

Davis Details Changes He's Planned At Centennial

By CAROL MATHERS
News-Gazette Staff Writer

Some changes are planned for Centennial High School, according to Al Davis, who has been named acting principal. In an interview, Davis told The News-Gazette that one of his first directives as acting principal will be the closing of the school's senior lounge and the assignment of a faculty member to act as liaison with the black community. Davis said he believes that faculty time and resources "can be put to

better use by providing an opportunity for a black teacher to meet with black parents." He said that he plans to make a black faculty member available in north Champaign's black community for talks with parents to promote "a truly better understanding of the school's programs and its problems. "This will enable the parent to get a different point of view," Davis said. In deciding to send a faculty member out into the community

Davis said he realized that "some people are not comfortable in certain social settings — black parents cannot always feel free to come to the school."

Davis said he believes that one of the major causes of racial problems at the school is that the administration has failed to communicate with parents. "We haven't come across as really caring," he said. "This is not unique with black parents and students — this same feeling is shared by a large portion of the student

body." The acting principal added that "part of communication is the involvement of people with the school." He said, "We are going to solicit the parents' support of the school."

Davis said that the acting administration plans to continue the investigation of violent incidents at the school last week which resulted in the suspension of 59 black students. He also said that he would pursue the possibility of expelling "between

five and eight" of the suspended students.

Davis admits that his new job will not be an easy one. "Whenever one acts decisively, he alienates somebody," he said. "I think we've been taking a few steps backward these past few days — but I think we have to, in order to get on with the business of education."

Asked if he would consider accepting the Centennial principalship permanently if it were offered, Davis expressed reservations. He agreed that his

position is a difficult one because he has been associated with the problems and now must present some solutions.

"I'm really not ready to say whether or not I would take the job permanently," Davis said.

Davis, Walker On 'The People Question'

Two representatives of the black community in Champaign will be on Radio Station WJWS Wednesday night to discuss racial problems at Centennial High School.

Richard Davis and Rev. H. Henry Walker, president of the Black Ministerial Alliance, will answer questions called in by listeners. They will appear on "The People Question," a public affairs program conducted by WJWS News Director Frank Graham.

The program is on the air from 7:35 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Davis and Walker were among those who successfully called for the resignation of Richard Longenecker as principal of Centennial.

PFYT!

PFYT! A special column devoted to elaborating on questions listeners raise on "Penny For Your Thoughts" on WJWS, 1400 on the AM dial. We list topics discussed on the radio broadcast heard daily from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and other questions which may come to the attention of The News-Gazette.

Should Centennial High School Principal Dr. Richard Longenecker have been relieved of his duties?

According to several callers Wednesday on Penny For Your Thoughts, it was not the proper move.

One woman said, "I'm very disappointed in the superintendent (Champaign Unit 4 School Superintendent Marshall P. FORTNER), who removed Longenecker. That certainly isn't going to help anything. I think it's a poor thing to do. I think you could work out a few things and give the man a chance."

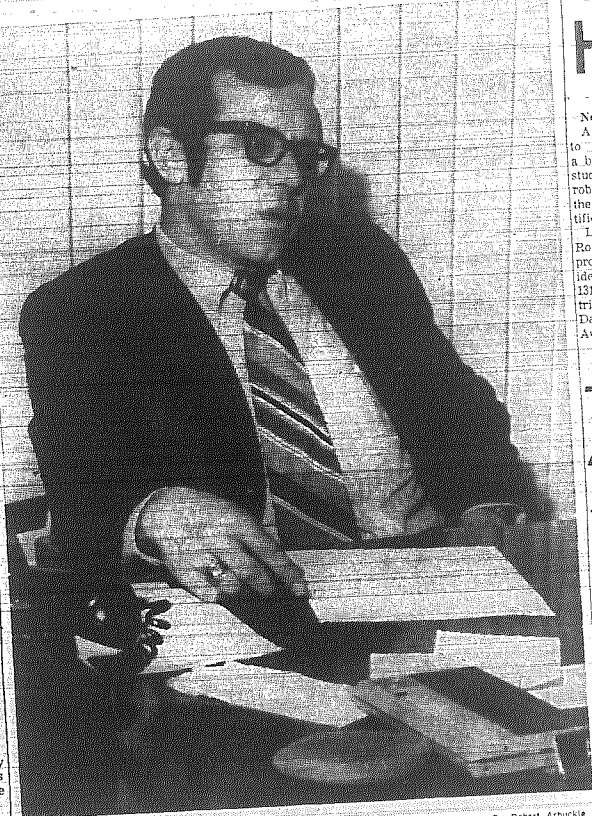
"I agree with the lady that trouble stems not just from the principal but at the whole administration, including Fortner," a man added. "If the principals aren't doing the job they are supposed to, who should get the blame? The superintendent. Right?"

"I also believe that the principal of Centennial should not have been fired," a woman said. "I think all those students who are not there to learn should be expelled and not allowed to come back until next fall. We should leave the schools for those who want to learn."

Furthermore, she said, "My taxes are paying for these kids to go over there and cause trouble, and I'm sick of it."

In violent disagreement, a black woman exclaimed, "I wonder if she thinks she's carrying the whole city? What does she think other people are if not taxpayers?"

One woman approved of Berner's action, saying, "The man (Longenecker) didn't handle the problem at Centennial in the spring. He didn't handle it so someone else



AL DAVIS BEHIND THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK NOW

News-Gazette Photos By Robert Arbutnot

Suspensions Are Explained At Stormy PTA Session

Was He At Home, Or Was He Robbing Dairy Queen?

By ED BORMAN
News-Gazette News Editor

A Circuit Court jury will have to decide whether to believe a black Centennial High School student charged with armed robbery or a white dropout from the same school who has identified the defendant.

Leonard Bruce Jacobs, 37, Route 3, Champaign, is the only prosecution witness who has identified Richard Goines, 37, 1215 N. Cloek, C., who is on trial for armed robbery of the Dairy Queen on North Prospect Avenue last Aug. 21.

Jacobs, who arrived as

Teachers Allowed Appeal

Recipients of notices that their University of Illinois teaching contracts will not be renewed next year will be given a "review" session if they request one.

The option was part of a set of procedures and guidelines issued Tuesday by President John E. Corbally Jr., who was responding to a recent U.S. Court of Appeals ruling that reasons and facts should be presented upon request when a non-tenured professor is dismissed.

Corbally delegated to campus chancellors the authority to appoint a review officer to handle cases. The review officer will in turn have ultimate authority in each case; he will either affirm the non-reappointment or direct that it be withdrawn without prejudice.

This year, budget restrictions at the UI resulted in an increased number of terminal contracts. Thirty-two recipients of the notices have objected and their cases will be the first of this first round

a customer during the holdup, said he recognized Goines as one of the two robbers because he had seen him many times at Centennial High. Two women who were working at the establishment and another woman who was a customer could not identify anyone.

Defense Attorney Richard W. Paterson attempted to show that Jacobs' identification of Goines was tainted by racial difficulties at the high school last spring, when both were students.

After hearing in chambers the line of questioning Paterson proposed, Circuit Judge Frederick S. Green refused to allow Paterson to go into it before the jury.

Goines, his mother, father, and 13-year-old brother all maintain that he was at home when the robbery occurred.

Jacobs was positive on the witness stand when he identified Goines as one of the two robbers.

He said he immediately recognized Goines as a Centennial student but did not know his name. He picked out Goines when Champaign Police showed him a high school yearbook.

Goines is a senior at Centennial. Jacobs would have been a senior this year if he had not dropped out of school.

Jacobs related that he and his girl friend arrived at the Dairy Queen just about the time that an employee had just money in a paper sack in compliance

with orders from two young blacks. One of the robbers had a gun, Jacobs said this was

Goines.

Assistant State's Attorney James R. Burgess put Jacobs on as his first witness. Later, the jurors heard details of the robbery from Patricia and Terry Dolven, employees, and Mrs. Marjorie McKinney, a customer who was at a window of the establishment when the holdup arrived. Mrs. McKinney said she was shaved aside by

the two young men who went up to the window and demanded money.

Burgess had conceded in his opening statement to the jury that the three women could not identify the defendant.

The case was expected to go to the jury Wednesday afternoon, after Paterson put on defense witnesses to corroborate the defendant's statement that the robbery was at home when the robbery occurred about 10:45 p.m.

Three Arrested In Burglaries In County

Arrests of three men in connection with two burglaries was reported Wednesday by the Champaign County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff's investigators credited Trooper Tom Kilholder of the Illinois State Police with providing a tip that led to the arrests of Clarence (Shorty) Graham, 20, RR Sadorus, and Ronald Lee Strack, 18, RR Jovisale, for burglary of the Jesse Bradley residence in Sadorus.

A quantity of automobile parts was taken in that burglary Nov. 8.

Another man believed to be involved in the St. Joseph burglary is still being sought. About \$700 worth of tools stolen from the two trailers has been recovered according to Sheriff's Investigator Robert L. Foster.

Foster said Deputy Corray discovered the St. Joseph burglary Tuesday morning a short time after he had noticed a suspicious car in the area.

Investigation by Corray and other deputies led to the arrest of Gough and the search for the second man.

Meanwhile, sheriff's investigators said alert patrol work by Deputy Roger Corray led to the arrest of Glyn

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er and Wikoff voted for ne. In the study session prior to the regular meeting chairman, Ransom suggested the system of deputy directors "be returned to the city. Under that system any designated public official can register voters."

Ransom noted the convenience to the residents and inquired why it had been discontinued. (The city had had only registers for years.) The county clerk (Dennis) told us to stop registering people. City Manager Brown answered. The Council seemed to be in agreement with owning. It was suggested to Ransom that he get together with Tuxhorn and draw up a solution to be voted on at next meeting.

A representative of the American Eagles came to the council meeting to discuss the proper placement of the American flag and to ask for removal of the U.N. flag. He was at the Council meeting two weeks before with the same request.

Flower Power

Councilmen Seely Johnston, Bill Bland and James Ransom reported flowers at Tuesday's City Council meeting. At the end of the meeting, Councilman Johnston explained to the other four members that he and Bland and Ransom had received the flowers from the North Harris Street residents for their efforts in blocking public housing in that area.

"This should show you where the flower power is," Johnston quipped.

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