

Opinions

Letters To The Editor



Good points forgotten in contract hearing

To the Editor:
Those of us who are entrusted with the responsibility of molding minds and instilling values should practice what we teach -- and preach.

The true character of the principal of West Hoke School, Milton Williams, as well as that of his well-trained (and I must say well-briefed) henchmen (women) was displayed at a dismissal hearing on last week when every devious method conceivable was used to destroy my career, as I was projected as a child-abuser, a callous, insulting, noncaring human being -- one with a "people problem" which has caused "inadequate performance", "neglect of duty", and led to my "failure to fulfill the duties of a teach" as outlined by the statutes of North Carolina.

However, none of these traits were evident during the 1982-83 school term when a sufficient number of my colleagues voted me "Teacher of the Year" to represent West Hoke School before a highly regarded committee which consisted of the personnel director, an administrator and teachers who felt that I exemplified the characteristics desirable in a teacher who would possibly represent the region, the state and the nation.

Nonetheless, one year later, the same principal who highly endorsed my selection as Teacher of the Year, recommended to the superintendent that I be dismissed. Ironically, during the same school term I was selected "Hoke County Teacher of the Year," the individual, Dr. Robert A. Nelson, who recommended my dismissal to the Board of Education (although the Professional Review Committee, appointed by the State Superintendent, Dr. Craig Phillips, who is elected by the people, ruled in my favor on August 13, 1984) was notified by the Alamance Board of Education that his contract would not be renewed.

In addition to the assassination of my professional integrity, an infestuous case of amnesia suddenly developed when the principal and his "Loyalists" could neither recall nor cite the positives -- all my endeavors and the utilization

of my abilities and talents to enhance the level of education in Hoke County. Make no mistake about it, this demagogue, (Milton Williams) was using what the considers my weakness to demolish me; yet is continuing to capitalize on my strengths (the ideas of which I am the brainchild are still being used at West Hoke.)

In spite of the evils of this melodrama, there are truths that can be derived from this episode.

Truths that are plainly cited in a recently released publication, THE BOOK, which has been part of our civilization for centuries and should be read by those slanderers with scrutiny for application rather than delivery. You see, the Bible clearly addresses itself to the premise, "What goes around comes around." The question is: Will these individuals have the stamina and courage to survive?

Although I have no desire to be a martyr or protect anyone else's rights, may I caution all persons who are involved in the framework of education and are still on the bottom rung; do not delude yourselves, "today, it is I; tomorrow, it may be you."

Ethelyn Holden Baker

The choice is very clear to the Indians of Hoke County. We want the program, and we believe the director should be an Indian because he will know the needs of our people and be able to understand and communicate the wishes of our people to the agencies involved.

Twenty-two persons met at the Board of Education October 30. These people and many more requested the Board of Education to take action before the I.E.A. program is cancelled. We know this program is a great asset for our children and we hope the Board of Education will not let this residency requirement rob our children of their benefits from this program.

I sincerely hope the Board of Education will do what is fair and right in this matter. Please take action before it is too late and hire Oxendine as our new I.E.A. director.

Sincerely,
Della Maynor
Concerned parent

Pocket phones are lousy items

Dear Editor
I was flipping through a magazine and ran across a page ad showing a man walking along Wall Street in New York talking on the telephone.

The ad explained he was using a portable telephone small enough to carry with you and capable of reaching any phone anywhere in the world. You can put it in your pocket and carry it with you to and from work, on the golf course, at lunch, maybe I suppose take to bed with you. I don't know about in the shower.

Having to answer a phone that's tied to the wall in your own home is bad enough, but having to answer one you've got in your pocket is too far out for me.

I suppose there are people so important with so many irons in the fire they need to be reached by telephone immediately and constantly 24 hours a day but I've never met one and would avoid the opportunity if it arose.

For me, a phone in my pocket will never replace my pocket knife.
Yours faithfully,
J.A.

Naming of Oxendine urged by supporters

To the Editor:

I'm speaking for myself and many other Indian parents here in Hoke County. We are concerned because the Hoke County Board of Education has not hired a director for our Indian Education Act program.

The parent-student committee has submitted Jerry Oxendine's name as our recommendation for the Indians of Hoke County. We support this committee and want Oxendine as our I.E.A. Director because he already has some experience in this field.

One of the qualifications of the director is to reside in Hoke County. I believe Oxendine has all the qualifications except for this one.

From the information I have, we will lose our I.E.A. program if a director is not hired very soon.

Which is more important to the Board of Education? That the director live in Hoke County or the Indian children have their I.E.A. program?

Doctors should remember people

Guess what! I'm going to be a grandfather again! That's the good news. The bad news is that my daughter, having moved from one state to another since her last baby was born, had to find a new doctor.

Following the recommendation of friends, she went to a local clinic where the doctors on staff have a good reputation for their care of mummies and babies.

When she walked in the door, the first thing that was said to her--not the second thing, or the third thing--was that she would have to pay so much money up front before the doctor would see her. The receptionist explained the payment plan before they finally got down to such mundane things as my daughter's medical history.

I don't know what they are teaching medical students about the ethical and economic aspects of their profession nowadays, but the money-grubbing attitude encountered by my daughter seems to



Lucien Coleman

Things That Matter

be especially prevalent among the young bucks in white coats.

I know of one firm of shiny new doctors, all just starting their practices, where they maintained what they fondly called their "hit list." This was a list of persons who had been delinquent in paying their bills, and, thus, no longer qualified for treatment.

Hospitals are even more notorious for their mercenary attitudes. It isn't just that their charges for rooms, services and medications are so out of orbit. The worst thing is, you can't even

get in for treatment unless you have good insurance, iron-clad credit, or a wad of money in your pocket.

Medical "industry" is appropriate terminology, I suppose. "Profession" is a term much to dignified for a basically profit-oriented business.

No, I'm not being so unreasonable as to suggest that medical practitioners and hospitals shouldn't be paid for their services. Yes, I know all about the expense of medical schooling and the cost of getting set up in practice. Yes, I know about the enormous overhead costs which hospitals face.

What I would really like, I suppose, is a return to the old-fashioned notion that people are almost as important as dollars. Even if that is no longer the case, Doc, it would be nice if you could at least create the illusion.

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