

PORTLAND OBSERVER

VOLUME XIX NUMBER 16

APRIL 27, 1989

OREGON FINALISTS U.S. WEST OUTSTANDING TEACHER



B. Anderson, a teacher at the Harriet Tubman Middle School, was selected as one of the top five Oregon finalists in the 1989 U.S. West Outstanding Teacher Program.

A search for outstanding teachers, who "reach beyond classroom walls", brought attention to B. Anderson who carries out two extraordinary programs that not only reach out to the community, but that bring the community, indeed the world, back into Harriet Tubman Middle School.

International Week each spring at Tubman was "B"'s idea and she and her coworkers put in many hours bringing it to fruition months before the big week. She contacts colleges, organizations and individuals on her list for names of foreign students from other countries and Americans who have traveled abroad - anyone who can make a far part of the world come alive for all Tubman students. Then, she sets about to bring these speakers, their slides, posters, national costumes and artifacts into every classroom in the school during International Week. Parents come in to cook luncheons made up of cuisine of different countries. Students make flags and posters to decorate the halls. They act as hosts and guides, and are involved at every level of this special week at Tubman.

Mrs. Anderson's second great achievement is her work at the Reading Tree at Irving Park. Concerned that over the summer children might lose the skills in reading they have learned during the school year, "B" directs a summer program that takes place under trees in the Irving Park in the community.

Here at Irving Park the children can find all sorts of books, phonics games, puzzles and other reading materials that are fun for them and that reinforce their reading skills. Most of them don't even suspect they are learning, while they are taking part in this summer fun program. As a further brilliant stroke, whenever it is possible, she uses older children, many of them present or past Tubman students who have had difficulty in learning to read themselves, as her tutors. Guess whose reading skills improve as much or more as the younger children's do?

"B" is just about as busy as a "bee". Her friends and coworkers have a hard time saying no when she approaches them for help.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Portland Observer has issued press passes to all of its employees. These passes are identifiable by (1) the Observer's logo at the top, (2) the employee's name and picture, (3) the word PRESS and, (4) a fingerprint of the right index finger. Anyone not in possession of an Observer press pass does not represent the Portland Observer newspaper.40

Corno acts to acquire Walnut Park facility

by Stephen E. McPherson, Special Correspondent

For more than a half century residents in the vicinity of Martin Luther King Avenue and N. E. Killingsworth have become accustomed to walking to the nearby shopping center in Walnut Park. Especially is the location of this distribution center important to the elderly persons who reside just across the street in Walnut Park Manor. The shopping center was not only a convenient place to make their purchases but also offered respite to a secluded existence where they could while away the time with friends.

Around the first of the year, Fred Meyer executives announced their intention to cease doing retail business at that facility by the end of April. The confusion and disappointment that this decision fomented is quite understandable.

Last week several reasons for rejoicing emerged when it became known that Corno Foods had expressed an interest in acquiring the property. The site which is owned by the Portland Urban League is known to be appraised at about \$825,000. For some time the league has been considering offers which hovered in the neighborhood of one half million dollars, which according to

some critics is somewhat like firesale panic.

The Urban League has been imperiled with an intractable budget deficit for more than a year. They lost a very large grant from the Fred Meyer Foundation because of alleged mismanagement. Even the City of Portland has gotten into the negotiations and threatened to withhold all help unless the league got its fiscal house in order which would include getting out of the real estate business. Apparently the city of Portland is satisfied with the sale of the Walnut park property because they are willing to finance part of the transaction

At press time the final details had not been resolved but it is understood that the Corno group wants to acquire the property without interruption in service. The Corno group is to be commended for its interest in and support of a community which is going to need a lot of help from like-minded persons before it can return to the glories of the past. Perhaps the renaming of Union Avenue and the stay of execution for the Walnut Park facility portend good things for the future of this area. The Portland Observer proudly welcomes its new neighbor.

BAN ON ALCOHOL IN CITY OF PORTLAND PARKS

On Wednesday April 26, at 10:00 a. m., commissioner Mike Lindberg, will seek formal city council approval of an ordinance which would immediately ban the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in Portland parks except by permit.

Commissioner Lindberg, has stated "I came to this decision as a result of public hearings, input from the Police Bureau, recommendations from the public safety in parks task force, and an ever increasing number of neighborhood association requests for alcohol bans in neighborhood parks. The overwhelming majority of behavior problems in parks arose from alcohol abuse. This ordinance will still allow alcohol possession and consumption at any event for which the appropriate park permit has been issued."

Lindberg also said, "although the city code empowers the commissioner in charge of parks to administratively ban alcohol, I felt that council would want to participate in sending a message about our commitment to keeping our parks safe. This will also provide the police a more formal enforcement tool."

According to parks superintendent Cleve Williams, "I was rather surprised when I came to Portland. Most major Metropolitan areas banned alcohol in public parks years ago. I think it will make a very positive difference in the atmosphere of our parks." Signs will be going up in parks during the next 21 days.

Congratulations



Thomas and Mildred Carr celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on April 18, 1989.

They received acknowledgments from President George Bush and his wife Barbara Bush.

A party was given at the N/NE YWCA to celebrate the occasion, by their children Gloria Phillips, Thomas Carr, William Carr, Jeanette Carr, Robert Carr and Mildred Tarver.

They plan to have an annual party hereafter.

EDITORS NOTE

The following article was published in the Daily Journal of Commerce and is reprinted with permission.

TALKS CONTINUE ON DBE SUPPORT PACT

By Kevin Harden

Negotiations are continuing on a state Department of Transportation disadvantaged business enterprise support services contract that was caught last fall in the middle of a legal tug of war.

A contract awarded in mid-October to Who's Who Publications Inc. of Portland was put up for bid again in March after state and Federal Highway Administration officials cited a potential conflict of interest because the owner of Who's Who, Bruce Broussard, also was a subcontractor through a different company on a federal-aid highway construction project.

Willie Harris, Federal Highway Administration regional director for civil rights, said U.S. Service Inc. a company in which Broussard was a shareholder, was working as a minority-owned subcontractor on similar projects for which Who's Who Publications would provide support services to other minority or women-owned businesses.

U.S. Services Inc. is a state-certified MBE subcontractor. It is separate from Who's Who Publications Inc.

The DBE supportive services is an annual program funded through the Federal Highway Administration. The consultant receiving the contract assists minority- and women-owned subcontracting firms with information or other means to improve their effectiveness on federal-aid highway construction projects.

This fiscal year the state received \$75,000 to complete the six-month contract that was rebid in early March. State officials also have an additional \$44,000 this year, but that money may not be used, Harris said.

Who's Who Publications was awarded the contract in October after Broussard's proposal was selected by a state committee as best to provide support

services to disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs).

It is difficult for someone providing services to his competitors on those contracts to do it objectively.

State Department of Transportation officials raised the conflict of interest issue after the original contract was awarded. Vernell West, coordinator of the state Department of Transportation's DBE supportive services program in Salem, said the contract was pulled and restructured to include new language forbidding similar conflicts.

"The initial selection was rejected based on the appearance of a conflict of interest," West said. "It appears that (Broussard) would be competing on jobs with people he was supposed to be helping." Harris said the change in the contract language was not unusual because most states have a clause in similar contracts to protect against potential conflicts.

"It is difficult for someone providing services to his competitors on those contracts to do it objectively," Harris said. After the new language was added, the contract was rebid in early March, and Broussard once again was the successful bidder.

Two firms- Who's Who Publications and Management Resources proposals for the DBE program in early March. Broussard, who publishes the monthly American Contractor newspaper from his Northeast Union Avenue office, threatened late last year to sue the state after his contract was rejected. The objected to the change in the original program agreement, calling it a breach of contract.

"It certainly is inappropriate and illegal for the state to prohibit Mr. Broussard or any other corporation in which he is a shareholder from bidding as a prime contractor or performing work as a subcontractor," wrote attorney Lynnia K. Woods, representing Broussard.

Broussard and state Department of Transportation officials are hammering out an agreement that would, among other things effectively erase the conflict of interest problems and award Who's Who Publications the new contract.

Through his attorney, Broussard offered in early November a compromise that would forbid his Who's Who Publications from bidding on state or federal highway projects.



JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL: Yesterday, Today and Forever

by Jimi Johnson

Jefferson High School has been attacked from all fronts in the media for quite sometime. These vicious attacks on Jefferson feed and distort the misconceptions and fear already harbored by the greater Portland community concerning the North/Northeast section of Portland.

Jefferson High is not the problem, the problem lies with a city that has long mislead, lied to and neglected it's North/Northeast citizens for far to many years. The services to the community that surrounds Jefferson High are virtually non-existent, and as the services decline, so will the community. As tax paying citizens living in North/Northeast Portland, we must demand that city services to our community be upgraded on a par with services in other communities such as the Wilson School service area.

"To blame Jefferson High School for a deteriorating community which surrounds Jefferson is like blaming your doctor for catching a cold". The problems in North/Northeast Portland (which Jefferson resides) is a city problem and should be addressed accordingly. To single out Jefferson, which has been getting negative press for over twenty-five years, brings up old racial prejudices and feeds upon the negative image and attitude portrayal by an insensative media.

The gang violence that has erupted in North/Northeast Portland has been festering for a number of years, and conditions that brought such negative activities in North/Northeast Portland is well over twenty-five years of neglect by city, county and state officials.

The tax paying citizens of North/Northeast Portland should demand a refund for services NOT rendered. Instead we seem content to sit around and let some misinformed person, perpetrating as an investigative writer define our community, our schools, and our people from a binocular point of view.

As a person who grew up in North/Northeast Portland and graduated from Jefferson High I've watched closely the actions of the city toward it's North/Northeast community and fought to demand services be met. In spite of the lack of commitment by city officials to our community, I'd still say that North/Northeast Portland is a good place to live, and that Jefferson High School is one of the best in the state!

In reference to an article by Mr. Dexheimer in another weekly, I'd like to say "Come on Down..." Come live in North/Northeast Portland for a few years then speak about the community from up close and personal

Granted there are problems at Jefferson High School, as there are problems with virtually every inner city high school in the nation. But to blame the school totally without looking at some underlying issues is self-destructive to the community and the city of Portland as a whole. As a City, we need to combine resources and come up with real workable solutions in order to turn the situation in North/Northeast Portland around. However, as a city, Portland has chosen to look the other way when it's citizens of North/Northeast Portland.

Closing Jefferson High would mean total abandonment of North/Northeast Portland by businesses and home owners and would create the slum some officials seem to want in our community. To take this issue a step further, I strongly believe there is a city wide conspiracy to drive property values down in North/Northeast Portland as residents are bombarded with negative press. When long time residents leave the community, (which is located in one of the best geographical areas in the city) outsiders will make a mad dash to North/Northeast Portland to purchase "prime real estate" at bargain basement prices. This is a national trend, and the residents of North/Northeast Portland need to recognize the games being played at City Hall before we rent houses and land we once owned.

I believe we should protect "our" investments in our community, beginning with "our" school Jefferson High, for when someone attacks Jefferson as an institution, they attack the whole community with mean intentions. As I said before, Jefferson High School, yesterday, today, and forever.

Mother's Day May 14th

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Portland Observer

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