

Queens High School Extends Success in Science Talent Search

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aged schools to enter the contest. In the last five years, its curriculum division has sent out material to schools explaining the best route to winning awards.

"It is the one area that a school can get immediate feedback in terms of publicity," said Dr. Schonhaut. "One of the first things that science supervisors and principals pay attention to is: 'How can I get winners?'"

Accordingly, a third of the 1,339 entrants in this year's contest came from New York City schools, according to Carol Luszc, the program director of the Westinghouse Science Talent Search.

At Cardozo, the smiles were particularly broad yesterday. The school

consistently produces semifinalists — and even a Westinghouse national winner — but this year, said Bert Linder, the principal, the school had more semifinalists than any nonspecialized school in the country.

The students in Cardozo's accelerated science program, from which its Westinghouse winners all come, are of "mixed quality," said Mr. Linder.

"These are not necessarily geniuses," he said. But, he said, the neighborhood promotes "an attitude that education is of value and it means parental support."

Of Cardozo's 11 semifinalists this year, 10 are Asian and one is Indian, Mr. Linder said. Last year, of the nine semifinalists, four were Asian. "It's a fluke," said Mr. Linder of the Asian dominance this year.

Even so, the Asian student popula-

tion at Cardozo has increased markedly over the last eight years. In 1980, 2.9 percent of the students were Asian; this year, 24.7 percent are Asian.

The school has developed such a reputation in the neighborhood, a stable enclave with many single-family homes near the Nassau County border, that some of the Westinghouse winners said yesterday that they were accepted at Bronx High School of Science but chose Cardozo because it was closer and the teacher attention was better.

The Cardozo students' projects were varied, ranging from computer science to mathematics to psychological and social questions. Some of the students started their papers at university programs last summer; one did research in his native Hong Kong

and another dealt with a mathematics professor from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology frequently over the telephone.

Mina Choi, an 18-year-old Korean, tested something that had affected her own career: teachers' perceptions.

"I noticed teachers base a lot of grades on your image, on what you look like," said Miss Choi, who used to spike her hair in the punk style and wear blue lipstick. It was then that her grades slipped, she said. When she resumed a "toned down" look "My grades went up," she said. "I figured that teachers' perception had a lot to do with it," she continued.

So Miss Choi decided to test teachers' perceptions of students, according to students' race and gender.

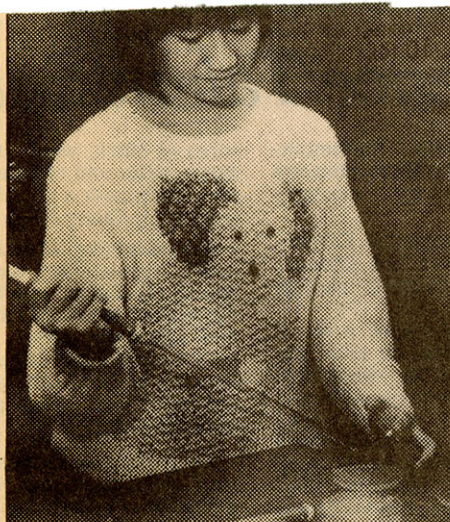
She gathered "neutral" looking pic-

tures of black, white and Asian students, male and female, and distributed them with a questionnaire to 87 teachers in Queens high schools.

She found that Asian students were rated highest for motivation and blacks the lowest. Blacks were given the highest mark for physical ability and Asian the lowest. "I concluded that Asians might do better in school because of preconceived notions by teachers and teacher feedback," Miss Choi said.

As gratifying as yesterday's winners were, said Carl Goodman, the assistant principal for mathematics, just as important were those who submitted papers but did not win.

"We broadcast the value of research because it's good for the kids," he said.



The New York Times/Sara Krulwich

Irene Eng, a semifinalist in science contest, in lab at Cardozo High School.

Mayor Koch.

In a two-sentence letter to Board of Estimate members yesterday, Mr. Koch asked to be excused from today's Board vote on a controversial proposal for a new office building, because the chief backers of the 1985 musical want to build the office tower.

What that means is that since the project was sponsored by the Koch administration in the first place, and since it was already in trouble for other reasons, it is now in even more jeopardy — thanks to a financially unsuccessful musical revue (and cast album) based on Mr. Koch's first book.

"In the parlance of the theatrical trade, the show bombed," said Powell Pierpoint, chairman of the Board of Ethics, about "Mayor" in an opinion he wrote at Mr. Koch's request.

Although Mr. Pierpoint judged the musical financially unsuccessful, it ran several months Off Broadway at the Village Gate and then at the Latin Quarter. Mr. Pierpoint went on to refer to "the dismal history of the theatrical presenta-

stein of the New York Land Company, the prospective developer of a 48-story office building on the Avenue of the Americas between 45th and 46th Streets. When that came to light last month, it stirred opposition because of the brothers' financial ties to the Marcos family, and because of a seeming contradiction in the Mayor's position from one day to the next.

First, Mr. Koch said the Bernsteins should have been disqualified in 1985 from developing a major city project because they managed New York City property owned by the family of former President Ferdinand E. Marcos of the Philippines. A day later, he said it was fine for the Bernsteins to develop the 48-story office building, and to renovate the old High School of Performing Arts at 120 West 46th Street. Nobody else wanted to do the job, he said, and a city check had turned up no evidence of Marcos-family involvement in that project.

Now comes the further complication of "Mayor." Mr. Pierpoint found no ethical violation requiring Mr. Koch to disqualify himself from voting, but suggested that the Mayor might want to do so anyway.

ance of a conflict of interest is often as undesirable as an actual conflict." Mr. Pierpoint wrote that though the Board of Ethics considered the "appearance problem" unwarranted, "if you decide to refrain, it is our view that this would serve to insulate you from any future appearance problems" relating to the Bernsteins.

Mr. Koch yesterday asked Board members to excuse him from voting — an unprecedented mayoral move, several officials said. It has not yet been determined how the votes will be tallied, said the Mayor's Board representative, Jose Cintron, but he acknowledged that the outcome was in considerable doubt. "There are," he conceded, acknowledged, "a lot of fence-sitters."

Parking Rules

Because of the weather, alternate-side parking rules are suspended in New York City today. Other regulations remain in effect.