

Blacks lack knowledge of cancer danger, cures

A recent survey released by the American Cancer Society reveals that Black Americans are less informed about cancer than white Americans and are less apt to seek medical help when its symptoms appear.

- Blacks are less aware of the prevalence of cancer, with the majority believing that less than one of four Americans have cancer. In reality, one of four will get cancer.

- Blacks are less likely to believe they will get Cancer. Sixty-nine percent of Blacks questioned, did not believe they would get cancer them-

selves, compared to 55 per cent of whites. Blacks are as likely, or slightly more likely, to get cancer.

- High blood pressure and sickle cell are the main fears of Blacks.

- Blacks are more pessimistic about the results of treatment, with 77 percent believing that less than one out of three are cured, while about one out of three do survive.

- Blacks are twice as likely as whites to believe that even if cancer is detected early, there is little chance of curing it. Nearly 60 percent of Blacks believe cancer is generally fatal.

- Blacks are twice as likely to want to avoid knowing they have cancer. One-third said they would prefer not to know.

- Blacks are less likely to believe that surgery, chemotherapy and radiation are effective treatments.

- Lower income Blacks are less likely than higher income Blacks to know cancer symptoms and to seek medical help.

Although Blacks are less aware of cancer symptoms, they are almost as likely as whites to have regular physical examinations and to receive the better known cancer tests.

Almost twice as many whites as Blacks know about the newer cancer diagnostic tests that are now available.

- Proctoscopic examinations for colon and rectum cancer and mammographic examinations for breast cancer.

Low income Blacks (household income under \$7,500) are as likely as higher income Blacks to receive regular physical examinations but they are much less likely to have specific cancer tests:

- Only 52 percent of low income women get regular Pap tests.
- Only 17 percent do regular

monthly breast self-examination.

- Only 18 percent have heard of proctoscopic examinations.

- Only 18 percent have heard of mammographic examinations.

Lack of knowledge about cancer at a time when the incidence of cancer among Blacks is growing rapidly is due, in part, to the fact that although there has been much effort to disseminate information on sickle cell anemia and high blood pressure among Blacks, they have not been targeted for cancer information.

Dr. LaSalle D. Leffal, Jr., chair-

man of the department of surgery at Howard University and past national president of the American Cancer Society, said he will urge the Society to undertake "new and expanded programs to turn this dangerous situation around, working in close cooperation with Black organizations from coast to coast.

"I fear that for large numbers of Blacks an attitude of fatalism turns into self-fulfilled prophecy. Black mortality is higher because Blacks neither seek nor get the treatment they need."

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Sarah Newhall, director of the City of Portland's Youth Service Centers, (second from left) talks with young people at the Northeast Youth Service Center. Center sponsored by the Urban League of Portland. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Community supports Jefferson

Representatives of the Friends of Jefferson spoke to the School Closure/Consolidation Committee Wednesday night to correct incorrect information and attitudes about Jefferson High School expressed earlier by the committee. "We are concerned that some of the inaccurate data and interpretations that have been released to the public through the media is having a detrimental effect on our community at large as well as to our community's schools...we are seriously concerned by continued remarks made concerning Jefferson High School and the Jefferson community relationships and choose to reflect the image of the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The improved climate at Jefferson's beneficial to the social well-being and economic development of the area surrounding Jefferson and

to the City of Portland. "If the school were to be closed it would be a step backward, destroying a great deal of positive achievement in the recovery and maintaining of a very viable area in Portland. Such a closure would be a terrible blow in the entire minority community in a well-articulated cry for quality education in neighborhood integrity would be violated with the loss of Jefferson High School?"

According to the parents, this year 44 to 47 percent of the students living in the Jefferson area attend Jefferson - a fact that is considered to be "lack of community support" by the School Closure/Consolidation Committee. "The primary reason that more students residing or the Jefferson area are not attending Jefferson High School is due to the past and current school desegregation policies." Blacks are encouraged to attend other schools.

A second cause is recruitment to specialized programs in other schools - Benson, Cleveland, Washington/Monroe, and Lincoln.

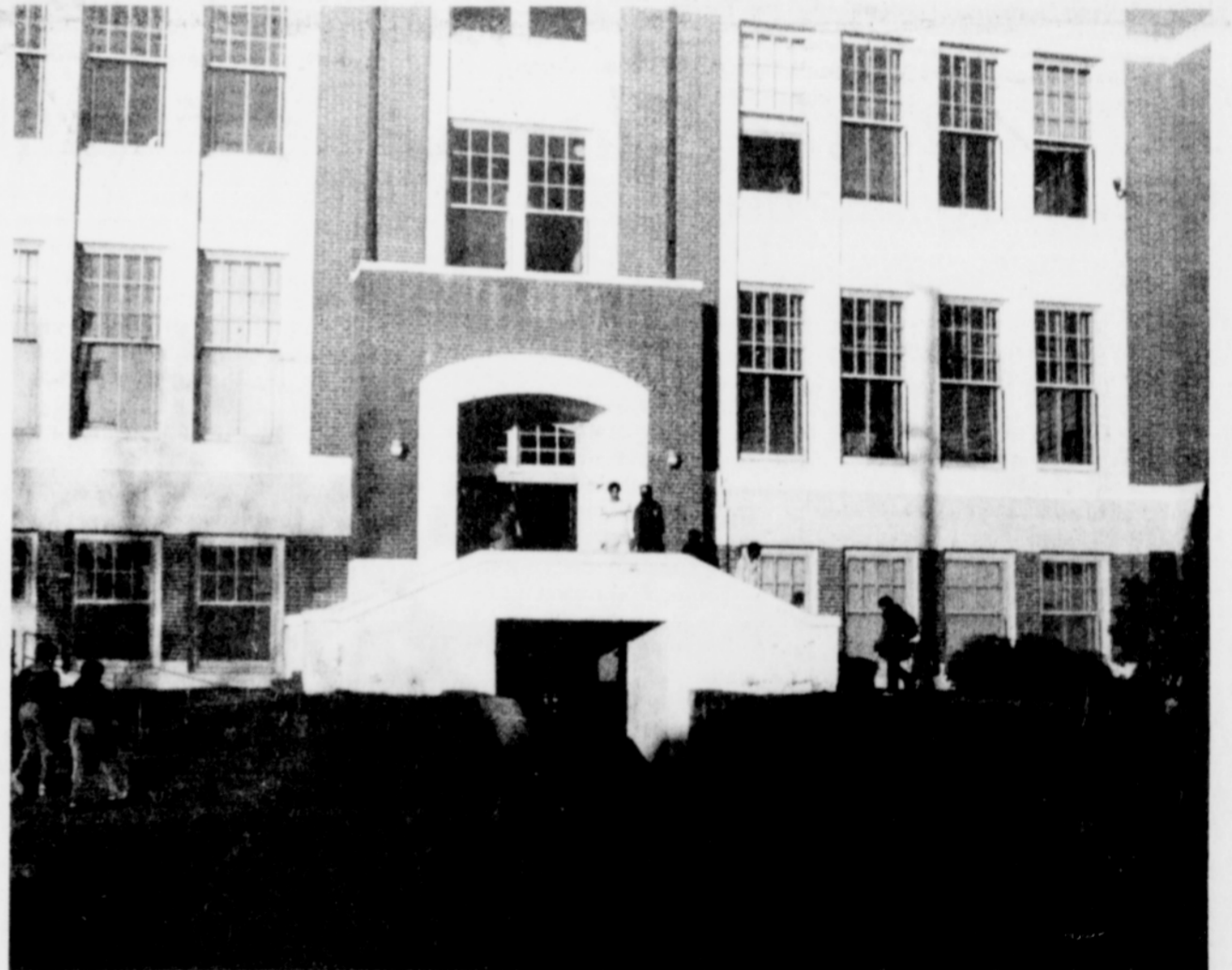
Also, Jefferson would be unable to accommodate all of its resident students and still have space for the Performing Arts magnet.

This year there are 459 students in the magnet program: 155 in dance, 91 in music, 101 in television, 86 in theatre, and 26 in the legal secretary course.

In addition, the students at Portland Community College/Cascade are able to enroll in dance classes at Jefferson.

Jefferson - along with Roosevelt - has the most stable enrollment in the district. Current minority enrollment is 46.5 percent.

The Friends of Jefferson recommended expansion of math and sciences, and computer assistant instruction at Jefferson.



Although Jefferson High School is not currently on the list of potential school closures submitted by the Committee on School Closure/Consolidation, neighborhood residents and parents who fear it might be added to the list have rallied to support the school. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Youth centers promote self-help

Low self-esteem, lack of self-confidence, and isolation are believed to be the major causes of youth crime. The City's five Youth Service Centers, funded by the City of Portland, provide diversion programs designed to keep young people out of the juvenile justice system and to help them find acceptable modes of behavior.

"One of the biggest problems facing young people in our community today is that they seem to be shut out of the adult world," Sarah Newhall, Administrator of the programs for the Bureau of Human Resources, said. "Of course as people get to the age of 15, 16, 17 the people they are copying are adults. They want to experience adult type entertainment; they begin to experiment with drugs and alcohol; they begin to experiment with sex. Without strong adult role models sometimes young people don't get off to as good footing as they should. One of the things the youth service centers do is try to provide these adult role models with the educational setting and the job setting. With the assistance of very competent staff people, we see a

very positive outcome from those programs.

"If in our society people can't find employment they feel shut out of society in general. That is one of

the biggest problems that young people are facing today. They are being deprived of normal working experiences until their late teen years. Then they may have a first job at age 19 and they might have developed good work habits. This increases the likelihood of them failing on the job."

The three main program features are personal and family counseling, employment assistance and recreational activities. The approach is to try to improve the level of skills and self-esteem so young people can learn how to better solve their own problems and learn to find their own jobs, find their own way through the education system; to reinforce young peoples strengths rather than create a depending on agencies.

"We're trying to put small scale activities together for 10, 11, 13, 14 year olds so they can learn some of those work habits and communication skills, so they can be

more effective when they grow up and are in positions when they need to support themselves or a family," she further explained.

Ms. Newhall administers the program - writing budgets, planning with the County, police and other agencies, and develops networks among the youth serving agencies. She established and directed the Southeast center for over three years, when she had direct contact with young people and their families.

Young people are referred to the centers by the police and law officials, by parents and social agencies, or find the program themselves. "The type of person who comes to us usually is not feeling very good about himself, may be having problems at home or may be having problems at school in terms of finding that they aren't achieving successfully."

Diversion is a plan whereby police officers have the option of either taking juveniles into custody or referring them to the youth service centers. Those referred are most often first or second time offenders (Please turn to Page 3 Col 1)



Senator Kulongoski attacks racism in high places

In an impassioned speech to the State Senate last Tuesday, Senator Ted Kulongoski reported that opponents of the University of Oregon's Environmental Law Clinic "are now attacking the Dean of the University of Oregon's Law School because he's Black, because of the fact they said he's a civil rights activist and we can't tolerate that type of individual in Oregon." He continued, "If these people want to address this issue on that level, if they insist on attacking the integrity of Mr. Derrick Bell because he will not bend to their desires; then if it's a fight they want, I'm going to give them that fight."

The Environmental Law Clinic, which is designed to give law students "on the job" training while in

school, has come under fire from some timber interests because it has successfully intervened in timber operations on behalf of environmentalists.

According to a Eugene Register Guard article, Irv Fletcher, executive secretary of the Lane County Labor Council reported that Eugene attorney Lewis Hoftment, legal counsel for lumberman Aaron Jones, told a group of business and labor leaders that unless the Environmental Law Clinic is abandoned, he will withhold a promised \$250,000 donation to the University's proposed basketball pavilion.

Fletcher also told the Register Guard that Hoffman has criticized Derrick Bell and implied that he, as a civil rights activists, would give

unfair support to left-wing and environmental causes.

Bell, a former attorney with the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and a professor at Harvard University, became Dean of the University of Oregon Law School on January 1, 1981.

The text of Senator Kulongoski's remarks follows, (Emphasis ours):

...There is an event that is occurring that has been given some recent publicity that I think, that I had originally hoped I would not be required to speak on until the time comes that the measure is brought up before the Legislature. If you will bear with me I would hope that we all would understand the implications of what I say and become

as concerned as I am about the direction that some people in the state are proposing that our institutions of higher education particularly the University of Oregon move into.

Specifically, you all know that there has been a recent controversy over the Environmental Law Clinic that is located at the University of Oregon. And I originally, as I say, intended to wait until the measure came before the Legislature to address you. Last session with the Malheur Field Station there was another controversy and, my colleagues, that issue was addressed very cordially, very honestly and very openly by this legislative body.

But the people today who are after the Environmental Law Center

are using other means and it's interesting to me that, in the law, when we attempt to take someone's money we refer to that as extortion. But in fact, individuals today are attempting to extort the minds of the young people of the state by putting the University of Oregon into a position that if in fact they will not abandon the Environmental Law Clinic that these individuals' support of the University will close.

Now I can understand the pressure that they are putting to bear and I can even tolerate at a meeting this last week when they flaunted their support and their power on the Ways and Means Committee of this Legislature to do in the higher education budget for (Please turn to Page 5 Col 1)