

Up Close and Personal



continued ▲ from Front

Agnes Hoffman, PSU associate vice provost. Gaston and Bernstine, both African Americans, were among 80 community leaders who participated in the Portland Schools Foundation event designed to engage business and civic leaders in the challenges faced by the city's public schools.

Portland State University President Daniel O. Bernstine is surrounded by students and staff at Roosevelt High School in north Portland. Bernstine was the school's "Principal for the Day," an event to connect community leaders with local schools. PHOTO COURTESY J. BLAKESHIP PHOTOGRAPHY

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Dedication to Education

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school. In 1996 when Bryant took over at Humboldt the school was in what she describes as "chaos." The entire staff was pink-slipped, meaning they no longer had positions at Humboldt and had to be relocated to other schools in the district.

In order to establish a good climate for learning, Bryant began extensive staff development exercises, restructuring of the curriculum and outreach to parents and the community.

Since she took over Humboldt has seen its test scores and teacher moral rise steadily.

"We have great teachers, great students and great parents," Bryant said. "We've really worked together to make sure each child is treated as an individual and not a conglomerate."

It is this devotion to individualized education and her passion for children that Bryant said was the one factor she shared with the other diverse Milken educators she met at a conference last week in Los Angeles.

Each year since 1987 the Milken Family has secretly selected 50 educators from around the country who each take home \$25,000. In the last 16 years, the foundation has awarded

almost \$50 million to people just like Bryant—those who believe the future belongs to those who are educated.

"It really is amazing what they do," she said. "Teaching is such an important job and these people really work to elevate the profession."

At the conference Bryant said she most enjoyed the vignettes each educator told about why they chose to teach. She said one award-winner was a lawyer who gave up his profession for the classroom. Another instructor was discouraged against teaching because she was the top in her class at an Ivy League school but decided to follow her heart rather than the big paycheck of another line of work.

"For these people teaching is not just a job—it's a calling," Bryant said.

Now that Humboldt is off the low-performing school list, she plans to keep finding innovative new ways to get through to her students—like last Friday's trip to the Seattle Art Museum to view the work of an African American artist who documented the civil rights movement.

Bryant said she likes to give her kids an education that they can apply to everyday life and the preparation for the world of opportunity that awaits them in adulthood.

"I don't ever want to hear one of my students say, 'You didn't do enough for me,'" she said.

We have great teachers, great students and great parents.

—Humboldt Elementary principle Judy Bryant

Girl's Throat Slashed in Attack

A teenage girl was charged with assault Thursday, accused of slashing the throat of her classmate.

Christine Thomas, 15, was charged in the attack last Wednesday afternoon near the intersection of North Vancouver and Stanton Street. The 17-year-old victim suf-

fered a wound that took 60 stitches to close.

Thomas allegedly attacked the other girl with a scalpel.

Just before the violence broke out, the two girls argued on a TriMet bus and were asked to leave by security officers, police said.

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