

# “It is a calling to be a teacher...”

by George Spitzer

I would like to thank all of my former teachers who have had patience with their students. Before now, I have never fully realized just how difficult it is to teach.

I now understand what it feels like to teach. Teaching helped me realize that I had something to give back to people. How or why I was chosen to teach this summer, I will never know.

This past summer, I was blessed with a chance to teach disabled children. Little did I know this experience would change my life. At first, I was reluctant to take the job because I was afraid I would have to change a diaper.

Luckily, that was not the case. My main responsibility was teaching a 10 year old boy, but I also got a chance to teach a whole group of children.

On my first day of work, we went to a school and got to know the children well. I paid special attention to the boy to whom I was assigned. The boy I was assigned to was in a wheel-chair because he had a disease that affected the muscles in his body.

Soon, I found out he was quite intelligent for his young age. After only a few days, we became friends, and I realized that he was no different than anyone else.

In a very short time we became very close, and he talked to me about how he was feeling. He even told me about how sad he was that he was different from other people. It is not fair to treat people that way. If people are different from the “norm,” they are outcasts.

Not everyone is supposed to be “normal.” If everyone was the same, the world would be a boring place. It was not very easy for me to sit back and listen to my student cry because someone said something that hurt his feelings.

Almost everyday there was something I learned. Part of my job was to teach the arts, and I was shocked to find out how enthralled the children were with classical music. For many of the students it was the first time they had ever really been exposed to classical music.

Every day, I would bring in a different CD or video, and the children really liked it. This was a huge surprise because these children were almost constantly running around or talking. One day I brought in a CD with Strauss’s “Four Last Songs” on it.

I told them about the piece, and the children almost had tears in their eyes after I played one of the songs. That was an experience that I will never forget.

It is sad that public schools do

not teach children real music. These kids actually thought that all you do in music is blow air through a piece of metal or open your mouth and start singing.

Luckily, I could answer most of their questions about music. I wanted to give back something that means a lot to me.

Day after day, I saw improvement with the children’s reading and writing skills. The student that I took care of finished his first book just two days before my job was to end. This was a big accomplishment for him because he had never been able to pay attention long enough to read a book of that length. It only took some encouraging words to help him finish his book.

Finally, after three months, my last day arrived. It was a bitter sweet day.

The boy to whom I was assigned grew close to me and he cried.

I think I was the first person who wanted to be his friend. I will never forget telling my students goodbye. Nothing has been the same since that job.

Last, I would like to thank my students for putting up with me. Especially, I would like to thank my little buddy.

I can understand why someone would want to be a teacher. Like my friends say, it is a calling to be a teacher.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to point out a dangerous safety hazard around campus. The stone tile steps to the library, Dunham Auditorium, and Jones Dormitory are cracked and broken. I don’t mind how it looks, but I do mind that people keep putting them back on the steps broken. To the innocent pedestrian, the tiles look whole and attached to the step. When people step on the tiles, the tiles wobble and fall, leaving them to feel like he/she is on the wrong side of a see-saw. The College needs to remove or replace the broken steps. I am tired of tripping and practically falling down the stairs.

--Stephon Frazier  
Freshman

Dear Editor,

I was wondering if anything could be done about the basic cable that students are given on campus. We as students pay too much money to get only a few stations. Of the stations we get, most of them that are of no interest at all to the students. I feel we should be given stations that deal with issues of our generation. Therefore the Disney Channel and other boring channels we get should not be part of our cable plan. We are adults not children and deserve to be treated like adults.

--Julie Thomas  
Freshman

# Honor system needs improvement

by William Ginsler

Under the current honor system at the college, any violation of the honor code results in a consultation with a dean. The dean then has the authority and autonomy to decide your fate as a student in this institution. Is that very ethical? Many prestigious institutions (like Harvard, Yale, UNC...) have an “Honor Council” which students and faculty both participate in. The students elect representatives to the council from the student body, and the faculty appoints “advisors” that serve on the council for one year at a time. Each member

of the council has one vote. No one on the council has more power than any other. This type of system has

many benefits over the current formula. This system assures fairness by taking the decision away from one person. Each accused student has an option to bring a friend or faculty member to vouch for him or her, so all sides are heard.

My high school had a system similar to this. We had an “Honor Code” which every student signed when he/she arrived at the school, and we had yearly elections to appoint members to the council.

Once elected, student members served on the council until they left the school. Overall, the system worked very well.

“No one on the council has more power than any other.”

Many people were reprimanded under that system, but never in my four years at EHS did anyone say the council was not fair. This college needs to revamp its current methods and consider this for the good of the college community and the reputation of the college.

## The Clarion Staff

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