

OBSERVATIONS

from the Sidelines

By Kathryn Hall Bogle

"Harriett Tubman Middle School is alive and well!" announces Edith Wilson. She should know as she is principal of this school now at the end of its first year of existence.

Harriett Tubman Middle School will be graduating 115 of its students into the City's high schools on the evening of June 9 from their own auditorium in the (old Monroe) building at 2508 N.E. Everett street.

The entire enrollment at Tubman, adding up the 6th, 7th and 8th graders who make up the student body, comes to 420. "We are pleased with what has happened at Harriett Tubman in our first year," stated Mrs. Wilson. "At our Academic Awards Assembly last Thursday, we were happy to be able to hand out 200 achievement certificates to our students who had grade averages between 3.0 and 4.0! We are proud of that."

Staff and students are getting acquainted with each other, our ground rules are set and being understood, and our expectations are high. Discipline has changed dramatically since last fall at opening. For the first three months of the term we had 76 suspensions overall. This spring term we had no more than 16. We are proud of that too!

"Our students come from homes all over the Portland school district and at this time, we are ready to receive applications for the fall enrollment for 1981. In fact we have already had about 60 parents come to Tubman for orientation for their children fall classes."

Mrs. Wilson pointed out that while parents from other areas in the city are invited to send their children to Tubman, students who come from King and Humboldt, the "feeder" schools, have first claim on vacancies in the classrooms at this time. She urges King and Humboldt parents who intend to enroll their children at Harriett Tubman, to do so without delay.

A teen-ager, for the first time, will be added to the executive board of the local branch of the Urban League, according to Freddie Pettet, Urban League Executive. The League's program for Youth Leadership and Development, through its coordinator, Ruth White, has set up a training program for community youth to learn the inner workings of community organizations, Mrs. Pettet said.

Mrs. White recommended Lisa Manning, a 16 year old Jefferson High School sophomore, to be the first person to sit in with the regularly chosen adult members of the League's board. The appointment is for a three-month period.

Said Lisa, "It will be an impor-

tant step for me to be a part of a decision-making organization and to see how the organization works in the community. My goal is to see that where youth is involved youth will have something to say."

Lisa, born in Portland, is the daughter of Georgia and Vollie Manning.

Both Mrs. Pettet and Mrs. White believes that the idea of adding young persons to organizational boards will set a national trend for Urban League offices.

Jeffersonians are keeping a close watch on the weather charts and hoping for bright warm weather for early June. Their interest in the weather is more intense this year than usual for the class of June 1981 is to receive their diplomas on their own turf. That means outside on their own campus.

For the first time in memory the seniors in their traditional caps and gowns will file down the aisles toward the heroic statue of Thomas Jefferson to hear their commencement address.

The severe crunch in the school district budget is said to be the reason for forsaking the style and comfort of a larger auditorium space as in the near past. So it will be folding chairs outside for the 1200 ticket holders including parents, family and friends invited to the ceremonies.

There are to be 158 graduating seniors, according to Delores Bowman, vice-principal in charge. "If it does rain," says Bowman, "We will hurry inside to our own auditorium where we can seat exactly 1200 ticket holders. We are grateful to Jefferson's Dads' club for gathering up all those borrowed chairs and for taking the responsibility for getting them all back to their owners after the exercises are over," she concluded.

Carmen Walker, long time counsellors at Jefferson, sees this class of '81 graduate from her own new position as their college career coordinator.

City Commissioner Charles Jordan will be commencement speaker. Commencement date is Monday, June 1. Time is set for 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Bobbie Bonner Nunn was awarded a trophy recently by the Second NAACP Women's Conference held in Cincinnati, Ohio in early May. Her trophy, enroute by mail to her, signified "The Outstanding Women's Award for 1981," a recognition given to outstanding women around the nation who "make unique contributions to their communities by their involvement in civic activities."

Word of the honor in preparation for her did not reach Mrs. Nunn in time for her to arrange to attend the



BOBBIE NUNN

festivities planned, but her name was among those honored at a special luncheon held at Cincinnati's Westin Hotel and at a reception at the Netherland Hilton at Dayton, Ohio.

In Portland, Mrs. Nunn has had a long association with the local branch of the NAACP. Currently she functions as a board member and as Chairperson of the Legal Redress Committee. She has been employed for 26 years with the District I of the Portland Public Schools in various positions in the organization. At present she is Desegregation Specialist in the office of Community Relations.

Among her volunteer community activities, Mrs. Nunn, who is the immediate past president of the Portland Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, is well known for her leadership qualities as a member of the National Alliance of Black School Educators and as a member of its National Resolution committee. Already a member of FAIR, a dismissal appeals board for the Oregon Board of Education, Mrs. Nunn was recently appointed by Governor Victor Atiyeh to the Commission on Black Affairs.

Mrs. Nunn's interest in the education of Black students drew her like a magnet to work with the Black Colleges Day Committee, a national organization established to encourage students to attend Black colleges. She also works with a changing group of women college students for career planning.

Other awards have come to Mrs. Nunn in the recent past; notable among them are: an award from the Conference of Christians and Jews for her activities in the larger community; from Kraft Foods, and from the Miss Tan Portland Pageant Committee for her involvement in community affairs.

Mrs. Nunn and her husband, Joseph Nunn, also of the Portland Public Schools, are the parents of two adult children, Darla Nunn Jones and Joe Nunn. Mrs. Nunn's mother is Mrs. Robert Harris of this city.

The family attends the Episcopal Church of St. Phillip the Deacon.

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Young, gifted and Black

By Nathaniel Scott

Rose Marie Holiman, young, gifted and Black, divide her time between attending school, working two jobs and writing; the first love of the three.

Rose, a native of Seattle, Washington, attends Portland Community College, (Cascade campus), and is working to be writer, a dispenser of feeling and understanding that will bring joy and happiness to those around her. "I write for two reasons," she said. "One is that I have a better understanding of myself, and the other is to give people a closer understanding of their feelings."

She said, "Your mind wanders -- in many directions, picking up vibes, feeling things, that's why I say, being a writer is a gift."

Rose engages in demonstration marches and evaluation of her Black brothers and sisters. "I demonstrate in marches because I feel that it is a way to show people that I care and that I am looking for a change."

"I would like to establish my own business stationary, selling greeting cards, posters, and so forth."

"There is a lot of Black talent here in Portland, but when most Blacks fail, they won't pick themselves up and try again. We need a change of negative thoughts that people have on race and color," she concluded.

Rose Marie Holiman, a Black woman working for the betterment of the whole.



ROSE MARIE HOLIMAN