

# Attitude And Education

## Editorial

*By Suellyn Dalton*

Recently, a friend asked me if I had been to Raleigh and if I had read the "graffiti wall" on the back of the new N.C. Department of Public Instruction building located in the governmental building complex. He further said that this wall was an artistic rendering and that someone, he supposed, had been paid to sculpt it. He was curious to know my reaction to the largest lettered of the phrases and words on the wall.

Well! I saw it! Here is the quote: "Learning in old age is writing on sand, but learning in youth is engraving on stone." This, mind you, is probably ten stories tall and faces our legislative buildings. Who on earth dreamed this one up? Who approved it? Who paid for it? How much? Where were all the adult educators when this went up? Where are they now? Did our tax dollars get spent on this?

Does this imply that all old people are a waste of an educator's time? Should they just get out of the way? Who are these old people? Seems to me it's 90% of our total population. (It also seems to me that we are

those people.!) This will be a big surprise to our mighty universities (not to mention our colleges) when they realize that their student average age is now approaching 40! Is this a giant attempt to put down community colleges? (The writing faces our DCC headquarters.) Or, is it a slap at AARP? Or, is it really saying something about our legislators who most certainly aren't "Youth"? I wonder just who this covers.

We spend a lot of our time and resources on the issue of student attitude to learn, to grow, to come to class, to progress, to study, to relate, to contribute. I feel we need to spend some time right now on the issue of attitude as it relates to our whole endeavor.

While we all value children and their education, adult education should not be overtaken or overshadowed by the education of youth. There are too many adults who need educating and we all must learn as there are too many demands on us which require new skills in a new world economy. Further, you really can teach us old dogs new tricks, it just takes skill and desire to do it.



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