

DMAC Chair Threatened With Legal Actions

by Jerry Garner

Halim Rahsaan, Chair of the Desegregation Monitoring Advisory Committee (DMAC), has been threatened with legal action by an attorney representing Florence Bancroft. Bancroft is the teacher who taped a student to a chalkboard last September at Humboldt Elementary School. Her actions spurred protests from community leaders and parents, and called for Bancroft's termination.

The law firm of Kulongoski, Durham, Drummonds & Colombo demanded in a letter that Rahsaan retract his statements. "Demand is hereby made that you retract those statements and issue a written apology to Ms. Bancroft. The retraction and apology should list those persons the original defamatory statements were made to. Demand is made that you cease and desist from making any further statements concerning Ms. Bancroft and her teaching performance," the letter said.

Bancroft's attorney alleges that Rahsaan made oral and written



statements to various persons accusing her of mistreatment of Black children and of questionable teaching practices. The letter said, "Any such statements are false. In addition to being defamatory, these statements have the effect of interfering with Ms. Bancroft's employment relationship with Portland School District."

Rahsaan denied making any defaming statements against Bancroft, saying he hasn't and doesn't intend to make a written apology to Bancroft. "The statements I made regarding the Humboldt incidence and Bancroft's involvement in it wasn't defamatory. What I said was this: 'Had it been a Black teacher with a white child committing this act, not only would they not be teaching in Oregon, they wouldn't be teaching in the United States.'"

According to Rahsaan, Bancroft has been transferred to another school. Asked if he was satisfied with Bancroft's transfer, he replied, "No. The Portland Public Schools handled the entire situation incor-

rectly. For instance, if a teacher is involved in improper behavior, he or she is first given verbal reprimand; if a second incident occurs, a written reprimand is placed in the teacher's personnel file; if a third incident occurs, termination is warranted. In the Bancroft case, the incident wasn't recorded in her personnel records."

In addition, Rahsaan said school administrators gave misleading information regarding the Humboldt incident. "Don McElroy, Deputy Superintendent of Portland Public Schools, made public statements that the parent of the child that was taped to the chalkboard was satisfied with counseling given to Bancroft in regards to her actions. That wasn't the case," said Rahsaan.

The performances will highlight cultural contributions by the Portland School District's major student ethnic groups of Asians, Native Americans, Hispanics, Blacks and Caucasians.

Scheduled are Grant High School students performing the "dragon" and other Asian dances and members of the Bow and Arrow Club performing Native American dances.

Also scheduled are the Sojourner Truth Theater performing character-

Mayor to Keynote Tubman's 6th Annual Multiethnic-Multicultural Assembly

Portland Mayor Bud Clark keynotes Tubman Middle School's sixth-annual Multiethnic-Multicultural Assembly on Feb. 20.

Tubman's 700 students in Grades 6-8 will hear Mayor Clark cite "the importance of culture" and see five different ethnic performances beginning at 9:10 a.m. at 2231 N. Flint St.

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Mayor Bud Clark

izations of famous Black Americans. Sellwood Middle School teacher Raul Gomez playing musical instruments of Mexico and musician Ken Butler of Young Audiences playing hybrid instruments popularized by non-minority cultures in America.

Tubman's assembly is part of the

school district's annual observance of Human Relations Month.

For further information, please call Elaine Grannis, Tubman program coordinator, 280-5630.

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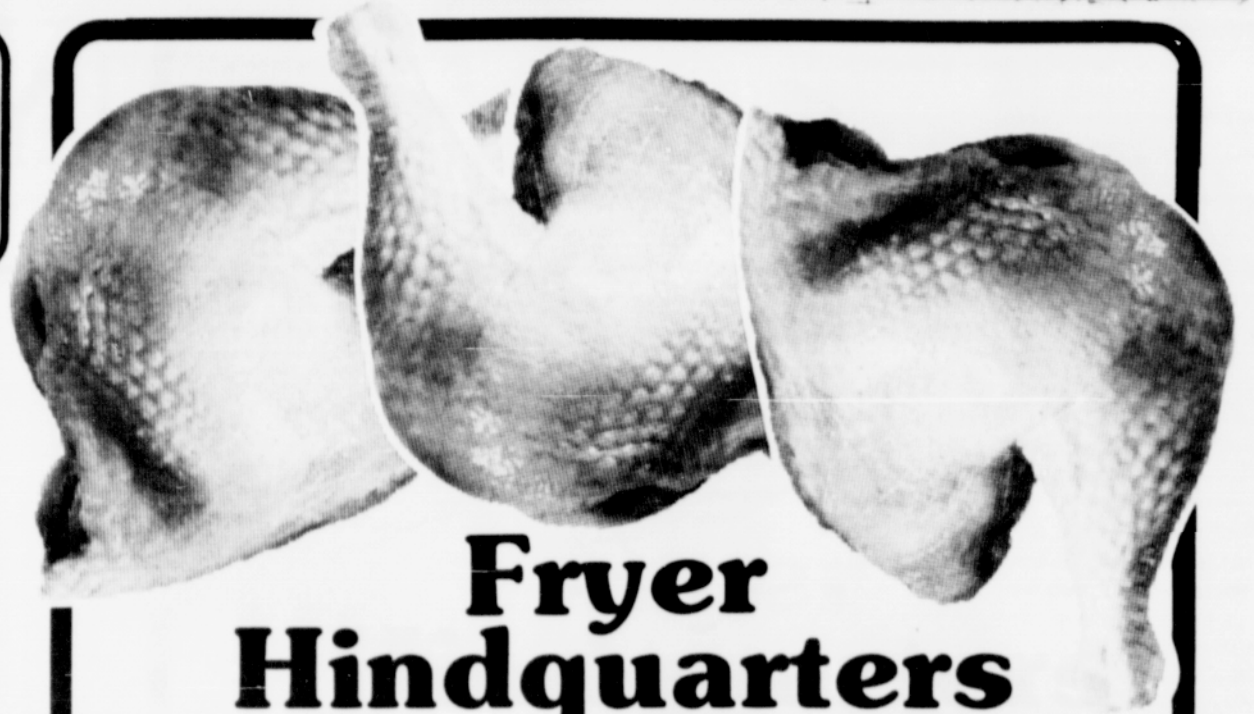
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"Women, Vitality and Midlife", a class offered by Meridian Park Hospital, Tualatin on March 2, from 7-9 p.m., will cover how to maintain vitality, both physically and emotionally, during the years from 40-50.

Major life transitions and physical changes of the pre- and post-menopausal years will be discussed. Learn the effects of diet and exercise on the aging process; as well as facts and fallacies about menopause and developing a personal plan for handling lifestyle changes that may be a part of midlife.

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