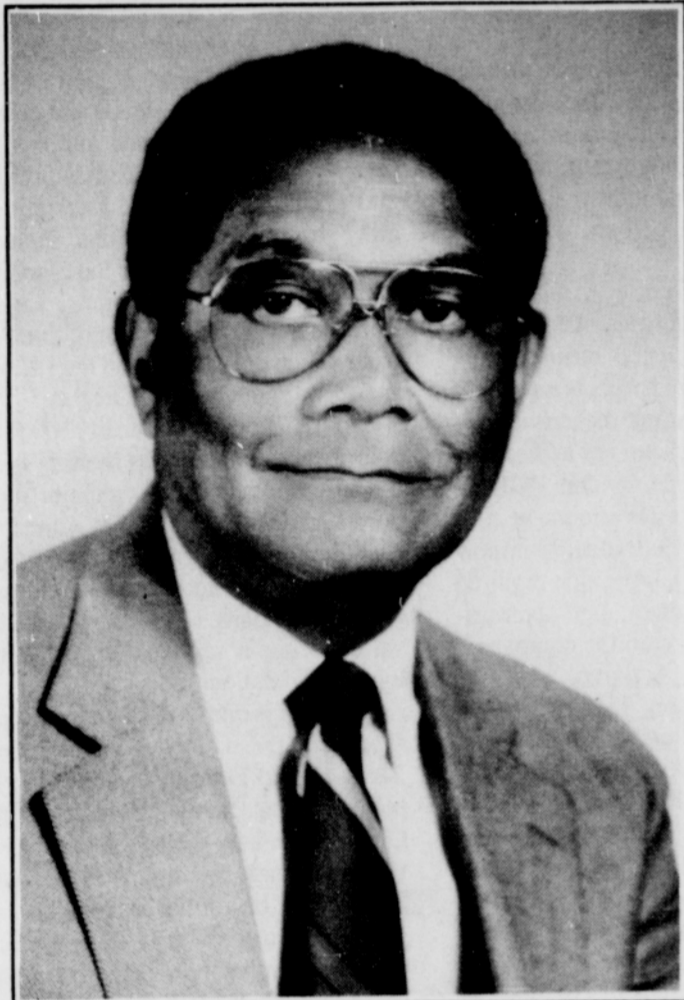


Black History Month

The Portland Observer 25¢

Prophet Approves Access To Condoms In Portland High Schools



School Superintendent Matthew Prophet

School Superintendent Matthew Prophet has announced February 10 that health professionals will provide condoms at six of Portland's High Schools.

"There is an urgent need to protect our children from AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases," Prophet said in announcing his decision.

Teen health centers at Roosevelt, Cleveland, Marshall, Madison, Jefferson, and Grant high schools soon will begin dispensing condoms to students following abstinence counseling, Prophet said.

Prophet also released the results of a public opinion poll which showed parents, by a 2-1 margin, favored dispensing condoms in Portland high schools. The independent survey was commissioned by Prophet to advise him on whether parents wanted health workers to be able to give their children condoms at school. The poll results show residents and students also favor by wide margins dispensing condoms in high schools.

"Portland parents and the community have spoken," said Prophet. "We now are responding to their wishes."

A scientifically random telephone survey, conducted by Moore information, Inc. polled 750 parents, 750 stu-

dents and 300 adult residents between Jan. 27-31.

Currently, six Portland high schools have teen health centers that prescribe condoms. Students can redeem the prescriptions at off-campus pharmacies. But Multnomah County and health officials, who operate the centers had asked Prophet to let them give condoms to students directly because many prescriptions go unfilled. The survey found that the community at large, parents and students, widely supported the existence of student health centers in the high schools and provide condoms to students at the clinics.

The Portland school District began taking steps to reach a decision on dispensing condoms after basketball star Magic Johnson announced in November that he had contracted the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

The following are excerpts from Prophet's statement:

"Multnomah County has recommended that the language in our current agreement be changed from permitting only the prescribing of condoms and contraceptives in our health clinics, to one which would also permit the actual dispensing of condoms and contraceptives in our health clinics to students under appropriate medical supervision.

"In our school based health centers, Multnomah County Currently provides comprehensive primary care services including:

- 1) Comprehensive abstinence counseling,
- 2) Diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases,
- 3) Treatment for menstrual disorders; and,
- 4) On site counseling for and prescribing of other contraceptives.

"Multnomah County has brought our attention to some very disturbing facts. They have for example informed us that:

Nationally the number of Aids cases in teenagers has increased 40% since 1987; and,

That in Oregon in 1989 14% of new syphilis cases were among 15-19 year olds,

28% of new gonorrhea cases were among 15 to 19 year olds.

42% of new chlamydia cases were among 15 to 19 year olds; and finally,

19% of Multnomah County Aids cases occurred among individuals 20 to 29 years old and that due to the 7 to 10 year delay between exposure and diagnosis, aids researches believe a high percentages of that group contracted the disease as teenagers.

"Therefore, because of these very surprising and alarming statistics, and due to the county's request to modify the agreement in a way which county medical

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Committee Appointed To Increase Contracts With Minority And Female-Owned Business

Bogle Concerned With Decline In Contracts Since 1989

City Commissioner Dick Bogle has appointed a working committee to devise strategies for placing more city construction and vendor contracts with minority and female-owned businesses.

Bogle said the Contracting Equity Committee will "focus on short-term administrative changes which can be put into effect quickly, and which can show immediate results." The first meeting was held February 4 at City Hall.

The committee is comprised of Sam Brooks, president of S. Brooks and Associates and executive director of the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs; Bill Supak, president of Associated General Contractors; Shirley Minor, president of Minor Steele and Associates; Audrey Castile, president of S and L Landscaping, and founder and immediate past president of the Oregon Chapter of Women Construction Owners and Executives; Bob Walsh, president of Walsh Construction; and Carlton Chayer, CPPO, the city's purchasing agent.

Bogle said he formed the committee to deal with the "dramatic decline" in the awarding of construction contracts to minorities since 1989, when the U.S. Supreme Court nullified the use of contracting quotas, and to reverse "unsatisfactory trends" in the awarding of all types on contracts to women.



Carlton Chayer, City Purchasing Agent; Dick Bogle, City Commissioner; and Sam Brooks, Committee Chairman

In the 1988-1989 fiscal year, the city awarded 10 percent of its construction contracts to minority-owned firms. The figure dropped to 2.4 percent in 1989-1990.

Bogle said efforts to get construction contractors to voluntarily include minority and women sub-contractors produced "mixed results" in fiscal 1990-1991. Contracts with minority-owned businesses rose to 5.6 percent, while contracts with female-owned businesses dropped to 4.8 percent from the prior year's 5.8 percent.

Contracts for professional services

have remained "well below the old quotas" for female-owned businesses over the past six years, he added.

"The black community, especially, needs small and medium-sized businesses," Bogle said. "Business ownership by African-Americans creates jobs for African-Americans, and jobs are basic to solving problems, both economic and social."

"The bottom line is, the taxpayers' dollars should be shared equitably with a cross-section of the community," Bogle said. "That's what this new committee will work to achieve."

World Renowned Author and Storyteller Dies

Alex Haley, the gifted author of "Roots" and "The Autobiography of Malcolm X," died suddenly from an apparent heart attack in Seattle, Sunday morning. "Roots" was the gripping and epic saga that traced the author's own ancestry back through slavery and to the West Coast of Africa. This book together with a highly-rated television version, focused the minds of tens of millions of Americans and others in the world upon their own ante-

cendents. As a result, scores of organizations have been formed to specifically address this purpose.

"The Autobiography of Malcolm X" also became a world classic, providing the most thorough and in-depth profile of the great black revolutionary. To read it was to gain new insight into the changes in race relations of the period. Mr. Haley will be sorely missed and we are grateful for his contributions.



Students Must Be Fully Immunized by February 12th

An estimated 16,500 of Oregon's 500,000 children will be kept from school or day-care after February 12 if their parents cannot show that they have been immunized against seven communicable diseases, according to James Becraft of the Oregon Health Division.

Exclusion notices were mailed on January 29 by county health departments to parents of children with incomplete or missing immunization records. Parents who receive an exclusion notice for incomplete immunizations or insufficient information can simply complete the form listing the missing data, and return the form to their child's school. Parents who receive an exclusion notice because the child does not have an immunization

record must contact the local county health department, said Becraft.

If the exclusion notice shows the child needs further shots, parents should contact their personal physician or local county health department.

Oregon law requires that all school-age children be immunized against diphtheria/tetanus, polio, measles, mumps and rubella to prevent the spread of communicable disease, added Becraft. Children up to five years of age enrolled in a certified day-care center also must be immunized against Haemophilus influenza type b disease (Hib). The law affects all children attending public and private schools and certified day-care centers in Oregon. Exemptions are allowed for medical and religious reasons.

"The immunization requirement has been effective in ensuring that almost all school-age children are fully immunized," said Dr. Kathy Gaffney, state health officer. "However, about half of the infants under two years of age are at risk for many communicable diseases because they are not properly immunized."

The Oregon Benchmarks, a series of measurable goals adopted by the 1991 Oregon Legislature, call for increasing the percentage of two-year-olds in the state who are fully immunized to 78 percent by 1995, 90 percent by 2000 and 98 percent by 2010. In 1990, Health Division officials estimated only 63 percent of two-year-olds were up-to-date on their immunizations.

Fred Stewart Files Candidacy for House of Representatives

On Friday, January 31, Fred Stewart officially filed as a Democratic contender for House District 18.

Stewart "contends" for a seat in the House of Representatives to bring the private battles of his district into the arena of public debate. His back-to-basics campaign will focus on the A, B, C's--Advance Academics, Build Business, and Curtail Crime. "These issues are interrelated," says Stewart, "and must be tackled simultaneously. For example, a safe environment is required to attract and keep business--and make it possible for kids and teachers to stay in our schools. To combat crime we need local jobs and a skilled, literate work force. Right now, too many kids in this district see that crime pays better

than honest work. That has to change."

Fred Stewart comes to the race with the business experience of a realtor, the combat training of a Marine, and the practical perspective of one raised and educated in District 18. As a private citizen, Fred has worked to increase property values and business opportunities in North and Northeast Portland. He is currently chairman of the King Neighborhood Association where he deals with the issues of crime prevention, domestic violence, AIDS awareness, education, business and employment development, and has encouraged cooperation between the district's culturally and racially polarized residents.

"It is time for us to work together to solve our problems," Stewart asserts.

"All segments of our society and all special interest groups must unite to face the challenges we share. I believe District 18 is full of opportunity and can make great contributions to Portland to Oregon. We need strong leadership and community cooperation. As a State Representative, I will listen to and maintain communication with my district and fight hard for their interests."

Stewart hopes to introduce a lot of Bills on a broad range of issues, but "First I want my neighbors to be safe," he says. "No more rapes. No more dead kids. No more gangs. If elected, I promise not to be a nice guy. Northeast Portland has finished last for long enough."

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