

Rural Opportunities director reinstated

Nyong Etuk, project director of Oregon Rural Opportunities Health Care Services, Inc., suspended with pay since Feb. 10, was reinstated by the board of directors of ORO-HCS at its meeting in Wilsonville.

At the time of his suspension, Etuk was director of both the Virginia Garcia Health Center in Cornelius and Centro de Salubridad Clinic in Woodburn.

Etuk told the Argus this morning that ORO-HCS will continue to provide health services for migrant workers in Washington County, but that the Virginia Garcia Clinic is "no longer part of our program at all. It is not an entity."

Etuk's suspension came about following charges of clinic mismanagement by Dr. Greg Mecklem, then staff physician at Virginia Garcia. Mecklem and his staff had resigned Feb. 1, but had been working at the clinic on a volunteer basis.

Board vote on Etuk's reinstatement was 7 to 1, with Ralph Brown, former mayor of Cornelius, dissenting.

Etuk said today that ORO-HCS will serve Washington County with one facility and one van. Location of the facility is "something I'm working on," he said.

Some residents of the Hillsboro-Cornelius community have reported



NYONG ETUK

they hope the new clinic facility will be located in Hillsboro, since most migrants come to Hillsboro for groceries, clothing and other shopping.

Discrimination cited in Grove schools

FOREST GROVE — Administrators of District 15 schools have been directed by the district's Board of Education to work with Parents Concelio, an elected group of Chicano parents, in dealing with complaints of discrimination against Mexican-American students.

A list of Concelio requests, submitted to the board March 31st through Assistant Supt. Gary Lucas, was taken under advisement for further study by the board. The matter arose recently when several letters from Chicano parents, complaining of discriminatory practices at Neil Armstrong Junior High School, were received by the Board.

Included in the Concelio's requests was the desire of the group to be recognized in an advisory capacity to the Board. Other requests called for an ad hoc committee to investigate the discrimination charges, and that a committee be formed of Concelio members, Board members, and representatives of the Department of Education's Human Rights Commission, to study the school's curriculum, disciplinary practices and sports programs.

Other requests included addition of a Chicano counselor to the school's staff; addition of Chicano and Mexican history, literature, art and music to the curriculum; clarification of the

district's suspension policy, and updating of Board policy to require that communications between the school and Chicano homes be bilingual.

The group further petitioned that the Concelio be allowed to participate in hiring of teachers and counselors, that the board make one school available for a summer migrant program and that parents be notified before students are suspended from classes.

Lucas told the Argus that at least some of the group's demands either are present policy or currently are being acted upon. For example, Lucas said, present district policy directs that parents be notified prior to suspension of a student.

He further pointed out that plans are already under way to make Echo Shaw School available for a six-week period, immediately after close of school this spring, for the migrant program.

"I feel very good about the (Thursday) meeting," Lucas concluded. "I believe that, working together, we are making real progress in dealing with the Chicano parents' concerns."

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