

# Opinions

## Teachers are ones who count

I waited until near the end of my tenure to talk about the most important cog in the educational machine - our teachers.

One area I have constantly worked on since I have been superintendent is to try to eliminate those who should not teach and replace them with strong academic teachers. The Central Office interviewing committee, composed of Gloria Williams and Marilyn Semones, Directors of Instruction, the principal involved, and myself, have interviewed the prospective replacements.

I have always taken the blunt of recommending to the board of education those who should be terminated. As my secretary always tells me, that is one of my "fringe benefits" of being superintendent. No one relishes the job of having to terminate someone. One of the most devastating things that can happen to a human being is to get fired.

Even though I am concerned about the individual who gets fired, I am more concerned about the children who are missing a very valuable part of their academic life because they are being exposed to a poorly prepared teacher. There is no contest when an individual's mental health, and the children's well-being is pitted against each other.

Hoke County citizens are extremely fortunate to have now, and to have kept some of the finest teachers that can be found anywhere. Though we are fortunate today, we could be just as unfortunate tomorrow. Some superintendents and principals are looking for good teachers all the time. Once the erosion starts there is no stopping it.

I get terribly distressed at the lack of concern of our citizens about teachers and their welfare.

### Superintendent's Desk

Little things that do not cost any money can cause the biggest hangups with boards of education.

Some of the best examples I know are the school calendar, Christmas holidays/vacation, Spring vacation, etc.

The common cry the superintendents hear from boards is what do they need a Spring vacation for. I don't get one.

The board members do not have to teach and supervise 30 children every day or, as in the junior high or high school, it becomes 150.

Perhaps a board member should be required to teach a number of days each year. They would become more sensitive to the little no money items the teachers ask for.

Hoke County has so many outstanding teachers who find themselves approaching the end of the line that I really wonder if our citizens realize the tremendous talent they will lose because of Father Time or burn-out.

At the risk of leaving someone out, I want to pay tribute to a very outstanding group of teachers who are getting close to retirement by reason of age or number of years of service: Helen Dupree, Danford Dial, Sarah Baucom, Ruth McNeill, Jim Bowles, Joe Jenkins, Floyd Caldwell, George Wood, Peggy Gillis, Emma Mims, Dorothy Farrow, Mary Jones, Childia Lyons, Dora Chavis, Gladys Colson, Pete Piestrak, Emae Locklear. To those of you who might have been overlooked, please know that I don't think any less of you or that your contribution is less than the ones I have named.

Hoke County has many fine teachers who are past the half-way

point of their career. It would be diplomatic suicide for me to try to name them because surely some would be omitted. Good teachers are like a good wife or husband. They are never given due credit when they are around. Their expertise is taken for granted.

Ask any man or woman who influenced their lives the most, outside of their mother and father, and invariably 99% of them will say a teacher.

The impact teachers have on young lives cannot be measured in dollars and cents but in the commitment that is developed in those young lives.

Our system is blessed also with many young teachers who will become master teachers. Even though they will become master teachers, I always tell beginning teachers that they will not do us a lot of good for their first two years in the classroom.

Several years ago I gave my thoughts on what I felt was the truly awesome responsibility of teachers. I reiterate my thoughts not only to the teachers but to the public.

Teacher, I give you my mind.  
Teach me to love, not hate  
Teach me to explore, not to sit idle.

Teach me to develop, not destroy.

Teach me what is morally right, not what is legal.

Teach me to know the truth  
Not just what I want to hear.

Teach me to see all human beings  
through the same eyes.

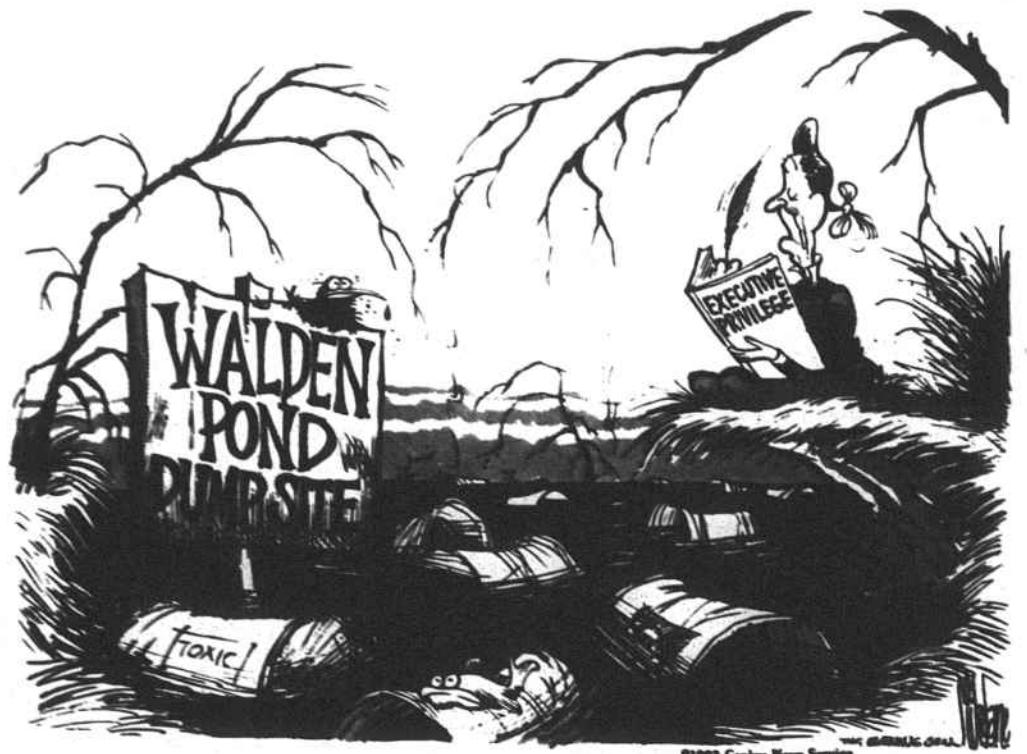
Not just those who agree with me.

**MOST OF ALL,** teach me to give through serving.

Not because it is required of me.

I realize this is a great responsibility teacher.

But if not you, WHO?



## Japanese want import duties eased

By John Sledge  
N.C. Farm Bureau Federation  
Last Spring, a delegation of Farm Bureau leaders went to Japan on a trade mission.

Their task was to try to convince the Japanese to open up more of their markets to American beef, citrus and other products.

On that trip, they found steaks selling for \$15 per pound in supermarkets and cantaloupes at \$20 each.

Although the mission may not have accomplished all it had hoped for, it did receive tremendous media coverage in Japan, and it is believed that Japanese consumers began to take a look at just what their government was doing to them.

Consumer attitudes in Japan as a result of that trip may be measured in a recent poll taken by a Japanese newspaper.

The results of the poll were sent to this country by the American

Embassy in Tokyo to the U.S. Secretary of State.

The three points of the poll are heartening to American farmers who desperately need more markets for their products:

(1) There was strong support for liberalization of farm imports. Fifty-two percent of those surveyed supported liberalization of beef imports, while only 23% were opposed.

(2) The survey also supports U.S. contention that lower prices would result in expanded consumption. There were 56% of those who had tasted U.S. oranges who said they would eat more if prices were lower, while 45% said they would eat more beef if it were cheaper.

(3) While previous results had shown strong support for protection of Japanese farmers, the recent poll shows that support is waning. While not a majority yet, 42% fully agreed with the state-

ment, "Japan is freely exporting automobiles, TV sets, etc., to the U.S.; and, therefore, Japan should also liberalize the imports of beef and oranges from the United States."

There were 48% who felt that rejecting U.S. requests for liberalization would worsen U.S.-Japan relations.

It takes time to wear down old rules and tradition, but it just may be that there are better times ahead for Japanese consumers, and for American farmers who want to sell more of their products to Japan.

**FIRST NEGRO VOTER.** The first Negro to vote under authority of the 15th amendment (March 30, 1870) was Thomas Peterson-Mundy of Perth Amboy, N.J., in a special election for the ratification of the city charter. The charter was adopted and he was appointed to the committee to revise the charter.

## Sour makes sweet appreciated

by Lucien Coleman

Today our thermometer rose from 35 to 55 degrees in the space of six hours. This is the time of year when the chilling gloom of winter can suddenly give way to a weekend filled with brilliant sunshine and balmy warm air. It can warm your bones, lift your spirits, and make you glad to be alive.

That's what makes spring nicer than summer in Louisville. The sudden contrasts in weather. Later on, in the middle of July, the warm sunshine won't be nearly so welcome. Then we'll be looking forward to the brisk, chill air of autumn. But the sun feels great today because yesterday was so cold.

Like the subtle competition between the flavors of pineapple and green peppers in sweet-and-sour pork, contrasts heighten the pleasures of life.

Only a person whose throat is parched with thirst can fully savor the blessing of a cool pitcher of water. Never do smooth, clean sheets feel better than when you fall into bed after a day of hard labor. Day after day of winter rain can be pretty dismal; but the friendly patter of raindrops on the roof can be a refreshing experience in the middle of a long dry summer.

### Things That Matter

The surest way to miss out on the best things in life is to have everything you want whenever you want it. It takes a little sour to make us appreciate the sweet.

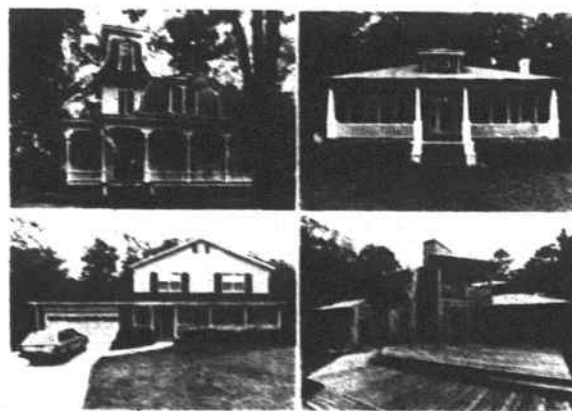
To illustrate, can you guess what my mother's favorite gift from Santa Claus was when she was a child?

Apples and oranges. She and her sisters looked forward to apples and oranges as much as today's children anticipate automated dollies and video games. Why? Because fresh fruit wasn't an everyday commodity. But you can bet that Mother knew how to really enjoy an orange.

The very rich aren't necessarily supremely happy. They sometimes discover that pleasure is not a plaything, but a taskmaster. It can become a monster which is never satiated. The more you feed it, the more it wants. And persons who give themselves totally to the pursuit of pleasure often find themselves rushing from one entertainment to another, always in pursuit of something that stays beyond their reach. They begin by seeking pleasures to cope with their boredom, and end by being bored with their pleasures.

Shakespeare put it more succinctly than I ever could. "If all the years were playing holidays," he wrote, "to sport would be as tedious as to work."

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