

Cawthorne quits school desegregation planning

Herb Cawthorne advised the School Board that he will not participate in Board discussions of desegregation until claims that his desegregation proposals will lead to "resegregation" have been documented:

"Over the past five months, we have labored in good faith and with great effort to reach consensus with the Board's desegregation/integration committee. In the last few

weeks, it has become quite evident that the spirit of the effort is far less valued than one's willingness to accept uncritically the judgments of others. Certain alternatives differ in specifics from those of Mr. McNamara and Superintendent Blanchard. They have attempted to discredit the consideration of those alternatives by raising, like a red flag, the charge of 'resegregation'.

"I question the Board's ability to

deliberate against a background clouded with completely undocumented claims of "resegregation," which render the public persuasive process more difficult for the alternatives I and others support. Therefore, since the outcome is so very vital to the aspirations of Black children, I will not continue to participate in this discussion tonight, or any other Board sponsored forum on

desegregation, until I am convinced that the consideration of any alternative will not have to compete against unsubstantiated charges of 'resegregation'."

Frank McNamara said he was surprised at Cawthorne's statement and said he had never said "resegregation" would occur. He explained that in a desegregation committee meeting he had raised the

issue of whether the Cawthorne's plan would move the schools toward racial balance and remarked that he would not support a plan that would 'resegregate'. Since then, he said, Cawthorne has shut down all systems of communication.

Superintendent Blanchard also denied that he had made charges of 'resegregation' but said he had reservations prior to the adoption of the short term plan and had

operated on advise of counsel.

Steve Buel said he felt McNamara had a right, as a Board member, to say whatever he wished, but that if the Superintendent is a problem that is something the Board should deal with. He said he understands Cawthorne's feelings about the matter.

Problems between McNamara and Cawthorne came to a head during a recent desegregation/in-

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Gates hits Lennox demolition

Osly 'Jim' Gates, Executive Director of the City-County Commission on Aging, has charged the City with improper planning in its decision to level the Lennox Hotel to make way for a police/jail facility.

"The demolition of the new Lennox Hotel brings to thirty-four the number of buildings in the downtown core area providing low cost housing for the elderly that have been taken out of existence since

1970," he said. "Some of the buildings were condemned and converted to other uses which most were demolished and replaced by office buildings and parking garages."

Gates pointed to the compressed market for low cost housing for the elderly in the metropolitan area. "Most nursing homes are filled to capacity for medicaid patients. Senior citizens are reporting rent increases as high as 59 percent during

the past fifteen months. They are faced with a take it or leave it situation." The New Lennox Hotel was one of the larger housing facilities for senior citizens.

Gates considers the elderly to be short changed in the City's effort to redesign its skyline - that in the effort to provide new office buildings, parking garages and even jails, the needs of low-income elderly citizens are being ignored.

Get rid of Blanchard

By Ronnie Herndon

The Black United Front call for Dr. Blanchard's resignation has produced some predictable responses. One we want to examine is that "the timing was wrong and many white people who were neutral about Blanchard now defend him."

Analysis

We have looked with astonishment at the spectacle of the School Board asking Dr. Blanchard to give advice and design programs to meet the demands raised by the Black United Front. The same man that created the problem is now asked to play a major role in solving the problem. This kind of logic is only reserved for Black folks. Some people don't ask the fox to guard the chickens.

If Dr. Blanchard's policies and practices had the same devastating effect upon the west hills as they have had in the Black community, he would have been long gone like a "turkey through the corn." But the Black community is suppose to watch it's children continually receive an inferior education and not utter a peep about getting rid of the man who designed the plan that sustained this academic misery.

For those who have forgotten, the following are the results of Dr. Blanchard's tenure: Pre-school programs in the Black community in which the majority of the students are middle and upper middle class white children; all of the upper grades removed from schools in the Black community, this has not been done in any white community; Black children forced to participate in a one way bussing program, while not one white child was forcibly bussed into the Black community; Black children scattered all over Portland, after becoming the only Black child in a school or classroom, this was never done to



Portland's steel bridge peeks through the early morning fog.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Lowell Smith, former staff member of the Jefferson High School Dance Department is now a principal dancer with the Dance Theatre of Harlem which premieres in Portland at the Civic

Auditorium in May. Smith will present special choreography sessions at Jefferson in February. The Dance Theatre of Harlem, established in 1969, has performed throughout the world.

ACLU says OSU discriminates

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU) charged Oregon State University (OSU) Friday with massive violations of state and federal laws prohibiting sex discrimination in athletic programs.

A formal complaint to the State Board of Higher Education on behalf of 20 women students and six taxpayers was filed with Ms. Pearl Spears Gray, OSU's affirmative-action officer. In the complaint, plaintiffs request that equal opportunities be afforded women athletes participating in basketball, crew, softball, swimming, and track and field.

Specific allegations of inequalities in the treatment of men and women athletes are detailed under 12 major categories:

- financial aid and scholarships;
- the provision of competitive opportunities;
- housing and dining facilities;
- game and practice schedules;
- the provision of competitive opportunities;
- medical and training services;
- travel and per diem allowances;
- publicity and awards;
- the provision of athletic

facilities;

• the provision of equal opportunity for coaching, tutoring and assistance; and

• the provision of financial support for the women's collegiate athletics.

In a letter addressed to Ms. Gray, ACLU cooperating attorneys Pamela L. Jacklin and Cynthia L. Barrett ask OSU administrators to protect the students making the complaint from any retaliation or recrimination from anyone connected with OSU.

Among the specific allegations are charges that scholarships and financial aid are not awarded proportionately to men and women, that books are provided male student athletes, but not to females, and that women are not provided with the same help in obtaining summer jobs.

The university is said not to provide women athletes with the same safety equipment, uniforms, shoes, gloves, basketballs, and travel bags as it does men.

OSU also is charged with requiring female athletes and coaches to drive themselves long distances to and from events,

frequently late at night, while male athletes are more frequently provided air transportation. This is said to expose them to serious safety and health hazards.

The complaint states that the coach-student ratio is significantly higher for male than for female teams, as are coaches' salaries. All assistant coaches for women's teams allegedly are graduate students while those for men's teams are regular professional employees.

Alleged inequalities in housing and dining include: failure to provide women and men with the same room and board during pre-season training or competition, and failure to provide the same opportunities for food services such as training tables and late plates when practice conflicts with scheduled meal times.

Rules of the state system of higher education allow OSU a 30-day period in which to investigate the charges in the complaint and take remedial action to eliminate sex discrimination. If the complainants are not satisfied with the report and action, they may appeal to the chancellor and obtain a full, public hearing.

No room in the 'land of freedom'

(Editors Note: The "Black Boat People"--8,000 Haitian refugees seeking asylum in Florida--may become an explosive political issue in the months ahead. Despite a new reform of the U.S. refugee law, so-called "economic refugees," such as the Haitians, will still be denied the asylum granted to "political refugees." Black leaders contend the law is racially discriminatory and have vowed to make the Haitian issue a key political test for the President and other candidates in the election campaign, reports Calvin Zon, a reporter for the Washington Star.)

By Calvin Zon

The Carter Administration's credibility with Black voters may be put to the test in this election year

over the mounting issue of America's "Black boat people"--some 8,000 refugees from Haiti who for years have been languishing in poverty and legal limbo in southern Florida.

Their requests for political asylum have been categorically rejected by the government, which maintains that they are economic rather than political refugees. The refugees and their supporters counter that there is little distinction between economic and political repression in a country such as Haiti, where it is against the law to even complain about economic conditions.

The Refugee Act of 1979, sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy, is expected to be signed by the President this year making it possible for refugees from rightwing

dictatorships to gain asylum in the U.S. However, the law will not alter the present exclusion of economic refugees, nor substantially change the government's policy toward the vast majority of the millions of persons seeking entry to the United States from the Third World. It will simply enlarge the scope of the present refugee policy, which is to admit only persons from communist countries or the Mideast.

But the fate of the Haitians has not yet been sealed, and their plight could erupt into a major political battle in the 1980 presidential campaign. Black American political leaders, including the influential 17-member congressional Black Caucus, have vowed to fight the refugee policy on the grounds that it discriminates against non-whites. Nearly 600 of the Haitians have

been returned to Haiti since 1974. U.S. District Court Judge James L. King ordered a halt to further deportations last July pending his decision on whether the government had violated the refugees' due process rights. Attorneys for the refugees hope for a decision which will shift the burden of proof on rights violations from the Haitians to the government.

Until enjoined by Judge King, the INS had been readying as many as 150 asylum applicants per day for deportation. The INS has also denied work permits to the Haitians.

During eight days of hearing before King in early December, there was dramatic testimony regarding the treatment of refugees returned to Haiti. An ex-member of (Please turn to page 2 column 1)