

School Board discusses parent participation

The School Board rejected the proposal of its new superintendent Jim Fenwick, for a parent participation process and will discuss the issue further on August 25th.

Fenwick's proposal would have a five member committee - the principal, two parents and two teachers - interview candidates for teaching vacancies and make recommendations to the principal for hiring. The recommendations would not be binding.

The parents on the committee would be selected by the local School Citizen's Advisory Committee, which is selected by the principal. One teacher would be chosen by the school faculty and the other by the principal.

The process would be mandatory in the Albina schools, and recom-

mended in all others.

School board member Wally Priestley favors a process where parents will elect or select themselves, not to be selected by the principal. The principal would be held responsible for informing and bringing together the parents. He does not want principals or faculty members on parent committees.

Sarah Newhall sees the fundamental questions as who selects the parents, how many participate, what relation they have to the school advisory committee and who controls that committee?

She considers the face-to-face contact of parents and faculty to be positive, and favors having teachers on the committees. "The power, accessibility and openness" of the local school advisory committees "are

questioned. Citizens feel they are less open than they should be; the community feels they are overly controlled by principals." She advocates an elective process to select members.

Steve Buel sees a confusion over the objective of the new process. Originally it was to be a way for parents to screen out racist teachers, now it is a process for added parent participation. If the object is parent participation for the entire district, the Board should look at the existing citizen participation procedures and committees and think about redesigning them. "We don't set good standards in selecting our advisory committees."

Bill Scott said the process needs "a lot of additional study and work" including a thorough review

with teacher and administration representatives, a clear statement of benefits, research of other districts. "There are obvious benefits of parents feelings of ownership in the school process," but the subject also includes academic freedom. He felt any system should be City-wide.

Joe Rieke expressed his concern that interviewing prior to assignment would be an effort to analyze competence, sensitivity and philosophy prior to performance. "Any system to do that probably suffers from lack of quality in analysis by virtue of unfamiliarity." He prefers parent participation in evaluation of teachers already teaching in the school. He also fears legal problems arising from allowing inexperienced persons to interview job applicants.

Frank McNamara said he is trying to understand the issue and that from the discussion it seemed that the goal is parent participation and not teaching skills. He considers the inclusion of teachers in the process of selecting other teachers to be a serious question that needs further study.

Herb Cawthorne said the issue arose as one of the "long term resolutions" passed last fall to head off a Black school boycott. As a historical perspective he explained that for the last ten years Black children have been mandatorily scattered throughout the district, preventing participation in their education by parents and the community.

Since education is the only means by which Black people can progress,

Black parents are adamant in their desire for better education for their children. The request for parent participation in teacher selection is an effort to regain some input in the educational process since teachers are the key to education.

Including parents in the interview process would provide it's principal a different historical and socio-economic perspective and a good principal would use that experience and perspective to build a staff that would respect and relate to his school clientele.

Parent participation is one of the remaining issues to be solved in order to stop a threatened school boycott. The issue will be discussed at the Board's next meeting, August 25th, 7:30 at the Educational Service Center.

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Barbara Young at the drawing table. Ms. Young is a summer employee of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Student engineer catches train

By Stephanie Cole

The train to success often runs off its track these days. Unfortunately its passengers are headed for a different station. A station where life's challenges and achievements are detoured from its regular route. The only route to this station becomes over-dependence, and membership in society's outcasts.

Barbara Young shares a common bond with many of today's youth. What distinguishes her from her fellow peers, is the fact that she has constructed her own path. She is the conductor of her train, on her own track. Her route is headed for the station of success.

Meet Barbara Young, a young Black woman who has set her designs on a career in engineering. Barbara is an 18 year old graduate of Grant High School. She has a younger sister Paula, and lives with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Fields of Portland.

Q. First of all what is an engineer and what specific area of engineering are you interested in?

A. An engineer is a person who designs different kinds of building and different types of substances. They work through designs and plans. I'm interested in the area of Civil Engineering. A civil engineer builds larger structures such as bridges, highways, and septic tanks.

Q. Why did you become interested in engineering?

A. I enjoyed math and sciences in school, so I just started working with the Core of Engineers. I worked there during the summer, and this year I started working with the Soil Conservation Service through the help of Mr. Chatman of the Urban League.

Q. Why are engineers important to our society and in what areas are they useful?

A. Everything in society that is build was designed by an engineer.

Engineering is the backbone of society. They are particularly important in the area of construction. World Book Encyclopedia expands upon Barbara's definition of engineering. Engineering puts power and materials to work for man. Engineers use steel and concrete to construct dams, bridges, buildings and roads. Civil engineering is the oldest profession of engineering. Civil engineers plan and supervise the construction of waterways, streets, tunnels, dams, aqueducts, canals, railroads, airports, levees, and irrigation systems. Civil engineers also work on man-made structures such as the framework of automobiles, airplanes and missiles.

Q. Because of your interest in engineering, do you consider yourself a minority within a minority concerning your racial and sex status, and which of these factors carry the greatest amount of discrimination?

(Please turn to page 5 Col 4)

Plan removes Black from board

A plan to manage the City's Revolving Loan Fund - that was established to provide an opportunity for Blacks to participate in the City's \$12 million Economic Development Agency grant would remove Black participation from the loan committee.

John Wight, Director of the City of Portland's Bureau of Economic Development, explained his plan for a non-profit "City Loan Corporation" to handle development loans to the City Council at Tuesday's informal session.

Passage of the plan, along with Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) proposal for 1980-1981, was set for Council passage August 13th, but was postponed at the insistence of Mayor-elect Frank Ivancie and Commissioner Mildred Schwab. So certain was the Bureau of prompt passage of its program that on July 12th invitations had been mailed for a "celebration" to be held August 15th. The celebration had to be postponed.

The articles of incorporation of the new City Loan Corporation were not available to the Council for the August 13th meeting. Although Wight said they and the bylaws were completed and available, a citizen who asked for a copy later in the

day was told by Bureau personnel that they are being revised and were not available.

The corporation papers call for a board of five directors: bankers Don Wendle and Larry Morris; Randy Miller, Portland Development Commission; Humberto Reyna, businessman; and John Wight, Director of the City Bureau of Economic Development.

Obviously absent from the list was Bruce Broussard, who had been selected for the original Loan Committee by the Minority Oversight Sub-committee on the advice of the six Black organizations that had sued the City over lack of minority involvement (NAACP, Black United Front, Albina Women's League, Albina Ministerial Alliance, Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Northwest Minority Contractors Association) and the Committee of Spanish Speaking People of Oregon (COSSPO). Broussard has complained publicly about the loan process, the lack of minority loans (one-third is targeted for minority business) and the type of loans being made.

Wight explained that the bankers were retained because of their experience in lending and to create continuity. Asked by Commissioner

Schwab why he put himself on the board and why there were no Blacks, Wight said he would be glad to step aside for someone else. The board was reduced from seven to five because that is the smallest board the federal government will allow. Wight said the board requires technical skills and there should be no "citizen participation."

Commissioner Charles Jordan pointed out that directors are to be appointed by the Council and said he wants a Black on the board.

Louis Scherzer of Benjamin Franklin, Chairman of PDC, explained that although PDC has been involved in the past he recommends that it no longer participate in the loan process. "PDC is in real estate loans and this loan fund involves business loans."

Scherzer recommended that the Council determine whether these should be "social" or "economic" loans. He said loans should only be made when there is a "reasonable feasibility of payment." Phase one needs to be "successful" to get more money, so there should be a very high rate of success. He advised if there is not a definite policy on "economic" vs "social" and a policy of low-risk loans, the staff might get frustrated with the lack of (Please turn to Page 9 Col 3)



Lew Frederick visits with young athlete during filming of KGW's special "Albina."

BUF pushes street name change

By Stephanie Cole

The request to have name changes of streets honoring Black Americans in the Black community was recently dismissed by City Commissioner Mike Lindberg.

A recent survey taken by the City, indicated that most Vancouver and Williams Avenue residents and businesses, were opposed to the renaming of the two streets. In response to the survey, the Black United Front has urged Lindberg

not to drop the issue because of the survey results, but to realize that the positive responses to the name change truly reflect the aspirations of the Black community.

Rev. Jackson, co-chairman of the Black United Front said that "none of us should be surprised with the survey results, but we sincerely believe that those who favored the name changes accurately reflect the true aspirations of the Black community."

Jackson further expressed the

Front's stance: "Our desire to name streets in our community is legitimate, which is evident based on the numerous name changes honoring Black persons in other major cities across the country.

"Name changes of streets have usually been opposed by the business community in other cities, but the name changes still occurred. Furthermore, business in general rarely, if ever, support the endeavors of the Black community (Please turn to Page 2 Col 1)

KGW special explores Albina

A KGW-TV News 8 special report, "ALBINA" takes a close look at the power, politics and problems in Portland's Black community. The half-hour special will be shown on Channel 8 on Friday, August 22, 1980 at 9 PM. Lew Frederick, News 8 reporter, looks at the issues uniting Blacks in Portland.

Frederick visits with people on the

streets, at the breakfast table and at church. He looks at the life and changes in north and northeast Portland and how it affects the rest of the City.

With the recent changes in the school district: the firing of the school superintendent, the cutback in forced busing, and the opening of a middle school in the Black community, a new sentiment and sense

of confidence has been created in Albina.

Frederick, education reporter for Channel 8, has closely followed all of these changes and discusses with the people of the Albina community what changes the future may hold.

The special report is written and produced by Lew Frederick and Jon Tuttle and filmed by Roger Thompson.