

EUCALYPTUS ACTI

Teacher here says Berkeley schools won't hire whites

By LARI BLUMENFELD
I-G Staff Writer

All her adult life Beatrice Tobias has fought for civil rights causes.

And now, she says, she is being denied a job—for which she is eminently qualified—as a school teacher for the Berkeley public schools.

Because she is white.

"Berkeley has always been an indicator today of what will happen elsewhere tomorrow," she said, "and if this discrimination continues against qualified teachers because they are white, I foresee the end of decent public education."

MISS TOBIAS, who has lived here four years and first applied for a teaching job in 1970, is not the type to shrug off the problem. She's fought too many battles as an activist in the civil rights field — mostly on behalf of blacks and women.

The Jewish woman said she again applied for a teaching job in 1972 and followed up the application with a personal appearance during which she met Dr. Richard Foster, superintendent of schools.

"He told me that 'for us to hire a white teacher we must show cause,'" Miss Tobias said.

In disbelief she sat in the application office for some time, and this is what she said occurred: When a Caucasian sought an application as a teacher — from a black secretary — the white was told there were no openings.

CONVERSELY, when a

Negro asked for an application, the black applicant was handed an application with great aplomb, she said.

"Discrimination is discrimination," Miss Tobias said, "and it should make no difference what your color or sex as long as you qualify for the job."

She said she was allowed to apply for a job at Berkeley High School where there were two openings for a biology teacher.

She was interviewed by Principal Clifford Wong, she said, and after the interview "I felt just like blacks must have felt 20 years ago in the south when they tried to apply for jobs."

THE POSITIONS were filled with two Orinetsals, she said, one with no teaching experience and the other with

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WALLY JOHNSON
wins his point

Measure 8 clarification court order

By STEVE DUSCHA
I-G Staff Writer

A superior court judge has ordered Berkeley officials to mail out a statement to Berkeley voters to correct "ambiguities" in Measure Eight, the municipalization of Pacific Gas and Electric facilities.

Judge Robert L. Bostick agreed with former Mayor Wallace Johnson and five other local residents

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Richmond explosion hurts 9

By CATHY SCHUTZ
I-G Staff Writer

RICHMOND — A series of massive explosions and fires at the M and T Chemical Co. plant in North Richmond shattered the pre-dawn stillness today, sending balls of flame and columns of black smoke high into the sky.

Nine people, none of them employes of the chemical plant, were taken to Brookside Hospital in San Pablo for treatment after the 4:27 a.m. blast. The explosions were heard as far away as Redwood City and northern Napa County.

ONE WOMAN, Betty Mason of 155 Parr Blvd. near the site of the explosion, required minor surgery this morning.

The other injured were all in homes surrounding the chemical plant. They were being treated for lacerations and bruises caused by the debris flying from the exploding plant.

Fire units from San Pablo and Richmond were on the scene to contain the blazes which were fed from the plastics and chemicals used at the plant.

FIRE OFFICIALS said they were unable to prevent the several fires from virtually destroying the series of one-story buildings and sheds at the chemical plant. The firefighting plan was to keep

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Alameda County Lionel Wilson has ties and special (the Berkeley Hills have not taken su nate the eucalyptu

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THE ATTORNEYS, filed on be such as himself, the districts invol action.

Defendants na Berkeley and C Regional Park I Alameda and Cor Bay Municipal Uni

Colony may stop Berkeley health exodus

at 1901 Golden Gate Ave. directly across from the plant was virtually destroyed by the blasts.

The explosions sent boulders and hunks of cement the size of basketballs through the corrugated steel warehouse of the DeCarlo Cabinet Co. and knocked piles of wood to the floor. The firm's automatic

blew out its living room window and knocked him across the room. His face was cut by flying glass.

A horse in a nearby field was also cut by flying debris. Residents unlocked several stalls to allow other horses to

Brookside Hospital were Ronald, Daniel, Catherine, Jeffrey, Janet and Herman Martin, all of 1901 Golden Gate Ave., Glenna Sheets of 1841 14th St., San Pablo, and Danny Vargas of 2604 Standard Ave.

TEACHER

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1 1/2 years of experience. Displeased, but now with her dander up, Miss Tobias took her case to a hearing officer for the Fair Employment Practices Commission in San Francisco.

The hearing officer was black, she said, and listened very attentively and sympathetically to her problem.

She said he told her he would make a "positive" recommendation to the commission and she could count on word that the next available job in her field in the Berkeley schools would be hers.

SEVERAL WEEKS later she received a document from the commission stating they would not carry her banner and had dropped the matter.

Now really angry, Miss Tobias took the whole situation to the Berkeley Neighborhood Legal Services for legal advice and they have accepted her case.

BNLS will file suit April 12 in Alameda County Superior Court seeking a rehearing of Miss Tobias' case, she said.

Miss Tobias, whose product of California schools and colleges, has an MA degree in biology life sciences and two years towards her doctorate.

SHE HAS TAUGHT 10 years — in Bay Area schools

— and has done 10 years of research in her field.

Miss Tobias said to her knowledge she is the first white teacher to seek redress from the FEPC, "but I hope others who have had the same problem will find courage to file complaints," she said.

She said she has heard and knows of many qualified teachers who have applied for jobs in the Berkeley school district who have been turned down because they are white.

And she said she knows many white teachers now in the district who are being discriminated against because they are white, denied transfers, promotions and other privileges.

SHE BELIEVES it is "of great importance for school board candidates to indicate their positions on discriminatory hiring," whether the discrimination against black or white or whatever color.

"The children suffer the most when qualified teachers are not hired," she said, "and if the children suffer the community is suffering."

Miss Tobias said she is not interested in teaching elsewhere. "I love Berkeley and if I have to I'll fight to stay here."

"I'm not going to sit back and see the white race denied its right to work."

MARIJUANA

(Continued From Page 1)

tion of marijuana without the authorization of the Berkeley City Council.

NEITHER THE state marijuana proposition nor the Berkeley measure allows the sale of "pot," so other than

"Whereas it is both in the interest and within the power of the people of Berkeley to establish the law enforcement priorities of the Berkeley Police Department;

"and whereas the procedures for enforcement of the

for retired to be feled

Oakland Chapter No. 967 of the American Association of Retired Persons will receive double honors Friday, April 13, in special ceremonies at which the chapter will receive a national charter and a charter from the Institute of Lifetime Learning.

The program will be held at the Madison Street Temple, 1433 Madison St., Oakland.

The Oakland chapter was organized in November 1971 and has a membership of some 1,000 persons.

It is the first chapter in northern California to be awarded an Institute of Lifetime Charter, according to Leroy E. Hixson, dean of the institute, who will attend the ceremonies.

Mrs. Vera Soderstrom, AARP state director, will present the charters to John C. Winters, chapter president, and Ralph R. Fletcher, chairman of the institute advisory committee.

All persons over 55 years old are eligible to join the organization.

TREES

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will increase its firefighting capability in the area.

Also, the state will assign National Guard units and equipment to augment the work of local agencies and volunteers in removing dead trees and brush from the area.

Final details of the agreement were concluded at a meeting Wednesday in the governor's office attended by state and local officials, including Mayors John Reading of Oakland and Warren Widener of Berkeley.

Solo performance

Gwendolyn Ann Williams, a lyric spinto soprano, will sing in concert Sunday afternoon

Where

Do

SPOR

Choose your new huge selection of Knits... the durable polyester miracle many patterns and latest "peacock"

The easy living T-Rider give you the minimum in worry. Rough Rider!

from



CHANGE

guage but under the ruling only the correction will be issued.

CITY CLERK Edythe Campbell said the extra mailing will cost the city \$9,000.

The mailing is similar to one ordered last fall to correct language in another ballot measure which would have instituted a run-off in city elections.

On the PG&E issue all election materials presently contain the title of the ordinance.

"Directing the city council of the city of Berkeley to take necessary steps to acquire, establish, maintain, equip, own and operate electric light, heat and power works."

JOHNSON'S attorney Arthur Harris, argued that "the average person, the average voter, when they think in terms of heat think of terms of gas heat."

"But actually in fact this ordinance has nothing to do with gas distribution at all."

Harris also questioned the distribution with the voter handbook of a copy of the original council resolution on the PG&E initiative.

He said the vote listed on the resolution does not reflect the position of some of the councilmen.

But the judge agreed with the city that the resolution and the vote had to be printed to comply with the state election code.

DIDATE