

# Alternative school offers choice in education

by Julie Mitchell

The Alternative Education program has been one of the best kept secrets in the Warm Springs community. The program, which is housed in the old boy's dorm, is considered an extension of Madras High School. And as the name implies, the program offers practical alternative to traditional high school teaching methods and atmosphere, but the curriculum remains the same.

Primary funding comes from Johnson O'Malley, with Title IV and 509-J School District contributing partial funding for staff and materials. The JOM committee plays a role in the section of staff for the program and before final staff selections are made, interviews are held with the committee and district administrators.

During the first semester, the two-teacher staff offered 31 subjects to 55 students. During the second semester, there are two full-time and one half-time teachers and a community liaison on staff. The teachers are Rob Hastings, Elizabeth Hayes and Julie Mitchell, with Ned Hurtado being the community liaison.

Students can either attend the Alternative School full-day or attend the Alternative School half-day and Madras High School half-day. Half-day students take four classes,

while a full-day schedule consists of six or seven classes. Currently 28 students are attending the Alternative School. The number is expected to increase as the semester enters its fourth week.

Classes are scheduled according to a student's academic requirements and needed electives, ultimately leading to a diploma. Weekly contracts are individually discussed and signed between the student and teacher, indicating work agreed to be done in each subject by a certain time the following week. If course work is completed before the given day, the student is encouraged to begin a new contract. Within a nine-week period, a minimum of six contracts must be completed to earn a passing grade and credit.

Students are not required to follow a defined time schedule, rather, they complete work at their own pace during a time of day agreed to in their contract. Contract requirements also include keeping a daily journal, mastery of subject skills and a behavior agreement.

The Alternative school attendance policy is based on consecutive days absent without contact from the student. Five days non-attendance requires a referral to the justice system. Ten unexcused absences results in dropping the student from the program.

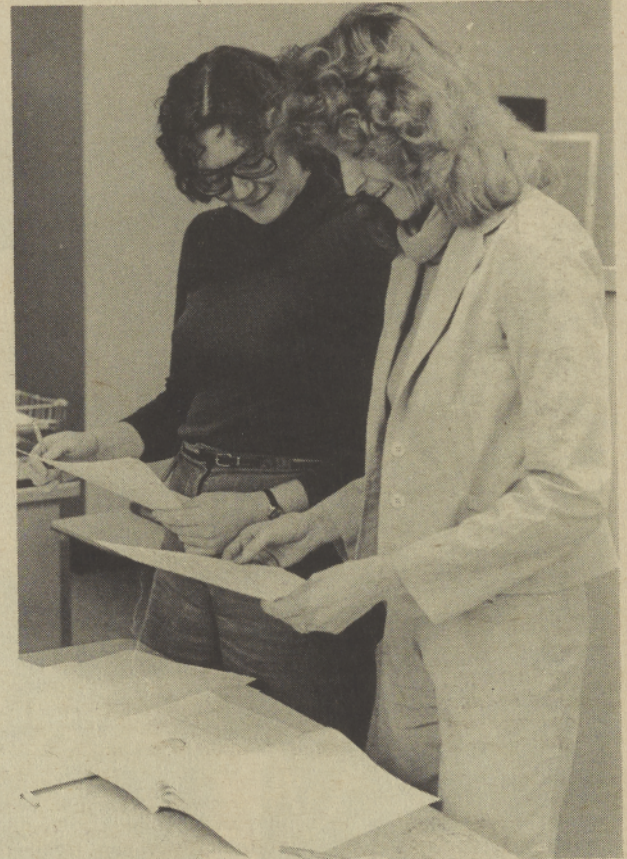
The Alternative School's learning atmosphere is informal and unthreatening. There are no tardy bells and no hall passes. Students talk freely among themselves and with teachers while completing weekly course work.

The two classrooms have desks, tables and chairs and a radio. Textbooks, paperbacks, dictionaries and various brochures and pamphlets are plentiful and readily available. Teachers are accessible in both classrooms to guide learning and to answer questions.

The primary objective of the Alternative School is to avoid severing a student's educational chain and to provide a program that enhances every learning process available. Increased staff and student familiarity will hopefully contribute a great deal to this unique program.

Good working relations and understanding among the community, Madras High School and the Alternative Education program are all demanded. Understanding of and involvement in alternative teaching and learning methods is a pre-requisite to keeping local high school students in a learning atmosphere.

The Alternative School certainly should not be a "well-kept" secret any longer. Staff and students would like to share their secret by welcoming visitors to observe alternative education in action.



Alternative education teacher Karen Leep (right) instructs new teacher Elizabeth Hayes on student contracts. Hayes replaces Leep at the center. Other teachers at the Alternative Education Center are Rob Hastings and Julie Mitchell.  
Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk

## Japanese students return visit

Attention students who went to Japan last summer!!

Ten Japanese students will be staying in Siletz, Oregon as part of the same exchange.

Pat Darcy, who chaperoned the Warm Springs students would like to arrange a get-

together. Any students who would be interested are asked to call Mike or Pat Darcy in Siletz at 444-1070 or 444-2523.

The Japanese students will be arriving March 14 and will be leaving April 4. A meeting can be arranged for anytime within those dates.



On February 14 you can either say "Happy Valentine's Day" or "Happy Birthday Oregon." District Representative Bill Bellamy joined Madras Elementary School's second grade students and Simnasho students as they celebrated both. The children noticed that Bellamy wore both a belt buckle and tie clasp with the Oregon seal motif imprinted on them.  
Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk

## Letter to the editor—

### Police standards not set by personnel dept.

To the editor,

I would like to clarify the statement made by Richard L. Burton, JSA, in the February 2, 1982, issue of Spilyay Tymoo which is carried on page 11 under the heading: "Police position standards." Mr. Burton's statement was in response to a question as follows:

"Standards advertized for police officers are too high for our people," one concerned citizen commented. "With people wanting to deal with other community members by serving as police officers these standards are preventing local citizens from even applying for jobs in the police department." Burton replied that the standards were set by the personnel department.

As the Tribal Personnel Manager I would like to state that the requirements for a job that are put into a job description are set by the supervisor or manager responsible for that particular job. Personnel does not establish those requirements; however, once the job description has been submitted through the proper channels for the organization and has the respective branch manager's approval, it does go to the Personnel Department to be evaluated by the Job Evaluation Committee. Once a job description has received a preliminary evaluation and subsequently a final evaluation by the Job Evaluation Committee, the job description and job (salary) group are final. On the basis of that approved job description, Personnel holds the department to that

job description.

If the job description is to be revised, then it must go through the same procedures if any major changes are to be made.

I believe that Mr. Burton was referring to Personnel's enforcing the approved job description. The Personnel Department only attempts to enforce the standards set by the department. In this instance we were enforcing the standards set by the Police Department. If the Police Department wishes to change those standards, then that is up to them and not the Personnel Department.

As Personnel Manager I believe that if the standards are high for the Police Department, the tribes need to develop

a training program for a members to become involved in becoming properly trained for those positions.

There is a definite need for a policy to cover the training of local people to fill the police positions and other positions in our organization. Tribal members can then be hired with a training program established to eventually become qualified.

I wanted to clarify this as several Tribal members have questioned me about this statement.

Lloyd G. Smith, Sr.  
Personnel Manager

## Tribal Council Agenda

- February 16 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
  1. 10:00 a.m. Hydro Chrono/Sale of Mill Power—E.F. Dibble/Dennis Karnopp
  - Enrollments—Dennis Karnopp
- February 17/18 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
  1. 10:00 a.m. Committee Reports—Detailed Agenda to follow
- February 22 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
  1. 10:00 a.m. 509-J Report
  2. 2:00 p.m. Realty
- February 23 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
  1. 10:00 a.m. Management Report
  - Housing Numbering Ordinance/Report
- February 24 Tour of water plant and Hydro Project by Tribal Council
- Housing/Credit Referendum—Community Center
- February 25 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
  1. 10:00 a.m. Report of Prineville site (Susan Crowley)
  - MOIHS Report
  - Housing/Credit Referendum—Community Center
- February 26 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
  1. 10:00 a.m. Referendum Results
  - Comp Plan Review