

# point of view

BY BILL NIXON

"The United States has squandered a post-Sputnik surge in the race for knowledge and committed an act of unthinking, unilateral, educational disarmament that threatens its future," so says a national commission.

So what else is new? Those that have followed or been exposed to the educational system in America for the past two decades have already learned this information. It's not news that the majority of America's high school graduates can neither read, spell, or understand the basics of normal conversation.

In defense of the report, it should be noted that any effort to shed light on the plight of public education in this nation is a step in the right direction. But where have all these experts been for the past twenty years?

Any person that has read an employment application, attempted to carry on a reasonable conversation, or had dealings with the educated of America in the past few years has already seen a problem. The fact that we are now admitting that

something is wrong was long in coming.

The National Commission on Excellence in Education is now calling upon high schools to emphasize a program of new basics and courses of study to bring America back "in the know." The Commission is convinced that an immediate return to the basics is needed. It's time to teach more English, more math, more science, more social studies, and to introduce a computer science course. It is further suggested that longer school days and more days per year spent in school are needed.

The call for a return to basics is an excellent response to the problems education in America faces today. There is little argument that the trend established in the late sixties and early seventies to allow students to "do their own thing" has not and will not work. The ideas stressed then of allowing individuals to learn trade skills rather than a basic education were wrong. To be sure, there is nothing wrong with a person knowing how to produce in society, but if that

individual is not able to understand the daily basics of life, then all the individual skill training in the world is useless.

Exception must be taken with the proposal to extend the length of the school day. Six hours of organized study is enough for any young mind to deal with. Any additional hours would most probably be wasted. It's difficult enough now to keep the attention of young minds for six hours. Even adults, working in a supervised environment, experience difficulty maintaining interest in a normal eight hour day. It just doesn't make sense to expect an eight or nine year old child to be alert for a full day of study. Their attention span just isn't that great, and should not be. All children deserve some time each day for dreaming and pretending. To expect them to concentrate in a classroom for eight to ten hours a day is pure foolishness.

The education system in this country needs help. There can be no doubt of that. But hoping to cure the ills of the 20 or so years of neglect by keeping kids in school more hours

per day is further indication of the lack of concern of parents and concerned individuals for the real problems of education.

We can turn things around. We don't have to continue to be a nation of dumbos. A step in the right direction is to return to the basics of teaching. The three "R's" carried our educational needs for years. A return in the direction of teaching a person how to think, how to read, how to write, and how to understand simple conversation makes sense. And we must make parents understand that schools are intended as learning centers, not day-care centers. To expect an individual, and this is directed to the teachers of America, to correct the ills of our nation in

a six hour day is plain foolish. Education must begin, and end, at home. All the teaching available will be useless if that process is not continued in the home. Parents must accept responsibility for helping the process of education.

Yes, it's time to get back to the basics. This includes not only in the classroom, but at home as well. It is a problem that America can deal with, but like so many other things in life, it will take team work and total dedication on the part of all involved. In education, that means the schools, the families, the students, the community, and to some extent, government. It's a great challenge, but one we must meet if we are to continue to exist as a nation of free individuals.

## Anniversary Books To Be Printed

MANTEO — Carole Longmeyer, president and publisher of Tryon, based Gallopade Publishing Group has announced the planned publication of a series of books and a magazine in honor of the 400th Anniversary of the first English colony in America — "The Lost Colony Collection."

"It gives us great pleasure to announce a list of books published by a North Carolina publisher for a North Carolina event and featuring North Carolina authors,"

Longmeyer said during the announcement. "Gallopade's loyal booksellers and our authors' faithful readers have already expressed much appreciation for "The Lost Colony Collection."

The collection's hallmark publication is "Croatan," 400th anniversary issue of a magazine that will cover all aspects of the state's Albemarle, Lost Colony and Outer Banks' areas. At the request of advertisers, Gallopade is offering special city editions of the publication. "We are taking our bountiful book expertise and applying it to the magazine concept," Longmeyer explained, "which we believe will produce one of the most beautiful magazines ever published."

"The Lost Colony Collection" features: "Windrift", a novel by Stumpy Point's Nell Wise Wechter; "The Mystery of the

Lost Colony", a new "History Mystery" by Tryon's Carole Marsh; "Bill S.; Shakespeare for Kids", by Kinston's Mary Lou Kennedy; as well as "The Lost Colony Cookbook", "The Lost Colony Storybook" and other titles.

"All books and the magazine will be marketed internationally," Longmeyer said. "We believe our titles will be of great benefit to people planning to visit the Lost Colony 400th Anniversary celebrations which will run for four years beginning in 1984. We even believe the event and publications will introduce our wonderful state to many people who have never visited North Carolina."

Gallopade and its books were featured this spring on the new Disney Cable Network and in a nationally distributed Associated Press article.

## Regional Hearing Is Set

RALEIGH—Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., and the members of the Commission on N.C. 2000 invite city and county planners, businessmen and interested citizens in the Central Piedmont and Northeastern areas of North Carolina to a special regional hearing May 10, on how North Carolina can best face the changes of the next two decades.

Scheduled from 3 to 5 P.M. at the Jane S. McKimmon Center at N.C. State University, the meeting is free. It is intended to give citizens of the Central and Northeastern regions of the state an opportunity to listen to a discussion of the recommendations of the Commission on N.C. 2000 and to talk with the Governor and UNC President William C. Friday, commission chairman.

The N.C. 2000 Commission was initiated by Governor Hunt in June 1981 to prepare all North Carolinians—leaders and citizens alike—to make wise decisions for the changes the state will face in the years ahead with an expected population growth of some 30 per cent. The commission looked at possible demands for more and different services, the impact on areas of the state and on jobs.

The Commission's final report, which contained 100 recommendations, was presented in March by Friday to the Governor, who has assigned to the State Goals and Policy Board the task of monitoring implementation. The hearing May 10 is the first of the regional hearings

to allow citizens from the following counties to discuss the challenges and opportunities ahead: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Carteret, Chatham, Chowan Craven, Currituck, Dare, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Granville, Green, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Person, Pitt, Tyrrell, Vance, Wake, Warren, Washington, Wayne and Wilson.

Those planning to attend are asked to call 919/737-2265 by May 9, to assist the committee in making appropriate preparations for the presentation.

"A man with big ideas is a hard neighbor to live with," Ebner-Eschenbach

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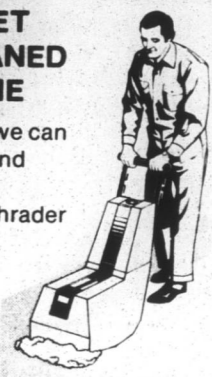
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## The JIM HUNT Record

### Jim Hunt Says:

Campaign assistance from out-of-state "creates obligations you ought not to have."

### For The Record:

Hunt PAC got Bert Lance and Andy Young to host a \$65,000 fundraiser in Atlanta for Jim Hunt.<sup>2</sup>

### Did this create an 'out-of-state obligation' for Jim Hunt?

You bet it did!

### And, how did Bert Lance get his pay-off from Jim Hunt?

First, Bert Lance called on Hunt's party chieftain, Russell Walker, to hotfoot it to Chicago.<sup>3</sup>

Then, Hunt's party chieftain campaigned for Bert Lance's candidate, Harold Washington, for Mayor of Chicago.<sup>4</sup>

### Is this how Jim Hunt built his POLITICAL MACHINE?

1. Asheville Citizen 10/6/82  
2. Atlanta Constitution 3/13/83

3. Atlanta Constitution 3/22/83  
4. News and Observer 3/24/83

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Jim Hunt



Bert Lance

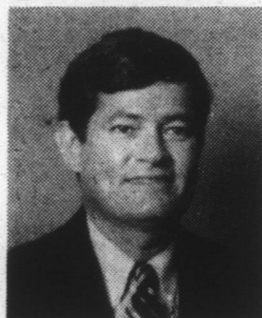


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