



PARADE:
Tipper Gore
Mental Health Adviser
to the President

PARADE, in your Sunday paper

Hidden treasures
Auctioneer looks to the
Midwest for antiques
and masterpieces

HOME, 1L



Is this money yours?
Thousands of dollars unclaimed
Dane County's list

LOCAL, 1F
SECTION H

U.S. Open
Sanchez Vicario takes title

SPORTS, 1E

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1994

MADISON, WISCONSIN

Clinton set to launch U.S. service program

By Scott Shepard
Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — President Clinton will launch one of his signature domestic programs, the AmeriCorps national service program, by swearing in hundreds of youths on the White House lawn Monday.

As part of the ceremony, which recalls the launch of John F. Kennedy's Peace Corps, the president will simultaneously swear in thousands more by satellite TV hookup at events throughout the country involving nearly half the nation's governors, local officials, celebrities and 12

A plan reminiscent of the Peace Corps

Cabinet members.

"It's going to represent a great new adventure to reclaim our country from the twin diseases of apathy and despair," Eli Segal, head of the new Corporation for National and Community Service, said at the White House last week.

Clinton's national service program has prompted concern among some of the concept's original proponents that AmeriCorps

could turn into another anti-poverty program.

AmeriCorps is "a credible beginning," said Will Marshall, president of the Progressive Policy Institute, who was one of the guiding forces behind the first national service program introduced in Congress by Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., and Rep. Dave McCurdy, D-Okla., in 1986.

"But the real question is: Will national

service win solid middle-class support?" added Marshall.

"If the people who are in charge of national service allow it to become yet another social transfer program, I think the enterprise is doomed," he said. "But if they can create a program that is rooted in the interest and values and experience of the middle class in this country, I think it will succeed and endure."

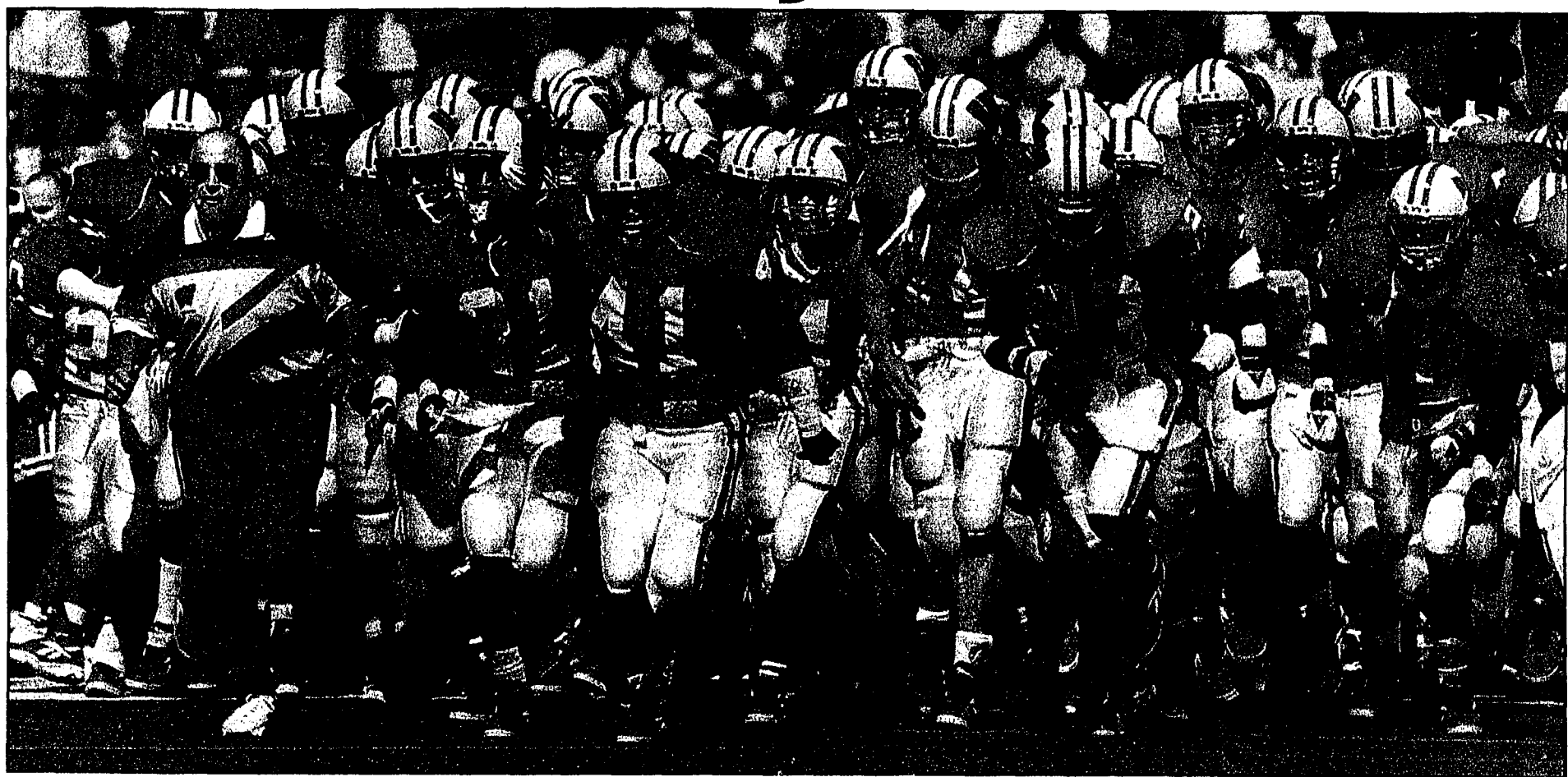
Segal acknowledged the fears of Marshall and others who pioneered the concept of national service, and vowed to be "very careful" to make certain AmeriCorps does not become a jobs program.

"This will not be a jobs program. . . . It's not at its heart and soul about jobs," Segal said.

During his campaign for president in 1992, Clinton proposed a national service program modeled after the GI Bill, helping anyone go to college or get other job train-

Please see SERVICE, Page 5A

What a way to start!



Inside

■ **Parting shots: A pictorial display of Saturday's win.**
See 12E

■ **Michigan beats Irish, 26-24. A wrap-up of college football.**
See 3E-4E

■ **The Badgers' success last year packed the fans in for Saturday's game.**
See 1F

Coach Barry Alvarez, left, leads his 1994 Rose Bowl-winning Badgers onto the field Saturday at Camp Randall Stadium, where they trounced Eastern Michigan, 56-0. See story in Sports/1E.
State Journal photo/MEG THENO

Schools rethink desegregation

Wilhoite unveils new plan for balance

By Debbie Stone
Education reporter

Their friendship shows in their eyes when they throw sideways glances at each other from across their desks — and then crack up.

"Whenever he laughs, he makes me laugh," said 8-year-old Jeff Lowe of his buddy and fellow third-grader, Louis Washington.

Louis, also 8, said whenever their teacher makes a joke, "we keep laughing after everybody else stops."

With their similar senses of humor, it seems natural they'd be friends.

But they were unlikely to have become friends naturally. The fact they even know each other is by grand design.

SPECIAL REPORT

They met because the elementary schools in their Madison neighborhoods were paired as part of a voluntary desegregation plan the School Board started 10 years ago.

On Monday night, Madison schools superintendent Cheryl Wilhoite is expected to present a new strategy to racially balance schools, which could end the plan that brought Jeff and Louis together.

Jeff is white and lives on the West Side in a house with his brother, father, mother, two dogs and a cat. Louis is African-American and lives in a low-income apartment complex on the South Side with his



State Journal photo/L. ROGER TURNER

Louis Washington, left, and Jeff Lowe would never have become friends had they not participated in a Madison public school desegregation plan.

three brothers, mother and aunt.

Under the desegregation plan now in place, both boys attended kindergarten through second grade at Midvale Elementary on the West Side. This year, they are together at Lincoln Elementary on the South

Side, which has third through fifth grades.

While the boys say they would be "sad" if they'd never met, others question the importance of desegre-

Please see SCHOOLS, Page 6A

GOP Davids vie to face Goliath

Kohl giant foe for survivor of primary

By Ron Seely

Wisconsin State Journal

Should Wisconsin U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl think about booking a one-way flight back to Milwaukee for, say, around Nov. 9?

Wisconsin Republicans are, of course, hoping to punch the Democrat's ticket in the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

And, at least publicly, loyal Republicans crow about Kohl, the Milwaukee multi-millionaire, being vulnerable this fall.

But privately, even GOP loyalists concede that Kohl is going to be tough to dislodge from his Washington, D.C., digs. They are in awe of his apparent willingness to spend his personal fortune in pursuit of another term. And they fret that none of the four Republican candi-

dates who are on the ballot in Tuesday's primary will be able to mount an effective challenge — especially in light of a primary race they say has failed to attract much attention.

Democratic leaders have been confident to the point of cockiness. Last summer, Marlys Matuszak, chairman of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, sounded this ominous challenge: "If anyone over there has a political death wish, they're welcome to step up."

The four Republicans hoping to have a shot at Kohl this fall are State Rep. Bob Welch, State Treasurer Cate Zeusk, Osseo sports consultant Matt Gunderson, and La

Please see SENATE, Page 9A

INSIDE

NATION/3A

■ Opinion/10A, 11A

WORLD/1B

■ Cubans still fleeing/1B

OUTLOOK/1C

■ Religious right/1C

■ Views on crime/1C

MONEY/1D

■ Farm markets/7D

SPORTS/1E

■ Morning Briefing/2E

■ Scoreboard/9E

LOCAL/1F

■ Area briefs/2F

DAYBREAK/1G

■ Dave Barry/3G

■ Ann Landers/6G

LEGALS/1H

■ Obituaries/6H

SHOWCASE/1I

■ Movie times/7I

TRAVEL/1J

■ River Road/1J

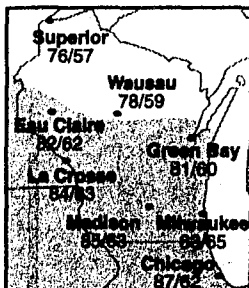
CLASSIFIED/1K

HOME/1L

■ House plan/2L

■ Residential classified/7L

■ Rental classified/26L



Madison Forecast:
Today: Partly sunny and continued warm.
High 85. Tonight: Partly cloudy and mild. Low 63.
Details/back page

No adventure too imposing for this great-grandmother

MINOCQUA — The way Helen Broomell sees it, the advantages of old-ladyhood are many.

For one, after raising six children, Broomell, 77, knew that it was curiosity she was seeing on the face of that young bear that was peering down at her.

That was a decade ago, on one of her two solo canoe trips down the Yukon River. Broomell couldn't find a dry campsite that night, so she tied her canoe to a tree and slept in it. The bear had walked out on another tree to

gaze down at her while she slept. After failing to scare it off, she slowly and patiently untied her craft and drifted downstream, with the bear still watching her.

For another, the sheer amazement of seeing an old lady, alone on the river at dusk, nets her many invitations that begin, "I have an old sofa, but it sleeps good. . . ."

And then there's the fact that she will be 80 the next time she plans to go solo on the Yukon.

"I'm a good risk; I'm careful where I put my feet," she says.

Yes, after spending a day with Broomell, it's easy to drift around to her way of thinking. That it's not amazing that she's off on adventures at



ON WISCONSIN

By Susan Lampert Smith

Please see ADVENTURE, Page 2A



State Journal photo/CAROLYN PFLASTERER

Helen Broomell has a passion for canoeing, which she indulges at her home near Lake Tomahawk.

Specialty schools used in controlled choice plan

By Debbie Stone

Education reporter

Madison Schools Superintendent Cheryl Wilhoite may not be giving many specifics in public about the desegregation plan she's going to recommend Monday night.

But she's talked with each School Board member and lots of parents. And School Board President Peter Williams said she's recommending a plan that could fundamentally change the way students are assigned to Lincoln, Midvale, Thoreau and Van Hise elementary schools.

It's known in education circles as "controlled school choice," because under the plan, parents would get a choice of where to send their children to school, subject to some restrictions. For instance, each

school in the plan would have to be racially balanced. And students would have to apply for admission to the schools they want to attend. Wilhoite has anticipated 85 percent of students would get either their first or second choice in most instances.

The plan is in use in many cities across the country, including Seattle, Wash., Cambridge, Mass., and Kansas City, Mo., to ensure racial balance in their school districts.

The choice plans all use some form of "magnet" or "specialty" schools that have specific academic programs like foreign language or science and technology to entice students away from their neighborhood schools, which tend to be segregated because of housing patterns.

Kansas City's plan, which began in 1987, is considered one of the largest and most

expensive. It has cost \$1.2 billion since its inception. And there's been a lot of controversy about whether it's actually been successful in achieving racial balance.

The Harvard Project on School Desegregation studied the Kansas City plan and found: "The voluntary magnet schools are not powerful enough to attract and retain enough white students from outlying suburban areas to significantly reduce the high degree of racial segregation in the city... While the most recent data from the school district show some small, but promising gains, the many millions spent have yielded little conclusive evidence that achievement has improved any more than a modest degree."

In Seattle, which has had a broad-based

controlled school choice program for the last five years, John Humphrie, manager of the student assignment office, says it's too early to tell whether it's helped students academically. He said, however, that the program is proving to racially balance schools. At any point in time, there are only between 5 percent and 10 percent of the city's schools out of racial balance, he said. There are 95 public schools in Seattle. Humphrie said the district did have to modify its choice plan after the first year to give parents more neighborhood school options. Kindergarteners are automatically guaranteed a seat in their neighborhood schools, no matter the racial balance of the school, he said. And once a child is in a school, he or she can stay there indefinitely.

"People did complain they wanted more of an opportunity for their children to go to the neighborhood schools," Humphrie said.

Wilhoite has said, in designing her plan, she's gleaming what works and what doesn't from other districts that have controlled choice plans.

Wilhoite recommended the School Board hire Art Rainwater, deputy superintendent in the Kansas City schools, at a salary of \$95,000 a year to help Madison implement its plan.

Wilhoite has also made other changes that could influence the future choice plan. Long-time Lincoln Elementary Principal Muriel Simms is leaving her post this year to be a supervisor in the district's Department of Instruction.



State Journal photo/L. ROGER TURNER

Third-graders at Lincoln Elementary School meet classmates from the other side of town under a school district pairing plan.

Schools

Continued from Page 1A

gating schools so children like them can be together.

Jeff can't understand why.

"If they didn't try and put kids of different colors in the same school, me and Louis wouldn't be in the same school and be friends," he said.

But some adults, including educators and parents, don't see the benefits as clearly as Jeff does.

They wonder why it's important to continue trying to racially balance schools — at the cost of breaking up neighborhood schools — considering most research shows it doesn't improve the academic achievement of students, particularly low-income minority students.

Academic effects

"We don't have any evidence that a low-income kid sitting next to a white, middle-class kid makes a difference," said John Witte, a professor of political science who has studied Milwaukee desegregation programs at UW-Madison.

The chief of the Urban League of Greater Madison is more emphatic. "I think there's been this misconception for quite some time that if we (blacks) sit in classrooms with white kids, we would become smarter," said Urban League President Johnny Mickler. "We fared better when we had inferior buildings and inferior books in segregated schools."

But other parents and educators argue that schools should be racially balanced for the social benefits alone.

Integrated schools "really give kids the perspective necessary to handle real life," said Joe Shulla, president of the Parent Teacher Organization at Midvale.

"It's good for children to know different people," said Louis' mother, Teresa Buckingham.

Overriding the entire debate, is a question of law and how the U.S. Supreme Court decision that declared segregated schools unconstitutional 40 years ago applies to school districts today.

Creating 'magnet' schools

Wilhoite on Monday will recommend that the School Board institute a new, broad-based desegregation plan for the West High School attendance area.

While she has not released details, School Board President Peter Williams said the plan will include dismantling the Lincoln-Midvale pair that brought Jeff and Louis together. And Wilhoite will recommend turning those schools — along with Thoreau, Van Hise and a new, fifth elementary school — into "specialty" or "magnet" schools for grades kindergarten through five, Williams said.

Each school would have a partic-

ular academic program like foreign language, science or performance arts designed to attract students.

Students would no longer automatically attend the schools closest to their homes. Instead, they would choose among the magnet school programs and have to apply for admission, he said.

Enrollment would be limited so each school would be racially balanced with 60 percent white children and 40 percent minority children.

Wilhoite has told parents that about 85 percent of students would get their first or second choice. School spokesman Mike McCabe said Friday students who live within the "closest proximity" to a school would be guaranteed a seat in that school. He could not define specifically what "closest proximity" means, however.

Williams said Wilhoite's plan is necessary because the Lincoln-Midvale pair has never achieved racial balance, a goal that the board today believes is important. Another school pairing instituted at the same time combined the attendance boundaries of Franklin Elementary on the South Side and Lincoln Elementary on the West Side. It is considered successful because it has achieved racial balance. Williams said it would remain untouched under Wilhoite's plan.

Lincoln and Midvale are both more than 50 percent minority. In addition, Thoreau Elementary is more than 50 percent minority and the district also wants to desegregate it.

A school is generally considered unbalanced when it exceeds the districtwide minority average by more than 15 percent, said Gordon Foster, director of the Miami-based Southeastern Desegregation Center. In Madison, the districtwide minority average for elementary schools is about 25 percent.

Williams said Wilhoite's plan for the West area may be a "precursor of things to come," as she and the board explore other desegregation plans for the LaFollette and Memorial high school attendance areas.

Middle School 2000 plan

Wilhoite's desegregation plan hinges in part on whether the School Board votes to construct a new building for Madison Middle School 2000 in Fitchburg Center, a high-tech research park. She's pushing that site because the school would operate in partnership with Promega Corp., a biotechnology firm. She needs the space in the building where School 2000 is now operating for the broader desegregation plan.

But already, there are critics of her plan, including African-Amer-

ican community leaders and parents. They say Wilhoite's focus should be on improving the academic achievement of minority students, not on continuing to artificially balance schools by race.

"I don't think people agree with the fact that blacks need white people sitting next to them to get a good education," said Bill Dermody, a Thoreau parent. "I think there's just a lot of people who believe that because our kids are in class together, it will make our society better."

Minorities lag on tests

For years, the Madison schools have been grappling with ways to improve the achievement of minority students, who on average lag considerably behind their white peers on standardized achievement tests and in their grade-point averages.

Take the school attended by Jeff and Louis, Lincoln Elementary. In the 1992-93 school year, the most recent year for which statistics are available, African-American fifth graders scored in the 27th percentile on a standardized achievement test, while whites scored in the 75th. That pattern of disparity between white and minority test scores exists in most of the city's elementary schools, including the Franklin/Randall pair, which is considered a desegregation success.

The standardized achievement test scores for fifth-graders at Randall show as wide a disparity between blacks and whites as at Lincoln Elementary. In the 1992-93 school year, Randall fifth-grade blacks scored in the 48th percentile, while whites scored in the 96th. The overall differences in scores at Randall and Lincoln elementary schools may be explained by family income differences.

The critics also point to mounds of research that show most desegregation plans, including the plan Wilhoite is recommending, do not necessarily help low-income minority students with academic achievement.

Frank Sellew, deputy superin-

tendent of the public schools in Norfolk, Va., which went to court to reverse a long-standing court order to desegregate their schools, said the research speaks the truth: "That (low-income minority students) were in integrated schools didn't make a difference."

Herman Clark Jr., principal of Norfolk's Bowling Park Elementary, which is 99.9 percent black and low-income, said his students have shown drastic improvement in the last seven years since his district stopped trying to integrate.

In 1989, Clark's fourth-grade black students scored in the 29th percentile in reading on a nationally standardized test. In 1994, they scored in the 60th percentile.

There are studies showing that, on average, the overall academic achievement of black students in Norfolk hasn't improved since the end of the desegregation plan.

Clark has a simple explanation: "If a school's doing poorly, I hate to say it, it's the fault of the principal and staff."

Social benefits cited

Those who favor continuing desegregation efforts say there are social benefits to racially balancing schools that are just as important as ensuring academic achievement.

Lori Blahnik, Jeff's mother, said he and his older brother have gained a lot from the Lincoln-Midvale pairing.

"I feel very good about their comfort level with children of different socio-economic levels and races. It's very heartwarming," she said. "It's given them a broader understanding of different types of people."

Jackie Tibbs lives in Somerset Circle on the South Side and has a 6-year-old daughter who is bused to Midvale as part of the desegregation plan. She says it is crucial that schools be racially mixed.

"It lets children know that everybody is the same, that color doesn't matter," she said.

Gordon Foster, director of the Southeastern Desegregation Center

in Miami, said schools need to be racially balanced, not because it helps students academically, but because predominantly minority schools often get the short end of the stick in terms of resources and supplies.

"In a racist society, which we still have, it's important for a school to have some white power," Foster said.

Joe Petner, principal of Haggerty Elementary in Cambridge, Mass., said his school used to be in the oldest and most run-down building in his 9,000-student district. That's when it served primarily low-income kids, he said.

When his district started a desegregation plan similar to the one Wilhoite is recommending and abolished traditional attendance boundaries, suddenly the school had to serve more than the poor kids and the district was interested in improving it. That's when they allocated \$9.3 million for a new building for Haggerty, Petner said.

"We're going to be the showcase now," he said.

He said, however, that his low-income students are still performing significantly behind their more affluent peers. They are working, on average, six months below grade level.

Wilhoite acknowledged last week in a meeting with the State Journal's editorial board that her desegregation plans "are not the answer to minority student achievement."

Schools spokesman McCabe expanded on that statement. "This plan isn't designed to boost achievement. It's designed to give our efforts to boost achievement a chance to succeed," he said.

The board isn't scheduled to vote on Wilhoite's desegregation plan for two to three months.

So Jeff and Louis will stay together for at least another school year, joking behind their teacher's back and studying together.

"I'm glad," said Jeff.

But Louis is worried about the future. "I'd feel bad if I'm never going to see Jeff again," he said.

Need for diversity prompts proposal

By Debbie Stone

Education reporter

School superintendent Cheryl Wilhoite said she's recommending the desegregation plan because of reports from a committee she convened nearly two years ago.

The committee said three elementary schools on the West Side — Lincoln, Midvale and Thoreau — had too many low-income and needy minority students in them, monopolizing teachers' time and detracting from a quality academic program.

"We need to balance socio-economic diversity of this district to the extent necessary to make sure each school has an environment that's conducive to learning," said Michael McCabe, a school district spokesman.

In coming up with a way to balance the West Area schools, Wilhoite said, she had to figure out what to do about the Lincoln-Midvale pair because it wasn't attracting enough white, middle class students. Many white parents have fled the pair and are now sending children to private schools, according to several West Side parents.

"I find it disappointing that all my neighbors' children go to private school," said Lori Blahnik, who has sent both her sons through the Lincoln/Midvale pair.

Wilhoite said she couldn't dismantle the pair without replacing it with another desegregation plan because it would make the district vulnerable to a lawsuit. Simply dismantling the pair would have left a largely minority South Side elementary school, she said.

"We would land our butts in court," spokesman McCabe said.

The Lincoln-Midvale pair started in 1984 as part of a voluntary agreement with the federal Office of Civil Rights, which was investigating a series of school closings by the Madison School Board that created two largely minority elementary schools on the city's South Side.

The board was never found liable for creating segregated schools, according to school district documents. But the federal government did find that a case "could be made that the Board of Education knowingly created and perpetuated conditions of racial and ethnic isolation."

Al Lindseth, an Atlanta attorney whose firm specializes in desegregation cases and who is a competitor of the attorneys Wilhoite is using as consultants for her desegregation plan, said Madison shouldn't feel compelled to institute a desegregation plan simply to avoid a lawsuit.

"The district hasn't been held liable. There's no constitutional violation if they unpair (the schools.)"

"And if the reason they decide to unpair them is because both white and black communities want neighborhood schools, then that's not racial discrimination," he said.

"And just because the district is sued doesn't mean it's going to lose."

"People have had the view that a school system can't win these suits, but that's not true," Lindseth said. "Maybe it was true in the 1950s and the 1960s, but that's just not true today."

The courts have become more flexible in the last 40 years since the U.S. Supreme Court desegregation decision and recognize that it's becoming difficult for districts to racially balance all its schools, in light of white flight from urban centers and segregated housing patterns, Lindseth said.

The district's lawyer, Clarence Sherrod, refused to comment on the legal rationale behind Wilhoite's plan until after she presents it to the school board Monday night.

The Washington, D.C., lawyer who is advising the district did not return a reporter's calls.



Cheryl Wilhoite

— By Debbie Stone

Plan consists of two phases

School Board President Peter Williams said Superintendent Cheryl Wilhoite will recommend instituting her West Area choice plan in two phases.

For the 1995-96 school year, she will recommend opening an elementary school at Hoyt School, 3802 Regent Street. Hoyt is the temporary home for Madison Middle School 2000. The new elementary would be a "magnet," he said.

Under Wilhoite's plan, the new elementary would be open to 240 students, 60 each from Lincoln, Midvale, Van Hise and Thoreau elementary schools. It would have to be 60 percent white and 40 percent low-income minority students.

Wilhoite also is recommending transferring about 300 low-income

students from the Allied Drive area who now attend Thoreau Elementary to the Memorial High School attendance area.

The second phase of the plan would happen in the 1996-97 school year. That's when Wilhoite is recommending dismantling the Lincoln/Midvale pair, which has not achieved racial balance. She wants to turn those schools into "magnets," along with Thoreau and Van Hise elementary schools.

Under Wilhoite's plan, parents and students eventually would have a total of five elementary magnet schools from which to choose.

The Board is not scheduled to vote on Wilhoite's choice plan for two to three months.