



For the children of Atlanta and for all children who are hungry, suffer and live in fear.

Jefferson High community fights for survival

Emotions ran high as members of the Jefferson High School community defended their school against closure. The School Board is attempting to close three high schools.

Ronnie Herndon, co-chairman of the Black United Front, told the board that the fact so many people had to be there to defend their school is a "tragedy," referring to promises made to the community a year ago that Jefferson and Adams would be retained, and Tubman

Middle School put in the Eliot building, he said the failure to keep that promise is absurd.

He accused the board and superintendent of an "appalling lack of courage, guts and intestinal fortitude" and "double dealing" for the failure to come to the community to discuss possible changes in their commitment prior to making the new proposals public. "We read about it in the newspaper," he said. "You didn't

even have the courage to come back to us and tell us you couldn't keep your promise."

He said it is easy to pass resolutions about South Africa but "When it comes to treating Blacks in your own back yard with respect you fail to do it." After the "pain and havoc" you have wreaked in this community for the last 20 years, the Board should gladly spend \$3 million to provide a middle school for Black children, he said.

R.J. Culley, a member of the Jefferson Advisory Committee, said Jefferson has not been treated with equity. Saying the district is at default, he warned the Board to insure quality education for Jefferson students before returning to the government for funds. He reminded them of Oregon laws that say no person shall be denied equal participation because of race.

Earl Keaton, president of the Woodlawn Advisory Committee,

said closure of Jefferson would injure the Black community for years to come. If we are misused again, "we will bring this unjust school system down book, by book by damned book."

Pina Williams, speaking for the Jefferson teachers said 40 percent of the incoming freshman read below the 6th grade level and at the end of the 9th grade 27 percent remain below 6th grade level. There is "a significant achievement" compared

to the district results. Jefferson gain of 6.28 point average excludes the Area 1 average of 3.2 points gain. The staff is concerned that Title I student benefits will be lost, high student-teacher ratio will hinder students, cuts in federal funds will cause further damage, and redistricting will destroy the neighborhood.

Additional testimony dealt with the special needs of Jefferson students and commitment by the staff to meet these needs.

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Ben Clark and Zeenab Johnson visit Urban 4-H multi-cultural fair. The fair is held annually to

demonstrate the multi-ethnic nature of the community. (Photo: Richard Brown)

Forum discusses police

A community forum on Police/Community relations - the second in a series - will discuss the citizen complaint process, how complaints are processed, disciplinary procedures and legal recourse for citizens.

Among the panel members will be Captain Ron Aichley, director of the Internal Affairs, the office that investigates citizen complaints against police officers; Deputy Chief Phil Smith, who will represent Chief Baker and discuss discipline procedures; and Stan Peters, representing the Portland Police Association, who will explain the union's role in discipline.

District Attorney Mike Schrank, Chief Deputy DA Barry Scheldahl and a representative from the Public Defender's office will discuss the legal rights of citizens who believe they have been abused by police officers.

The forum will be held at Bourbon Street, Northeast Grand and Wiedler, at 9:30 p.m., Saturday, May 2nd. The public is urged to participate.



Roy Stubbs at the podium.

Accepting the challenge

Roy Stubbs is a teacher who has always tried to find a job that would challenge him to build something where things would have not been before. In moving to Portland this year he not only accepted a challenge but has succeeded greatly in his work: re-creating a high school music program at the Catlin Gabel School.

Born and raised in Aberdeen, North Carolina, Stubbs was immersed in music from his youngest years. He organized and led a community choir while he was still in junior high school; he went on to play trumpet in the high school band and sing leading roles in school operettas.

where "It was hard to teach. The Indians didn't seem to be interested in music or even their own culture. I couldn't learn new things and it turned out to be depressing."

"I was attracted to Catlin Gabel because I like building programs, and this music department has gotten pretty disorganized. It's been a real challenge." In September, four students showed up for the first concert choir class; by December there were more than seventy members in the choir. Stubbs has also started a jazz/rock ensemble, small vocal and string ensembles, and an all-school community chorus that includes faculty, parents, and students. At the Oregon Music

Black women build the community

By Pamela Douglas

(Editor's Note: With the gap between affluent America and the American poor growing ever greater, Blacks, especially, fear that the 1980s will be a very dark decade. But in the face of great odds, Black women appear to be holding their communities together, often on their own, despite the cutbacks in federal aid, disappointment with the feminist movement, the absence of Black men at their sides. Now solely responsible for nearly half of all Black households, the Black woman, indomitable as William Faulkner once wrote, will endure. Pamela Douglas, a Los Angeles novelist and screenplay writer, is a PNS contributing editor and a regular contributor to *Black Enterprise* and *Essence*.)

There is a story that Black women tell each other, about an old slave who could finally take no more abuse. I plan to tell it to my own daughter, who will turn 21 in the year 2000 -- not because it says something about violence, but because it has to do with the refusal to die.

And I hope she accepts this difficult legacy not as a burden but as a trust.

The old woman, according to this story, was plowing in the field when an overseer came by and reprimanded her for being so slow. Then he lashed her severely with a whip for having the temerity to talk back. The woman, it is said, picked up her hoe and killed him with it. Whatever the odds, she had decided to take control of her own life.

The old woman with the hoe lives secretly in many of us, still fighting, though in subtler, more legal ways.

Today she's a 60-year-old lightly touching the corsage that a community center gave her for 25 years of service, as she listens to the keynote speech at the annual fundraising dinner. The speaker will call her to the platform next, she thinks, and she feels embraced. She's only done what had to be done. She ran the office, answered the phones, gave out donated turkeys on holidays, listened to the troubles of the young, and lately listened much more to the troubles of the old. And most of all, she was always dependably there.

Around 1969, a lot of money came to the center, and with it men with titles like Director and Deputy Director, who made salaries that seemed fabulous to her. They made her "secretary" and she did all the work for them. Their pictures ap-

peared in the papers, although hers never did.

Then, one day around 1974, the money stopped and the men with the titles disappeared. And quietly she and other women like her simply continued the work that had never really ended.

Twenty years ago, when she was forty and a devoted follower of Martin Luther King, she'd hoped that by 1980 centers like hers would no longer be needed, that Blacks would have been truly "lifted up." But now she's settling in for another 20 years.

The spirit of the old woman with the hoe also persists in a 19-year-old at the door to her first job. She stands surrounded by the ghosts of her mothers. She's the beginning: the first of her mother's children to finish high school and who didn't have to learn to recognize the word "colored" on a bathroom door.

The pay is barely over the minimum wage, the office is dingy, the hours are long and there's little chance for advancement. But to her it's a start.

And the old woman with the hoe is a mother, sitting with her seven-year-old at the kitchen table in the evening, teaching the lesson that wasn't taught in school. How could it have been, with 40 students in each class and the halls patrolled by Black community that we women are going to have to be strong."

Eleanor Holmes Norton, former Commissioner for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) agrees. She points out that 40 percent of Black households are now headed by women, and 50 percent of all Black children are brought up solely by women. The Black community, she says, has imparted the task of building for the

policemen because drugs are sold there and violence is endemic? She remembers her own mother teaching her this way and wonders if, one day, her daughter will have to sit at a table like this and teach her grandchild, too.

And the woman with the hoe is a professional at the height of her career, in a richly-appointed corporate office. Affirmative Action opened the doors of an Ivy League college to her, but she knows she has only limited power. So her battles are small and carefully chosen. Like the other women, she feels she's on the front line of a battle, alone against an army. And she can't, she won't give up.

Black women are emerging as leaders in the Eighties because they're walking in the paths cut by generations of Black women -- and because absolute necessity demands it.

Jan Douglass, Director of the Community Relations Department and the Commission on the Status of Women for Atlanta, Georgia, expresses a common fear among Blacks as the economy continues to skid and cutbacks in social programs are planned: "The Eighties are going to be a monster," she says. "It will be so bad for the future to its women -- and they are doing it alone."

Some of that building process can be watched on the public stage, where Black women play an increasingly important political role. In California, for example, four of the six Blacks elected to the state legislature from Los Angeles are women. And of all statewide elected officials who are Black, women comprise fully half.

But the story of Black women is a (Please turn to page 10 col. 4)



A few minutes relaxation during choir practice.

"I always wanted to be a teacher - I always knew I would be a teacher. And, having learned to teach, I've gone to look for new places and things."

In 1967 Stubbs received a BA in Music Education from Allen University. From Allen he moved on to Northern Illinois University and then to Grove City College in Pennsylvania. At Grove City he took Fred Waring Workshop and learned about theater, light, sound, and choral techniques. He has also studied music curriculum and advanced choral conducting at the University of Guam while teaching music and English for the Department of education in Guam.

Stubbs came to Catlin Gabel after a year at the Busby School of Northern Cheyenne in Montana

Educators' Solo and Ensemble Festival in March, Stubbs oversaw forty student entries.

"The kids here are very receptive to the things I want to give them. We have built a very warm and comfortable relationship with each other." Senior Karen Searcy claims, "Roy has pushed us toward finding self-confidence. He has helped us to get out and do things we should be doing anyway. There are a lot of 'firsts' this year because he has brought out a lot of latent talent."

Search continues, "Roy has helped Catlin Gabel reach out into the community on a different level than before. More than that, we had a Black History assembly in February that brought to the campus Dr. William Little from PSU's (Please turn to page 2 col. 6)