

METROPOLITAN

Youngest campaigner hits the trail

by Robert Lothian

Robert William Justin Lowe, 13, is the youngest volunteer in the campaign of city council candidate Herb Cawthorne.

The Ainsworth School 8th grader, a straight-A student and computer wizard who is shooting for Harvard, has been in Cawthorne's office almost every night after school. He helps with phone banks, office work, mailings, training volunteers and he even donates some Saturdays for door-to-door canvassing.

"I'm a person who really says what I feel," said Lowe. And he feels that Cawthorne is definitely the best candidate for Commissioner Charles Jordan's council position.

Even though Cawthorne has been a friend of Lowe's family "as far back as I can remember," Justin, as his friend call him, said he studied the positions of all 19 candidates before deciding to join the Cawthorne campaign. "I thought he was the best candidate to give my time to," he said.

"Some people would say I'm looking through rose-colored glasses from a biased perspective or whatever, but I think he's going to win."

"I really like his stands on the issues, like the children's rights issue — giving kids the fairness they deserve."

Lowe said he was also impressed with Cawthorne's hard work during five years on the School Board. "I had no idea it was a non-paid position," he said.

Lowe said his motivation for the project came from a teacher at Ainsworth who assigned his class to work 10 hours each on a campaign, and then write a paper about what they learned. A Cawthorne worker called his house one night asking for help, and even though



Virginia Harris and Justin Lowe consult the map for canvassing routes for the Herb Cawthorne campaign.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

they asked for someone else Justin said he would give it a try. "I came down here that night; I just live a block away," he said.

But what started out to be a 10-hour project had at the time of the interview turned into almost 80 hours and still growing. Lowe said he has been up as late as 11 on Friday night helping with a mailing

and then up at 8 the next morning for door-to-door canvassing.

One of the problems in the campaign, he said, is that it has been hard to get people motivated. "The campaign is tough," he said. "There is a lot of work which from the outside I wouldn't have realized there was."

One of the things he has learned

in the campaign, said Lowe, is that "The people in the community aren't as cold a people have portrayed them to be." He said he was somewhat surprised to find people in poorer neighborhoods friendlier than when he went out canvassing than those in more well-off neighborhoods.

"It was a lot different than I thought — I imagined people slamming doors in my face, but everybody was real responsive."

Lowe said he also learned to appreciate the detail work that goes into a successful campaign. "That one little piece of paper in the mail is part of a whole chain of things."

After graduation from college, hopefully Harvard, the ambitious and articulate 8th grader would like to go into the field of human services, possibly counseling. He said at first that he wasn't interested in running for office someday, but later said he might consider it — sounds like he's off to a good start.

Lowe said he had had a good time with the Cawthorne campaign staff, and met a lot of people. "If I wasn't working on the campaign I would be sitting in front of the TV watching old Mork and Mindy re-runs, and that would be bad, really bad."

College prep workshop

"Getting It Together," a college preparation workshop will be held at Portland State University on Saturday, November 3rd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sponsored by the BOOST Talent Search and Upward Bound Programs at PSU, the workshop will feature presentations on the new requirements, attitudes, financial aid and testing.

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- Margaret Carter, Representative District 18
- Gretchen Kafoury, County Commissioner Position 2
- Herb Cawthorne, City Commissioner Position 4
- or Linda Johnson, County Commission Position 2

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