

# Editorial Views



## Federal funds available for juvenile work

Counties in North Carolina are now trying to come up with plans for local programs dealing with young people in trouble — a way to keep more from being sent to the juvenile training schools.

At mid-year, 1977, a state law will go into effect which eliminates the "status offender" from the training schools — keeping out of the institutions children who are school truants, discipline problems at home, runaways, and otherwise in trouble, but not involved in criminal activities.

The alternative is community treatment programs, and most of the state's counties have decided to draw up plans for such.

The Governor's Commission on Law and Order has set up guidelines for making available to the local programs a total of \$2.2 million in Law Enforcement Assistance Act money for such programs, and broad outlines of those which would qualify have been sent to members of Boards of County Commissioners.

It must be noted that federal funds are for a one-year period only, and the "counties should expect to assume the continuing costs of these efforts during the second year" and thereafter.

The four basic types of community programs approved for consideration are these:

- non-residential services for children living at home; must offer individual or group therapy, counseling, and treatment for the entire family of the child; and can provide medical rehabilitation, and educational aid.

- shelter care is for children needing more intensive work and for

a longer time; involving such things as foster care, street workers, temporary shelter to keep them out of secure facilities such as local jails, or subsidies to existing programs of that sort.

—group homes are for those in danger of getting deeply into the juvenile justice system; should provide rehabilitation and counseling either as an alternative to the child's appearance in juvenile court, or as ordered by the juvenile court if the child has been there. Local agency support and a local advisory board are required to set up a group home.

—specialized foster care is an approach for children who are in trouble in their own homes but would not do well in a group home.

Those close to the juvenile system, however, expect conflicts over funding which will require attention from the General Assembly next year.

In recent months there has been much debate about the conflicts and competition of state agencies to control the funds, and clear indications that state agency interests often take precedence over local desires.

Involved are the court system which claims counseling and supervisory jurisdiction in certain areas, the Department of Human Resources which operates the training schools and several rehabilitation approaches, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Justice and several divisions of these often competing for the funds and for jurisdiction — a growing state problem which hits every community.



The Smithfield Herald, Smithfield, N. C.

## Old postal rates severe

Congress is trying to work out means of lending a helping hand to the postal department, which is running away behind in money, and also admits the service is not to their liking.

There have been many proposals and ideas, but none have been accepted by the powers-that-be as of this time. So patrons — beg your pardon, we are now customers of the Postal Service — have faith.

It was A. C. Snow in a recent edition of The Raleigh Times, who cited terms of postal service of the early days, when by comparison, the current 13-cent first class rate is a bargain. Here is what Snow found:

A reader, noting a recent comment on 13-cent postage which included 10 cents for storage, passed along a description of the postal

service in the "good ole days" of the 18th century.

Back then, the person sending the letter paid nothing. The receiver paid the postage, usually a day's wages for just one page. The receiver could refuse the letter and have it returned to the sender, who then would be forced to pay twice the postage, or wind up in debtor's prison.

If you didn't pick up the letter or pay for it, the local newspaper would print the fact that you had mail but no money. And if the letter wasn't picked up within a month, the postmaster would print the juicier parts of it in the newspaper so all could read.

In retrospect, perhaps 13 cents for postage is a better bargain than we suspected.

## Taking water for granted

A recent visitor from Chapel Hill was commenting on the abundance of water here, as compared to the severe scarcity in the university town. Extreme conservation measures are being enforced there, and the influx of students have added to the problem.

However, leave it to college students to devise ways to enjoy a problem.

Some students put their house plants on the floor of the shower stall and gave them a good watering at the time the student showers. Others advise "shower with a friend." One coed said she put her dishes in the shower stall and saved water.

Like we said, students take such things in stride and make the most of it, even as serious as the situation that confronts them.

England is facing the most severe

drought in 500 years.

The Neuse River which supplies Raleigh with water averages a flow of 400 million gallons a day, has been down to 13 million during recent weeks. Raleigh is buying water from a town up-stream, while neighborly Durham is selling Chapel Hill several millions gallons a day.

When situations get to a critical stage as some towns find themselves, we wonder if sooner or later it will not be mandatory for every water system to be connected with the next as a means of helping out in emergencies.

Water supplies here in the mountains appear to be adequate, but the trend can change swiftly. We should be appreciative of what we have, and although it appears abundant, it is no reason to waste the precious commodity.

## Stage is set for debate over career education

Before things proceed much further in the running debate over career education in North Carolina, it is likely that the General Assembly will become involved.

The legislative body, after all, is supposed to be the arena in which major policy matters affecting the state are argued and resolved.

The State Department of Public Instruction is now set to develop a short-range and long-range plan for implementing career education in the state's public schools.

While the State Board of Education has been cautious in moving that way, top state educators led by State Supt. A. Craig Phillips are committed to pursuing career education, and are pushing hard.

**PHILOSOPHY**  
In materials prepared to gain the federal funds to do the plan, state officials outlined the philosophy of career education for North Carolina as "learning to live, learning to

learn, and learning how to make a living." These three aspects cut across discipline lines at every level of development and have as a basic objective relating the real world to the development of basic skills and academic motivation.

"Activities vary with the student's developmental level, but roughly take the following form: K-3, awareness; 4-9, exploration; 10-12, preparation and specialization."

State position arguments further call for teachers in all subjects to use student interests, aptitudes, and abilities as "vehicles for teaching the content of the curriculum. By-products of the process include improved ability to utilize basic skills subject, enhancement of self-concept, clarification of value systems, enhanced decision-making skills, and improved ability to cope with change."

In simple terms, then,

educators hope to bridge the gap between vocational programs and academic programs, calling on community involvement, curriculum development, and professional development to make school work more real, to relate learning to life, and to remove the stigma which has

attached in many instances to the public school student on a non-collegetrack.

The timetable now is for a plan to be drawn up during the present fiscal year; pilot projects in several sections of the state in 1977-78; and further implementation through 1981-82 with modification as more

schools adopt and implement the plan.

But will North Carolina go as far as U. S. Congressman Carl Perkins hopes. Perkins sponsored the federal career education legislation, and sees it as "a comprehensive approach to education

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