



PHOTO BY SARAH BLOUNT/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Steve Anderson's career at John Adams included serving as an 'agency director,' social studies teacher and freshman boy's baseball coach. Anderson remembers coaching a female player on the team, one of many of Adams' distinctions from other area high schools.

What Went Wrong

continued ▲ from Front

Did Adams close because of declining enrollment, once the last of the baby boomers reached college age?

Was it ahead of its time with its "school within a school" model, one that modern educational systems are now catching up with?

Was it that families in north and northeast Portland were not politically vocal, or politically astute enough, to act as advocates for their children's school?

Did the construction of the building hinder its future? (The sleek, energy-efficient and drum-tight building, without opening windows, led to a dooming environmental hazard.)

Did Adams fail as an experiment because it tried to test too many variables at the same time?

The answer is all of the above. Looking back, it's hard to place the blame on any one issue. In the 1970's the times were still a changin.' And with change comes a wide margin of error.



A typical Adams student with his Afro haircut is photographed by Newsweek Magazine.

The Portland Public School District needed to ease overcrowding at north and northeast high schools like Madison, Jefferson and Grant. Meanwhile, a social conscious movement was taking place nationwide. Citizens were encouraged by civil rights to question public institutions, which placed an emphasis on educational reform.

This movement, coupled with a district's need, connected an idealistic notion from an East Coast institution with a growing city in Oregon.

"The Harvards"

The Adams educational style was conceived by the minds of seven Ph.D candidates at Harvard Graduate School of Education.

In 1967 they set up an experimental high school combining a new curriculum with teacher train-

Portland was experiencing a growth in population in 1968, at the same time post-war baby boomers were entering high school.

Practicality vs. idealism

To understand what happened to Adams, you have to understand that the root of most of its problems occurred in the very beginning. The cause of its demise come quickly, but the effect took just over a dozen years to play out.

Jefferson High School Alumni Luncheon

SATURDAY
MARCH 10, 2007
1:00 pm



Jefferson
Cafeteria
5210 N Kerby

Dream • Believe • Succeed

Dr. W. G. Hardy
Keynote Speaker

Rev. Reneé Ward
Mistress of Ceremonies

Music by The Sound of Jefferson with The Kirk Green Ensemble
FREE ADMISSION

► J.H.S. Alumni and former faculty are welcome.
Ages 18 and over only please.

Who should attend?
Community Partners & Business Boosters

Highlights
Alumni Rally

Past and current students
Jefferson High School Fund Raiser
Area Director's Achievement Group

R.S.V.P. Lorrie at 503-916- 5415 or E-mail lborigo@pps.k12.or.us

A Dream Turns to Dust

continued ▲ from Front

year, including three for larceny, one burglary and three vandalisms.

The property also was the scene of a death on Saturday, Feb. 10, when Portland resident Richard Hinshaw, 56, was found dead amid the rubble.

Schmautz said no violent or criminal activity was reported in Hinshaw's death from either natural causes or an drug overdose.

Devers said the district keeps the property fenced and locked at night with at least one security guard conducting random on-site inspections after hours, but that additional security measures are the responsibility of the abatement contractor.

Once the demolition is complete, Devers said the goal is to save a portion of property for a potential new middle school,

which the school board may decide to build as district boundaries change.

The district will then begin accepting Requests for Proposals from parties interested in developing the remainder of the land.

"The process will be similar to Washington High School, where public comment is involved, including the Concordia Neighborhood Association," Devers said.

In the past the neighborhood group had expressed interest in more affordable housing at the school's site, but board chair Katie Ugolini said they are now interested in a proposal from Concordia University, another party involved in talks.

The university, in the midst of significant campus expansion from their location at N.E. 28th and Holman, is pursuing the possibility of developing an indoor sports arena and community center at the Adams-Whitaker site.

"We're excited about Concordia's proposal to develop an indoor activity center for the collegiate level but also available for community use," Ugolini said. "We want to see if it would be feasible."

CNA will meet with neighbors on March 6 at the Kennedy School to discuss Concordia's expansion. As the building comes down piece by piece, former students recall their experiences within the towering white structure that was barely visible from the surrounding neighborhood.

Former Oregonian Bill Murray, who attended Adams High School from 1972 to 1973, said he was sad to know there was no way of saving the building, with the wrecking ball destroying any chance of him walking the halls one last time.

"I would like to see at least some memorial to Adams," he said. "maybe a statue of a Patriot?"

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Jonathan Jasper Wright is elected to the South Carolina Supreme Court. He is the first African American to hold a major judicial position.	Inventor Edmond Berger patented the spark plug.	Former Saint Louis Cardinals first baseman Bill White is named president of the National League.	Rosa Parks (born Roas Louise McCauley) was born on this day in Tuskegee, Alabama.	Clifton R. Wharton Sr. confirmed as minister to Rumania. The first Black to head a U.S. embassy in Europe.	Walter E. Fauntroy was born in Washington, D.C. He went on to become a District of Columbia delegate to the House of Representatives.	Carter G. Woodson creates Negro History Week and it is observed for the first time. In 1976 it became Black History Month.
Figure skater Debi Thomas became the first African American to win the Women's Singles of the U.S. National Figure Skating Championship.	Novelist Alice Walker was born in Eatonton, Georgia.	Author Ralph Ellison's novel Invisible Man wins the National Book Award.	Future Nobel Peace Prize winner Nelson Mandela is released from prison in South Africa.	NAACP founded The National Association for The Advancement of Colored People by 60 black and white citizens.	Southern Christian Leadership Conference organized at a New Orleans meeting with Martin Luther King Jr. as president.	Possible birthday of Frederick Douglass, abolitionist and orator. Born into slavery, Douglass went on to become the greatest abolitionist of his time.
On this day Henry Lewis becomes the first African American to lead a symphony orchestra in the United States.	On this day Bessie Smith makes her first recording, "Down Hearted Blues," which sells 800,000 copies for Columbia Records.	Opera singer Marian Anderson born in Philadelphia. She was entered in the New York Philharmonic Competition at age 17 and placed first over 299 other singers.	On this day Toni Morrison (Chloe Anthony Wofford), who will win the Pulitzer Prize for her novel Beloved, is born in Lorain, Ohio.	Pan-African Congress, organized by W.E.B. Du Bois, met at the Grand Hotel, Paris. There were 57 delegates.	Death of Frederick Douglass (78), Anacostia Heights, D.C. Douglass was the leading Black spokesman for almost fifty years.	Otis Boykin, inventor, patented the Electrical Resistor, the device used in all guided missiles and IBM computers, plus 26 other electronic devices.
Eighty leaders of a bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala. are charged with conspiracy. Arrested are Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr.	Baseball catcher Elston Gene Howard was born in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1965, Howard signed a \$70,000 contract with the NY Yankees.	Rebecca Lee became the first black woman to receive an M.D. degree.	Hirman R. Revels of Mississippi was sworn in as first black U.S. Senator and first black Representative in Congress.	Fifteenth Amendment guaranteeing the right to vote sent to the states for ratification.	Figure skater Debi Thomas becomes the first African American to win a medal (bronze) at the winter Olympic Games.	Richard Spikes invented/patented the automatic gear shift.

February, Black History Month, highlights only some of the many accomplishments and contributions of African-American citizens. Learn more about African American History. Libraries, the internet, bookstores, and historical societies are great sources of information.