

# School Board rejects 'selective' middle school

At 10:30 p.m. Wednesday night, after two nights of discussion, the Portland School Board moved from lengthy debates on the "Preamble", "Policy" and "Goals" of its desegregation proposals without adopting them and moved to a discussion of the proposed middle school.

The only specific that was adopted is that a middle school will be established without admission requirements. A site for the school and whether students will be assigned or it will be a "magnet"

school were not decided.

Chairman Bill Scott proposed that Humboldt 6th through 8th graders be assigned to Ockley Green and King 6th through 8th graders to Columbia/Whitaker; that a middle school be established at Eliot with selective enrollment.

Steve Buel and Herb Cawthorne proposed that a middle school be established at Eliot with 6th through 8th graders from King and Humboldt assigned.

Cawthorne explained that he will not support assignment of King to

Columbia/Whitaker because not enough space exists for them. Saying he will not support an "overflow philosophy", Cawthorne asked: "Find a place in the city where you have students assigned to a middle school where they cannot go." Cawthorne had supported a middle school in the Adams building and a magnet middle school at Eliot or Monroe. If only one new school is established, it must be on an assigned basis for children who now do not have a middle school.

"You assume kids from white schools will attend Columbia/Whitaker but you depend on Blacks not to go there, to go to a magnet. . . Overflow some white schools so you have to recruit white kids out. The kids you have to recruit out are Black. If whites left Columbia/Whitaker and all the Blacks assigned decided to go there, you wouldn't allow that because the percentages it would create. You are depending on drawing off Blacks; it's required that Blacks go."

Joe Rieke advocated a magnet

school at Monroe or Adams. He opposed moving Eliot because parents are "ecstatic" over Eliot. He would not support any middle school program that removed the selection criteria, since that is the only part that interested whites and would entice them to enroll their children. "I cannot endorse the program because of what lies ahead -- failure." Rieke warned about litigation should desegregation not be successful: "I don't want the federal government making the decisions for us."

Rieke explained that Albina schools are overcrowded because they have programs for four-year-olds that are not available elsewhere and are desired by Black parents. (In some schools, nearly 80 per cent of the children served are white transfer students.)

Wally Priestley said if the selection basis -- which would keep out all children below average -- is why whites would attend it, that is disturbing and "is very telling about our city or about us." Priestley op- (Please turn to page 2 col. 1)

## PORTLAND OBSERVER

USPS 959 680



Volume 10 Number 10  
March 13, 1980  
10¢ per copy



Derrick A. Bell Jr. a national expert on school desegregation, who will become Dean of the University of Oregon School of Law in January of 1981, urged the Portland School Board to ignore so

called racial balance and to let parents choose schools with a majority of Black students. (Photo: Richard Brown)

### Bell asks 'academic remedies'

Derrick A. Bell, Jr., member of Harvard Law School faculty and Dean-elect of the University of Oregon School of Law, advised the Portland School Board to forego efforts at numerical desegregation in favor of enhanced academic programs.

Bell said the *Brown vs Board of Education* decision of 1954 was never intended to require specific minority percentages, but addressed subjugation of Blacks by whites. Before *Brown* state laws required assignment of Black students to separate schools which were not provided equal facilities.

Separation was not the real evil, he said, the real evil was subordination.

Following the *Brown* decision HEW and the federal courts imposed percentages because school boards used every conceivable method to delay. Bell, who was active in those decisions and their implementation, believes they were necessary at the time to break down the established dual system.

In the North, when in large cities Blacks make up large percentages of

the school population, efforts have been made to make schools less than fifty percent minority because when schools become 60 percent or more minority, whites -- and many middle class Blacks -- leave.

The results of desegregation have been poor, Bell said. Some Black students do a little better, some do a little worse. The pattern of Black students falling behind their white counterparts remains; there are early dropouts; discipline problems.

Bell sees as the cause of failure the fact that in desegregated programs the effort is not to educate Black children, but to satisfy white parents through directing educational programs and procedures to white middle class children and severely disciplining Black children to guarantee the proper environment for whites.

The real purpose of the *Brown* decision was to guarantee equal opportunity, and that must be measured by achievement, he observed. Minority children and children of lower socio-economic must be provided the programs that will enable them to achieve at the

same high level as others even if this means different methodology, special teaching techniques, and programs to get parent involvement. Dropping the Black child or the poor child in a school where his special needs are not addressed is "like dropping them into Mars."

Bell urged that the Black United Front's plan - which calls for academic remedies - be given consideration. Referring to other school districts that have successfully (both legally and academically) used similar plans, he advised the School Board to get several persons who have been successful in teaching Black students to assist them in designing a plan.

He pointed to good principals and parent involvement as the keys to good education.

Referring to the coercion still practiced as Black students are forced to move by whites in power, Bell said forcing children to go to schools out of their community is as damaging as requiring segregation, when the decision is made by a white group with power.

### Racism Revisted: Portland, 1980

By Benjamin M. Priestley

Indeed, racism is alive and well in the City of Portland, but can it be eradicated? Going out west to prosper has been preserved "for whites only" (a familiar inscription known by Black men, women, children born before/during the 1950's), but for Afrikan-Americans it has simply meant for most of us going out South. Perceptually, Black residents of Portland are aware of overt and covert forms of racism which extend from the individual to the institutional treatment of us. One is reminded of Whitney Young's description of individualized racism as -- maintaining a posture of racial superiority/subordination of one group of people over another accentuated with arrogance, and Messrs. Carmichael and Hamilton view on institutional racism as -- policies and practices which systematically denies a group of people and/or

person rights/privileges due to "covert individual attitudes of racism which receive little public condemnation."

In light of the fact that racism exists, the Portland Public Schools is an interesting case in point. Of equal interest as to how racism manifests itself. The PPS Board of Education meeting on March 10, 1980 should and must be of grave concern of the Afrikan-American community of Portland. Obviously a slip of the tongue by a Board member, a question was raised in reference to the Black United Front's position paper during

#### Analysis

testimony given by Atty. Derrick A. Bell, Jr. who supported the B.U.F. position. The question raised used the word "split" (quickly changed)

in reference to the Black community's support or non-support of the B.U.F. position. Eloquently answered by Atty. Bell, but nevertheless another question comes to mind. That is, what caused the so-called split? For sure, the Black United Front's position has consistently espoused unity especially among Black Portland residents, and has welcomed support from humane whites with guts. The B.U.F. position of course, causing a dilemma for the bulk of Portland's white community is: quality education not subscribing to formulas and fears which have been shown not to work in the best interest of Black children on any large scale basis. As a result, given equal opportunity, Black children can learn in an environment they are most familiar with - the one in which they live.

Therefore, one can see racism lurking around the corner on the (Please turn to page 2 col. 4)

### NAACP opposes TV program

NAACP's Executive Director, Benjamin L. Hooks, has requested top executives involved in production and airing of the T.V. mini-series, *Beulah Land*, to deal with the serious objections being raised by many people.

*Beulah Land*, scheduled for airing in May by NBC, is a 6-hour mini-series taken from a book of the same title written by Lonnie Coleman and published by Dell Books.

The *Beulah Land* script depicts slaves as being happy at being slaves, raises the age-old spectre of Black men being over-sexed studs and demeans the role of Black women, as well as that of Black men.

In telegrams to Fred Silverman, President of NBC, David Gerber, Gerber Productions, and Larry White, President, Television for Columbia Studios, Hooks said:

"The National Office of the NAACP has received numerous phone calls concerning the produc-

tion of the T.V. mini-series, *Beulah Land*, scheduled for airing on NBC.

"Persons whose opinions and judgements I respect have decried the film's depiction of Blacks in demeaning, racially derogatory roles in scenes with no historical integrity.

"While I have not had a chance to review the entire script and am not able to make an independent assessment, I believe that the producers and responsible T.V. broadcasters should deal with the serious objections being raised about the production.

"I therefore urge that before proceeding further with the production, that you sit down with the Black artist and local NAACP representatives to discuss how the project can more accurately and tastefully deal with the cruelties of slavery and life on a plantation.

"This subject can be handled with taste and grace. It ought to be.

"I plan to assign a staff member to look into this fictionalized ac-

count of an ugly and barbaric part of the American history so that I might be better able to advise directly in the near future."

Mrs. Virna M. Canson, Regional Director of the West Coast Region NAACP, said the campaign against the airing of *Beulah Land* in its present form is being joined by NAACP chapters throughout the Western Region.

Mrs. Canson said, "Those who are producing this series need only to put themselves in the Black person's shoes and be sensitive to how they would feel.

"Can we expect an Indian to appreciate being projected as a savage who enjoyed the white man's brutality?"

"Can we expect a Japanese to appreciate being projected as enjoying the life in America's concentration camps?"

"We call upon others to step forward and join in this struggle for the preservation of our dignity."

### Carter heads Port police, fire

The Port of Portland has named Roosevelt Carter operations manager for Portland International Airport. Carter will be responsible for the Port's Operations Department, the Port Police Department and the Airport Fire Department. He will be concerned with the day-to-day management of the airfield, public access areas, and airport construction projects.

Carter has been a Port employee for six years. He joined the Port in

1974 as an intern planner, before moving to the Research Department as a research assistant. He was named operations technical assistant at PIA in 1975, and administrator of programs and projects early in 1978. He held that position at the time he was appointed operations manager.

Carter holds degrees in geography and urban studies from Portland State University. He is currently studying for a Master's Degree in

public administration, also at Portland State.

A native of Louisiana, Carter has always been interested in aviation. Before coming to Portland, he was in the Air Force. He served as an air operations specialist, responsible for scheduling air crews for missions, dispatching aircrafts, scheduling aircraft maintenance and handling various airfield operations responsibilities at Bittberg Air Force Base in West Germany.

### Police request volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help form a "Speaker's Bureau for the elderly." Jim Nelson, elderly coordinator for the Portland Police Bureau's Crime Prevention Division, says recruitment of volunteers will begin this month.

Nelson is looking for persons who would be willing to speak to elderly persons at casual gatherings. Speakers will be primarily utilized during the daytime to give short talks at luncheon meetings. Volunteers will be asked to commit themselves for approximately six hours each month for a period of six months. All ages and backgrounds will be considered. Each applicant must submit to a criminal background check to assure minimal standards of suitability. All checks will be kept confidential and limited to criminal background.

Volunteers will receive approximately 16 hours of in-class training in the theory and practical application of crime prevention for seniors. Areas covered in the training sessions will include a number of topics. Some of the topics will be victimization rates and vulnerability of the elderly to crime, preventive techniques and information and public speaking. Other topics can be discussed in training classes upon request.

Speakers will be providing short, relaxed luncheon talks or demonstrations at centers such as Loaves and Fishes, senior citizen facilities, housing authority centers and other elderly group locations.

For more information on becoming a speaker for the elderly, contact Jim Nelson, elderly coordinator, at the crime prevention division, 248-4126.



Mrs. Marie Smith gets a hand from Commissioner Charles Jordan as she cuts the ribbon at the dedication of the Walnut Park Senior Citizen Apartments. (Photo: Richard Brown)