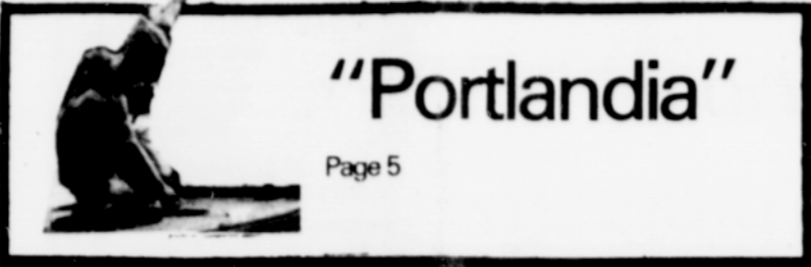




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Tubman Principal Paul Coakley (center) and Linda Wakefield, administrative assistant over Curriculum, review teaching plan of John Wilhelimi. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Tubman — Our future is bright

by Robert Lothian

At 32, Paul Coakley is one of the youngest administrators in the Portland school system. Coakley, principal of the long-awaited new Tubman Middle School, exudes a brightness and energy consistent with the theme of the new Tubman.

"Our Future is Bright" is painted in big letters near a hand holding the torch of learning in the bright new gym. "Just to see the faces of the people in attendance at the open house in September made me feel that the future is bright," Coakley said. "This particular school was born out of the community. It was a feeling that this school is ours and that's the feeling I want to project."

With five principals in five years, plagued last year by arsonists, and occasional bad press, Tubman's difficulties of transition can now be put behind, Coakley feels.

The new building sets the stage for the future, he said. A brightly-lit multi-service area with a cathedral ceiling and skylights is the focus of the building which is an amalgam of the old Eliot School and a new addition. The afternoon sun shines through the skylights onto red brick walls, for a warming effect.

Tammy Huynh, a 7th grader, attended the old Eliot School. "I think it's really good because it's really much bigger and roomier," she said about the new building.

Coupled with the new building is Tubman's progressive curriculum, said Coakley. With Spanish, French, Ger-

man, photography, computers, ethnic foods, Black history, shop classes and language arts, "I feel that we have one of the strongest curriculums of any middle school in the country. You name it, we offer it."

On a recent Wednesday afternoon, Tubman 8th graders Jeremy Swift, Sharif Trotman, Torrey Nelson, and 7th grader Kurtis Gamble were setting up video equipment in the television production area. They were working on a script about handicapped people.

Coakley was proud of an innovation at Tubman called the "reg room," where students touch base with teachers and administrators who emphasize the positive — learning to be successful, getting along with others, and "feeling good about yourself."

"Kids need to learn that they can make it. I'm very big on that," Coakley said. He also stressed multicultural education. "It's not something that comes in just on a certain day or week of the year" at Tubman, he said, but a daily product of contributions from the entire community.

Coakley also feels that the school has built up the staff that can make Tubman work: James Brannon, administrative assistant in charge of discipline; Linda Wakefield, in charge of curriculum; Curtis Jones, student management specialist; Annie Huginey, guidance counselor; Elaine Granis, integration specialist; Laura Ford, community agent; and many others, not to mention the teachers.

With the combined energies of stu-

dents, parents, community and staff, the new Tubman is off to a bright start and things can only get better, said Coakley.

"We're going to do everything we can to see that our students excel academically. I feel that high expectations are something you don't let down at any time."

The gregarious principal obviously likes children, and he often roams the hall talking to students and teachers. He said he tries to walk a fine line between being firm and fair, but most of all consistent. A little girl who had to stay after school once told him, "You're mean, but it's a nice kind of mean."

Coakley was with the old Tubman through the difficult years from its beginning in 1980, as a teacher of language arts, social studies, Black history, head of career education and administrative assistant.

He came to Tubman from a "last chance" high school in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where "We liked to feel we made a difference." His first visit to Portland was in 1978 to study a special reading program. Coakley made such a good impression that he was asked if he wanted to work in the Portland system. When Tubman was described to him, "I said, Wow, that sounds real good... I want to be part of that."

Coakley's wife Carlus teaches kindergarten at Vernon School. "Were into the education business," he said. They have two boys, Paul Jr., and Brian.

HUD program improves inner city lives

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has launched a program to improve the inner-city living conditions of low-income families. The tenant management program, being developed by HUD and the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, is also expected to significantly reduce the federal government's costs for public housing.

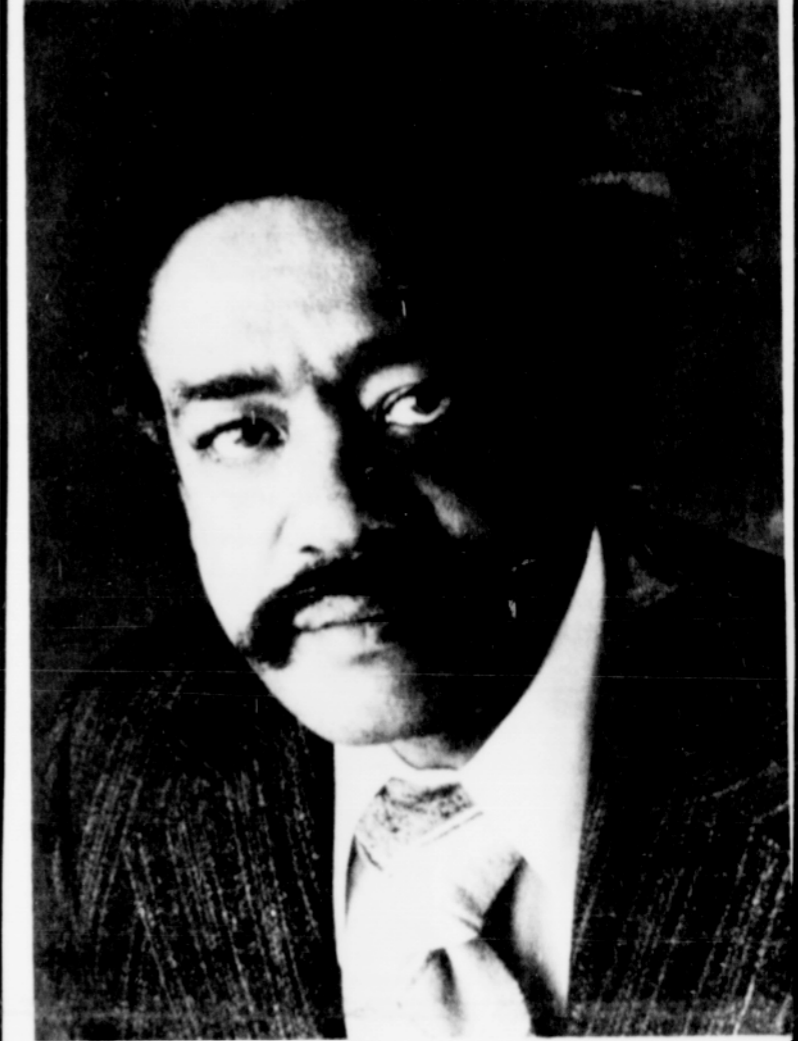
Officials at HUD believe tenant management goes beyond government welfare programs and represents a positive image of people helping themselves. "Resident [tenant] management groups have, to a degree, overcome a sense of defeatism in their public housing project and have helped to generate a sense of responsibility and community," according to Robert Hundley, office of public housing.

In addition to helping people help themselves and revitalizing public housing complexes, the program will save the government millions of dollars. The 1.3 million public housing units in the United States cost the government more than \$4 billion a year, according to HUD. Crime and vandalism run rampant in these developments, and many are in the country's worst slums. The National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise is working with HUD to transform some of the most troublesome public housing communities into healthier neighborhoods through a pilot program which turns building management over to the tenants.

Robert Woodson, president of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise and chairman of the Council for a Black Economic Agenda, says the program represents "a positive image of people helping themselves." "Self-help entrepreneurial strategies and resources already in the Black community are more effective than government-wrought solutions," says Woodson.

The results already culled from 10 test-city projects have been staggering. Crime rates are down as much as 75 percent; teenage pregnancies have declined nearly 50 percent; also, the number of female-headed households have decreased, administrative costs are down, vacancies and evictions are down, resident employment has increased, and rent collections are up. Several of the developments even instituted job, health and day care programs in addition to sound resident management practices.

A bill has been introduced by Rep. Richard Armey (R-Texas) which would expand the demonstration project into a nationwide program.



BOBBY SEALE



STUART PRINGLE

U.S. Senate discriminatory

by Jerry Garner

The United States Senate has a bad record when it comes to hiring Blacks. A recent survey done by Cox Newspaper, reveals that the majority of Black Senate staffers are in low-paying nonprofessional jobs and only a small number are in jobs paying a salary of \$30,000 a year. In 1983, more than 870 Senate staffers earned this amount, only 26 or 3 percent were Black.

Overall, the survey shows Blacks are discriminated against in employment opportunities throughout the U.S. Senate. Not only are Blacks discriminated against in job opportunities, Blacks are not hired to work for many senators. For example, out of 3,000 people working for U.S. Senators, only 259 or 8.6 percent are Black.

Blacks make up only 6 percent of the 744 full-time employees who are on the Senate Committees where the nation's laws are fashioned. Only a small number of that 6 percent figure hold professional posts.

Similar patterns of job discrimination against Blacks can be found in the U.S. House of Representatives. Lawmakers give many reasons why there are so few Blacks employed by the Senate and the House. The most common one heard is the state has a small Black population. Another reason given is many Black professionals prefer to work in private industry where the pay is better.

Whether Blacks are systematically discriminated against by the House or Senate is academic. This is because

neither lawmaking bodies have strong affirmative action programs.

The U.S. Senate has exempted itself from anti-discrimination laws. If a Black congressional staffer feels he or she has been discriminated against, they have little recourse when it comes to filing complaints against a Congressman. The Senate Ethics Committee is supposed to handle such complaints, but has no formal procedures for doing so.

In 1978 Senator John Glenn, D-Ohio, tried to get a floor vote on a resolution that would have established a formal procedure for handling discrimination complaints. The resolution was killed in a closed-door meeting by the Senate Democratic Policy Committee.

Anti-apartheid protest set

On Saturday, Oct. 12th, Portland will join cities across the country in a day of anti-apartheid protest. People will gather at Terry Schunk Plaza at noon for a march through downtown Portland and return to Schunk Plaza for a rally.

Speakers will be an African National Congress representative, as well as local clergy, labor and public officials. Some of the endorsers of the event include: Albina Ministerial Alliance, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the Black United Front, Oregon Federation of Teachers, National Lawyers Guild, National Organization for Women and the Urban League.

Apartheid debate

The Associated Students of the University of Portland will sponsor a debate between Bobby Seale and Stuart Pringle on Tuesday, Oct. 15. Topic for the debate will be "Apartheid: Black and White, Green and Gold — Should America pull out its investments in South Africa?"

Seale, who is a former chairman of the Black Panther Party and a community organizer, is presently director-creator of Advocates Scene Inc., a non-profit national community organizing network centralized in Washington, D.C. For many years he has been deeply involved in the struggle for Black liberation and against institutionalized racism.

Pringle, a documentary film producer, is a white South African residing in the United States. He supports apartheid, and is the founder of SOSSOS, a society dedicated to recruiting teachers for Third World countries. Pringle maintains that the fundamental concept of apartheid is "extremely sound," and that, without apartheid, Blacks would suffer from unfair competition.

The debate begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Buckley Center auditorium on the U. of P. campus. It is free and open to the public.