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# Cawthorne plan saves Adams, Jefferson schools

Herb Cawthorne moved Monday night to halt the expected closure of Adams High School. Cawthorne said his motive was to save the fine facility at Adams and to protect Jefferson from overcrowding.

The proposed closure of Adams, with the assignment of students from Woodlawn, Franklin and possibly Vernon to Jefferson, and the closure of Washington/Monroe with assignment of King, Boise and Eliot to Jefferson, would create an attendance area with 2493 students. The Jefferson building has a capacity of 1700 students and currently includes 199 magnet program students.

The Adams and Jefferson attendance area contain the second and

third largest numbers of students in the district, although a large percentage of those students attend other schools.

During the past ten years it was the policy of the district to recruit Black students out of the Albina schools in order to replace them with white pre-school children for the purpose of desegregation. A situation was created where there was not room in the schools for the neighborhood children, requiring heavy recruiting of "administrative transfers" because the schools were filled, students who did transfer out could not return to their neighborhood schools.

The desegregation plan adopted last fall reversed that policy and provided space for every child that

wants to attend the neighborhood school.

In light of that policy, Cawthorne asked how the board could justify a plan that would over enroll Jefferson to the point that 1,000 students would have to be recruited out. "Does that not create the kind of pressure that necessitates making sure that Black children don't go to Jefferson - that a huge percent don't go to Jefferson?"

This overcrowding will lead to the perception that Jefferson is not a good school, he said. It is necessary to say that Jefferson is not a good school to get the Black students out.

"They would not consider over-enrolling Lincoln or Wilson," Cawthorne told the *Observer*. They

have over enrolled Black schools to force the students out for desegregation. If they want to desegregate let them over enroll Lincoln and Wilson; let them have just one school on the West side. Then they could force white students out of their neighborhoods and let them do the desegregating."

Saying he is no longer interested in numerical quotas or percentages of Black students, Cawthorne recalled that many Black students from the Jefferson area attend Washington/Monroe and Jackson, schools now slated for closure, "and I hope they return to Jefferson."

Cawthorne proposed that Adams be retained and pledged to assist the

community to rebuild the school program. He also recommended that the magnet programs at Washington/Monroe, previously Monroe High School, be transferred to Adams since many of the girls in those programs are from the Jefferson, Grant and Adams areas.

He also proposed that only Washington/Monroe and Jackson be closed, and that further study be done before closing a third high school the following year.

Cawthorne said he has received considerable support from parents of Monroe students.

A more controversial proposal was to establish the Tubman Middle School at Boise's building and to assign Boise's 6th through 8th

graders to Tubman. Boise's Pre-K through 5th graders would go to the Eliot building. The new Eliot building could house the Boise and Eliot resident students and approximately 100 transfer students.

Opposition to the Boise site came from Ronnie Herndon, Chairman of the Black United Front, at the Tuesday night public hearing. Herndon asked that the promise to place Tubman at the Eliot site be kept and that Boise be retained as a Pre-K-8 school. Reverend John Jackson asked that before a decision to place the school at Boise is made, the community be involved in the decision.

Ed Washington, Chairman of the (Please turn to Page 7 Col 3)

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## Sykes represents Jefferson



PRINCESS VENESSA SYKES

Representing Jefferson High School in the Rose Festival Court, is Venessa Ranae Sykes, 17-year-old graduating senior.

Participation in the Rose Court has been a long time dream of Venessa, who twice was in the finals for Jr. Court selection. Representing Jefferson is especially exciting, since she is very proud of her school.

When enrolling at Jefferson as a freshman, Venessa set four goals for herself: National Honor Society, Rally, Jefferson Dancers and Princess. Now she has achieved all of her goals.

A student in the Performing Arts Program, Venessa is a member of the Jefferson Dancers and the Performers Group. She has been a member of the rally squad for three years. She also is class Historian.

Venessa is on the advisory board of the North/Northeast Mental Health Clinic - representing young people. She teaches Sunday school at Grace and Truth Church and has been active in March of Dimes fund raising.

She participated in Debutante 1981.

She plans to attend the University of Oregon, majoring in performing arts and communications.

She is the daughter of Earl and Marilyn Sykes. She has a sister, Carmen, 19, who is a freshman at Southern Oregon College and a younger brother, Earl, Jr., 11.

## Police meet with citizens

A public forum will be held Monday night, May 18, at 7:30 p.m., at King Neighborhood Facility.

Proposals will be submitted to the Police Bureau on May 23rd, 9:30 a.m., at Bourbon Street Restaurant.

The purpose of the meeting, according to Nyewusi Askari of the *Observer*, who will chair the meeting, is to review the information acquired at the three preceding forums, consider citizens' concerns, and develop a series of recommendations to be presented to the police bureau. Among the areas to be discussed are police hiring and training, citizen complaint procedures, abuse of force, directions for humane policing of the area.

Police officers met with community members last Saturday: Donald Warren, Ray Jones, Sgt. Earl Johnson, Detective Tony Newman, and Captain Dennis Daley.

Donald Warren expressed his interest, as a Black officer, in serving the community. He is at times

criticized by peers because he spends "too much time" with complaints. Sgt. Johnson attempts to train the 23 officers he supervises by spending time with them. Since their conduct is a reflection on him, he is sensitive to complaints, he said. He considers police to be hindered in the Black community by lack of assistance from persons who are aware of Black on Black crime.

Detective Newman feels there is not an adequate commitment to hiring Blacks and that two-day seminars in human relations do little to change police attitudes. Training should be continued, with continued emphasis "from the top." The only way to affect which officers is to have them working with Black officers.

Officer Ray Jones, a 17½ year veteran, said his role is to "protect you" and that "nobody is out there arresting people because they are Black." Calling police "minorities" he explained the isolation police feel when they are rejected by friends

because of their jobs. He estimated only 10 percent of Blacks are criminals. He "has nothing against Blacks" but does not approve of the "two list" hiring system that would enable more Blacks to be hired because the Black officers might never be accepted by their peers.

Captain Daley newly assigned head of Community Affairs, called the police bureau a "service organization." Daley came under fire when he disputed the firing of two police officers who threw possums - saying he was not sure it was racist or vicious. He did not believe that incident would have a bearing on an officer's judgement in deciding whether to shoot and kill. As for the firing, "Should the baby be thrown out with the bath?"

Among the concerns expressed by citizens were the attitude of officers toward Blacks, lack of commitment to hiring Blacks, lack of opportunity for citizen participation in policy making.



Captain Dennis Daley, newly assigned director of Community Affairs Division, explains his role at Police/Community forum. Seated to Daley's right

are: Seargent Earl Johnson and detective Tony Newman.

(Photo: Richard Brown)

## ACT-SO: No excellence?

by Pam Smith

The date May 6th; the time 7:00 p.m.; the place the Willamette Center downtown; the event, the final Portland ACT-SO competition. This is the awaited night when the Portland representative will be selected to compete in the national competitions in Denver, Colorado ... only no one was chosen.

One could sense the excitement upon entering the auditorium. Participating students roamed the lobby along with their parents, coaches, and friends anxiously awaiting the performances which students had spent the last few months perfecting. The students whose works were not in the area of performing arts were also able to exhibit their projects as they were attractively displayed on tables outside the auditorium.

It was time for the program to start. Master of Ceremonies, Art Alexander of KOAP Radio, began the show by introducing 1981 Chairperson Commissioner Gladys McCoy. She delivered a brief welcome and explanation of ACT-SO and a sincere appreciation for all those who participated in this year's event. That was followed by a prayer by Reverend L. Fisher Hines of Bethel AME Church.

It's finally over. The program was enjoyed by all who attended and participated. Now comes intermission time. Students gathered in the lobby with their family and friends wearing smiles. Congratulations were being expressed every-

where you turned and the students were eagerly awaiting the moment when the awards would be given out and the 1981 national competition announced an honor that each participant had hoped for.

After 15 minutes or so of intermission, people started entering the auditorium as music from the Broadway hit musical "The Wiz" and music of other great Black artists provided a pleasant background.

That 15 minutes was just the beginning of the waiting that was to come. Art Alexander explained several times to the audience that the judges were having an extremely difficult time making a decision. Almost 45 minutes went by before the judges finally emerged from their room.

No one would have ever guessed what words Commissioner McCoy was going to speak as she approached center stage.

Unlike her opening address, this one was not brief and one could sense from her tone of voice that something was strange. She again thanked everyone for participating and explained that everyone was a winner simply by virtue of the fact that they had gotten themselves involved in this Olympics of the Mind.

But the sudden, penetrating shock came when she stated that no one was going to the nationals because the judges had decided that no one was excellent enough. The explanation was that the judges had made a criteria which stated that all

those students scoring total points above 90 in each of the four major categories would be judged to determine who the overall winner was, and thus the national representative. Each of the students received a copy of that criteria the night before the final competition at dress rehearsal. Commissioner McCoy stated that the ACT-SO committee and judges didn't want to send anybody to nationals to be embarrassed. "There was no one," she went on to explain, "Who scored in the 90's, so instead of not awarding anyone, the judges have decided to give one Silver Medal and two Bronze Medals."

In the area of the performing arts the Silver Medal was awarded to Stephina Waldon of Jackson High School and the two Bronze Medals went to Corey Pritchett of Benson and Stacey Washington of Jackson. No other awards were given in the other three major categories of Visual Arts, Humanities and Science, and no explanation was given as to why there were no awards or mention of the students. Later the chairperson explained that the judges were under so much pressure that evening that they simply neglected to acknowledge the winners in each of those categories.

Now a reception has been planned to honor these winners. It will be held May 27th at 5:30 p.m., at Bethel AME Church. "Of course it will never undo the hurt and disappointment of that night," said (Please turn to page 8 col 5)

## New code 'defines interference'

The Portland City Council adopted two new ordinances on April 9th that affect police work. Captain Vern McCabe, commander of the North Precinct, asking that the ordinances be publicized, said, "I'm hoping our cooperation in publicizing these ordinances will avoid both disagreement and arrests of people who really do not intend to violate them, but are acting out of an interest in the community."

The code, "Interfering with a police officer (Section 14.08.140) states that a police officer has the authority to leave the area of an arrest, custody or stop and to remain at least ten feet away from the officer. The distance can be extended beyond ten feet if the officer reasonably believes that necessary because there exists a substantial risk of physical danger to any person.

To enforce this ordinance the of-

ficer must be engaged in effecting an arrest, a custody or a stop; the officer must be identified as a police officer; the person must be directed to leave the area; the officer must show that the person refused to remove himself or that he did move but returned to the area.

An extension of the area beyond ten feet must be a reasonable distance and for a reasonable time. It should only be attempted when there is substantial risk of physical danger.

This ordinance does not restrict verbal interference. Officers have been asked to use it "judiciously" and "correctly."

The second ordinance, "Authority to restrict access to certain areas" (Section 14.24.170) allows officers to restrict access to the public under certain conditions.

The authority to deny access exists when there is a threat to public

health or safety, such as fire, explosion, accident, national disaster, or when public safety is threatened by riot, presence of an armed person or a hostage situation. Or, authority exists when it appears necessary to preserve a crime scene or collect evidence of criminal acts.

Any officer can restrict or deny access to these areas. They can be buildings, rooms, enclosures or open areas. When possible, they should be cordoned off with ropes; persons, or other means.

The ordinance makes it unlawful for any person to enter or refuse to leave unless the person has specific authority to be there or has permission of the ranking police officer.

Violation of both ordinances is punishable by up to 6 months in jail, a \$500 fine, or both, and are Class B Misdemeanors.