

Let's Make Sure Our Kids Are Learning

Special To The Post
Education is no longer a matter confined solely to the classroom. It has now spread to the courts of this country. Parents who have found their children passing from grade to grade and even graduating from school still illiterate are taking action. Instead of the polished red apple, teachers are receiving subpoenas in "educational malpractice" suits.

A family in Seattle, Wash. has sued the city's school system because their 21-year old son was allowed to graduate from high school while still unable to read with sufficient comprehension to obtain employment.

The complaints and suits have brought teachers unions to the point of demanding malpractice insurance as part of teachers' contracts with local school boards.

North Carolina will face the same problems once Governor Hunt's testing program for competency has been instituted in the public school system. The tests will be administered to all grades, and those who cannot pass the test are not to be promoted. Undoubtedly this will contribute more to overcrowded situations in schools than an overnight population explosion.

The average high school graduate reads at a 10.7 grade level. If this is the average, the below average student is probably sub high school level. These deficiencies will place graduates back in school when a child was promoted although he had not reached the level of achievement his grade requires. He was passed on to make room for the next set of students who would occupy the space.

Present teacher evaluation methods have failed to make parents aware of their children's academic predicament. No longer are A's B's C's D's or F's awarded measures of scholastic performance. Instead, a checked (check) evaluation is done. The student's progress is what is evaluated. But is it done accurately?

If a fifth grade student starts school reading at the third grade level and progresses to the fourth grade level during the school year, does that student deserve an excellent evaluation?

This is the situation that is common in the North Carolina school system. And where is the solution to this dilemma? Is this states school system to continue in the proverbial "vicious circle" in which its students are trapped?

There is a push in North Carolina as well as in many other states to make minimum competency standards for graduation a matter of state law.

Parents complaints about their children's deficiencies are legitimate, but many teachers are afraid that the blame for student inadequacies will fall upon them. They, too, have been victimized by the educational system but they can also do something about changing it, an advantage the students do not have.

State laws that clearly specify the skills needed for a high school diploma are mandatory if this problem is to be solved.

Second, parental influence must be exerted to the extent that parents take an active part in evaluating their children's progress. And this entails more than reading them a bedtime story. Parents should listen to their children read on a regular basis and offer them help when the kids have questions at home.

Third, teachers must make more qualified evaluation. His written evaluation should include a letter to the parents concerning their children's actual performance trends. Promotions should not be granted if students are not performing at their specific grade levels.

States require that students attend school until age 16. The least they can do is to make sure students come away with something to show for it.



A. EUGENE GRIER
...FDMANC vice president

Grier Elected To Board Of Mortuary Science

A. Eugene Grier, President and General Manager of Grier Funeral Home Service Inc., has become the second black elected to the North Carolina State Board of Mortuary Science. The first black board member was A.R. Kelsey, owner of Noble and Kelsey Funeral Home in Salisbury.

Grier is the grandson of the late Arthur S. Grier, owner and founder of Grier Funeral Service, and the son of the late Arthur Eugene Grier. He began his association with the funeral home while still very young.

His formal education includes studies at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida, and Central Piedmont Community College. He is a graduate of the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, Cincinnati, Ohio, and was also a member of the United States Army for three years, receiving an honorable discharge.

Nicest Thanksgiving Includes Something Old, Something New

Even the cook who loves to experiment is not likely to tamper much with Thanksgiving dinner: her family would rise up in protest! So far be it from us to suggest any rash departures from the usual stuffed turkey, cranberries and pumpkin pie.

There's nothing to be lost, however (in face, everything to be gained) by the introduction of some splendid new variations on old recipe themes - such as this scrumptious Giblet-Corn Bread Dressing, for instance. The addition of

chicken broth and chopped green pepper to the more familiar ingredients make it extra good. And if you have never used corn bread in a dressing before - well, you're in for a treat. (For your convenience, we've included the recipe for our own favorite corn bread with the dressing recipe).

Who says that all the fresh cranberries must be served up in a sauce. Save a cupful for this delectable Oatmeal Cranberry Loaf, which makes such a different and delicious accompaniment to the Big Bird.

As for the pumpkin pie, like other holiday favorites, the only recipe change permitted is one for the better. And Paragon Pumpkin Pie fits the bill. So what's new about it, you ask? The presence of corn meal in the flaky crust for one thing, the plump chewy raisins in the pumpkin filling for another - both unexpected taste treats.

So feel free to indulge your yen for "something new." We predict these recipes will join your list of tried-and-trues!

One-third cup butter or margarine, melted
2 eggs, beaten
1 1/4 cups chicken broth
Heat over to slow (325 degrees F). Brush turkey with melted butter and sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper. Combine giblets, corn bread, croutons, salt, pepper and sage. Lightly saute celery, onions and green pepper in butter; add to corn bread mixture. Add eggs and broth tossing lightly.

Lightly stuff dressing into body cavity and neck region of turkey. Skewer cavity closed. Tie legs together.

Place breast side up on rack in shallow baking pan. Bake in preheated oven (325 degrees F) to an internal temperature of 185 degrees F., basting occasionally with melted butter. Bake remaining dressing uncovered in 1 1/2 qt. casserole in preheated oven (325 degrees F.) during the last 45 minutes of roasting time.

Human Beings Are Semi-Tropical

Animals
Human beings are essentially semi-tropical animals. Our bodies at rest and unclothed are designed to maintain their internal temperature effortlessly with the thermometer at about 85 degrees. However, with last winter behind us and the chill of this winter almost here, keeping comfortably warm has become the national pastime. How do we stay warm? We achieve cold weather comfort in part by generating more heat in our internal furnaces and, in part, by conserving that heat.

The most important source of internal heat is our muscles. They use about 70 percent of the food energy they consume, at work or at play, in heat generation. Under average conditions body muscles produce enough heat to boil a quart of freezing cold water every hour. So when you stomp your feet and wave your arms while waiting in the cold, you are stoking your muscles to an even higher level of heat production.

If you don't exercise voluntarily to build up the heat in your muscles they will take over themselves, involuntarily by shivering. Under extreme conditions of exposure, intense shivering may even save you from freezing to death. As one doctor has said, "It's largely shivering which explains why many are cold but few are frozen."

One of the most severe problems that cold weather brings upon us is the danger of frostbite. If you are caught in sub-zero temperatures and reach shelter chilled to the bone with nipped fingers and ears, what should you do about it? Don't follow the ancient suggestion to rub the frostbitten parts with snow or ice. Doing that only compounds the problem.

Recent research has shown that the immediate application of gentle warmth leaves you with less tissue damage and less likelihood of infection or gangrene. You should be brought into a warm room as soon as possible, given a warm drink, and either wrapped in a warm blanket or placed in a warm tub of water.

Too much heat should be avoided. Don't use a heat lamp or a hot water bottle, and don't expose frostbitten areas to a hot stove.

After the finger, or other affected part, is warmed, exercise it and let the muscles warm it.

Giblet-Corn Bread Dressing
Makes one 12-lb. turkey and 1 1/2 quart casserole
One 12 lb. turkey
2 cups cooked and chopped giblets
One pan corn bread, crumbled
5 cups toasted bread croutons
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1 teaspoon sage
1 cup chopped celery
1/2 cup chopped green pepper

Corn Bread
1 cup enriched corn meal
1 cup sifted all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
4 teaspoons baking powder
1 egg
1 cup milk
1/4 cup melted or liquid shortening
Sift together corn meal, flour, salt and baking powder into bowl. Add egg, milk and shortening, stirring until ingredients are well blended. Bake in greased 8-inch square baking pan in preheated hot oven (425 degrees F.) for 20 to 25 minutes.

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Thunder On The New Right

By Bayard Rustin
The "ultra-right" of the 1960s has been transformed into the "new right" of the 1970s. They have gained a new respectability by adopting a modern, sophisticated, and, sometimes subtle approach. Although the new right tends to be just as "pure" as the old right on the issues, they have become more pragmatic in pursuing their objectives. It is for just these reasons that they are all the more dangerous. Under present conditions, the new right is a far greater threat than if Senator Bilbo came back spouting his old racist rhetoric. To be sure, the new right is not openly anti-black. Nonetheless, the new activism on the right runs against the interests of black Americans and other minorities.

The new right is not a monolithic movement. It is divided by subtle differences in emphasis, style, and strategy and by the personal ambitions of its leaders. The new right is more of an interlocking network, exchanging support and information and united by a basic agreement on political issues. Calling heavily on such old right figures as Senators Strom Thurmond and Jessie Helms, the new right is still determined to exploit the discontents and manipulate the fears and insecurities of Americans to advance its narrow and divisive political ends.

One recent project of the new right is an impeachment drive against Ambassador Andrew Young led by Representative Larry McDonald of Georgia, a member of the national council of the John Birch Society. As Young is worth more to the right in office than out, the real goal of this effort is to raise money. The apparent moving force behind the effort is Richard Vigurie, "the Godfather of the New Right," who raised \$6 million in 1976 for George Wallace. Vigurie runs a direct mail operation that raises \$15 million a year for a wide variety of rightwing groups. Vigurie has used his control of mailing lists to spawn a whole network of new conservative entities and to extend his influence over established right-wing groups. The campaign against Young is a peripheral concern of the new right, their priorities lie elsewhere.

Like the old right, the new right depends on hate, but their villains have changed from civil rights "agitators" to "union bosses." If the rightwing's primary enemy is the labor movement, its main victims are millions of ordinary workers. Just as the rightwing attempted to destroy the civil rights movement, it now works to cripple the labor movement. The right wing has launched a well-financed and virulent campaign against labor law reform, employing its usual techniques of exaggeration, distortion, and fear-mongering. It is already gearing

up for future attacks on every major goal of American working men and women - national health insurance, full employment, tax reform, and occupational health and safety.

That the right has switched enemies is of some importance. Just as the civil rights movement can be viewed as the engine of social change during the 1960s, as the new right recognizes, the labor movement is increasingly playing that role today. For millions of black Americans, a strong labor movement is the chief hope for economic progress. Interestingly enough, the right wing campaign is directed heavily against public employee unions, unions which have large black memberships. Labor is, moreover, central to the possibilities for progressive and democratic change in American politics. Whether in the workplace, at the ballot box, or in the legislative halls, unions are the means by which million of working men and women can obtain some degree of control over the powerful and arbitrary forces that shape their lives.

Schorr Covers Two Carolinas With Camera

Andrew Schorr crisscrosses the two Carolinas and finds interesting live styles from the very simple to the very glamorous, Friday, November 25th at 10:30 p.m. on WBTV Channel 3.

His zig-zag route begins in Addor, N.C. with a visit to see Caleb Berry, a kind man with an unforgettable character who spends his days watching the trains go by.

In Charlotte, Schorr meets with Dan Hutson, an underwater expert on lost golf balls.

Then it's down to Fort Mill, S.C. for a bit of exercise with the employees of Springs Mills at one of the most impressive recreation centers anywhere.

And finally Schorr winds his trip up in Blowing Rock, N.C. to find out what ever happened to the nationally known entertainer, 'Oliver.'

Andrew Schorr and his cameraman Terry Lorch didn't really accomplish all this in one half-hour, but assembled some of their favorite "Carolina Camera" features for this presentation of "Down Home With The Carolina Camera."

Read the Charlotte Post Each Week. It's your best source of news about the people you know.

SOUTHERN FOLKS

June Hayes

June Hayes doesn't look like a typical graduate of our switchmen's training school. And she isn't. A native of Chicago, June Hayes attended our switchmen's training school to prepare herself to do her real job: personnel officer for the Southern Railway in Atlanta.

To be able to match prospective employees to the right job, June had to learn the ins and outs of over a hundred job categories. As well as all the different signals and rules of railroading. In fact the frequent seminars and other training opportunities are what this Georgia State University graduate particularly likes about the Southern.

As part of Southern Folks - June's future is bright because Southern's future is bright. Railroading is one of America's real growth industries.

Railroads now carry more freight each year than all the trucks, airplanes and barges combined. And by 1990 we expect a 143 percent increase in railroad traffic levels.

We think this means a profitable future for Southern Railway and Southern Folks.

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