

MORE LETTERS

Schools' Standards Obscured By 'Intellectual Mish-Mash'

To the editor:

Well, as I have noted on these pages, big, hands-on government has begun the task of solving our public education problems; the budget hassle in Brunswick County will shortly be resolved and Superintendent Ralph Johnston can continue the shift of learning focus from teacher to computer and all will live happily ever after!

Whoa. Back up a few notches and examine the abstract language of the eggheads who are pursuing all this change...

The Governor's Commission on Educational Standards and Accountability says its mission "is to develop essential, real-world educational standards which will produce valuable citizens, leaders and competitive workers through mastery of core knowledge and skills that will be measured by meaningful, life-based assessments...."

"The State's role is to determine what students need to know and be able to do...."

But after the state does, "Local districts are responsible for determining how students will achieve these standards."

WHEW!
The commission in its draft report has identified 10 essential skills students need to apply knowledge to real-world situations and to synthesize information from all disciplines.

(They are) reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, using numbers, critical thinking, creative thinking, problem-solving and working as a member of a team.

Then, if this sweeping summation doesn't complete your dizzy spells of academic compression, each "essential skill" is further analyzed by definitions: for instance, under "Listening," the report says, "The graduate will be able to receive, attend to, interpret, evaluate, and respond to verbal messages in ways that are appropriate to purpose" (it doesn't say to whose purpose) and then lists 18 (!) aspects of this listening skill.

One can only wonder how Superintendent Johnston can take intellectual mish-mash from the state and convert it into achievement, especially when the eggheads who put this report together couldn't come up with the most simple but essential skill at "listening" that apparently went out of style when one-room schools disappeared: the need to receive verbal or written messages with the meaning the speaker or writer intends.

It is an elementary observation of common sense that communication is defective if the message received is different from the message intended.

And a matter of almost universal public insanity when the "listeners" determine purpose, motive and analysis of meaning of messages even before the speaker has completed the message!

And a psychological disease prevalent among so many people who need to twist the meaning of a communication around to suit their emotional or political posture.

Now we parents would be very happy if our local schools succeeded in teaching our kids how to listen in terms of receiving the intended message without all the

other qualifying mental gymnastics our state eggheads wish upon them. I suggest that Superintendent Johnston begin the program of how local districts will determine "how students achieve" the state standards by putting together a countywide teachers' convocation some Saturday whose sole topic of discussion to and from the teachers will be "How Can We Teach Students To Listen In Terms Of Receiving The Message Intended Before Engaging In Any Other Kind Of Mental Analysis Or Evaluation?"

If we want improvement in our public education, we must recapture the common-sense eggheads have smothered with abstract language and exaggeration of the value of their administration.

Karl E. Brandt
Shallotte

School Funds Are Needed

To the editor:

I'm writing in response to James Moore's letter entitled "Appeal Verdict" in the Aug. 4 edition.

Apparently Mr. Moore does not have children in school. This will be my child's third year in a Brunswick County school. Each year I've had to not only purchase basic school supplies, but also contribute extra money monthly for class projects that are necessary as visual teaching aids in today's ever-expanding technological world. Also, during each of these three years my child's teachers have spent personal money for items for school. As far as teachers' pay raises, they are long overdue.

I feel that the additional funds are necessary. If we do not educate our young now, we have no future.

Marie A. Hewett
Shallotte

Board Unfair To Children

To the editor:

How important is it for our children to get a proper education? Brunswick County has grown extensively since I graduated in the '70s. I am proud of my education, but I don't believe today's children are being treated fairly. As there are now so many more people living in the county, one would think the additional taxes could support a decent school system.

Our children need a solid education so that one day they can support themselves and their families. They will need this education to ensure that this county does not continue to fail our future generations.

As the number of students grows with the county's population, do the commissioners really think our schools can operate on less money each year. Can the county complex operate on the same funds required years ago? I think not.

Walk around your county offices in Bolivia on any given day and count how many employees are "making time." Were they hired because work needs to be done, or just to fill a title?

A private contractor was hired to pump sewage from Supply Elementary School, and the process has cost \$18,000 so far. A new school was built and the money paid to an architect for a proper system. The sewage problem surfaced in mid-March but is yet to be correct-

ed. The county continues to pay for the pumping.

Is anyone capable of making better decisions as to where our money goes and what is most important to Brunswick County? The starting date of classes should never have been in question, since the powers that be were aware of the problems when the last school year ended. If they were not, then they should not be trusted with handling our money in the first place.

Why wait to solve problems? Would they prefer to wait until after the next election to start school? We have problems, and if they aren't soon resolved, we'll be better off teaching our children at home. This would at least provide an acceptable student/teacher ratio. It would also delight our county leaders, since they would have a lot more money to throw at less important matters.

The county's decision-making is deceitful, ignorant and very disappointing.

Nancy Nixon
Supply

Don't Ban Dogs All The Time

To the editor:

We just received the latest issue of the paper and read with interest the letter from Ms Brown of Michigan. We certainly share her feeling and her love for Sunset Beach. In fact, we may love it a little bit more; we bought a house there 13 years ago. We have also seen many changes in the landscape and the wildlife, but it is not the dogs on the beach that are wreaking havoc with nature.

We read with dismay that Ms Brown wants to ban taxpayers' dogs from the beach at all times. We who own our homes in Sunset Beach should not be deprived from the limited use our dogs now have for the week or two that a tourist may be there. As one of the joys of her life, our small Sheltie has a run on the beach with us during the allotted times, and we are probably off the beach after our 6 a.m. outing well before Ms Brown and her numerous clan gather on the strand.

Our dog uses our yard for her business, and should she leave something on the beach, we are prepared for clean-up. We also clean up much litter left on the strand by partying tourist groups who are too lazy to use the bins provided.

Probably there are a few owners (renters are not allowed pets) who do not clean up after their animals, but you will find that most of us who own a home or second home at Sunset are proud and protective of our community.

Mark and Monique Hanna
Munroe Falls, Ohio

Are 6 Stations Adequate?

To the editor:

By now most everyone knows which six new channels have been selected by Atlantic Telephone Cable to commence about Oct. 1. I was told the selections were made by the board of directors based on the tabulated results of the returned questionnaires.

Two of the six new channels are identified as sports-type channels. These, added to what we now have avail-

able, provide us with more than adequate sports coverage. It is entertaining to watch a variety of sports programming, but how many games can one watch with one television set?

I believe the board of directors for the cooperative had the added responsibility of reviewing the program channels offered by other competitive cable companies and to provide its constituency with similar types of diversified selections. Specifically, there is no religious channel and no financial news channel (CNBC). Wouldn't it be great to have a second PBS station, and how about CSPAN 2? Then we could be up to date on all the latest happenings in Washington.

There are a number of technical advances on the horizon involving the transmission of television channels. It seems to me that the addition of six new channels by Atlantic Telephone Cable is only a minimum improvement.

Fen Loomer
Sunset Beach

He's A Good Samaritan

To the editor:

Our daughter Jennifer recently had a car accident on N.C. 179 near Sunset Beach. In the process, her change purse was lost with several dollars, driver's license and credit cards.

Later the next morning Mr. Farion Black found and went to great effort to return everything intact. It is nice to know there are still honest people that will go out of their way to be of help.

Bob and Barbara Chapman
Calabash

Unfair To Local Surfers

To the editor:

On July 27 myself and fellow surfers received tickets for surfing too close to the pier at Ocean Isle Beach. Everyone that received a ticket was a "local." The way the ordinance is written, everyone out in the water with a raft or boogie board, etc., should have received a ticket.

"Sec. 6-5-7 Surfboards. No person shall use, play or ride a surfboard or similar object, except in areas specifically designated for their use by the Town Council. Defined as that area East of Monroe Street and West of Oxford Street. (5-14-84)"

I feel that the officer that gave the tickets gave them in a prejudicial manner toward locals. The tourists break the law every day and nothing is done about it. I feel that if you are going to enforce a law, you should enforce it fairly.

The problem occurs when the fishermen on the pier complain because the surfers get in their way. Surfers are restricted to areas, but there aren't any restrictions on fishing off the beach.

I feel there shouldn't be any restrictions on surfing. The ocean should be free to play in. I think a compromise could be made—surfing on the left side of the pier and fishing on the right.

Jamie Gillis
Ocean Isle Beach

IF YOU AREN'T HEARING OUR NAME... ...YOU AREN'T GETTING ALL THE FACTS

Patients deserve the highest standard of all-inclusive care.

BOARD CERTIFIED IN ALLERGY CARE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT DISEASES AND AUDIOLOGY

Could you accept less...for your family?

Mark A. Lizak, MD

Board Certified Specialist: Ear, Nose and Throat

Conveniently located in the Doctor's Office Complex at The Brunswick Hospital, Supply, NC
For Appointments Call 754-2920

