

Minority Students Dramatic Declines In Drop-Out Rates

Minority students posted dramatic reductions in high school drop-out percentages last year, compared to overall districtwide averages for Portland Public Schools released this week.

Porter Sexton, manager of management-information services for the school district, said only 6.0 percent (121 students) of blacks and 6.9 percent (18) of Hispanics were "early leavers" in 1985-86.

That compares to 7.1 percent (143) of black students and 10.4 percent (167) of Hispanic students dropping out of high school in 1984-85. The 1979-80 percentages were 12.4 percent for blacks, 16.7 percent for Hispanics.

Portland's 10 high schools enrolled 14,717 students in 1985-86, 14,828 in 1984-85. Last year's districtwide drop-out rate was 7.3 percent (1,073) with a male-female ratio of 605-468, compared to 586-403 in 1984-85.

Portland Public Schools' districtwide averages have sustained annual drop-out rates of below 7.5 percent for the past four years, compared to 9-10 percent averages when formal statistics were first compiled in 1977-78.

The drop-out rate is calculated by counting enrolled students who leave school and do not return during the academic year.

Such students, according to Sexton, may enroll in community colleges, in private or alternative schools or programs, may return later to high school or may drop out entirely from formal education.

Portland's American Indian students, who traditionally have the highest drop-out rates (21.5 percent in 1978-79), posted only 13.0 percent (31) in 1985-86—a drop from 14.5 percent (34) in 1984-85.

Asian students posted a 1985-86 drop-out rate of 5.1 percent (72), compared to 5.0 percent (73) in 1984-85. Non-minority students in 1985-86 posted a 7.7 percent (831) early leaver rate, compared to 7.3 percent (793) in 1984-85.

By comparison, national drop-out rates for minorities are generally one-third higher than averages for non-minority students, according to Sexton.

Sexton said dramatic reductions in minority drop-out percentages were due to programs such as Jefferson High School's Project Pride, Grant High School's Portland Night School and the districtwide emphasis on early preparation and remediation for stringent basic skills required to graduate from high school.

Additional programs credited by Sexton were the Indian Education Project and other equity efforts focused on minority students.

"Some 11 percent of female dropouts quit high school because of pregnancy," Sexton said. "The introduction of teen health clinics at four high schools and expansion of the school district's Continuing Education for Girls program will bring further reductions in drop-out rates for such students."

Witnesses Wanted

Witnesses to incident on 3-31-86, 9:45 a.m. at 15th and Fremont when elderly lady caught arm in door while boarding Tri-Met bus No. 8. Call Marcia at:

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Congressional Hoop Shots

Representative Ron Wyden (D), 3rd District, created a lot of interest recently at his free basketball clinic held at Brooklyn Community School. The April 15th event attracted numerous potential hoop "greats" including Al Daniels, Jr., an 8th grader at Floyd Light Middle School.

Young Daniels enjoyed the clinic but enjoyed meeting Cong. Wyden even more.

Black United Front Condemns U.S. Involvement in Central America

The BUF is outraged at the continuing U.S. involvement in Central America and its support for the Contra. The U.S. Cannot avoid responsibility for its role in the death of Portlander Benjamin Linder. Millions of U.S. dollars support the Contra and support for the targeting of civilians, schools, medical facilities, etc., non-military targets, has resulted in the death of Benjamin Linder, an American citizen.

We hope the Linder family finds some comfort in the messages of support they have received.

P.P.I.C. Monthly Meeting

The Private Industry Council, serving Multnomah and Washington Counties and the City of Portland, will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting Tuesday, May 5, 1987, 7:30 a.m., Room 400, Cascade Building, 520 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Portland.

The agenda includes the following committee reports: Youth, Planning, Personnel, Dislocated Worker.

Allergies is Topic of Free Talk at Emanuel

"Wheezes, Sneezes and You" is the title of a free community forum sponsored by Emanuel Hospital & Health Center on May 12, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Room 1077. Led by Portland allergist June Hawkins, M.D., the program will allow participants to ask an expert questions about this springtime malady.

For more information or to pre-register, call 280-4284.

Let's Shape Up

Women of all shapes, sizes and ages are invited to a special fitness workshop "Let's Shape Up", Tuesday, May 19, 7-9:30 p.m., at Meridian Park Hospital, Tualatin.

Regardless of the shape you're in, you'll learn how to begin (or improve) your personal fitness plan and to tailor a whole-body program to meet your needs. Testing will be done for body composition analysis, flexibility and muscular endurance, and exercise equipment will be available for demonstrations. Clothing should be comfortable.

The workshop will be led by exercise physiologists Patti Finke. There is a \$12 fee, and pre-registration is required.

For additional information or to register, contact the Community Education Department, 692-2656.

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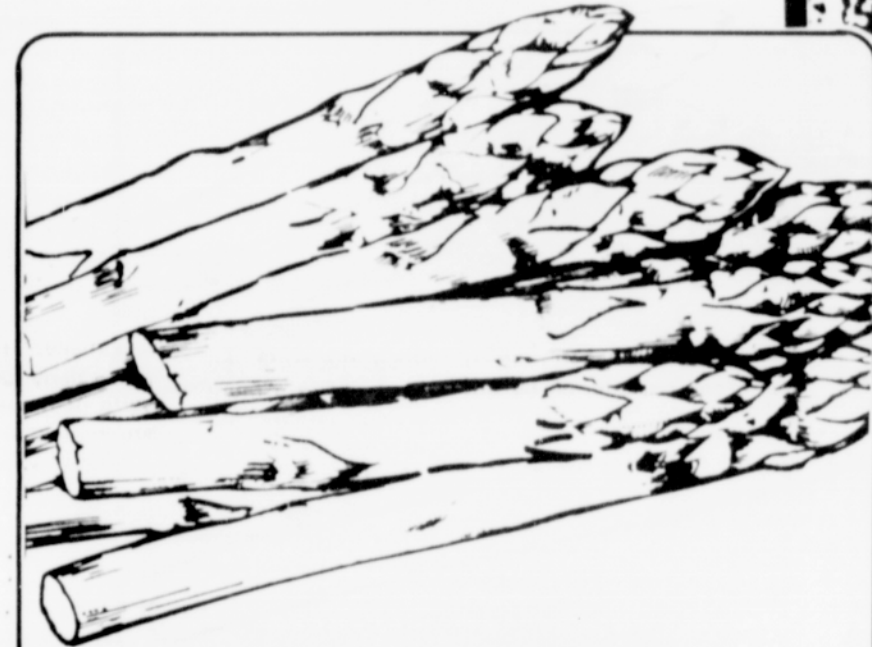


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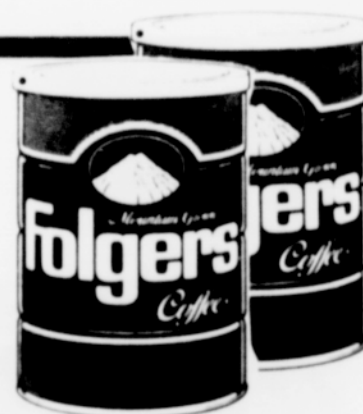
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