

Substitute teacher develops ways to enhance education

By CAROLE RAGINS
Community News Editor

A local substitute teacher has decided to do something about the failing educational system.

Patricia Owens has developed an educational training manual for substitute teachers that focuses on how to approach different subjects and how to gain the interest of students.

After working as a substitute teacher in the Forsyth County

school system, Owens says she saw a need for a guide to give substitute teachers some kind of direction when the teacher does not leave a lesson plan for the day.

"Sometimes the teacher's plans were not there and I was on my own many times. When you walk into a classroom and those things are not readily available, you have already lost the battle because the kids know you're not prepared," she said. "It puts you in a position where you're looking for everything most

of the day and not accomplishing your task. It defeats the purpose when you have nothing to go on."

Owens says she made up her mind to arrive early at school in order to look for things that the teacher may not have left visible. She also devised a plan for each subject area she may have to teach and prepared it in her own style that would interest students but at the same time, give them a learning tool to master the assignment.

The training manual consist of

instructions that focus on health and science, math, English, social studies, health and homeroom activities. It gives the substitute teacher an option to challenge students on the basics of each subject and makes learning fun for students. The manual also has a section on tips on how to deal with students and control behavior in the classroom.

Owens is currently marketing her manual to the school system and hope that it will someday be the booklet substitute teachers would

treasure.

Owens taught school in Philadelphia, Pa. for 12 years. She says she used her teaching experience in the Philadelphia school system and compared it to the teaching methods in Winston-Salem when she relocated in 1985. She compared different methods of teaching and concluded that her training manual would work in the classroom atmosphere in the Forsyth County school system because it is multi-racial.

First Lady gets mean

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Barbara Bush wrapped up a campaign tour of California on Thursday with some of the most partisan remarks of her political life, attacking congressional Democrats and warning of economic doom under Bill Clinton.

"We have good programs, but the Congress is so wrapped up in their own scandals and their own funny doings that they're not willing to back good programs," she said in a telephone interview with radio station KABC-AM. "(It's) politically motivated."

The first lady said the only reason former President Reagan "got things done" in the 1980s was because he had a Republican-run Senate for six years.

"Ever since the Democrats took over the Senate, it's just been an enormous fight," she said. "And what we're hoping is going to happen is they're going to ... clean the House and clean the Senate and give us a Republican president with a Republican Congress. Then watch how things grow."

Asked whether the country could do better with a president who can work with a Democratic Congress, Mrs. Bush spoke of the economic conditions under former President Carter.

"We had a Democratic president with the Democratic Congress, and we had interest rates at 21 percent, and double-digit inflation and double-digit unemployment, and that didn't work," she said. "(Democrats) want to raise taxes and raise spending. That is just going to spiral us up into all these awful things again."

Mrs. Bush spent three days in California, an electoral gold mine with 54 electoral votes — nearly one-fifth of those needed to capture the White House.

Her trip was an effort by the Bush-Quayle campaign to use Mrs. Bush's high popularity to turn around the president's standing in California. A poll taken before last week's Republican national convention found him trailing Clinton by 34 percentage points.

Instead of speaking about her usual favorite subjects, including literacy, Mrs. Bush included sharp partisan attacks in her remarks. Her favorite targets have been congressional Democrats and the press.

In the radio interview, she remarked of the news media: "I would never say they were pro-George." In an interview in San Francisco she went a step further, saying the press was made up of liberals and Democrats who are "for Bill Clinton."

She did take a softer line than some other Republican campaigners on social issues, saying, for example, that family values mean different things to different people.

Bush campaign political director Mary Matalin said of Mrs. Bush: "She always wanted to be an active campaigner. We're in full campaign mode now. She's our heroine." Matalin said Mrs. Bush calls her own shots and hasn't been asked to take a harder line politically.

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