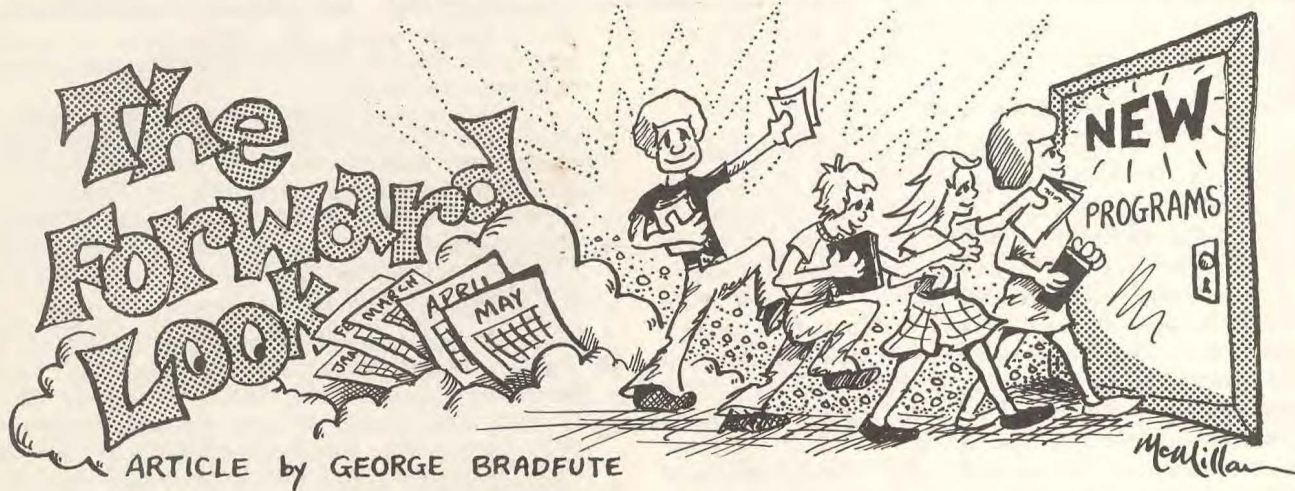


The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine - Evergreen Community Action Association



Last January when Snowden and Vollintine elementary grades were paired, this newspaper, as well as the morning daily, hastened to report that the faculty preparation and community support had resulted in a smooth and successful transition.

The Evergreen News talked this week with Mr. JOE TAYLOR, Snowden principal, and with Mr. ROCHESTER NEELY, Sr., Vollintine principal, to find out how things stand today. Both men said they were pleased with their schools' progress and both had ambitious plans for next year.

Vollintine

Mr. Neely attributed the "exceptionally smooth" transition to a "total community involvement" which included parents, faculties, PTA's, and VECAA. The new reading program lost some of its momentum because a large part of it was geared to grades 4, 5, and 6, which, with their reading materials, ended up at Snowden. Grades 2 and 3 have the Britannica and Bowmer programs, which will be augmented next year by VIP. This is the Vollintine Improvement Program which has received the support of Area Superintendent JOSEPH WESTBROOK but has yet to be authorized by the Board of Education. This proposed program will be aimed at two groups - the underachievers and the 2-3 percent who fall in the "gifted" category. The two parts are called ATTU (Accountability to the Underachievers) and MGM (Mentally Gifted Minors) and, with different teacher techniques and programming, are intended to serve both groups while using the same materials and facilities.

These programs use the school's new media center which has been a joint project of the school and the PTA. According to Mrs. GWYNNE FOSTER (927 Stonewall, 272-2610), new PTA president, helping with the media center will be one of the PTA's main projects next year. She also promises a repeat of this past year's popular spaghetti supper, this time to include entertainment by the Messengers, a singing group sponsored by Holiday Inns.

The status of the kindergarten at Vollintine is uncertain. While additional state funds will be available, some federal support has been cut. Mr. Neely says he hopes to keep the

two kindergarten classes and possibly add a third. At any rate classroom space will not be a problem as it was last fall. (Vollintine enrollment is now 480).

Snowden

Mr. Joe Taylor reported that he was "real pleased" with the way the pairing has worked out at Snowden, though he admitted to some "touchy situations" and the learning difficulty some students have while adjusting to a new school.

The pairing resulted in Snowden having grades 4 through 9 under one roof, which has led to a consideration of the school being restructured as a "middle" school. The term middle school is usually applied to a school with grades 4-8 which has its programs tailored to accommodate the different learning speeds and the different maturation rates of the students in these grades.

The concept of the middle school is based on the recognition that the differences in learning speeds often associated with adolescence actually occur in younger children as well. In order to accommodate these differences, a unit would be formed of, for example, three teachers and their 100 students. The unit might include students from the fourth, fifth and sixth grades, with each of the teachers being a specialist in language arts, social studies or mathematics. One such unit is now being organized, and if the Board approves the \$2,000 for materials, others will follow next year.


The plan is called IGE (Individually-Guided Education) and is in use in over 500 schools. It was adopted this past year at Campus School and two Memphis State professors are available to help with its use at Snowden. The plan was explained to parents at a meeting May 24, and many of them offered to work as volunteers to get the program going. The PTA will make support of the middle school one of its main projects next year. Mrs. JANE RICHARDSON of 679 East Drive (324-8693) is the new PTA president.

Aggressive leadership, capable faculties, and strong community involvement are all necessary ingredients for quality

The next VECAA meeting will be Monday JUNE 18 at 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at McLean Baptist Church. The annual election of officers is scheduled for this meeting.



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schools. The whole neighborhood and parents especially will be watching these schools eagerly as their new programs develop.

Plan Z

Desegregation Plan Z, proposed by the Board of Education and approved by Federal Judge ROBERT McRAE, is scheduled to take effect when school opens this fall. Most boundaries in the neighborhood remain the same, with the major changes being for Cypress, Treadwell and Trezevant schools. Cypress Junior High will serve a larger part of the V/E area, specifically the area north of Vollintine and east of Evergreen. Treadwell High will serve more of the V/E area also, between Jackson and Vollintine and east of University and a section bounded by Ramona, Cypress Creek, Springdale and Vollintine. Trezevant High will have the area north of Vollintine and east of Springdale as a satellite zone. Desegregation of Cypress Junior High and Northside High will be achieved by satellite areas in predominantly white neighborhoods.

Desegregation of Northside has been a goal of VECAA's participation in the desegregation suit, led by attorney ROWLETT SCOTT. However, Northside, with a projected Plan Z ratio of 73/27, will still have the highest black/white ratio of any school serving V/E. The ratios of black students to white students for next fall are estimated to be: Northside High 73/27, Treadwell High 28/72, Central High 48/52, Snowden Junior High 61/39, Cypress Junior High 68/32, Vollintine Elementary 60/40, Snowden Elementary 58/42.

The V/E community should benefit from the changes called for in Plan Z since some of them have previously been urged by VECAA. Hopefully, next year's desegregation plans will be implemented as smoothly as this year's were.

Summer of '73

The summer of '73 promises to be an action-packed one for V/E adults and children alike. The extensive list of activities to be offered by a wide variety of agencies is too long for publication in its entirety so, hopefully, the following programs are representative of the total.

This year another summer of recreation will be provided by Evergreen Presbyterian Church. Regular scheduled activities are planned for everyone from elementary schoolers to adults and include tennis, gymnastics, ballet, arts and crafts, basketball and volleyball. These sports will be supplemented by a church-sponsored golf tournament (June 2), a Fourth of July Parade and weekly movies for the kids. In addition, the Park Commission has assigned two staff members to the Evergreen playground where they will supervise activities daily from 9 to 5.

Evergreen will also sponsor Camp Pinecrest this summer for children in grades 4-9. Another camp will be sponsored by Jackson Avenue Church of Christ for

young people ages 9-16. This camp is located near Shelby Forest and offers a full schedule of sports and outdoor activities.

Neighborhood children will have a variety of Vacation Bible Schools from which to choose with VBS's planned by McLean Baptist, Jackson Avenue Church of Christ, Springdale Methodist, Open Door Bible Church and Evergreen Presbyterian. The theme of the last-named program will be "Service with a Smile" and will emphasize helping others. All of these VBS'S are open to the community.

For the younger children McLean Baptist will continue its day school and Headstart programs through the summer and Janie Conrad will once again supervise the Forrest Avenue Play Group. The Play Group will operate from June 14 to August 11 and will offer art, stories, games and snacks for walkers through first-graders. Activities will run daily from 9 to 12 at a cost of \$1.25 per day or \$5 per week. For further information call 278-9559.

Southwestern will again be the site of a National Summer Youth Sports Program. This federally funded project is free for ages 10-18 and lasts for six weeks. For boys activities will include football, basketball, track, wrestling and tennis. Activities for girls will be swimming, volleyball, track, softball, and dance.

For adults wishing to improve themselves this summer a wide variety of educational experiences will be available. Evergreen Presbyterian is offering to the public "Summer Night Sessions" for several Wednesday nights beginning June 27. In conjunction with three other Presbyterian churches study session will be held on the Old Testament, the New Testament, Worship in Drama and Music, Marriage and the Family, Preparing for Retirement and many others.

Registration will be held June 8 for summer adult vocational classes at Northside High School. Courses to be offered during the summer session include service station mechanics, food service, drapery making and office occupations.

The continuing education center at Southwestern also has a summer program planned with classes on various aspects of literature being led by Frank Faux, Ray Hill and Marnee Harding.


Wanted

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Vocational Fair

by Brad McMillan

Northside High School presented its second Vocational Fair May 3 with impressive displays representing the sixteen different vocational courses. A feeling of pride and enthusiasm in their areas was exhibited by the students and teachers as visitors from all walks of life were guided around the school's modern and spacious courtyard.

In addition to the more traditional high school vocational programs such as auto mechanics, woodwork and drafting, a new program of great promise has been introduced this year. Health occupations, taught by Mrs. James Meyer, is a two-year program designed to prepare girls and boys for further study and eventual employment in health-oriented occupations. This introductory course familiarizes the student with the basic vocabulary of health-related work and introduces him to specialized areas such as diet, physical care of patients, basic anatomy and physiology.

Mrs. Meyer is using this first year to establish the basics of this beneficial course, and she hopes that in the near future that the class will be able to perform necessary services for the school such as eye-testing and even full-scale medical examinations.

The printing department, headed by Mr. George Gunter and Mr. Frank Miller, has brought recognition to the school through the outstanding work of senior Walter Winfrey of 845 No. Garland. Walter placed first in the regional and state VICA (Vocational-Industrial Clubs of America) printing contests and has earned entry in the national VICA contest to be held June 16 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Another Northside senior, John Smith of 849 Faxon, conducts his on-the-job training in printing at Southwestern each afternoon where, among other things, he does an excellent job of printing The Evergreen News.

The auto body mechanics department, under the leadership of Mr. John W. Cole, has also been accumulating honors. Students Gregory McDaniel of 2427 Golden and Columbus Hamlin of 1354 Merton placed second in the regional and first in the state auto body work competition. They, too, will be going to Tulsa for the national contests.

Another course of direct benefit to the V/E community

is the occupational child development course. Mrs. Jackie McGhee helps to prepare her students for work in pre-school child care. The classes conduct an actual child-care program at the school for children ages four to six.

Much good work is being done through Northside's vocational program and it is indeed fortunate for the V/E community and the city that such practical programs are being initiated and are flourishing in the city's school system.

Petition

A petition recently circulated in V/E churches received over 400 signatures and was sent by attorneys for the state to DOT Secretary CLAUDE BRINEGAR along with other sentiments in favor of the I-40 park route. The circulation of the petition was not a result of any new official action of VECAA but rather a result of previous opinion that opposed any route through the V/E neighborhood. While the petition expressed opposition to the suggested L&N route and did not mention the Overton Park route, a cover letter sent by Ms. MARGARET DICHTEL, chairman of the VECAA steering committee, explained VECAA's inability to take a stand for or against the park route.

Readers will recall that these columns have carried several stories questioning whether any mid-town route would be good for our V/E neighborhood, for downtown business, or for the city. City and state officials continue to neglect serious study and action on alternatives, wishing instead for Secretary Brinegar to authorize the quick-and-dirty park route. It is hoped the petitions won't be used to delay action on the no-build alternatives.

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'NEWS News

At this time it might be appropriate to mention some of the changes that have taken place in the staff of the EVERGREEN NEWS. After a year as editor-in-chief, George Bradfute has stepped down to co-editor and Rick Thomas assumes the unofficial position left vacant. Nancy Lowe, who has worked arduously as copy editor since the paper's inception in January of 1971, is resigning after this issue. In July she will move to St. Louis in order to continue studies at Washington University. This vacancy will be filled by Brad McMullan, a free-lance artist who has been responsible for the paper's cover art since last November.

The staff is larger now than any time in the past. Regular contributors in addition to those listed as editors include Hershel Lipow, Hinda Silber and Bernice Williams. They are joined by new staff member Lou Anne Cooper of 1856 Vollintine. Their contributions are supplemented by a regular column by Representative Doy Daniels, Jr. when the State legislature is in session. Business and advertising matters are being handled by Richard Johnson while Niki St. Cyr continues to supervise circulation. Kim Johnson, who has been assisting her in this area, is resigning after two and one-half years of service.

The typists for the EVERGREEN NEWS—those with the most thankless task—presently include Cathy Awsumb, Sallee Bruhwiler, Alleen Castellani and Judy Wieduwilt.

It should also be noted that within the next few months the newsletter will probably experiment with a six page issue. This will be done partly in an effort to include news and features that the shorter format has been unable to accommodate and partly as a response to the overwhelming interest expressed by neighborhood advertisers.

Around The Neighborhood

by Mike Kirby

The Political Science Department at Southwestern recently administered a questionnaire to Vollintine/Evergreen residents about their attitudes toward services provided by the city of Memphis. This survey served as a pre-test for a larger survey which will be administered in the entire city. While the V/E survey is not strictly random, it does indicate the general attitudes of residents. The sample was comprised of 64 households.

We first asked the residents how they perceived the quality of services. Streets, expressways and police protection met with the greatest favor among area residents. Eighty-three per cent of the sample thought that streets and expressways, respectively, were of good quality in the city, while 80% of the sample thought that

police protection in their neighborhood was good. Residents were also generally satisfied with both garbage collection and educational services, with 72% feeling the quality of the educational system was good. 68% felt the same way about garbage collection.

It was only in the matter of public transit that the sample of V/E residents expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of services. Of those interviewed, 42% thought that public transit was good, while 58% disagreed.

After finding that area citizens were least satisfied with public transit and most satisfied with police, streets and expressways, we attempted to determine which of the city services residents thought should be improved. The overwhelming number, 48%, thought that more city funds should be expended to improve the school system, while 16% thought that more funds should be spent on improving police protection.

No other specific service was significantly mentioned as needing greater expenditures. Surprisingly, area citizens did not mention improvements in public transportation, even though they felt the quality of service was poor. However, we found that only 20% of V/E residents use public transit on a regular basis, while 64% used their own car on a regular basis. Although a high proportion of the area's population is elderly, there was a surprising lack of interest in improving the quality of public transportation.

We also inquired about opinions toward the controversial Overton Park Expressway. Seventy-four per cent of the residents thought it would help Memphis, while 83% felt that the Overton Park route should not be changed. In speaking with area residents we found them favoring the present location of the expressway because "it had gone too far to change". Residents also expressed concern that if it were relocated, their neighborhood would be threatened.

Ed. note: Mike Kirby is a professor in the political science department at Southwestern. The above data was collected through interviews conducted by political science students.

Gossip

CHARLES COVINGTON of 1050 Oakmont began work June 1 as a chaplain intern at Baptist Hospital. His wife BETTY is a regional secretary at Union Planters Bank. The Covingtons were honored May 20 by McLean Baptist Church where Mr. Covington has been associate pastor and Mrs. Covington was education director.

Dr. JACK TAYLOR of 671 East Dr. is traveling to Kenya, Africa, this summer in order to observe a solar eclipse that will take place on June 30. He will be accompanied by four other professors and three students in this Laboratory of Atmospheric and Optical Physics project. Dr. Taylor is chairman of the physics department at Southwestern.

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