

# Federal unit to investigate school closings

By Noah Paley  
Of The State Journal

Formal complaints that the Madison school system has discriminated against minorities in its plan to close two South Madison schools will be investigated by a federal agency.

Three Madison organizations mailed the complaints Dec. 5 to a Chicago division of the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

In a letter dated Dec. 19, the division told the organizations that their complaints will be investigated.

A timetable for the investigation has not been released.

But an official of the HEW Office for Civil Rights, in Chicago, said Thursday an investigation must be completed within 90 days after a complaint has been accepted.

In a letter to be mailed today to the civil rights office, the South Madison Neighborhood Center, the Neighborhood House Community Center and

the Citizens Coalition for Educational Planning ask the office for a timetable.

The formal complaints of discrimination were drafted by the South Madison and Neighborhood House centers and were mailed to the Office for Civil Rights.

The complaints grew out of the battle this fall over the closing of five Madison schools.

On Dec. 3, the Board of Education voted to close the following schools next June: Hoyt Elementary School, 3802 Regent St.; Longfellow Elementary School, 210 S. Brooks St.; Sherman Elementary and Sherman Middle schools, 1601 N. Sherman Ave.; and Lincoln Middle School, 909 Sequoia Trail.

According to the organizations opposed to the school closings, a large number of minority students will be adversely affected by the closing of Longfellow and Lincoln schools, both on the South Side.

## Metro

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In their letter of complaint to the civil rights office, the South Madison and Neighborhood House centers charged that the "past procedures of the Madison Metropolitan School District in regard to the Lincoln Cluster Schools have segregated pupils and created unequal educational opportunities for minority students.

"These procedures have led to the current proposed closings and school boundary changes recommended for Franklin Elementary, Longfellow

Elementary and Lincoln Middle Schools," the complaint added.

Last Saturday, Richard H. Harris, a member of the board of directors for the South Madison Center, received a letter from the Office for Civil Rights stating that the centers' complaints were complete and fell within the federal office's jurisdiction.

A spokesman for the Office of Civil Rights said Thursday that the starting date for the investigation "would ultimately depend on staff resources."

But the spokesman said there is no question about whether the office will investigate the matter.

"We have no option not to investigate legitimate complaints of discrimination," he said during a telephone interview.

The investigation would involve interviews of the complainants and officials from the Madison School District, the spokesman said.

If the office determines that a violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 has occurred, the office "would meet with school district officials to effectuate a remedy," the spokesman said.

"If we were unsuccessful in getting voluntary compliance with our finding," he added, "we would recommend to our headquarters in Washington that it offer the school district an administrative hearing on the matter."

The spokesman said new federal money earmarked for the school district could be held back until a decision was handed down by the admin-

istrative tribunal.

"Our agency has no power to cut off money the school district is currently receiving," the spokesman said.

David Epstein, a co-chairman of the Citizens Coalition for Educational Planning and the director of Neighborhood House, said Thursday the organizations opposed to the school closings have been told by their attorneys that all possible remedies must be exhausted before they take their case to court.

"We realize that the action pending in the HEW office in Chicago may not meet the time constraints necessary to keep the schools open come next June," Epstein said. "And we have been working all along with that in mind."

Epstein added, "We have been taking the necessary measures and researching the appropriate issues to obtain an injunction to halt the school closings."



## Winter washday

Joyce Ruhland, Sauk City, took advantage of Thursday's warm winter sunshine to use Mother Nature as her clothes dryer. Mrs. Ruhland said she had no complaints about the balmy weather, commenting that along with saving energy in

her clothes drying, it was saving on the winter heat bill. Mrs. Ruhland was not alone in her outdoor washday efforts as several of her neighbors had hung out their wash to air dry.

—State Journal photo by L. Roger Turner

## Detox center funded; Nixon quits

By Allen Mundt  
Of The State Journal

The director of Dane County's community mental health program announced his resignation Thursday, shortly before the County Board approved funding for a two-month county-run alcohol detoxification program.

The 30-2 vote means the county will attempt to hire nurses and other limited term employees to staff a detox center by midnight New Year's Eve — the date a private contractor will go out of the detoxification business.

Approval of the \$82,000 needed to operate the two-month interim program followed nearly three hours of discussion about the county's risk in making a last-minute entry into providing mandatory mental health services.

Some supervisors claimed the county would set a dangerous preced-

ent in expanding its health care services beyond the existing Hospital and Home operation; others argued the county would spend more money to operate its own program than it would cost to hire private agencies to provide the service.

During the interim period, the county will solicit proposals from private agencies wishing to operate a detoxification center.

Under questioning from Supervisor Bea Kabler, 19th District, Madison, Jesse Nixon announced that he will resign next month to accept a new job with the Division of Community Services, a branch of the State Department of Health and Social Services.

Nixon has been program director since 1974.

"I'm tired of all the nonsensical dialogue that goes on about all sorts of important issues," Nixon said later, apparently referring to the county

board's style of debate.

Thursday's action still leaves unanswered many questions about how the county can treat chronic alcoholics.

As head of the community mental health, or 51.42 program, Nixon would be the logical person to direct a county-operated detoxification program. However, his resignation leaves program management open.

Also unanswered are questions about adequate staffing for the detox center, specifically whether the 51.42 board can find enough nurses by New Year's Eve to work with potentially dangerous alcoholics.

Supervisor Albert Holmquist, 21st District, Madison, said a random survey of Madison area hospitals Thursday showed that at least 48 job vacancies for nurses exist in the county.

"Those positions, he added, each pay more per hour than the county can pay.

Several weeks ago the Center for Adult Detoxification and Referrals (CADAR) insisted it needed \$700,000 from the county to run its detox program in 1980.

CADAR directors refused to accept a final offer of \$850,000 from the 51.42 board and announced plans to go out of business.

In other action Thursday, the board approved 1980 purchase of service contracts for both the Developmental Disabilities (51.437) board, and the Community Mental Health (51.42) board.

An additional \$42,000 in contingency fund money was added to the \$547,185 previously offered the Madison Opportunity Center.

MOC provides sheltered employment for about 170 developmentally disabled persons, but several employees will be laid off because of reduced allocations in the 1980 budget.

By Thomas W. Still  
Of The State Journal

Should American Motors Corp. ever beg the federal government for a Chrysler-style "bailout," the automaker's strong Wisconsin ties would not make Sen. William Proxmire a soft touch.

Proxmire, D-Wis., a start-to-finish opponent of federal loan guarantees to the ailing Chrysler Corp., said Thursday he would also fight against government aid for American Motors — if the firm ever asked.

"I'm against any bailout by the federal government, and I wouldn't be for a bailout of American Motors," Proxmire said during a visit to Madison.

Congress recently voted to give \$1.5 billion in loan guarantees to Chrysler, the nation's third-largest automaker. Proxmire, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, argued unsuccessfully against propping up the failing corporation.

American Motors, which employs 13,000 people at its Kenosha assembly plant, was in dire financial straits in the mid-1970s but posted its best year in history in fiscal 1979.

Sales of \$3.1 billion and profits of \$83.9 million — more than double its 1978 earnings — were recorded in fiscal 1979 by American Motors, the auto industry's fourth largest domestic firm. Chrysler, on the other extreme, was projecting losses of \$1 billion.

American Motor's financial revival makes it unlikely that the company will come begging in the near future, Proxmire said, but the precedent has been set. Either way, he said, a hand-out plea by American Motors — or any other Wisconsin firm — would fall on deaf ears.

"I also voted against the bailout of New York City and the Lockheed Corporation," Proxmire said. "It tends to push money and resources in less productive areas... and take money out of the smaller, well-managed and more productive companies."

On other subjects, Proxmire said:

✓ President Carter's handling of the continuing crisis in Iran has "been terrific" since Moslem militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran more than seven weeks ago.

"I think it (Carter's performance) has been very, very good," he said. "Everything he does is for the release of the hostages, just as it should be."

Proxmire said the president has avoided "rattling the saber" and remained "cool, calm and collected," while moving firmly to bring more economic pressure to bear on Iran.

"I think it has been marvelous and remarkable that the American public



Sen. Proxmire

has rallied around him (Carter)," he said.

✓ He supports "windfall tax" legislation that will cost the oil industry an estimated \$227 billion in taxes over the next 11 years, although he thinks the tax should be higher.

"I would like much more than that," said Proxmire of the \$227 billion figure recently reached by a House-Senate conference committee. "But I would vote for it because it's better than nothing."

✓ He will not support any Democratic candidate for president until the field is narrowed to one by the party's convention next summer.

"People know enough about that (presidential politics). They don't need their other elected officials to tell them how to vote," Proxmire said.

## Ski-masked man holds up Pizza Pit

A man wearing an orange ski mask held up the Pizza Pit, 4126 Monona Drive, early Thursday morning, forcing an employee at gunpoint into a walk-in cooler.

Mark J. Katzsey, assistant manager, was about to lock the back door about 1:30 a.m. when the masked man entered the restaurant, pointed a steel-gray automatic pistol at Katzsey and ordered him to hand over all the money, police said.

Katzsey pointed to a cash box and wallet on a desk in the rear of the store, and was then told, "Get in the locker before I blow your head off," according to the police report.

Katzsey told police he heard the robber banging around in the restaurant for about five minutes, during which time the man jerked a telephone from the wall. After another five minutes of silence, Katzsey used a safety latch to get out of the cooler.

The amount of money taken is still undetermined, police said.

## Dying man writes of 6-year fight with disease

By Ron Seely  
Of The State Journal

WISCONSIN DELLS — When David Bork, 23, died on March 29 after a six-year struggle with cystic fibrosis, he left a legacy of courage and determination that touched everyone who knew him.

But he left more than that. David left a 127-page book about his fight with the disease.

"I am now setting out to tell my story, fully knowing that the possibility exists that I may get seriously ill and never be able to finish it," David wrote in the book's foreword on Sept. 26, 1976.

"I have read books about people with other terrible, life-threatening diseases, but these books always seem to be written by a relative or close friend rather than by the victims themselves. It is for this reason that I am now writing, so that my story can be told by me, firsthand, rather than by someone else."

David did complete the book. And, although he died before seeing it pub-

lished, he saw the completed manuscript and the cover of the book. His family formed a company and published the book after David's death.

Now it is their hope that David's story, "D. B. Besieged," will bring some comfort, hope and enlightenment to others whose lives have been touched by cystic fibrosis.

The disease, which is inherited, causes the lungs, the pancreas and the sweat glands to function abnormally and prevents victims from breathing and digesting food normally.

David's father, Rueford Bork, a pharmacist in Wisconsin Dells, said 1,500 copies of the book have been sold. He said another 200 copies will pay off the publishing bill and after those are sold the profits will go to CF projects.

Bork said David requested that much of the money from the sale of the book go to the Wisconsin Dells camp for children with cystic fibrosis, which was held last year at Camp Waubeek.

The camp, which was four days

last year and will be extended to a week this year, offers children with cystic fibrosis a chance to enjoy a summer camp experience complete with hiking, swimming and other outdoor activities. The camp is staffed by volunteers from the University of Wisconsin Hospital where David went for therapy. The camp staff includes respiratory and physical therapists, nurses, physicians and non-medical personnel from the hospital's pediatric department.

In "D. B. Besieged," David painted a graphic picture of the torment, the frustration, the sadness and the joy that accompanied his bout with CF. He wrote of the shock he felt in 1973 when the doctor diagnosed the disease. And he left out little of what happened in the years that followed: The wracking cough, the pain of the disease, the countless operations and the fear.

He wrote of one terrifying night in the hospital when he began coughing up blood.

"I became totally exhausted from

coughing and somewhat dizzy from the blood loss," David wrote. "The situation was not critical, because the doctors were right there with extra blood for the transfusion. But there is just something eerie and horrifying about seeing all that blood coming out of your own body."

"The nurses were great, as always, comforting me and trying to keep me from panicking, but for all I knew I might die at any time. I was terrified and felt like screaming as loud as I could, but didn't."

Yet "D. B. Besieged" is not a sad book. This, perhaps, was David's greatest achievement. He was able to write an honest book about his plight yet infuse it with a simple joy for life that many healthy people never experience. He enthusiastically recalled the thrill of getting his first car, the excitement of family get-togethers, the excitement of travel.

It is this joy, plus David's recommendations for coping with the disease, that make the book a valuable resource for people who have cystic

fibrosis or are close to others with the disease.

"The most important aspect of counseling CF patients, as well as members of their families, is the psychological aspect," David writes. "CF families have to learn how to handle their emotions and to live with the disease. The disease won't go away, so affected families must either learn to live with the mental stress caused by it and make the most of the good times they do have, or just succumb to the stress and live each day in agony."

Despite the apparent importance of "D. B. Besieged," David's father said he has had difficulty placing the book on library shelves. He said he has contacted Library Services for the state of Wisconsin about making the book available but has received no response.

"We believe this is the first book written by a patient with cystic fibrosis, although there have been a few written by parents and medical personnel," Bork said in a letter to Library Services. "When our son was

first diagnosed as having cystic fibrosis, we looked everywhere for information about the disease and there was so very little available. Some people have expressed thoughts that David's book could be helpful for teachers who work with children afflicted with cystic fibrosis. The book forces an awareness of the many difficult problems facing a cystic fibrosis child."

That the book would be of help to others with the disease is exactly what David hoped, Bork said. The book was an attempt on David's part to solve two problems: To come to terms with the disease and to leave something behind of value.

"David was really enthused about the book," Bork said. "Now we're trying to follow up on that."

Copies of "D. B. Besieged" can be ordered from the Borkon Group, 610 Cedar St., Wisconsin Dells, Wis. 53985. The cost per book is \$3.95 plus 50 cents for postage and handling. A 10 percent discount is given on orders of five or more.