

METROPOLITAN

Class of 1983: Boise's last graduation

Boise Elementary School held its last 8th grade graduation Thursday. The school will close its doors and after complete renovation, will reopen as an Early Childhood Education Center serving children from pre-school through 5th grade.

Principal David McCrea praised Ronnie Herndon, co-chairman of the Black United Front, the BUF, and other community activists who made the change possible. When Boise reopens all its students will be able to walk to either the ECEC or Tubman Middle School.

Speaker for the occasion was Ronnie Herndon, who urged the students to make the best use of their high school years to prepare for the future.

"I can't paint a very rosey picture," he said. "Millions of people in the country are unemployed — people who have high school diplomas and college degrees. You will be out there competing with them, trying to get a job."

"The world has changed drastically. Oregon is one of the biggest lumber states but mills have closed all over the state. With new technology they don't need people to do the work."

Using the analogy of the blacksmith of the horse and buggy age who became obsolete when the car came into existence, he urged them to study math and science.

"Take math and computer classes. Learn how computers work because in years to come the computer will be commonplace. If you are not at ease with it you will be like the



Ronnie Herndon, co-chair of the Black United Front, addresses Boise graduates.

blacksmith — you will be obsolete. "If you don't prepare, your start will be your finish."

Herndon asked the students to thank their parents for making their educations possible and advised them to learn regardless of the obstacles.

"You have to learn what's in that book. No matter what the principal says, learn the subject matter. Once up here, no one can take it from you."

Mrs. Laura Glosson, retiring 8th

grade teacher, told the students that the day was a crossroads. "Think fondly of things gone by; look forward with hopes and plans and wonder what will come."

"It's up to you to set some goals and accept the responsibility of attaining them. This will take courage and dedication."

Graduates, who were presented their diplomas by McCrea and Mrs. Glosson, were: James Barfield, Tracy Bell, Tony Briggs, Jerald Brisco, LaVerne Calvin, Zer Cha, Hiram Clark, Kathy Edwards, John

Folk, Afia Granville, Rose Hall, Crystal Hammick, Ted Hart, Kim Holm, Michael Jackson, Marilyn Jefferson, Patty Jeffries, Johnny Jefferson, Sharon Johnson, Drua Lao, Michael Leonard, Patricia Lovins, Aretha Madison, Jason Manley, DeAngelo Martin, Michael Morris, Serena Moye, Phath Nyothsom, Elnora Phillips, Corlita Riley, Randy Shaffer, Bernetta Sly, Barbara Staples, Lisa Stewart, Trina Stewart, David Stigler, Lois Wyllie, Leslie Wyllie and Shane Redford.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Senator McCoy joins Ways & Means

Senator Bill McCoy (D-Portland) has been recently appointed to the Joint Ways and Means Committee. The Joint Ways and Means Committee has always been considered to be one of the most powerful committees in the legislative process. This biennium the committee has the task of appropriating 3.1 billion dollars to fund state agencies and state programs.

The full Joint Ways and Means Committee is comprised of 8 senators and 8 representatives. The full committee is divided into six various

sub-committees. The sub-committees have responsibility of taking first action on a particular bill. Generally, if a bill is to be amended, procedure is completed in sub-committee hearings. After a bill has passed a sub-committee the bill then goes to the full Joint Committee for a vote. If passed the bill is referred to the Senate floor and House floor for approval.

The Joint Ways and Means Committee members are deliberating on some 500 bills. This session many of these bills will have a direct effect on North and Northeast Portlanders.

First, the Medically Needy bill, which if enacted will provide medical assistance to hundreds of thousands of families who lack the income and resources to obtain health care for both parents and dependents. Secondly, approval of the Children Services Division budget which proposes a "New Direction Plan" to downsize the MacLaren and Hillcrest Schools by placing youths in community homes and local facilities. Thirdly, the funding of a bill to establish a community development finance corporation that proposes to expand employment opportunities and strengthen the economy in low-income areas, one of the sub-committees that Senator McCoy serves on as a

member will review procedures and guidelines for the Workers Compensation Department and the Workers Compensation Board.

Senator McCoy states, "This is the most exciting time to become a member of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, since less than 10% of all budgetary decisions have been finalized." He also believes that his input will be particularly helpful in the areas of human resources programs that are designed to aid needy families in his district.

Individuals seeking more information on the progress of the Joint Ways and Means Committee can call Senator McCoy's office at 229-5700 or write to State Capitol, Rm. S-209, Salem, OR 97310.

Beware of withholding tax

If your household includes a teenager who will be earning a paycheck for the first time this summer, prepare him or her for the shock of deductions nibbling away at total wages.

According to Cal R. Williams, Multnomah County Extension agent, first-time workers are often surprised and discouraged by the deductions and the difference between gross pay and take-home pay.

"For many jobs, social security is deducted from your check as FICA (Federal Insurance Contributions Act)," Ms. Williams says. "This provides disability protection and benefits for retirement. Both the employee and the employer make payments."

Taxes can be another hefty bite, says Alice Mills Morrow, Oregon State University Extension family economics specialist. State and federal taxes are withheld based on the number of deductions claimed on the W-4 form filed with the employer.

For a teenager who is still dependent

on parents for support and who will earn less than \$3,300 this year and will have less than \$1,000 in unearned income, Morrow advises avoiding such deductions from the paycheck. Otherwise, the teen will have to file a tax return to receive the withheld money as a refund.

Many other deductions are optional at some jobs and should be examined carefully. These include charges for medical insurance, disability/unemployment insurance, life insurance, and pension plans.

"If you have a choice on whether to participate in these deduction plans explore whether some of them duplicate coverage that you, as a dependent minor, have under your family's insurance," Morrow says. "Think, too, about your needs for these benefits."

"If some deductions don't seem to fit your needs or situation, you may be able to reduce or eliminate them completely and have a larger paycheck for your more immediate needs," she adds.

House adopts rent control ban

House Bill 2563, a measure placing a moratorium, until January 1, 1986, on elections and initiatives on local rent control was passed last

week by the Oregon House of Representatives. The bill is awaiting action in the Senate.

Under the terms of the bill, all rent control measures must be passed statewide. An interim committee will be formed to study the issue and report back to the next legislature whether or not the ban should be made permanent.

Seventeen Democratic representatives joined their Republican colleagues in voting for the ban. Among the Portland area Democratic representatives voting for it were Annette Farmer, Al Young, Glen Whalen and Tom Mason.

Scanner arrives

A computerized tomography (CT) whole body scanner is being installed at Bess Kaiser Hospital. The scanner will enable doctors to perform, in a few minutes, studies of head and body tissues with unprecedented detail and accuracy and will, in many cases, make exploratory surgery unnecessary.

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Some parts of the Sahara Desert hide underground streams. People digging to reach fresh water sometimes catch fish.

The trunk of the African baobab tree is sometimes as wide as the tree is high. The tree is pollinated by bats, and its blossoms open only in moonlight.

Historians say the Egyptians were probably the first people to keep cats, probably between 2,600 and 5,000 B.C.

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