

# METROPOLITAN

## High school kids take over city council

by Robert Lothian

Portland elected a new mayor in November, and got another one last week.

He's Chris Milton, 17-year-old brother of city council candidate Fred Milton, a junior at Vocational Village High School. Milton won out over 100 other students in a raffle for Youth Mayor as part of Youth Week activities, March 3-9.

Helping the new mayor with his responsibilities was a youthful counterpart to the city council. Kelli Corcoran, Madison High School, took Dick Bogle's place for a week, Darren Kennedy from Jefferson High was Mike Lindberg's counterpart, Charles Lawrence, who attends Wilson High, was assigned to Mildred Schwab's office, and Kelley Weigel of Madison High worked with Margaret Strachan.

The youth city council appeared with Mayor Clark and the regular city council at a Feb. 28th ceremony in City Hall. They sat in the council chambers on Youth in Government Day, Wednesday, March 6, and announced the results of a poll on youth issues. They also made recommendations for action to the city council based on the poll.

Milton sounded like a pro as he deflected reporter's questions while sitting in the mayor's chair. "I haven't had time to think about it, yet," he said in response to a particularly pointed question. Mayor Clark hovered



Portland's Youth City Council included (seated, l-r) Kelli Corcoran, Charles Lawrence, Darren Kennedy, Kelley Weigel and "Mayor" Chris Milton. Their real-life counterparts are (l-r) Dick Bogle, Mildred Schwab, Mike Lindberg and, Margaret Strachan and Bud Clark. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

nearby.

The young mayor said his brother's candidacy got him thinking about city politics. He hoped that his and the other students' participation in Youth in Government activities would interest Portland youth in issues of city politics that affect them. More services to help students get jobs and more money for scholarships to keep educational opportunities open are big on his agenda, he said.

Dick Bogle got some laughs as he introduced his youth counterpart, Kelli Corcoran. "Two of my staff members have already asked her for raises, and I'm afraid she's already granted them," he said.

Metropolitan Youth Commission director Alice Simpson said Youth in Government Day went into remission

during ex-mayor Frank Ivancie's term in office, but is being revived under Clark.

"I have a very strong feeling that people — women, youth, minorities — ought to be involved in planning programs that concern them," she said. Simpson indicated that city government will be taking more interest in youth.

Youth Week activities, sponsored by the Metropolitan Youth Commission and presided over by Sigrid Clark, the mayor's wife, included a party with live bands and appearances by the mayor and other dignitaries at Pioneer Courthouse Square. Programs throughout the city highlighted the contributions of young people to the community.

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