

# Budget-Cut Protest at Alternative Schools

Parents of students at Oakland's three art alternative schools staged an "alternative" demonstration to protest budget cuts and relocations planned for the schools.

About 75 parents and students paraded on Friday in front of the school district administration building on Second Avenue, carrying signs proclaiming that "Art Schools Beautify Oakland" and "We're Already Back to Basics."

Unlike most demonstrations, however, the marchers were entertained by a small group of school musicians. They stood in the sunshine and played sprightly Renaissance tunes on flutes while a parent committee met upstairs with district superintendent Ruth Love, who is recommending the cuts.

A spokesman said the meeting ended after the committee agreed to Ms. Love's suggestion that a task force of concerned parents and four school administrators be formed to meet on Wednesday and

discuss alternative ways to keep the three schools as they are.

"We're very pleased," said committee member and parent Mike Grbich. "It opens a door for us to explore other alternatives other than relocating the schools."

All three schools offer art-oriented curricula for students from throughout the city who show some aptitude in art. In addition to offering a wide variety of art courses, the schools incorporate the fine arts into the teaching of basic subjects such as reading and math.

Parents enthusiastically support the schools, claiming their children are learning more than ever before and are finally happy in school.

District officials are also pleased with the students' progress, but say that the district's fiscal problems are so bad this year that it can no longer support the schools at the level to which parents and students have become accustomed.

The district proposes to make the schools more "cost effective" in several ways.

First, they would have to add more students, in order to increase the student-teacher ratio and get more mileage out of the teachers' salaries.

In addition, the schools' supply budgets would be cut back to the standard level. Associate superintendent Andrew Viscovich says that at Mosswood, for fourth through sixth graders, almost twice as much is spent per student on supplies as is spent in regular elementary schools.

And at Renaissance, for seventh through twelfth graders, the expenditure is between three and four times the normal allocation.

The district also wants to move Mosswood and Renaissance to new locations. Mosswood, with 48 students, is now housed in buildings in Mosswood Park which are not earthquake safe. The

district is proposing to move the students to two portable classrooms at John Swett School.

Renaissance, with 123 students, occupies the top floor of a teacher resource center across from the administration building on Second Avenue. The district says the space will be needed for new curriculum specialists, and Renaissance is slated to move to empty classrooms at either Lafayette Elementary or Lowell Junior High.

Arts Magnet, with about 80 kindergarten through third graders, is also housed at the teacher resource center. Largely federally funded, it would stay put next year, but district officials say that when its grant runs out at the end of the year, it too will have to move.

The parents at all three schools are protesting all the proposed changes, and they are also upset that they were not consulted before the recommendations to the school board were made.

They fear they would lose their "autonomy" in a regular school setting, and don't like the idea of having to conform to the trappings of more traditional schools.

"They might as well just shut us down," said parent Nancy Dutcher. She claims the space suggested for Mosswood would be inadequate for the equipment and the rigid structure with bells to signal class changes would clash with Mosswood's more fluid approach.

In addition, several parents have expressed fear for their children's safety on large school playgrounds.

The district argues that the changes are unavoidable.

"I hope the parents will understand that we're under terrible budget constraints," Mr. Viscovich said. The preliminary 1976-77 budget shows a \$3.1 million deficit, and layoff notices have been sent to 196 non-teaching employees.



## Native American Arts Show

More than 100 native Americans are demonstrating techniques and showing off handcrafted wares at the eighth annual Oakland American Indian Arts and Crafts Sale in Goodman's Hall at Jack London Square. To the left, Tony Hunt holds a mask made for his Arts of the Raven Gallery in Victoria, B.C. while to the right, Katherine Cleveland, from Toad Lena, New Mexico, works at a rug weaving loom. The show continues today and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tribune photos by PRENTICE BROOKS



## Paralyzed and Alone

# Widow's Ordeal

For seven days and six nights a 56-year-old Milpitas widow who suffered a sudden, paralyzing stroke in her mobile home struggled vainly to cry for help or reach the telephone.

Leora Walker Reas lay virtually helpless inside her home until firemen pried open the door and found her. They took her to Washington Hospital in Fremont where she was reported in good condition yesterday.

"I never gave up hope. I have a lot of faith in the man upstairs," Mrs. Reas said from her hospital bed. She said the ordeal began

when she suffered the stroke a week ago Friday after walking into her living room, fresh from a shower. She collapsed, the left side of her body paralyzed from head to toe.

"It took me a day and a half to crawl to the kitchen," Mrs. Reas recalled. "I was hopeful I could get a drink of water, a shot of bourbon, or some food, just something to survive."

She reached an open can of peaches, a basket of strawberries and a pan used to catch melting ice from the refrigerator. Everything else was beyond her grasp.

Her telephone rang and rang. It was tantalizingly

close, but not close enough. Finally on the seventh night help arrived. Her son, worried that she did not answer her phone, had called a neighbor who went over and knocked on the door.

After hearing Mrs. Reas' muffled cries, the neighbor called the fire department.

"I knew you'd come before long," Mrs. Reas whispered to her rescuer, Tim Jones of the Milpitas Fire Department on Thursday night.

"She didn't cry, she was calm," said Capt. Jones. "It was as if we stopped by for a planned visit."

## TV Shop Charged in Repair Suit

LAFAYETTE — A local television shop has been charged with doing unnecessary work and charging for work that was not done.

A civil suit was filed in Martinez by the Contra Costa County district attorney's office against Ed Vass and his firm, Lafayette TV Center at 3574 Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

The suit alleges that on three separate occasions, undercover investigators were charged for unnecessary repair work on TV sets modified to malfunction.

The complaint, filed by deputy Dist. Atty. Curt Hoffman, asks for an injunction against such acts and asks for penalties of \$2,500 for each alleged fraudulent act.

Vass was not available for comment.

## Scouts Won't March With Klan

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — Boy Scout officials, faced with the prospect of the Ku Klux Klan joining a scout-sponsored Memorial Day march, are prepared. If the Klan marches, the scouts will take a walk.

"We'll be there and ready to march but if they show up, we'll pull our kids out," said scoutmaster Zeke Landis. "It's a shame because this parade has grown over the years and now we have this stigma to live with."

About 500 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts from 27 south Florida units were scheduled to march tomorrow through this quiet farming and ranching community west of Fort Lauderdale.

About 50 other civic and business groups planned to participate in the two-mile parade, but parade organizer Tom Foster said most of the organizations have agreed to drop out if the Klan marches. But John Paul Rogers, the

state's top Klan official, said his group had no intention of pulling out of the march.

"We'll be there," Rogers said. "I feel sorry for the poor little boys who worked hard

and prepared for this thing and are being denied the right to march. But we haven't tried to say who should march, and nobody else should either."

Rogers said about 50 Klan members, including a Junior Klan unit made up of children aged 13 to 18, would participate and would contribute a red, white and blue float.

## Firemen Douse Blaze in Park

Fire fighters battled a small, stubborn grass fire at Lake Chabot Regional Park for almost three hours before containing it yesterday afternoon.

Volunteer fireman William Sass, 61, of San Leandro, was rushed by East Bay Regional Park District helicopter to St. Rose Hospital, where he was reported in serious condition after suffering an apparent heart attack.

The fire consumed almost six acres of tinder-dry brush before being controlled.

An EBRPD spokesman said three trucks and a bulldozer were rushed to the scene by

the State Division of Forestry in addition to eight pieces of park district fire fighting equipment.

The fire was located on the Eastshore Trail at Bullfrog Landing. No structures were threatened, although the blaze was moving in the direction of an abandoned Nike missile installation.

Officials expect this season to be much worse than normal because of scant rainfall this past winter.

Fire conditions were officially declared critical throughout the state on Friday.

## Two Gays Sue PT&T on Jobs

Two self-described homosexuals have filed suit in federal court in San Francisco alleging that Pacific Telephone Co. has violated civil rights laws by excluding "gay people" from employment and discriminating against such employees.

Robert DeSantis, 37, Oakland, and Bernard Boyte, 28, San Francisco, brought the class action seeking an injunction to prevent such alleged practices. The suit also named the federal Equal Em-

ployment Opportunity Commission as a defendant.

De Santis alleged he was denied a job by Pacific Telephone after an interviewer learned of his connection with the Metropolitan Community Church, most of whose members are homosexuals. Boyte said he was forced to quit his job because of harassment.

The two contended the EEOC had refused to consider their cases on grounds it lacked jurisdiction.

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