



Harriet Adair

HARRIET ADAIR

To Harriet Adair, being principal of King Elementary School is like coming home. "I live down the street from here and I have always loved King School." Defining her responsibilities as "tremendous" and calling her new career move as principal "great," Adair resumes the throne at a school where the academic progress is below the district's average. She is tackling the problem head-on by utilizing an effective school tactic which calls for a concentrated focus on curriculum and student goals.

"Individually, we track every student. Our children have what it takes to make it and our teachers have what it takes to make them make it. Somehow, we are not distributing our good efforts in the right places and in the right amounts," she said.

Adair's prescription for achievement is, "figuring out where our failures are and building upon our successes." She wants to incorporate a segment of wisdom her mother ingrained in her into her students: "Whatever your goal, achieve it to the best of your ability."



CAROLYN LEONARD

Carolyn Leonard

Carolyn Leonard is an evaluation specialist for the Portland Public Schools. Her job is to evaluate the District's Desegregation/Integration programs and student achievement at Early Childhood Educational Centers.

Interpreting statistics, looking at graphs and numbers would drive the average person into complacency. But it drove Leonard into an educational activism as she spearheads, develops and directs Education for Summer Fun.

Education for Summer Fun is geared for high school students who congregate every summer under the guidance of Leonard to expand their formal and informal skills. "It is the district and the community joining hands to see if we can alleviate some of the communication and achievement problems," she said.

Leonard added that the programs give students a strategy to achieve, teaches them personal goal setting and how to gain access to resources and people around them.

In evaluating the district, the evaluator said there has been some progress. "Schools are more open in terms of community residents having input. The school system may not be as sensitive as people want it to be, but at least someone listens. This was not the case ten years ago."

Leonard gives high marks to the community for a heightened awareness. "We know what the issues are, but that is not to say that we have arrived because I don't think the district has. At least now we have an idea of what we want and what we are searching for. With this in mind, we, the community and the district, will continue to conquer concerns," she said.

Page 6, Section II, Portland Observer, February 20, 1985

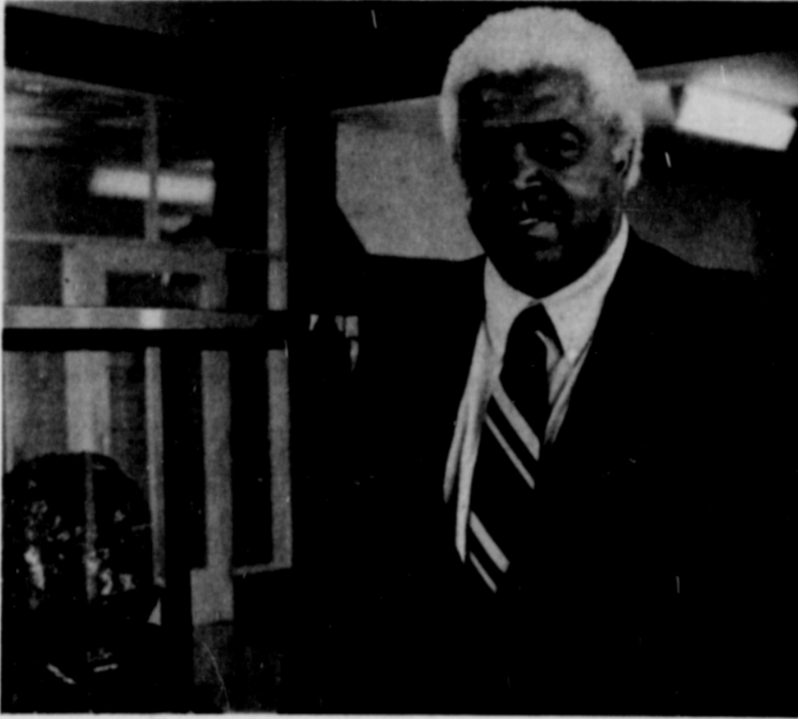
Leodis McDaniel

Leodis McDaniel oversees an educational United Nations as principal of Madison High School. "We have a diverse student population. One of the first things our students learn is how to live together. First, there are suspicions, falsehoods and mistrusts. By being in the building together and becoming a part of the school, they soon learn to recognize, appreciate and respect one another."

McDaniels has 11 years at Madison and is entering his second year as principal. He feels that education does not end at graduation. "Education is a life-long process. Schools play a part in the individual's growth to learn and acquire new skills," he added.

McDaniels has a broad educational experience which led him to believe that youth in the 80s want the same things as previous generations, "But some are impatient in achieving goals and enjoying the benefits of education. Some may not want to put in as much grind and sweat as other generations. However, there are things in our society now which do not encourage student involvement in schools in a consistent, serious manner."

Among the main elements McDaniels wants to instill in his students is "responsibility." His plan is to synchronize staff, students and parents. "Anytime all these things are working in concert, great things will happen."



LEODIS MCDANIEL



MIKE JORDAN

Mike Jordan

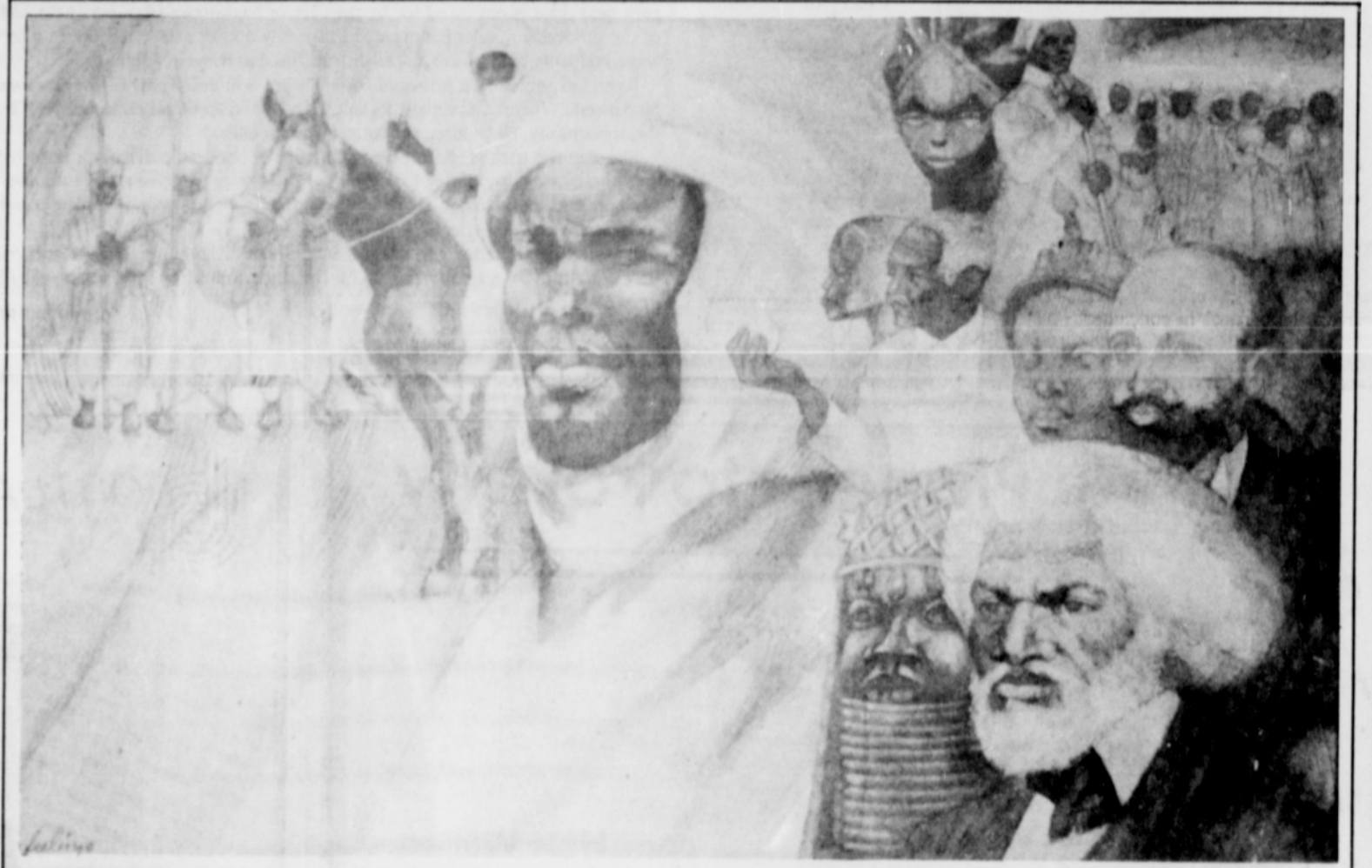
For Mike Jordan, principal of Sabin Elementary School, success is spelled S.A.B.I.N., as his school continues to score above the Portland Public School District's norm.

"Not only are we scoring above the local norm," Jordan interjects, "but last year my fourth and fifth graders took the California Achievement Test and 75 percent were at or above the national norm. What does that say when you have a school 53 percent minority? We are achieving!" In his second year as principal, Jordan is a native Oregonian who comes from a family of teachers. In his 17 years in the district, Jordan lived through the "School of the 70s" plan.

"Blacks were paying the heaviest toll for desegregation. It was all one-sided. One of the errors made was connecting the Middle School concept with desegregation. Middle Schools had nothing to do with desegregation," Jordan said.

This confusion was the core of the inequality in school desegregation a decade ago. "Blacks were going out to middle schools and whites were coming in to Early Childhood Educational Center (ECECs)." Outcries from parents and a successful one-day school boycott reversed this process. Jordan said he believed the outcries were justified and the change necessary.

Jordan attributes the success at Sabin to his leadership style. It revolves around delegating responsibility and authority. "Teamwork is very important. We have a total feedback system that involves parents, students and staff. I share decision making with competent people who have the same goals."



About Tom Feelings: Tom Feelings is well known as an artist and illustrator. His books include two Caldecott Honor Books: *Moja Means One: Swahili Counting Book* and *Jambo Means Hello: Swahili Alphabet Book*, both written by Muriel Feelings and published by the Dial Press.

Mr. Feelings was born in Brooklyn, New York, and attended the School of

Visual Arts. His subjects are children from the streets of Brooklyn, the American South, and from West Africa, where he lived for two years. More recently, he has lived in Guyana, South America, where he worked with the government publishing program training young artists in textbook illustration. He now lives in New York City, where he is currently at work on a new book, *The Middle Passage*.

The Afro-American Family: Historical Strengths for the New Century

HUD's Observance of Black History Month
February, 1985



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development