

Roden gets \$80,000 to leave Bates

Ousted president: Terms of resignation agreement include letter of recommendation, job reference from board chairman

BY MARTHA MOEDEN
The News Tribune

Bates Technical College trustees have agreed to pay President William Roden \$80,000 in exchange for his resignation and an end to his three-year contract. Trustees on Thursday voted 5-0 to accept Roden's resignation after only four months as president and CEO. Trustees would not publicly disclose

the terms of the agreement after their Thursday vote. On Friday, The News Tribune obtained a copy of the agreement. Neither the board of trustees nor the agreement indicates how the \$80,000 in "general damages" was calculated. But the amount is close what Roden would have earned if he remained on the job through June. Roden was set to earn a \$139,000 annual salary for three years, as outlined in

his contract from Aug. 21, 2003, through June 30, 2006. Roden offered to resign Wednesday amid allegations that he intimidated employees by yelling and swearing, did not control his temper and made an unwanted sexual advance toward a female executive during an out-of-town trip. Roden has denied the allegations. Roden's supporters say his exit was politically motivated by insiders who opposed his ambitious plans for the college. His accusers say they are glad he's gone. Both parties agreed that the settlement "is the compromise of a doubtful

and disputed claim," with neither side admitting liability. The four-page settlement states that: ■ The college agreed to provide Roden with a letter of recommendation. ■ Roden can use board Chairman Lyle Quasim as a job reference, and all future job-reference inquiries made to college trustees or vice presidents will be directed to Quasim. ■ Any public release of the investigative report into the allegations against the former president will include Roden's written response to the charges. Quasim could not be reached on Fri-



Roden

College officials will hold a meeting at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the Bates Technical College auditorium to listen to questions and concerns from students, employees and faculty.

day to discuss the board's reasoning in approving the agreement.

Under his contract, trustees had the option to discuss the board's reasoning in approving the agreement.

Please see **Bates, B4**

League picks Ellis as CEO, president

Agency: Urban League focuses on new mission

BY JASON HAGEY
The News Tribune

The board of directors of the Tacoma Urban League has appointed Steven Ellis as president and CEO, making him the third leader of the troubled social service agency in just three years. Ellis, 55, who has served as interim leader since Bonnie Freeman resigned in June, held a variety of positions at Tacoma Community College over the past 12

years. He took a leave of absence from the college to help stabilize the Urban League and keep it from closing while the board conducted a search for a permanent replacement. Greg Brewis, chairman of the Urban League board, said Ellis helped put the agency back on course during his six months as interim president. The agency has redefined its mission, re-established relationships with former donors and partners, and energized the board of directors, he said. "We think we're on our way back," Brewis said.

The Tacoma Urban League, an affiliate of the national organization, is an advocate for disadvantaged minorities, primarily blacks. Traditionally, it has helped people gain skills training and jobs. Ellis told The News Tribune that the mission now includes health care and education. Job training will remain a part of the agency's purpose, he said, but it's not the focus. The overall mission to help black Americans, other minorities and low-income individuals achieve economic independence and social equality has not changed, he said.

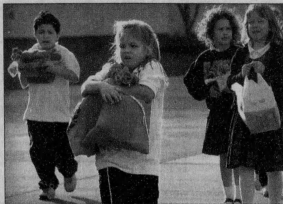
"We want to move people from low-wage jobs to earning a livable income," he said. "Move people from despair to hope."

Please see **Ellis, back page**

Steven Ellis
Age: 55
Education: Bachelor of arts, education, Virginia State University
Work experience: Director of downtown Center for Business and Professional Development; director of multicultural student services programs and program coordinator for multicultural student services for Tacoma Community College. Also spent two years teaching sixth-grade at Mason Middle School, and 14 years as a profit center manager for United Pacific Insurance
Family: Divorced; three grown children, seven grandchildren



KATHLEEN MERRYMAN
Kathleen Merryman has the day off. Her column will resume when she returns.



Schoolchildren help area's less fortunate

Service celebrates shoe donations for the poor



PHOTOS BY LUI KIT WONG | THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Above: Ten-year-old Brianna Ellinghaus, a fourth-grader at St. Charles Borromeo School in Tacoma, brings a box of gifts for needy children to the school's "Shoes for the Children Liturgy" on Friday, after a drive that resulted in 2,500 pairs of shoes for the poor. Top: Madison Nichols, 6, carries sacks full of shoes from Bridget Vecchiato's first-grade class to the church's sanctuary for the service.

Fife goes proactive to stop prostitutes

Proposed law: Police want legal tool to make arrests

BY ROB TUCKER
The News Tribune

Fife officials plan to pass a law next week that's intended to hinder prostitutes from plying their trade in the motel-heavy city. The law would prohibit loitering for purposes of prostitution. "We don't have a huge problem here," said Police Chief Rob DeGroot. "But we have a lot of motels and we don't want to become Aurora Avenue North" — a notorious prostitution area

along the Highway 99 strip in North Seattle and Shoreline. Fife's population of 4,905 accounts for less than 1 percent of the county's total population. But the city has about 1,200 motel and hotel rooms, 30 percent of all such lodging in Pierce County. The anti-prostitution proposal seems to signal a new direction in law enforcement for a city with a new police chief who used to be a vice officer. City Councilman Joe Rozenski, a 12-year council veteran who also served as mayor, commended DeGroot for requesting the law and wondered why Fife police didn't propose it years ago.

Please see **Fife, back page**

How to get involved

- The Fife City Council is scheduled to adopt an anti-prostitution measure Tuesday. The council meeting begins at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 5411 23rd St. E.
- The proposal contains provisions similar to those adopted about a decade ago by the cities of SeaTac and Tukwila to fight prostitution there, according to Rob DeGroot, Fife's chief of police.
- A person convicted of loitering for purposes of prostitution in Fife could serve up to 90 days in jail and be assessed a maximum fine of \$1,000. The court also could order those convicted to stay away from specific areas of the city.

BACKTALK

Readers back total ban on indoor smoking

Pierce County's tough indoor smoking ban, scheduled to take effect in January unless an expected legal challenge succeeds, is prompting a lot of debate. Thirty-six of the 49 people who responded to this week's BackTalk question support the ban and say there should be no exemptions. Thirteen others say there should be exemptions for such businesses as minicinos or, in one case, any place that sells alcohol. The question: Should there be exemp-

tions to the local ban on smoking in most indoor public places, and if so, what should they be? I don't believe there should be any exemptions. It's about time that we end indoor smoking. Since the majority of the people in Washington don't smoke, I don't think there's any concern people will be losing business. **STEVE LITZEN, SPANAWAY** I strongly believe that there should be

exemptions to the smoking ban. Having it in one county is just plain assine. People can make a choice if they want to go where smoking is allowed. By the way, I'm a nonsmoker, and I'm not going to try to run for governor. **CAROLYN BUCHANAN, UNIVERSITY PLACE** Yes, there should be exemptions for cigar bars. The whole thing should be based on the primary purpose of the

Please see **BackTalk, B4**

Gore's support of Dean due to local's lobbying

Election: Ex-vice president's friend, banker convinced him

BY KENNETH P. VOGLER
The News Tribune

When former Vice President Al Gore this week endorsed Howard Dean for the Democratic nomination for president, it surprised many in the political world.

But behind the scenes, political operatives and personal friends of the two had been working diligently for months to make it happen. Pamela Eakes, a Seattle Democratic activist and longtime Gore family friend, was a key player in that courtship. Dean tapped Eakes this year to lead his national fund-raising effort, and she said for months she's been singing Dean's praises to the Gores. "We've had conversations over the last year, of course," said Eakes, who in 2000 led Gore's presidential campaign in Washington state and was deputy finance chairman at the Democratic National Committee. "But I think the relevant conversations were between Governor Dean and Al and between Governor Dean and Tipper."

Dean, the former governor of Ver-

Please see **Dean, B5**

Seattle arts center to stage banned Kennewick student production

BY GENE JOHNSON
The Associated Press

A Seattle contemporary arts center is staging the Kennewick High School drama department's production of "The Breakfast Club" after the school's principal decided it was too racy and banned it.

"This is far too overprotective on the part of the school district," said Matthew Richter, executive director of the center, Consolidated Works. "These are high school kids, and they put a tremendous amount of work into this thing."

"The Breakfast Club," a stage adaptation of John Hughes' 1985 film, is about five students from disparate cliques — the jock, the goth, the cheerleader, the dweeb and the dropout — learning during a Saturday in detention that they have more in common than they thought. Together, they rebel against the overbearing principal.

On Nov. 21, Principal Jack Anderson of Kennewick High pulled the plug on the show after its second performance. He said the language and sexual innuendoes violated school district policies. The students, who had re-

hearsed the play two hours a day after school for roughly three months, were heartbroken.

"To me, this is very much about dealing directly with the students and enforcing this idea that you can get around censorship," Richter said. "Censorship is not the death of discourse."

Conworks heard about the story through David Schmader, who writes a week-in-review column for the alternative Seattle weekly The Stranger.

He called his friend Richter, who agreed it was a good idea and called the school's drama

coach, Russ Wodehouse. Conworks will put on the show next Friday night, Saturday afternoon and Saturday night in its main stage auditorium, which seats 150. Tickets are \$14 for the general public, \$7 for Kennewick High students and parents.

The show will cost \$5,000, Richter said, with Conworks providing technical support and box office help. The Stranger is providing free advertising.

The school district has forbidden the drama coach from having anything to do with the Seattle

production. Wodehouse said he was told that if he attended, it would be considered a school trip, and the district would be responsible for liability insurance.

Did he plan to attend anyway? "Guess it depends how much I want to keep working," he said.

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Fife

Continued from B1

Fife has a renewed interest in keeping its streets clean and safe as it switches from a farm-based economy to one more dependent on tourism and industry. Visitors spend money in city hotels, restaurants and other businesses. The city is hoping to boost regional tourism after buying land worth \$4.3 million for a 12-field soccer park just off Interstate 5.

"We're going to open a soccer complex and a lot of families will come here," said City Councilman Barry Johnson. "We don't want the prostitution."

The city has lacked an ordinance that allows patrol officers to arrest people on suspicion of prostitution if they observe them doing things like repeatedly beckoning or gesturing to pedestrians, or hailing, gesturing or waving at passing cars in an attempt to entice drivers.

DeGroot, who last summer succeeded the late Jim Paulson as Fife police chief, said the new law would allow patrol officers to be more proactive in stopping street prostitution.

Without the ordinance, cracking down on prostitution is "virtually impossible," DeGroot wrote in a memo to the city manager and the council.

In recent years, Fife police have used sting operations to make most arrests of people on suspicion of prostitution. Stings require more officers and take more time, but they will still be conducted, DeGroot said.

Tacoma police use a similar loitering ordinance to help combat prostitution — it's been on the books since 1944 — but Lakewood police do not.

Under a prostitution loitering ordinance, sometimes "it's tough to determine who's waiting for the bus" and who's a prostitute, said Lakewood Police Chief Larry Saunders.

Lakewood police prefer another method: When someone is arrested and convicted of prostitution, the court can order the person to stay out of the city's proven prostitution areas, he said.

When the Fife City Council adopts the new ordinance, police will receive training about what constitutes prostitution-related behavior so that officers don't mistakenly arrest a law-abiding person, DeGroot said.

"This is a good ordinance," said Councilman Johnson during a recent council discussion. "Based on some comments from some hoteliers it's long overdue."

Some hotel-motel owners have complained to the city recently about prostitution activities that upset their customers. One complaint referred to prostitutes knocking on room doors to solicit, Johnson said.

But a couple of Fife hotel-motel managers say that prostitution isn't a problem as overt as it is in parts of Tacoma.

Debbie Dymarkowski, general manager of the Royal Coachman Inn, said Fife hoteliers meet regularly and share information, and they receive prompt, willing responses from police when they report suspicious activity.

"I know it's here, but it's not that obvious," said George Kim, manager of the Ramada Inn on Highway 99. "The chief told us it was a problem. I don't know what they can do about it."

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Ellis

Continued from B1

Some of the Tacoma Urban League's programs include a latchkey program for McCarver Elementary School students, a new office assistance training program developed in cooperation with Bates Technical College, a program to bring dropouts back to school, and a contract with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to run an HIV/AIDS education program for minorities.

The agency also is close to entering into agreements with two South Sound school districts to provide after-school programs, mentoring and parent education.

The league affiliate has struggled since its founder, Tom Dixon, retired in 2000. His successor, Shiril Gilbert, left after less than a year and a half on the job, and Freeman submitted her resignation letter after just nine months.

Brewis said part of the agency's problems stemmed from its failure to change from an entitlement agency to one that met measurable goals. For years, the agency's benefactors provided money without demanding proof of results, he said.

"The world changed in a big way," he said, "and the Urban League didn't change."

Ellis said it's important that the agency acknowledged its failures, which he believes it has done. But he doesn't want to dwell on the past.

"We have to move on," he said.

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