

Appointments To The Community Corrections Advisory Board By Governor Barbara Roberts



BY TONY WASHINGTON

Sam Pierce along with Ken Lerner, John Herrera and David Cook were appointees to the Community Corrections Advisory Board by Gov. Barbara Roberts.

Since returning to Portland from Los Angeles in 1987, Pierce has been a dedicated community activist. He served on the committee to rename Union Avenue to Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Pierce was also instrumental in the passage of House Bill 2705 or the Martin Luther King School Holiday

Bill. The bill made history in that it marked the beginning of all school districts in Oregon commemorating Dr. King's holiday. Along with helping to write the amendments for the bill's passage, Pierce played a key role in negotiating a compromise with the four major state unions which kept the bill from causing taxpayers any additional monies. Originally the bill was estimated to cost millions of dollars.

Other community involvement includes Co-Chair of the Youth Employment and Empowerment Coalition with

Jim Francesconi; Chair of Oregon Outreach, Inc., an employment agency for at-risk youth, directed by Becky Black; and a recent appointee to the new Metropolitan Human Rights Commission. Additionally, he is the current Executive Director and co-founder of the Minority Youth Concerns Action Program, Inc. or MYCAP.

Says Pierce, "I keep telling myself every year that I am going to slow down, but I haven't figured out the formula yet. But next year I will! Seriously!"

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Chief Joseph School Children Get New Street Crossing

Children returning to Chief Joseph school in north Portland this week are a little safer, thanks to a new pedestrian-activated crossing signal just installed at N. Portland Boulevard and Delaware Street.

Though budget constraints limit new school signal installations to one or two each year, the Chief Joseph site in Arbor Lodge neighborhood made the top of the city's list for the 1992 fiscal year.

"I'm very pleased we're able to help the kids at Chief Joseph for the start of this school year," commented Earl Blumenauer, commissioner-in-charge of the Bureau of Traffic Management, which oversaw the project. "Last year, students at Brooklyn and Sacred Heart schools in southeast Portland benefited from this type of "traffic calming" device. Our goal is to keep

all children safe going to and from school every day."

Traffic accidents are the number one killer andcrippler of Oregon's children. Though child pedestrians are involved in only a small fraction of all traffic collisions, they represent a disproportionately high percentage of traffic fatalities.

In addition to installing pedestrian-activated crossing signals near schools, the Traffic Management Bureau is working with the Police Bureau on a "School Safety Project" at five targeted schools. The project includes increased traffic and parking enforcement, safe walk maps and integrated traffic safety curriculum for youngsters. Interested parents and teachers can contact the Bureau of Traffic Management for more information: 796-5391.

Education Update: Oregon's School Improvement Act

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

Many of us educators, parents and taxpayers are forecasting the same future for this ill-planned exercise as we did for those earlier mandated programs that allegedly would place Oregon at the fore front of the nation's educational establishment: "The New Math" & "The Metric System". We note in passing that at the time the state had some monies in its coffers, and, thus, we survived the esoteric experiments. Not so this time.

State Schools Superintendent Norma Paulus warns, "All hell is going to break loose if educators try to change the act", lady, you have certainly got that right. The quite possible disaster could very well lead to a recall movement "The Act, like an elephant, appears to have been designed by a committee (or the state legislature)... by 1993, contemplates eliminating primary grades in all schools."

This seems to work very well in nursery schools, but pray tell us exactly what it is a parent should expect in terms of a "report card" (if any), or any other type of structured assessment that might be derived of an arbitrary and unstructured process? According to a report by Bill Graves of the Oregonian staff (9/7/92, Metro), numerous middle schools across the state are proceeding to "improve" in the same number of arbitrary interpretations of education by legislative fiat. Where will your child be placed when changing districts or towns, or moves to another state? How will newcomers to the state be evaluated?

What we have here is prime example of the logic so aptly put by "Humpty Dumpty" in Lewis Carroll's classic, Alice in Wonderland; "Things are what I say they are". I seriously doubt if this is going to be acceptable to parents so grossly concerned about the progressive levels of their child's education--along a time line prescribed by all the authorities calling for American parity by "Year 2000; algebra and geometry competencies by these grades; biology and other competencies by this grade. That governor's educational conference said that without this, "pupils cannot possibly be ready for a meaningful high school education". But, wait a

minute, I've yet to tell you what is in store for many high schools.

For a number of years, I have exchanged correspondence with a number of teachers around the state. A recent poll indicates a universal dissatisfaction with the "Oregon School Improvement Act" and many echoes of my observation that "some culprit(s) has designed the ultimate paradigm 'To avoiding accountability'. There is a consensus among us that under growing pressures for a better educational product from minorities, parents, general public and industry, certain educators have circled the wagons and mounted the classic "Humpty Dumpty" defense.

Already in some quarters we see schools in the Marshall High School mode, planning to Eliminate Grade Levels, Grades And Classrooms. I am quite serious. And, evidently, so are Oregon's proponents of the "New World Order" in education. Scary, isn't it? Obviously the student or parent is expected to explain all of this to the college or scholarship source of their choice.

I spoke last week to a clause in the act, "Require high schools to certify students who demonstrate initial mastery of academic performance standards at About grade 10". Here, we are told there will be a "tracking" embedded in concrete, "Require high schools by the fall of 1997 to offer programs leading to certificates of advanced mastery in "College Preparation" or a "Career". The "Careers profile" reads well -- arts and communications, business and management, health services, human resources, industry and engineering, and natural resources.

The protestations of the presidential candidates "read well" also, but do you believe them? Many of us are questioning whether at the present time our high schools possess a cadre of teachers competent to move beyond their original charge, mainly reading, writing, arithmetic, history and geography (for which they say they do not have enough time (since there is also band, choir, health, physical ed, driver ed, etc.). That is, "move beyond" in

creasingly teaching and advising in increasingly sophisticated technical areas that they were not prepared for by the curricula of their teacher colleges, or by inclination necessarily (Dictionary of Occupational Titles-Industrial Classification Manual).

It is that split or social bifurcation into "career or college at the 10th grade that disturbs most of us, especially in this light of who will be making the decisions; provokes last week's statement, "...a segregation into college-bound and career-bound understandably makes minorities and women quite nervous". It would be so much more reassuring if everyone involved had demonstrated a thorough understanding of the role and mission of the state's "Community Colleges". In the press interviews and position papers we have read so far, there seems to be no discussions or correlative developments that might head off the conflicts and redundancies that must surely result from almost parallel courses.

For the counseling and directing of those "concrete" fixed decisions which will in most cases determine the economic future and life-time earnings of a student, my colleagues and I believe that community college-level personnel should be involved in that 10th grade decision-making process; If indeed that is the proper time for such an event. In a September 2 article in the Oregonian, Dr. Dale Parnell, Commissioner of Oregon Community Colleges, describes a "Tech Prep Associate degree program, "first out of the starting blocks this year".

This interesting discussion in the Forum Section cites a "four-year educational plan involving the last two years of high school and two years in a community college. We do hope that all these diverse and enthusiastic elements in the superintendent's herd of wild horses can be brought together in some rational and coherent structure. Before the next round of Measure 5 cuts hit us, and before more frizzily little birds as well as loggers and tax revenues become endangered. Continued next week.

Lung Association Cautions Against Use Of Ozone Air Cleaners

Concern about the quality of their indoor air has led some consumers to purchase ozone generating air purifiers. These products can produce levels of breathable ozone which can cause reduced lung function, irritation and dryness of the eyes, nose, and throat, and lung damage. According to American Lung Association of Oregon Program Director Joe Weller, "There are better ways to clean the air than using ozone generating devices. Controlling the source of pollution, adequate ventilation and air cleaning systems which do not generate ozone are safe and effective ways to reduce indoor air pollution."

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has set a maximum level of 0.05 ppm ozone that can be emitted by any electronic device sold as medical equipment. However, those who buy equipment to generate ozone with the belief

that they are "cleaning" the air are risking damage to their airways and lungs. "We cannot recommend the use of such devices because of the possibility of reaching elevated levels in enclosed spaces. The concentration of ozone in the air of a room depends on many variables: distance from the source, rate of generation, ventilation and amount of particulate matter in the air to react with ozone," said Weller. The Lung Association recommends that consumers ask the retailer which air cleaning units produce ozone and not buy those models.

The American Lung Association of Oregon and its medical Section, the Oregon Thoracic Society, are dedicated to fighting lung disease and promoting lung health. The Lung Association's public health education, advocacy and research programs are supported by donations to Christmas Seals and other voluntary contributions.

Low Vision Service Enhances Quality Of Life

A special service called low vision care is available to help those who have difficulty performing daily living skills due to serious vision impairment.

"Many individuals who have suffered some vision loss due to disease or trauma find it difficult to perform day-to-day tasks at home, socially, or in the workplace," says John Smith, O.D., Chief of the Low Vision Service at the Pacific University College of Optometry. "These people can not have their existing vision corrected, through conventional prescription glasses or contact lenses, to the point where tasks of living can be adequately performed," he says. As a result, common living skills such as reading and writing, working in the kitchen, watching television, or playing cards become difficult to perform.

The term low vision is used to describe a serious loss of vision that cannot be corrected through medical or surgical procedures or with conven-

tional eyeglasses. Through the use of special devices including telescopic lenses, magnifying and projection tools, large-print materials, and custom lighting systems low vision patients are able to maximize what remaining vision they have and attain an improved quality of life.

"Through low vision care, many partially-sighted people can attend school, hold jobs, participate in recreational activities and, in general, live more independent lives," says Dr. Smith. Because of the specialized training and costly equipment needed, many eye care practitioners do not provide low vision care.

To speak with a low vision doctor and for a free informational packet, please call the Pacific University Family Vision Center near you and ask for the Low Vision Service: Portland, 224-2323 and Forest Grove, 357-5800. A sliding fee scale is available for qualifying patients.

Reply To An Article By McKinley Burt On September 9, 1992

Private Institutions where ever they are and whether they are White or Black makes little difference. All are making changes to survive. Black Colleges, as Mr. Burt pointed out, are not going into mergers and bankruptcy as stated. The only one that has closed because of financial difficulty has been Bishop College located in Dallas, Texas. Yes, many small colleges are trying to survive, but they are still alive and doing as well as they always have. There are 112 Black Colleges, 60 of these are private ones, both large small.

The public is invited each year to the "Black Colleges Conference" who have representatives here to talk about their schools, what they offer and to answer any questions students and parents or any interested persons who would like to have other information (as Mr.

Burt needs) about the levels of education, curriculum, financial status and their continuing to survive.

At present these colleges are graduating from 85 to 90 percent of black students who attend as compared to a lesser percent being graduated from white colleges where they are usually a number and do not get the attention they need or the push to achieve as they should. For Statics on this truth write to "Ebony" as a good source or contact the "Black Colleges Committee" of Portland.

June R. Key, a Black College Graduate and Co-Founder of the "Black Colleges Committee"

The Black Colleges Conference this year will be held at the Portland Convention Center on October 4th beginning at 9 AM.

Golden Opportunities For Seniors

The Retired Senior Volunteer program of Multnomah County has many openings for interesting, rewarding volunteer positions for people 60 and better who wish to become involved in their community. RSVP offers free supplemental insurance coverage, limited transportation reimbursement and other benefits. RSVP is part of ACTION, the national volunteer agency, and is sponsored by Legacy Health System at Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center.

Some of the current opportunities are:

House Of Light (Aids patients and families): Needs residential assistants, office assistant and operations assistants for their residential care facility at Villa Rose in North Portland.

Neighborhood Health Clinics, INC.: Looking for recordkeeping assistants to work with volunteer archivist to alphabetize and archive patients' files. American Lung Assoc. Of Oregon:

Needs Christmas Seal volunteers. Help process direct mail campaign returns during Oct., Nov., early Dec. Work must be done at office, 1776 S. W. Madison st.

Urban League Of Portland: Needs drivers for an automatic 15-passenger van. Must have good driving record, current drivers' license and in good physical condition to assist seniors on and off van using an electric lift.

Chinese Social Service Center: Needs volunteers to teach English conversation, vocabulary and writing. 4937 S. E. Woodstock Blvd.

Drug Education Project, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon: Needs data entry operator using computer IBM compatible. Non-smoker. Southwest area.

Portland Impact: Needs drivers using van or own car to transport elderly people for activities and shopping. Southeast area.

Call Helen Wahl, 229-7787 about these and other opportunities.

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