

Our Modern Day Teacher Isn't Concerned With Developing Minds And Shaping Talents

Speaking Out

School days, school days: Good old golden rule days, reading and writing and arithmetic taught from the tune of a Hickory stick-

To those who are from the old school, this song has a very valid meaning. It ushers us back to those mornings in elementary school when the day started out with a song, a prayer, and a lesson from The Book.

It takes us back, when a teacher's major concern was not only what you learned, but how to respect yourself and respect others. Manners were just as much a part of the curriculum as English.

School then consisted of talent shows, socials, plays, all held on school time. Field trips took you out of town and not down the street. And the PTA was not a group of indignant persons who met only when a crisis occurred, but rather a group of dedicated parents who supported the teachers and the programs.

But those were the days, long gone, and far behind us.

We are now confronted with Dillar-Dollar, the one, two, and sometimes

no-show scholar, who is not interested in education, mad at the world, and wants to organize a military camp to overthrow Jay Robinson, hold the school board hostage, and deliver oppressed students from a seven-hour boredom to a seven-hour party.

Our modern-day teacher isn't concerned with developing minds and shaping character. She or he is too busy lobbying for pay raises, asking about benefits, talking about fatigue, and wondering if the assertive discipline plan will really work on black kids.

Our modern-day teacher would really like the title "Teacher of the Year" with all the prestige and bonuses that go with the honor.

But she or he would rather stand in a gas-filled room with a lit match than to slow his or her pace and make an appeal to slow learning black kids. In our new school the Golden Rule

has been replaced by a moment of meditation for the dead.

Prayer has been ruled punishable by death. And God - where is He? A cartoon in the Charlotte Observer gives the answer:

There are four parents that stand angrily in the school yard. At the front entrance to the school there stands a robed angel with his finger pointed skyward. As the parents stand in front of the school, there seems to be an expression on their faces as if to ask the question, "Where is God?" The angel, still pointing upward, replies, "He is not here. He is risen."

God was asked to take indefinite leave. But when He left enthusiasm left, importance left, commitment left, and most of all, love left. And we are now confronted with a system of education that is boring and does not work.

School, to the student, is an alien land in which he cuts out and plays hockey from because their educators sort and stamp you from kindergarten to 12th grade. If a child fails a CAT test, he or she is placed in the "dumb" category, labeled unteachable, and declared a misfit in society. To the poor child there is no sense of worth or contribution.

The whole system is mechanical. The lectures mechanical, the subject matter mechanical, and even the smiles and compliments you get are mechanical. It is a system of form, fashion and outside show.

If one walks into a kindergarten class, he will be shocked to discover that "giving verbal praise" is a positive reward. In other words, you have to earn it to get it.

A writer once said that to educate a man in mind and not in morals is to create a

menace to society. If you read newspapers and watch TV you'll find this to be true.

I sincerely believe that in order to change the status of education in this country, money will not be needed nor a larger staff. What is needed is for every person to clean out the closets of his heart. Greed, prejudices, hatred, selfishness, stupidity and piousness need to be checked from the superintendent's office on down to the bus driver's.

Our educational system can build a future for our children only if educators and parents look for what is wrong with current practices and with themselves.

People in the professional arena need a revival more than some church people. Nothing in our institutions will ever change, gang violence, drugs, rape, etc., until people begin to realize that every person is a part of a puzzle that contributes to the whole picture.

A poet said: Heaven is not reached at a single bound; But we build the ladder as we rise.

Danny Mitchell

"Trick-Or-Treating"

The Mecklenburg County Police Department realizes Halloween is one of the most exciting occasions of the year for our younger citizens. We also recognize that the practice of "trick-or-treating" could expose our youth to many potentially harmful situations.

The Mecklenburg County Police Department, WPCQ-TV, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, and the Mecklenburg County Police Department Explorer Post No. 247 have undertaken the following project to encourage the safety of our young ones.

Halloween Safety Rules have been printed on cards and will be distributed, along with treat-or-treat bags, to all children of Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

These will be distributed through public schools, private schools, and day care centers.

For additional information on the "Halloween Safety" Project, contact Officer J. R. McElwee of the Mecklenburg County Police Department Crime Prevention office at 336-2848.

B.C. Abercrombie
Chief of Police

Got something on your mind? Here's your chance to get it out of your system and do something constructive about it at the same time. Do you have a strong opinion about U.S. policy toward South Africa? Local politics? Something happening in your neighborhood? Whatever it is, here's your chance to share it with the world!

SPEAK OUT! Write us your opinion, in 500 words or less, and we'll print it for the world to see. Along with your letter, send a recent picture of yourself and/or your phone number so we can arrange to take a photograph.

SPEAK OUT commentaries will be subject only to the usual standards of good taste suitable for a family newspaper. Send your signed comments to: Bill Johnson, Publisher, The Charlotte Post, P.O. Box 30144, Charlotte, N.C. 28230.

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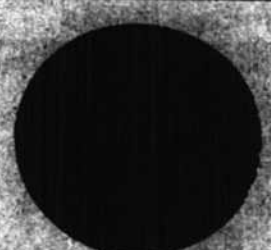


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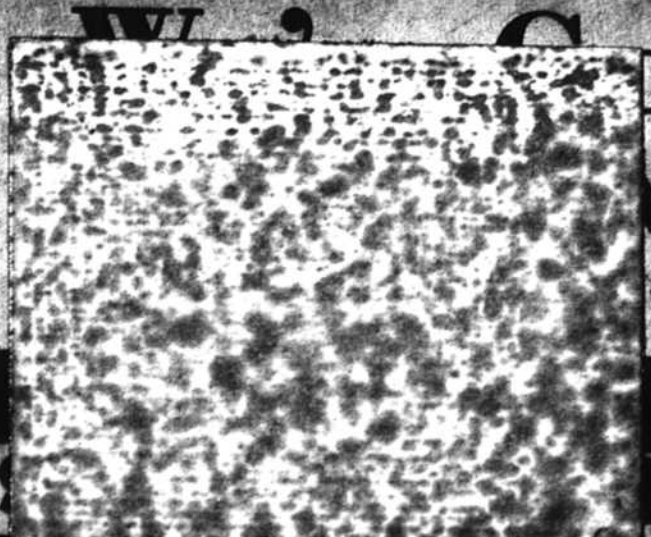
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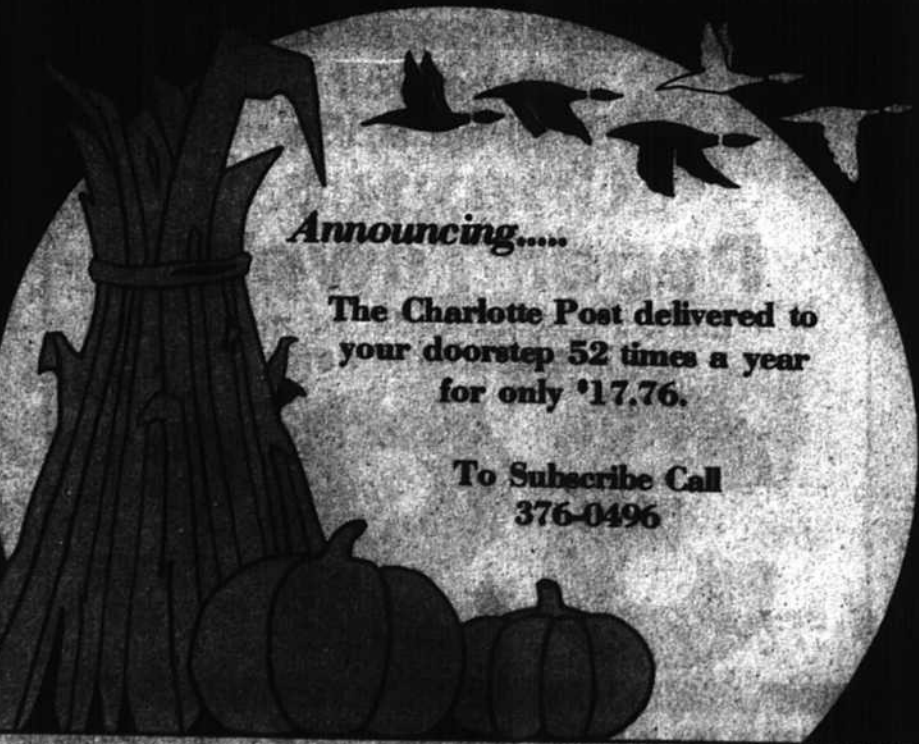
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