Behind New York's School Fight--6,000 Kids Who Can't Read

(Continued from Page 1)

dedication and community cooperation among the teachers, administrators and parents, and a steadfastness of purpose to improve the schools no matter what happens elsewhere.

The latter is evident in the fact that McCoy has kept his eight schools open throughout the UFT's three strikes against the system this fall.

McCoy is a red-haired, blue-eyed light-skinned educator who talks around the stem of a pipe that is constantly jammed between his teeth.

He is short, stocky and unflappable. Reporters who have covered the daily crises in the district have never heard him raise his voice.

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THERE ARE two key factors in the educational program — attitudes of the teachers, and innovation in the curriculum.

The man in charge of the curriculum, Eduardo Braithwaite, also colored, wears a pink button in the lapel of his brown corduroy suit which says "It depends on your attitude."

Recent studies have shown that the attitude, or expectations, of a teacher may be most important in a child's ability to learn.

These studies showed that when teachers were told that certain pupils would do well, and the teacher therefore expected them to do well, they did well. The converse was also true.

The nonunion teachers who have kept the district schools open are have impressive credentials. At PS young and inexperienced, but many 178, for instance, of 42 teachers, three are Yale graduates and one from Smith College. Others come from Harvard, Columbia, Antioch or Stanford.

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THEY HAVE brought bright ideas with them into the classroom, including the idea of making learning a game.

Barry Ernstoff, 22, a Columbia graduate, doesn't want his black and Puerto Rican pupils to accept without questioning everything he, a white man, says, so he intentionally makes mistakes on the black board and has his pupils play the game of catching him at it and correcting him.

Barry Golson, 23, of Yale, told his pupils, "to catch me when I make some unsupported statement, some over-generalization."

The curriculum is a combination of the old and the new.

Traditional subjects like art and music are taught in the traditional manner. There are experimental programs in bilingual teaching where questions are asked in both Spanish and English and the student has the choice of answering in either language. it is the aim of this program to develop fluency in Puerto Rican children in both languages.

Braithwaite has instituted in all the schools a reading program developed by the behavioral research laboratories at Palo Alto, Calif. individualized reading programs and the teaching of phonics also are being used.

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IN MATHEMATICS, in which 82 per cent of the pupils at Junior High School 271 in the district failed to pass minimum requirements, district math coordinator Everard Barrett teaches by relating abstract mathematical concepts to the pupil's environment, or to his understanding of simple scientific ideas.

For instance, he wants to teach the principles of trigonometry by digging two holes in the school yard, then measuring the angle of the sun when its rays hit the holes and from that calculating the circumference of the earth.

And of course, an important part of the curriculum is a program of "Afro-American studies," which is increasingly being demanded by black communities throughout the United States, and a program n Latin American studies.

Braithwaite is quick to point out that these programs are not an attempt to instill race hatred into the children, but rather race pride.

"This is an attempt to fill in the missing pages from our history," he says. "Not a black takeover," referring to an anonymous pamphlet that was circulated in the district making that charge.

No black power slogans hang from the walls of Ocean Hill's schools. Instead, pictures of Martin Luther King Jr. and President John F. Kennedy hang side-by-side.

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THE BITTER controversy surrounding Ocean Hill began almost with its birth. In September, 1967, a number of administrators, including five principals, left the district and Mc Coy, to replace them, appointed five men who were qualified but who were not on the city's "approved" civil service list.

This won the enmity of the Council of Supervisory Association, the principals and vice principals union, which brought suit to invalidate the appointments. The giant UFT grew uneasy over the situation.

Then the union struck the schools for more money and asked the Ocean Hill District to support its strike.

The district said no and the UFT withdrew its member from the governing board and refused further cooperation with the project, although union chief Albert Shanker continued express support of the concept of decentralization.

The city board of education, which agreed to the project only under extreme pressure from Mayor John V. Lindsay the Ford Foundation and other organizations, had already made known its feelings about community control.

From the beginning, it gave no help to the district.

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IN THE spring of 1968, McCoy and the governing board attempted to transfer 19 administrators and teachers out of the district for, they charged, "sabotaging" the decentralization project.

According to a study made by the New York Civil Liberties Union, the transfer of teachers was a fairly routine matter all over the city, but Superintendent of Schools Bernard E. Donovan refused to accept it in this case, and ordered the 19 to ignore the orders of the governing board.

The local board then fired all 19 and ordered them to report to the central board of education. This precipitated a six-week-long boycott by union teachers which had not been settled when schools closed for the summer.

In September, the governing board again insisted on the transfer of the 19 and also asked for the transfer of 200 teachers who had taken part in the boycott.

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THE UFT insisted all the teachers be reinstated in teaching positions but the board was steadfast in its refusal to accept them. On Sept. 9, the opening day of school, the union struck.

The city board then ordered the governing board to accept the teachers and had them escorted into the schools by police.

The chaos and "mob rule" that Shanker had predicted in August came to pass in front of JHS 271 when nonstriking teachers, UFT teachers, parents, police and black militants from all over the city came together on collision course.

Policemen barely managed to prevent a general melee.

There followed court actions against the UFT (it is illegal for governmental employees to strike in New York State) against the governing board and against the city.

The city board suspended McCoy and the governing board and there were two short-lived settlements of the strike.

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INEVITABLY, the conflict between the predominantly-white teachers' union and the colored and Puerto Rican Ocean Hill-Brownsville community has taken on aspects of a racial dispute.

The teachers union has charged that "race hatred" is being taught in the district's schools and that anti-Semitism played a part in the transfers ordered by the local board.

The governing board, on the other hand, backed by every major civil rights organization, sees the union's strike as an action by the white educational "establishment" to destroy community control of schools.

While some antiwhite and anti-Semitic epithets have been hurled at striking teachers, there is no evidence to suggest that the governing board of McCoy is antiwhite or anti-Semitic.

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OF THE 350 nonunion teachers hired by the governing board over the summer, 70 per cent are white and 60 per cent are Jewish.

"This anti-Semitism is the biggest myth I've ever heard," said teacher Barry Golson, a Jew.

Last week, the New York Civil Liberties Union accused the teachers' union of distributing "fraudulent leaflets" in order "to arouse fears of black extremism in Ocean Hill-Brownsville."

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith also issued an analysis of anti-Semitic literature distributed in ghetto areas and concluded that there was no organized effort behind the material.

The governing board and its articulate supporters do not charge the striking teachers with being "racist" on an individual level.

But they maintain that the union and its supporters are "racist" in the sense that the Kerner Commission used the term — refusing to give blacks sufficient power over their own lives.

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THE UFT has maintained all along that it was striking over "job security" and "due process" for the dismissed teachers, who were cleared of any wrong doing by a colored judge.

But there are others, including lindsay, the National Council of Churches, the American Civil Liberties Union, two of New York's three newspapers and a number of its broadcasting stations, who see the strike as a thinly disguised attempt by the UFT to crash decentralization in order to save itself.

They argue that now the UFT bargains with only one entity — the city board of education — but under a plan to decentralize the school system into 30 or more separate boards it would have to bargain with each one and its power would be greatly diminished or destroyed entirely.

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SHANKER LENT weight to the argument that the UFT was trying to wreck total decentralization by scorning the governing board's offer last Wednesday to take back the disputed teachers.

"The local board not only gave in to everything the UFT had demanded, but attempted to show its good faith by suggesting that a five-man team from the UFT, the city board, the local board and the National Council of Christians and Jews, be assigned to each school to help bring about "a peaceful working situation."

Shanker dismissed the plan as "a public relations gimmick," and said the strike would end only when the governing board, McCoy and all eight principals in the schools were dismissed.

"This strike is not going to be broken," said Shanker. "We're going to win it."

LEARNING, meanwhile, goes on at Ocean Hill-Brownsville.

Braithwaite said that during summer classes pupils made such quick progress in reading that they raised their level one to three years "just during the summer."

He said parents have happily told how "suddenly their children became interested in books."

Other teachers tell how children who have become involved in the learning process for the first time become irritated when class time ends and the pupil must turn to something else.

What the future hold for community control here is in doubt. The legislature must approve or disapprove a decentralization plan for the entire city during the next session.

There is little question that Shanker and legions of his teachers will go to Albany to lobby against it, as they did last year. Only this time, he can say "See, we tried it, and nothing but chaos resulted."

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

vote
GENERAL ELECTION
Nov.5,1968

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SEE LIST OF CONTESTANT ON PAGE 3

—Rev. Robinson

(Continued from Page 1)

In cash prizes to the top ministers.

Now in third place is the Rev. Roscoe Williams, of Orchard Street Methodist Church, with 12,500 votes.

The Rev. W. P. Mitchell, of Payne A.M.E. Church, holds down fourth place with 11,300 votes.

In fifth, the Rev. Parris Thompson, of Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, has 10,000 votes.

The ballot, worth 100 votes to your favorite minister, along with a listing and vote totals for the contest, appears on page two of this edition.

Votes to place your minister on the way to part of that $2,000 and recognition as Baltimore's Favorite Minister may be brought or mailed to the AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md., 21203.

Votes received by 3 p.m. Friday will appear in the Tuesdays edition. Votes received by 3 p.m. Wednesday will appear in the Friday edition.

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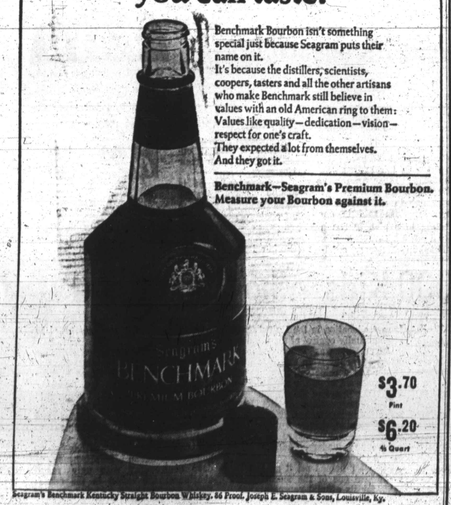

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He has been a creative and cooperative legislator, a brilliantly successful representative . . . and an honest and conscientious public servant.

He has represented his district well.

He has made clear from the outset that. . . only a political and moral solution (in Vietnam) is likely to be lasting.

He proposed the course of gradual de-escalation which helped get the Paris peace talks under way; won more money to fight ghetto rats; campaigns against unfairness in the draft; offers specific steps to fight crime, strengthen law enforcement and secure justice in every community. It is Mathias who proposes better ways to get more jobs, decent housing and good education for Maryland, and fights for integrity and for common sense in government.

An Evening Sun editorial said recently: "The Mathias voice, hitherto better known in the Washington suburbs, begins to carry the freshest notes yet heard hereabout as the contest for the Senate unfolds. He has he sound of a man genuinely independent of the limp commonalities of politics either Republican or Democratic. He looks more and more like a candidate out there thinking on his own and, if this early impression holds, he is likely to emerge as the dominant figure of the trio in the field . . . To date only Mr. Mathias seems willing to think his own way through to some answers. It's a new breeze blowing."

I agree — and I heartily endorse Charles McC. Mathias for election to the U.S. Senate.

Theodore R. McKeldin

MATHIAS for U.S. SENATE

Authority:
W. G. ROUSE
Treasurer

Poitier starred

HOLLYWOOD — Universal Studios announced last week that Sidney Poitier has been signed as star of its upcoming film, "Lost Man," in which Canadian Johanna Shimkus will be the femme lead.

New head appointed for Lawyer Referral

William B. Somerville, president of the Bar Association of Baltimore City, announced that Howard E. Friedman of Timonium has been appointed the new attorney-in-charge of the Lawyer Referral Service.

Mr. Friedman succeeds George W. Baker Jr., who recently resigned to return to the private practice of law. Mr. Friedman, 46, has been engaged in the practice of law since 1950. He is a Navy veteran and has been active in many civic and professional organizations.

The Lawyer Referral Service of the Bar Association of Baltimore City is a public service agency which provides an attorney to those who do not have one and do not know how to obtain one.

Over 1,300 persons per year are served by the Lawyer Referral Service, in which a panel of 300 attorneys are active.

The offices of the Lawyer Referral Service are located in Room 621, Courthouse, Fayette and St. Paul Sts., Maryland. The hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Newsman predicts reactionary surge

NBC television newscaster David Brinkley took the "liberals" to task at a speech at Johns Hopkins University Sunday, blaming them for "what is happening in this country."

Mr. Brinkley, half of the famous Huntley-Brinkley news reporting team, said that the failure of the liberals in America will probably bring about an election of the "most conservative or reactionary (government) in 40 years."

The famed television reporter spoke to 1,600 Johns Hopkins students at Shriver Hall as part of a series of lectures on the upcoming political elections.

Noticing a "Brinkley for President" sign in the student audience, Mr. Brinkley quipped, "president of what?"

real purpose, to make "Liberalism forgot its real purpose, to make people free," Mr. Brinkley said.

He stated that he regarded himself as a liberal, but that organized labor which has been backed by the liberals is becoming "self-serving" and "arrogant."

Both labor and the government, which have been under the control of the liberals since the 1930's, have "betrayed the liberal movement" Mr. Brinkley stated.

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THE MILITARY establishment came under attack from the witty television personality when he observed that "the Federal Government particularly the Pentagon, has become a clumsy, heavy-footed monster which is out of control."

"We don't need that much military," commented Mr. Brinkley, observing that two-thirds of tax revenue goes to the Pentagon.

"It is the dominant force in this country today," he added.

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IN A QUESTION and answer session that followed his speech, Mr. Brinkley said that the outlook for programs of social reform is bleak if his prognosis of the elections next week is correct.

ARCHITECT—Robert J. Nash, a graduate of Howard University, was named to the executive board of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects this month at a Chapter election. He is the first colored person to be on the local executive board.

America's brass industry was started by Abel Porter and his associates at Waterbury, Conn., the "Brass City."

Ministers In Contest —Rev. Abernathy

(Continued from Page 1)

nation to "Get Out The Vote" on November 5. The Rev. Mr. Abernathy spoke briefly in front of the SCLC local office, at Pennsylvania Ave. and Mosher St. before launching a mule train tour of Baltimore's inner city.

"I have not endorsed any candidate at this time. However, there is a possibility that I might endorse one later today."

"I am merely trying to educate the people on how important it is to "get out and vote," he explained.

It was learned that the Rev. Mr. Avernathy is basically interested in making a public conscious of the issues of 1968 concerning housing, employment, and poverty.

The civil rights leader boarded the first of the three mule trains to make a trip to Mondawmin Mall.

OTHER PARTICIPATING ministers in the caravan were:

The Rev. George Crawley, the Rev. Stuart Turner, Dr. Harold A. Carter, and Mrs. Mabel Hall, director of SCLC headquarters here.

He addressed a rally at the New Shiloh Baptist church, Fremont Ave. and Lanvale St. last night.

LAST WEEK the Rev. Mr. Abernathy toured California. From Baltimore, he and his aides will go to Philadelphia and from there to New Jersey, and to New York.

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Rev. Rufus Robinson, The True Vine Spiritual Church of Christ	38,100
Rev. Lewis Conway, 1st Mt. Pleasant Bpt.	27,300
Rev. Roscoe Williams, Orchard Street Meth.	12,500
Rev. W. P. Mitchell, Payne AME	11,300
Rev. Parris Thompson, Mt. Hebron Bpt.	10,000
Rev. C. H. Churn, Union Temple Bapt.	8,400
Rev. Seawood Blackstone, Crowdenville AME	7,400
Bishop Edward Bunch, Unity Bible Way	6,500
Rev. J. G. Barnes, Allen AME	5,700
Rev. W. S. Chambers, New Antioch Baptist	4,400
Father Jos. Healy, St. Francis Center	3,900
Rev. A. A. Thompson, Bethel United Meth.	3,600
Elder Horace Smith, Open Door Bibleway	3,200
Rev. B. A. Dawkins, Progressive Bp.	2,800
Rev. Lester Waddy, Christ Temple	2,700
Rev. Lorenzo Graves, Calvary Bapt.	2,500
Rev. Justin Bennett, St. Paul Meth.	2,400
Rev. Ernest Cameron, Cameron Chapel Bapt.	2,400
Rev. John F. Mooring, New Antioch Bapt.	2,300
Bishop M. R. Saunders, The United Church	2,200
Elder Walter Nelson, Refuge Temple Church Of God in Christ	2,000
Rev. N. B. Carrington, Metropolitan Meth.	2,000
Rev. Monroe Simms, Elbridge First Bapt.	1,900
Elder W. H. Jackson, Emmanuel Christian Ch.	1,700
Rev. Tommie Jenkins, St. John CC Church	1,800
Bishop Robert Lee, United Baptist	1,600
Elder Henry Thornes, Charity Community Church of God	1,500
Rev. Wilson Wallace, Mt. Zion	1,500
Rev. Stanley Bradford, Elizabeth Bapt.	1,500
Rev. George Bayard, Shiloh Bapt.	1,400
Rev. William Thompson, White Stone Bapt.	1,400
Rev. Eugene Carter, Good Shepherd Bapt.	1,400
Rev. W. S. Watson, Greater Oliver Bapt.	1,400
Rev. Julian Price, 2nd Baptist	1,400
Rev. Samuel Ray, Morning Star Baptist	1,400
Rev. L. A. Dyson, St. Matthew Meth.	1,300
Rev. C. A. Hill, Temple Bapt.	1,300
Bishop N. McQueen, Miracle Bapt.	1,100
Rev. John Leary, New Mt. Hebron Bapt.	1,000
Rev. Lewis Campbell, New Hope Baptist	900
Rev. Lee K. Cesaar, Mt. Olives Freewill Bapt.	900
Rev. Irving A. Moye, AME Memorial United	900
Rev. J. T. Whitley, Holy Church of Power	900
Rev. Alfred Vaughn, Grace Memorial Bapt.	900
Rev. James Brown, Man of Bible Church	800
Rev. H. A. Carter, New Shiloh Bapt.	800
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Rev. Belvin Mack, God's Holy Temple	700
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Rev. Carl Washington, Trinity Temple	700
Rev. James Ball, Timothy Bapt.	700
Rev. Arthur Brown, Walbrook Community Bapt.	600
Rev. J. Logan Kearse, Cornerstone Bapt.	600
Rev. James Moore, Sharon Baptist	600
Rev. J. P. Wilson, Our Mt. Zion AME	500
Rev. George Vanderford, United Baptist	500
Rev. Wm. Tyler, Mt. Calvary Star Bapt.	500
Rev. Lawrence Swinson, New Metropolitan Bapt.	500
Elder Leon G. Cox, Berea Temple	500
Rev. W. W. Payne, Wayland Bapt.	500
Rev. Oliver Page, Gethsemane Bapt.	500
Rev. James Carter, Church of God in Christ	400
Rev. Cecelia Ellis, United Holiness	400
Rev. Esther Mathews, United Temple of God	400
Rev. Nathaniel Briggs, Southern Bapt.	300
Rev. Samuel Moore, Unity Bapt.	300
Rev. Robert Obey, Cherryhill Presbyterian	300
Rev. James Parker, Bethel Church of God	300
Rev. James Stepney, New Bethlehem Bapt.	300
Rev. Forrest Stith, Sharp Street Meth.	300
Rev. Willard Clayton, Macedonia Bapt.	300
Rev. Olin Moyd, Mt. Lebanon Bapt.	300
Rev. Nettie Finney, Christ Spiritual Temple	200
Rev. Naomi Durant, Refuge Deliverance	100
Rev. James McFarlin, New Fountain Bapt.	100
Rev. Edward Revels, St. Paul Christian Community Church	100

Auth. W. G. Rouse, Treas., Columbia, Md. 21043

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WITH A PLAN FOR CHANGE
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•It is Mathias who fights for integrity and for common sense in government.
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FOR U.S. SENATE

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