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between black and white students comes from the hostile environment black students face, said Frances Wood, founder of Jack and Jill and the Black Family Forum.

Will Vaughan, a 15-year-old student at Hylton High School, said he doesn't consider his school hostile toward black students, but he does see racism.

"I see it in school and from my peers. Also being in class with no other minorities, I feel left out," he said.

Wood commended the county school system for implementing a program aimed at narrowing the academic performance gap between white and minority students.

On Saturday, a group of nearly 40 parents and their children listened attentively as Jeffery Johnson, president and principal consultant of Management Plus Consulting and Training Service in Washington, D.C., issued four challenges to the youngsters.

"Today and for the rest of your lives, maintain a positive attitude. There are dog days ahead ... and if you maintain a positive attitude, it will get you through those tough times," he said.

His other challenges: "Work hard for everything and earn it;" "Be a boy as long as you can before taking on the responsibilities of man and father;" and "We have to give back and have pride in ourselves."

"I wish it was longer. I hope they have this more often," said 10-year-old Danell Burr.

Wood had the same wish. She hopes to sponsor at least four similar workshops next year.

Critics worry road will ruin homes, graves

By MIKE FUCHS
Manassas Bureau

Potomac News 11/7/94

MANASSAS — Some residents are criticizing plans to extend Liberia Avenue — one of four projects that will appear in a road-bond referendum on Tuesday's ballot — due to fears it would displace neighbors and destroy graves, including one of a Revolutionary War soldier.

But officials from the Virginia Department of Transportation and Prince William County's director of public works said those criticisms are premature since the proposed 2.2-mile extension of Liberia Avenue is not even off the drawing board.

"This project is in its earliest stages," said VDOT spokeswoman Joan Morris. "VDOT of course would avoid going through a cemetery."

On Tuesday, voters will decide whether Prince William County should borrow \$17.9 million to realign Cardinal Drive in Woodbridge, extend Ashton Avenue near Manassas, widen Davis Ford Road and extend Liberia Avenue south to Va. 234 at Brentsville Road.

Though it's unclear how popular those projects are, some residents have spoken out against extending Liberia Avenue.

"It would unnecessarily rip up more homes, barns, and family surroundings, including grave sites which are costly to relocate," wrote Manassas attorney MacDougal Rice in a Friday letter to the Potomac News.

Arlington resident Robert Flourance, one of the most vocal critics of the Liberia plan, said he wants written assurances his centuries-old family grave site will remain intact. Flourance is a descendant of Revolutionary War soldier George Flourance, who is buried on a wooded knoll less than a half-mile east of Va. 234 and Brentsville Road.



By Larry Kobelka-Potomac News

Robert Flourance seeks assurance that his ancestor's grave will not be disturbed by extension of Liberia Avenue.