific coast to spread the word that the United States State Department is interested in attracting minority students, male or female, to work in the various departments of State Affairs. Could be foreign affairs, could be in the United Nations, could be home, could be abroad.

Dr. Perkins is here from the United States Embassy in Accra, Ghana, where he is Counsellor for Political Affairs. In this capacity Dr. Perkins is charged with the responsibility of keeping in touch with the people in his assigned country. He must keep a finger on the pulse of the country, he must know and understand the social trends, he must be knowledgeable about the economy and he must certainly be aware as to how the political winds blow.

At any given moment, after 18 months on this challenging assign-

ment in Accra, Dr. Perkins is prepared to "report, analyze and comment on the country's elections, its policies, its transportation, the health of its citizens, the local government and any parliamentary decisions which just might affect the decisions or actions of our own country."

With a doctoral degree in public administration won from University of Southern California where he had previously received his masters, Dr. Perkins has a degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland. But where did he go to high school? At Portland's own Jefferson High!

While he is in Portland, the Perkins calendar is filled with engagements to speak to young people and to people who are interested in the future of minority youth. Dr. Perkins will speak to students at his alma mater Jefferson and also he will "interact" with students at Lincoln.

"I like to use the word "interact" Perkins commented. "Because its

really an exchange with the students that I'm interested in. I hope also to have a dialogue with women who might be interested in a career with the State Department. I'll be talking to Vernon Chatman at the Urban League and to people in the NAACP, hoping they will spread the word."

"This year we are contacting high school students," Dr. Perkins continued, "and next year we will be going to the colleges. We are already choosing personnel to come to these western states and are pinpointing some of the colleges we don't want to miss."

The visionary in Dr. Perkins emerges in his tone when he speaks of the relationship of the Afro American person to Africa and Africans. "I believe, sincerely, that Black Americans have a role to play in the development of Africa," he said. "And" he added softly, "I really believe that there is a growing awareness among Africans that they can profit by forging a link with people who look like themselves as (Please turn to page 2 column 4)

Conference on families scheduled for King

The Oregon Task Force on the White House Conference on Families announced plans today for a series of local statewide public hearings to gather testimony for the Oregon Conference on Families, February 16, 1980 at Oregon College of Education.

Portland area hearings, at which all interested citizens can testify, have been scheduled for Saturday, December 8, beginning at 1 p.m. continuing to 4 p.m. Hearing will be held at: Northwest Services Center, 1819 NW Everett, Portland; Columbia Villa Administration Office, 8920 N. Wooley Avenue, Portland; King Neighborhood Facility, 4906 NE 6th, Portland; Gresham Neighborhood Center, 620 N. 2nd Street (North entrance), Gresham; and, Washington County Mental Health

Department, 451 S. First Avenue, Suite 300, Hillsboro.

Hearings will also be scheduled in Salem, Seaside, Albany, Corvallis, Eugene, Klamath Falls, and Bend on that day.

The issues raised at each local hearing will be presented at the Oregon Conference on Families at Oregon College of Education, February 16, 1980, which is being conducted in conjunction with the activities of the summer, 1980 White House Conference on Families.

The purpose of the Oregon Conference is to examine the strengths of Oregon families, the difficulties they face, and the ways in which family life in Oregon is affected by public policy.

The local hearings before the Oregon conference will give citizens

in Oregon the chance to voice their feelings on family issues. Their input will be a significant contribution not only to the state conference, but also to the White House Conference on Families in June 1980.

Contact for Northwest Portland Gerry Newhall at 248-5095; for East Portland Cal Williams at 229-4841 or Jean Olson at 255-0305; for the Gresham area Alicia Swindel or Eva Meggs at 667-0555; Clackamas County Chris Tomlinson at 657-4410; and for Washington County Anne Potter or Joan Krahmer at 648-8636.

For further information on the hearings and how local citizens can deliver testimony for the Salem area, contact Carol Morgan at 588-5357 or Donald L. Krahmer, Jr. at 370-6137.



W. Phillip McLaurin of Portland, receives the oath of office as a member of the National Advisory Council on Economic Opportunity from its Chairman, Arthur I. Blaustein at recent swearing-in ceremonies in Washington, D.C.

McLaurin joins Advisory Council

Phil McLaurin, currently the Director of ACTION's Urban Crime Prevention Program, was appointed by President Carter to serve on the fifteen-member National Advisory Council on Economic Opportunity programs designed to alleviate poverty and encourage economic self-sufficiency. The Council reports to the President and the Congress annually.

McLaurin, Director of ACTION's Urban Crime Prevention Program, was ombudsman for the State of Oregon. As the Acting Director of the Training and Employment Division of the city of Portland he was responsible for the planning, operating and monitoring of the

city's \$24 million Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) program. He has also been Executive Assistant to Mayor Goldschmidt.

A consultant to colleges on the organization and development of Afro-American studies, McLaurin has been an Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies at Smith College, Director of the Black Studies Center and Chairman of the Black Studies Program at Portland State University. He has served as Director of the Portland Metropolitan Youth Commission summer youth programs and the Citizen's Information Center of Chester, Pennsylvania.

Mr. McLaurin is a member of the Board of Directors of the Oregon Development Disabilities Advocacy Center, the Board of Directors of the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund of Oregon and the Executive Board of the Tri-Community Council. He is a member of the Albina Voter Registration and Education Committee and the NAACP, and a former member of the American Association of University Professors, the Oregon State Board of Higher Education and the Board of Directors of the Parry Center. His honors include selection as an outstanding Young Man in America by the National Junior Chamber of Commerce.