

## Suggest End Of Sports Nite

# Sweeping Changes Urged In Schools

Here are some of the recommendations of the panel on the Trenton High crisis:

—Doubling the size of the present guidance staff,

emphasizing that new staff members be selected with an eye to their dedication to the job.

—A crash reading program throughout the schools. In the high school, this program should be geared to bringing 80 percent of the students up to the proper grade reading level by graduation.

—Establishment of clear lines of authority between the school board and the superintendent, the superintendent and the principals and the principals and faculty.

—Stepped up recruitment of Negro teachers.

—Increased intra-mural sports programs and student

activities.

—Abandonment of Sports Night as educationally indefensible.

—Programs to involve students and faculty in joint efforts.

—Greater care in the awarding of tenure to teachers. Establish a system that would enable the school board to reward teachers on the basis of their achievement.

—Revamping of the general education program to include changing employment needs such as health service.

—A major effort to develop and teach courses in Negro culture and history.

—Experimental program such as storefront schools employed in New York.

—General loosening of the

student's academic future is chartered at an early age.

—Formation of a clear and effective code of discipline.

Establishment of a half-way house to service students before they are returned to the school after serving in a juvenile institution.

—Efforts to promote inter-racial activities within the school.

—Plan on spending \$650 per pupil in school and reserve \$200,000 in the school budget to be used as matching funds for federal, state and private grants.

—That the principal's authority over "his" own school not be permitted to affect programs in effect throughout the school system.

Trenton Times, July 12, 1968

## THS Study Report

(exert)

**4. While Sports Night was not held during the academic year of 1967-68 as a precautionary measure, we believe that it should be permanently discontinued because of its educational indefensibility.**

Trenton Times,

July 15, 1968

# Roland Daniels: I Come Seeking Answers

By Pete Sherwood  
Staff Writer

He says things like, "I love kids. . . If we give up on them we're lost . . . They're the future of America. . . If they're in rebellion and we don't know why, we must try to find out."

His name is Roland Daniels and he'll be in charge of Trenton High School next week when thousands of city youths return to the building which was hit by racial trouble last year.

## 'Hope' No Trouble.

Would there be trouble next week? "I hope not. We'll do everything we can to run an orderly organization," he says. "We're making a firm effort to communicate with the kids. I want to give them lots of initiative."

Roland Daniels was prin-

cipal of Cook School when he was told last month the school board and its new superintendent, Dr. Ercell Watson, had selected him to become principal of Trenton High.

At his air-conditioned office, the man with three college degrees and decades of experience in the Trenton school system discussed his philosophy of education and plans for receiving some 3,500 students next Wednesday.

"The students come up to me and say they want a mailbox — a suggestion box for the Student Government. They got it. They want to participate in assemblies. I buy it. I want them to become more and more a part of this school."

Dr. Daniels says he's a firm believer in running a school with democracy. He plans to

work closely with the Student Government and the Faculty Cabinet.

More social activities, he says, also are needed. The principal was asked about Sports Nite, a traditional THS festival cancelled last year because of the violence.

## Sports Nite Out?

"I don't know about that. . . the question right now is in a nebulous state. There has been no decision made but there will be one made shortly.

"But if there is no Sports Nite, then there will have to be a substitute activity. Working with kids, I'm always optimistic things can be worked out," he said.

Dr. Daniels is a friendly man and yet he's firm — or rather, he gives the impression of being firm.

"I will not stand for an unruly youngster. . . regardless of race, color or creed," he says.

What does he feel about dress regulations, a major gripe by many students?

"I'm not going to sit here and say yes and now without allowing others to have their say. Other people are going to take part in decision making," Dr. Daniels promises. "This building is loaded with talent and I think we should use it."

Dr. Daniels discounted speculation his placement in the key THS post was made because of his color in hopes that this would soothe racial tensions.

## 'Problems Still Here'

"I don't think putting a man who is black at the head of Trenton High was done to

solve the problems. The problems were here before and they're still here," he says. "We must solve the problems which preceded the action.

"I don't ever want to be disillusioned to the point where an image solves the problems which precede the answers. I come seeking answers."

Dr. Daniels walked down a Trenton High corridor and passed a group of students who had come to school a few days early to help get things ready.

"Can I come and work for you?" asked one girl, laughing.

"I'll have to think about that," said Dr. Daniels.

"Rascals," said Dr. Daniels, chuckling "Those little rascals."



**ROLAND DANIELS**

# THIS STAYS SHUT TODAY; 'PEACE' HOPES JOLTED

## Mayor Booed At Assembly

By Don Murdaugh and Tony Wilson  
Staff Writers

Troubled Trenton High School will remain closed until Monday — at least — as efforts continue today to bring about peace between white and black students.

Earlier hopes for a settlement of the dispute were threatened last night as a result of an emotional meeting of some 500 white students and their parents.

Mayor Carmen J. Armenti and other city officials were booed at the meeting in Washington School and criticized for "giving in to Negro demands."

Earlier, Gov. Richard J. Hughes met with six white students, then six black students and later with Armenti, Schools Supt. Dr. Ercell I. Watson and others.

"I deem it the responsibility of this state to absolutely and completely guarantee the personal safety of every student who goes to school in this state," the governor declared.

Prior to the end of the Washington School meeting, Dr. Watson had been optimistic that the situation could be worked out so classes at the high school could resume Monday.

"We're still working with parents and students, black and white, so when we open school they'll be ready to get down to business," he told *The Trentonian*.

When he said this, he had the impression that student spokesmen — both black and white — would get the approval of those they say they represent to go back to school Monday.

Classes at the 3,000-student, 55 per cent black high school were dismissed at about 11 a.m. Thursday in the wake of a partial student boycott which started the day before.

Dr. Watson, who appeared calm after a series of often-tense meetings during the day, said last night that only the high school would be closed today.

He said the junior highs and elementary schools in the 17,500-student city school system would be open.

Teachers at high school, he added, are to report to school today as usual.

Student boycott leaders — despite official promises that "ample security" will be on hand Monday — gave strong indications that the boycott may continue indefinitely.

More than 500 white parents and students — at a meeting originally billed for adults only — attended the Washington School meeting that was



Trentonian Photos by Steve Morrison

**PARK PROTEST** — Pasquale A. Maffei (right), Trenton assistant superintendent of schools, and Joseph Caracciolo (center), a spokesman for boycotting students, call for quiet at a session yesterday in Columbus Park.

characterized by chaotic verbal bouts and disorderly shouts from the audience.

Armenti, arriving after a lengthy session with Gov. Hughes and other officials concerned about growing racial divisions and high school violence was greeted with a mixed wave of boos and applause when he walked into the school auditorium.

His opening quip, "I want you to know, that I will not accept the Presidency of the United States" brought a rare display of laughter to the otherwise — angry session.

#### "Main Concern"

After calling the school problem "my main concern" and promising to "lay out a security program to go into effect Monday," Armenti drew applause when he said high school "bullies, punks and intruders" will be prosecuted by law in the future.

"What you're doing is absolutely correct," the mayor said. "Unfortunately, it sometimes takes something like this to get people to register their concern."

But it was when Armenti talked of bridging racial gaps that the boos rocked the ceiling.

"I don't think a race or ethnic group should be indicted because of a small few," Armenti declared, before leaving the hall by a side entrance to the noise of such cries as "make him stand there for questions" and "you gave them the city."

Adults and students paraded to the auditorium stage later in the two-hour session, some citing personal incidents of student abuses and others assailing city politicians and school board members as "spineless" and "rotten."

A measure of control was harvested near the end when a chairman, Lawrence Spoto was named to represent the parents and a committee formed to work with problems on a more direct basis with officials.

News men were permitted to report freely on the meeting, but cameras and radio tape recorders were barred because certain community leaders felt they would have an inflammatory effect upon the rest of the community.

School Board President John Tesaro spoke briefly and was the target of boos. Councilman Gerard Naples, who labeled himself the city's most law-enforcement-minded official, received a lukewarm reception before leaving the hall early.

Council President Peter Radice, usually a popular figure in Chambersburg, barely had begun speaking when someone shouted, "Throw the bum out."

#### Challenges Foes

Radice then challenged "anyone with insults to say them in front of me," and four burly men promptly strode to the stage. But there was no incident as the largest man grabbed the microphone and pleaded for support of "our elected officials, because we need them to keep the barrier at Greenwood Ave."

They're applauding the unity

aspect of the parents' organization, Radice then gave an emotional pitch for more "love"

"There is sorrow in my heart because I feel a great amount of hate among you," Radice said. "I'm as responsible for it as any one of you..."

Different factions of adults appeared to be fighting over control over the meeting. In the end, it seemed leaders of the boycotting students dominated the tone more than the adults, however.

#### Seek Inspection

Spoto, the new chairman, said parents would organize to inspect the premises of the high school "to see if there is enough protection" before allowing students to return Monday.

Some adults, upset at the proceedings, feared that the mood of some of the white students, especially the ringleaders, could lead to a physical confrontation with black students.

Similar fears were expressed yesterday prior to interracial meetings of students at Columbus Park and in the high school auditorium. But except for a minor scrap between two Negro girls, there were no incidents.

Reports filtered in late last night of groups of black students who plan to show up at TMS today despite the shutdown orders. No confirmation, however, was possible.

Dr. Watson said the governor "wanted us to know he was standing behind us... to have law and order in our schools. We assured him that we would immediately initiate programs to insure fair and impartial treatment of students and to develop those programs more meaningful to all students."

He said he was to meet with the student leaders at 10 a.m. today in the administration building to find out if the students approve an agreement "hammered out" yesterday.

Among the terms, he said, were "fair and impartial treatment of all students, black or white," black history in

social studies and a resumption of Sport Night.

The dispute was touched off Wednesday after white students boycotted classes and met in Columbus Park.

They complained that white students were being shaken down by black students and were being struck or "pocket-shotted" by them.

Two former TMS Negro students, Marvin Dotson and Stanley Gibson, both 18, attempted to get a settlement under way early Thursday morning.

Some 2,000 of the students stayed away from classes. About 400 whites were in Columbus Park.

Several hundred black students went to the school, at first refused to go in then were persuaded to go in the auditorium.

Dotson and Gibson went to the park, received a less than cordial welcome from the whites, then went to the high school with John J. Stillitano and Joseph Caracciolo, both 20, spokesmen for the white students.

#### Noisy Reception

They were greeted by a noisy crowd of a few hundred black students in the auditorium.

"We are seeking a solution," Dr. Watson said repeatedly as he tried to calm the students. "I think black and white students can find a solution."

The four student leaders each spoke.

"Black power... is in the books," Dotson said.

"We don't want to dominate you and I'm sure you don't want to dominate us," Caracciolo said. "Let's get together."

"You cats better get up, man," said Gibson, "without an education, you can't make it."

"We don't want no trouble from anybody," Stillitano said.

"We just want to go to school and learn. I was hot-headed yesterday, because it was my cousin who got stabbed in the ear with a pencil."

"When I see these guys (Dotson and Gibson) come over today, it changed a lot of things."



GROUNDING YOUTH—There were more than a few saying they will no longer take high school violence lying down.

## Replace Sport Nite?

# THIS Arts Fete Slated

Students at Trenton High School will stage a Festival of the Arts Friday night as a replacement for Sport Nite a traditional annual event cancelled last year following violent student disturbances at the school.

While school officials are hopeful that the festival will take the place of Sport Nite, student government President Shawn Laurenti said it hadn't been decided whether it would become an annual event.

The festival will involve performances by 500 students in a program which will trace the growth of America through the contributions of its ethnic and racial groups.

The 31-year old Sport Nite Program used to involve most of the school's female students in sports and stage shows, and last year would have involved over 1,100 participants if it had taken place.

"We are hoping to find some

kind of event that would involve a greater portion of the school than this year's program," Miss Laurenti said.

Commenting on the possibility of reinstating Sport Nite, she said that after this year's seniors graduate the school won't have any students with the experience to direct the event.

The art festival will include singing, national dances, performances by the school chorus, and dramatic skits. A student art exhibit will line the school's corridors and lobby.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. show will be available at the door.

"In the past some members of the community haven't been interested in anything other than Sport Nite. I hope people will come out and support the festival," Miss Laurenti concluded.

Trentonian, April 23, 1969

## Friday Night At THS

# Arts Festival Replacing Sports Nite?

Five hundred Trenton High School students will perform Friday night in a Festival of the Arts which officials hope

will become the successor to the once-popular Sports Night cancelled last year because of trouble at the school.

The program begins at 8 p.m. in the school auditorium and through use of the theme, "Forever To Be," will trace the growth of America through the contributions of its ethnic and racial groups.

Admission will be charged and tickets are now on sale and will be available at the door Friday night.

This original program was written and organized by Miss Elizabeth Dillon and the students of the drama department.

It brings together some 500 students who are members of the choral department under the direction of Harry Mulder, the instrumental department lead by Charles Wertman, the special dance groups under the leadership of Mrs. Eleanor Pulaski, Mrs. Lois Enourato and Mrs. Marion Ramsey.

Industrial arts students

under the assistance of Miss Carol Hickey and Mr. Henry Zealand have prepared the costumes and the properties. The staging has been carried out by members of the stage crew and Ben Elliott. Carl Overton, Stanley Ellis, Alton Rader and the students of Fine Arts and Industrial Arts departments will display their works of art in the lobby and corridors of the school.

The script committee arranging the program are Shawn Laurenti, Randall Brilliantine, Patricia Gibson, Josephine Strachin, Milton Burrell, James Henderson, Frances McDaniel, Angela Rogos, Judith Tancreda, Virginia Provost, and Miss Elizabeth Dillon.

The two-hour festival is being coordinated by C. Walter Brenner, THS vice principal.

Trenton Times, April 23, 1969

# THS Presents Festival Of The Arts Tonight

Two weeks of constant rehearsing for some 500 Trenton High School students comes to an end tonight as the school's Festival of the Arts opens to

the public at 8 p.m. for a one nightstand.

Entitled "Forever to Be", the program is a portrayal of the growth of America and the contribution of its ethnic

groups.

C. Walter Brenner, THS vice principal, is general coordinator.

Srving as a fill-in for Sport Night, which has not

been held for the past two years, the Festival of the Arts will include a choral group, orchestra, drama club and dancers.

Miss Alethea Skokos, vice

principal in charge of curriculum and instruction at THS, said African culture is stressed in the program "because we never had the material before."



Heading the dancing teams are, front, Clarissia Vereen, left, representing East India and Deborah Pratt, France. In the

back, from left, are Frances Tazza, Italy; Carol Summers, Africa; Marilyn Davis, Scotland and Linda Solivoda, Ireland.

*Trenton Times*, April 25, 1969



Harry Mulder left, Trenton High School music teacher, rehearses students for tonight's festival.

From left are George Neuman, drummer, Sylvia Brown and Stan Stroman, soloists.

*Trenton Times*, April 25, 1969

## *We Forgot*

Sir: Where were you when you were needed? Where were your photographers and your reporters at Trenton High's most recent happening? Will you be able to report and depict for your readers the event that involved 500 students, black and white; members of the faculty and administration and 900 interested onlookers? The whole thing took 1½ hours and was the most thrilling and enjoyable evening's entertainment since "Sports Nite." The combined talents of the English and drama, physical education, music and art departments produced "Forever To Be" and caused the 900 members of the audience to rise in a standing ovation at its conclusion.

Does it take a sit-in, protestors, rioting and complete disruption for Trenton High to get a two-page spread in your newspaper? Where does your responsibility lie for positive news reporting for a change? Trenton High also has enormous talent on the part of its students and its faculty. Teachers who have been accused of lack of interest were certainly not in evidence on this occasion. These members of the faculty worked tirelessly with the students to produce a show depicting America for its true worth. In poetry, song and dance this was shown. As an interested parent who, incidentally, did not have a child participating, this was an evening I will not forget for a long time to come.

The people who make America great, also make a community great. Do not write THS off by any means, it too is a "melting pot" and people working together for a common good can produce fine results. I can think of no better way of "laying it on the line" than to quote from the program of "Forever To Be": "The final function of art is not merely a pleasure, a solace, or an amusement. It has the unique function of uniting men (and students) in love of each other and in love of life itself."

There was so much you could have done for the students, the faculty, the administration, the name of Trenton High School and all that it means, and you weren't even there! I am so disappointed in you.

Anne K. Sutnick  
Trenton