

# The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollentine-Evergreen Community Action Association

## Beyond the Bus

by John Bruhwiler

No dramatic changes are taking place at our neighborhood schools this year, but there are several notable developments: at Vollentine (Kindergarten, grades 1, 2 3), enrollment has reached new record numbers; at Cypress (grades 7, 8, 9) last year's busing problems have given way to a spirit of cooperation; Northside (grades 10, 11, 12) now publishes a school newspaper, the Cougar Appeal; and Snowden is a training ground for students at Southwestern who are studying to become teachers.

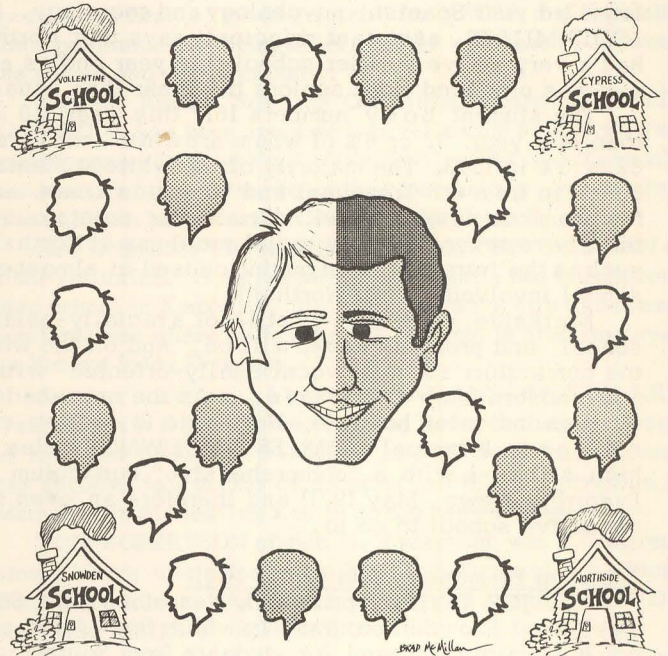
### Vollentine Elementary

VICKI VINCENT, PTA president at Vollentine, reports this year's enrollment at 539, a 26% increase over last year's 444. This number comes uncomfortably close to the record figure of 600 back in 1971, a time in which overcrowding at Vollentine intensified some of the problems in the VECAA neighborhood (see Evergreen News March 1971). Of the 539 students 26% are white, compared to 30% last year. According to Ms. Vincent, however, the larger enrollment figure is not due to the busing in of more white students than last year but rather to the accommodation of the increasing number of children in the neighborhood, especially of kindergarten age. In order to make room for additional classes, the principal, Mr. ROCHESTER NEELY, turned every available room with four walls into a classroom, and was even obliged to have the 20 children in the CLUE (Children Learning in a Unique Environment) class transported by PTA volunteers to Idlewild School. To accommodate the additional students and to hold the average class down to 28, four new teachers were added to the Vollentine faculty: Ms. DAWN ROBINSON and Ms. JENNIFER PERRY in Kindergarten, Ms. HAZEL HOOKER in first grade and Ms. DONNA HOFFMAN in second grade.

New programs at the school include a breakfast served at 7:40 a.m. consisting of cereal, fruit and milk at a nominal cost of 20¢, and no cost for children on the free lunch program; a Media Center, staffed by 30 volunteers, 5 of whom are men; and Operation "Stoplight" which stands for "go" with a cleaner school, "be cautious" with cafeteria rules, put litter in its place, and "stop" pollution and environmental hazards. An emergency squad has also been set up between Vollentine School and Raleigh-Bartlett Meadows School to pick up neighborhood children who are bused to Raleigh in case a child should suddenly become ill or need to come home due to another emergency.

### Cypress Junior High

According to Mr. FRED WILLIAMS, assistant principal, the 1974 school year experienced a much smoother start than 1973. Unlike last year, it enjoyed the full cooperation of the white children who are bused in from the Kingsbury, Treadwell, and Trezevant areas. And even with the sewage problem that brought the school adverse publicity recently there seems to be an air of enthusiasm throughout the entire school community.



Changes in the academic program are quite significant too. "Team teaching," a concept Mr. JAMES BARBER, the school's principal, had initially endorsed is practiced no longer. Mr. Barber says there was no rational basis for the concept of "team teaching". Ms. BARBARA HOOKINGS added that, for team teaching to be successful, classes needed to be of a reasonable size and teachers had to be equipped with strong voices and personalities to match.

Ms. Hookings who is in charge of the CLUE program, which is new at Cypress this year, is very enthusiastic about her 25 "most delightful" students. Mr. Williams was just as pleased to report the success of another new addition to the curriculum, the Title One Individualized Math program, with an enrollment of 50 students.

Enrollment in general at Cypress has dropped from 1300 last year to 1047. The percentage of white students also dropped slightly, from 15% to 14%. As a result, two teaching positions were lost and there is no space problem. With 35 students in an average class, however, this last statement may be debatable.

### Northside High

Everyone at Northside is excited about the new school newspaper, the Cougar Appeal, and about the new journalism course that has been added to the curriculum in conjunction with the publication of the paper. Ms. GLENDA CRYER, the guidance counselor, was also proud to announce such new academic courses as business

#### MEET THE CANDIDATES

The October VECAA meeting will offer an opportunity to meet candidates for state and Congressional positions in the November general election. The panel discussion will be held in the Vollentine School auditorium on Monday night, Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Bring a neighbor.



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law, 3rd year Spanish, psychology and sociology. Mr. LOUIS MILLER, assistant principal, says that Northside had a very active summer school this year and as a result has produced more seniors this year than usual.

The student body numbers 1617 this year, 20 more than last year, 92 or 6% of whom are white compared to 82 or 5% in 1973. The majority of the white students are bused in from the Trezevant and Westside areas, and a few from our neighborhood. Mr. Miller points out that there have never been any racial problems at Northside, such as the introduction of busing caused at almost every school involved except Northside.

Northside, of course, is still not a racially-balanced school, and probably never will be. And on the whole, the curriculum is still vocationally-oriented with yet more modern shop facilities. As the new academic courses indicate, however, Northside is getting ever closer to Principal CHARLES WOODWARD's idea of a high school with a "comprehensive" curriculum (see Evergreen News May 1971) and therefore an even more attractive school to go to.

#### Snowden Elementary and Junior High

Mr. JOE TAYLOR, principal, describes the Southwestern at Snowden program, in which Snowden has become a training ground for students from Southwestern who are studying to become teachers, in glowing terms. He believes that "Snowden will benefit by having student teachers listen to individual students as they work and read in small groups." He says the program is set up "as an experimental project" which will enable the school to see "how effective their approach to teaching is working" and that the children "are reaping fine benefits from this cooperative venture."

Snowden of course has always had strong and imaginative educational programs. And it is to these that Mr. Taylor ascribes the increase in enrollment this year which is up from 1130 to 1179 (545 elementary and kindergarten, 634 junior high), of whom 70% are black and 30% are white. He, like Mr. Neely at Vollentine, considers increased enrollment a positive sign, and like Mr. Neely, had to find space elsewhere to house the CLUE classes. They are taught at Evergreen Church until some more portable classrooms arrive in October.

Mr. Taylor, like Mr. Neely at Vollentine, can also be very pleased with the parental involvement in his school. Northside and Cypress who have fewer students from middle-class homes appear to have a less active PTA organization. Snowden and Vollentine have already a president and a slate of officers elected all of whom are already active. This year's president at Snowden is Ms. LINDA ALEXANDER. Ms. JANE RICHARDSON is the Volunteer Aide Co-ordinator for the college students and parents who are working in the classrooms or doing clerical work for the teachers. Her room at the school is 203.

In conclusion it might be said that some of the de-

velopments at our neighborhood schools are indeed impressive, but they are not as impressive as the fact that the children I talked to like these schools and are learning something.

#### DIRECTORY OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

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Social Services — Kathryn Baker, MSW, at 276-2970 or 725-0680.

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## Planners' Progress

V/E residents are encouraged to attend a meeting on October 8 at which ways to plan to improve their neighborhood will be discussed. An outgrowth of the "Inventing the Future" seminar, the informal session will provide an opportunity to raise questions and offer suggestions.

Participants will include JOHN DUDAS of the city's Bureau of Policy Planning and Analysis and BOB MILLER of the Memphis-Shelby County Planning Commission. JOHN OSMAN of the Brookings Institution, a consultant to Southwestern's Urban Policy Institute, will provide a national perspective on neighborhood planning.

The meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Meeman Center (200 Clough Hall) at Southwestern.

## Learning For Tomorrow

An all-day seminar on the role of the future in education based on readings from Learning for Tomorrow, edited by Alvin Toffler author of Future Shock will be held at the Southwestern Center for Continuing Studies on Saturday, November 16. The editor and eighteen leading psychologists, educators, futurists, social scientists, psychiatrists and humanists have joined to produce a manifesto for change not merely in how, where, and when we educate but why. Its central thesis is "all education springs from images of the future and all education creates images of the future."

The seminar discussions should prove relevant for learners of all ages — including teachers, parents, students and everyone concerned with increasing our capacity to function in today's and tomorrow's world. Seminar leaders will be MAY MAURY HARDING and Professor RAY HILL. The fee of \$7.50 (\$10.00 for a married couple) includes the book but not lunch which will be available in the Southwestern dining hall or you may bring a sandwich. Deadline for registration is November 1.

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## Southwestern News

Fall is the time of the year when changes take place at the community's most prominent institution, and Southwestern has announced several new appointments. Some of them have become community residents.

PETER EKSTROM of 340 N. McLean has joined the anthropology department and will specialize in physical anthropology, archaeology and culture change. He is coming to the South for the first time. KEN STANLEY of 1897 Snowden has joined the economics department and will instruct in the areas of accounting, finance and marketing. Also moving into the neighborhood is DENNIS HEITZMAN of 760 N. Belvedere. He will serve as College Counselor and is a Ph. D. candidate at the University of Texas.

Other personnel changes include the appointment of Dr. JAMES E. ROPER of 959 University to the Charles R. Glover Chair of English Studies. With Southwestern since 1954 Dr. Roper holds degrees from Oxford and Yale.

Physical changes on campus include remodeling of the dining area and Palmer Hall, the campus' oldest building. In addition, Southwestern has sold some property it owned in Hein Park. The house, at 601 East Drive, was purchased by St. Mary's Cathedra. It was given to the school in 1971 by HERBERT SHAINBERG who had become interested in the college through its continuing education department. It will be occupied by ED REEVES, Dean of St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

## Around The Neighborhood

Newly promoted to program director at WREC radio is ALLEN TYNES. Mr. Tynes, of 1607 Jackson, was formerly a staff announcer and host on the "Tynes Line" show.

Mrs. DONNA WILSON and Mrs. BETTY LOOSIER have been appointed interim directors of the Day Care Center at McLean Baptist Church, following the recent death of Mrs. R.H. DOUGHTY. Mrs. Doughty had directed the Center for several years and was responsible in no small measure for the excellent reputation which it has enjoyed.

MARGARET DICHTEL of 893 Oakmont Place has been appointed to the President's Council at Southwestern. Mar-

garet has been a "guiding spirit" for VECAA and hopefully the appointment will bring about a closer relationship between the school and the community.

Current VECAA Steering Committee Chairman, IRVIN SACHRITZ, has been appointed to Vollentine School's community committee and VICKI VINCENT of 734 N. Auburndale has been chosen to serve as the community's representative on the school board's Central Area Council.

New neighbors this month include MARTIN CHAPMAN of 2083 Vollintine. A native Memphian Martin has been attending school in Knoxville. He returned to the city to attend Southwestern where he is a junior. Martin is also employed by Record Sales Company.

Another new neighbor is BRIAN ANDREW STANLEY. Weighing in at 6 pounds, two ounces, Brian is the recent son of KEN and BARBARA STANLEY of 1897 Snowden. Barbara has enrolled in a doctor of education (Ed.D.) program at Memphis State, leaving Ken to do the baby-sitting.

TOM ROBERTSON of 628 N. Trezevant was a Congressional intern this summer in Rep. Dan Kuykendall's office. Tom is a student at Vanderbilt University and the son of Dr. and Mrs. JAMES T. ROBERTSON.

Two neighborhood residents had anxious moments following Hurricane Fifi. ROSINA ROWAN of 2186 Jackson had relatives in Honduras but was relieved to hear that they were safe after the floods. Dr. JIM MCKINNEY of 1024 Cabana Circle East was also happy to hear that the mountainous area where he grew up was spared from serious flooding.

## Worthwhile Objective

Community development — a term used to describe "a process of social action in which the people of a community organize themselves for planning and action; define their common and individual needs and problems; make group and individual plans to meet their needs and solve their problems; execute these plans with a maximum of reliance upon community resources; and supplement these resources when necessary with services and material from governmental and nongovernmental agencies outside the community." (International Cooperation Administration, Community Development Review, December 1956.)

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## Circulation

With the aim of speeding the distribution of the Evergreen News, the V/E neighborhood has been divided into several districts. Four of these districts now have a distribution coordinator who delivers papers directly to the carriers and will help organize deliveries in his district.

Feel free to contact these people, either to volunteer to help or to report problems with deliveries. The coordinators and their districts are: JOE HOUGH (274-5551), north of Jackson and west of Evergreen; JERRY JORDAN (274-3669), north of Jackson between Evergreen and University; HER-SHEL LIPOW (275-8858), north of Jackson and east of University; and DAVID VINCENT (275-0248), the area between Evergreen and University. Other coordinators will soon be appointed.

## McLean Music Manager

Coming back "home" to the V/E community after a nine-year absence are BERT and JACKIE BRIXEY. From 1955 to 1965 Mr. Brixey was minister of music at McLean Baptist Church and he is returning to the same post, adding to it the position of business manager for the church.

During their earlier tenure here the Brixey's lived at 1770 Tutwiler and raised two daughters, CHRISTY (now married and living in Conway, Arkansas) and HOLLY (now a student at Memphis State. Bert is remembered for his active role in developing choir programs for several age groups during that time. His own memories include the acquisition and installation of three different pipe organs. The work was undertaken by several church members, the last and grandest project being the moving (by a collection of U-Haul vehicles) of

an organ from Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis. This instrument now graces the McLean sanctuary and, though it was dedicated in 1968, is continually being restored and improved.

The Brixey family home is Mountain Grove, Missouri, an area which also claims GARY GORDON of 816 N. Willett and the Reverend LLOYD BARKER of 2124 Vollintine. After leaving Memphis Bert taught music in the schools in Springfield, Missouri, and later was in the building materials business in Mountain Grove. He also directed a church choir and a pop singing group. Over the past year he has made almost weekly trips to Memphis to work on the McLean pipe organ. Mrs. Brixey has begun work as a receptionist at a doctor's office.

## Help Care

Join us at Hill Chapel Child Care Center in building a new model for child care in Memphis. The center is open Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. for any children one year old to school age. Soon we hope to be open for infants as well. This will be the only public center in Memphis including children under 2. The center serves children and families in the VECAA and Four C's areas primarily. Bus transportation is available for children who need it. WE NEED YOUR HELP! VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS ARE GREATLY NEEDED FOR THE CENTER TO STAY OPEN. Drop by to share your energies and skills with us:

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