

Columns *Opinion*

Private School Funding

Private schools in North Carolina, both on the college and high school levels, make up a sizable portion of our state's education. Private schools have recently mushroomed in growth on the primary and secondary levels because of Federal blunders like forced busing, teacher strikes over little pay, and an overall bad atmosphere for learning in the public schools. Many parents sacrifice a lot just to send their kids to private schools, so their kids can start learning again.

Private schools play a big role in our educational system. Yet, our "education officials" refuse to increase private school aid, and this is a serious mistake. Number one, if all private school students suddenly went to public schools, it would obviously take *enormous* amounts of tax dollars to finance new facilities in which to accommodate them. Private schools do us, the taxpayers, a favor by keeping public school tax demand down. Aid to many aspects of private schools would help keep their education up and our taxes down.

Secondly, aid is needed because private schools can offer their students a better education. Because private schools can pretty much choose their students, this helps eliminate discipline problem students, and thus contributes to a good learning atmosphere. They can obtain the best teachers. A better-than-average teacher would opt for a good paying private school most of the time.

Thirdly, an aid increase is necessary because private schools would probably be able to use the funds to its fullest. Since most private institutions have a limited source of funds, they have to handle their money well. Public school officials have not proven that they can wisely spend their own.

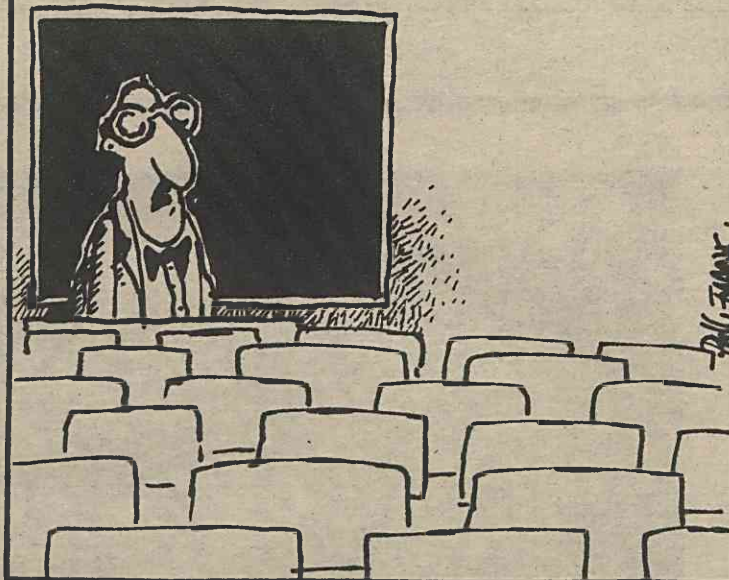
Some may argue that if public funds are given to private schools, the Federal Government can then pressure the schools on how they should be run. This is not necessarily the case, because most private schools have proven they have the wisdom on what should be taught in their schools. This was proven by the success that private schools had with the state competency test, where almost no student failed. Compare this to the public school record, and for whatever the reason, the private schools did much better. They could continue this record of excellence with the right money.

Another needed idea is a tax-break for parents who send their kids to private schools or colleges. Not only are these parents paying for public education, which they'll never benefit from, but money for the private education, and the taxes that go with them. That money comes out of a parent's net profit. It can be an expensive affair for a parent who tries to give their child the best education possible.

People turn to a private school, especially on the college level, to make up for the inadequacies and the

FRANKLY SPEAKING ...by phil frank

SINCE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ALL OF US TO STUDY ON SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SPRING DAY... CLASS IS DISMISSED..



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void that public officials have made out of our public schools. Of course, public schools have been a diamond in the sand for those who otherwise couldn't obtain an education. But that shouldn't prevent those who can go to a private school the chance of a better education, just because a public official is stubborn with his money. Make that our money! And more of it should go to the fine private institutions of the state.

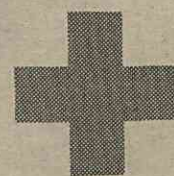
Eddie Woodhouse



Dionne Warwick says:
"Get your blood
into circulation."



Call Red Cross
for a blood donor
appointment.



Keep Red Cross
ready.

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10. **Gnomes**, by Wil Huygen. (Peacock, \$10.95.) Fanciful portrayal of gnomes, color illustrations: fiction.

This list was compiled by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* from information supplied by college stores throughout the country. March 26, 1979.

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Printing: *The Franklin Times*, Louisburg, N. C.—*The Columns* is printed monthly during the academic year at Louisburg College. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the entire staff, adviser or College. Letters to the editor are welcome. For advertising rates or general information, please call 496-2521, Ext. 261 or Ext. 258.