

VIEWPOINTS

Invest in children now or pay later

By BARBARA BRADLEY
Executive Director
NC Child Advocacy Institute

Another high school student is suspended. Nothing unique about that. Not at all newsworthy — or is it?

This particular student had never seen a dentist and his mouth was full of rotting teeth and infection. He was in such pain that when another student insulted him, he "popped" him one. A young person in need of extensive discipline? No. A child in need of extensive dental care? Yes!

Mike Easley, Secretary Odom and Tricia Willoughby have proposed putting teams of nurses and social workers over the next two years in 100 schools with high populations of children at-risk of failing. The Governor vows the program would expand thereafter.

These teams of professionals are critically needed. Did you know that "risk" assessments of students are not currently performed in our state until a young person is incarcerated? A little late, don't you think? Consider this:

In North Carolina, 4 of 10 students in 9th grade, or 41 percent do not graduate from high school four years later.

The single largest predictor of later arrest among adolescent females nationally is having been suspended, expelled, or held back during the middle school years.

Seventy-five percent of youth under age 18 who have been sentenced to adult prisons have not passed the 10th grade.

Childhood abuse and neglect has been demonstrated to impact children throughout the remainder of their lives. Research has

linked maltreatment to several leading causes of death and high risk behaviors in adults, including substance abuse, obesity, promiscuity, chronic diseases (diabetes, heart disease, cancer, etc.), obesity, depression and suicide.

Performing assessments in the schools helps ensure that children who need referral to community services will receive the help they need. Teams of nurses and social workers are needed in all schools in North Carolina. Mental health professionals should be added to that team. We owe our children nothing less.

We can "pay now or pay later" — let's save our state money by investing in children before expensive remedies are needed. A state that helps all children do well is healthier, stronger and safer. Helping children get the services they need is to everyone's advantage. Let's get behind the Governor on this proposal.

Sincerely religious, yes; literate, no

The Friendly Undertaker and I traveled to Clinton for our auctioneering education class which we have to do once a year. You can't get too much education even in auctioneering.

He drives one year and me the next. The one doing the driving doesn't have to pay for his breakfast; that is left to the other. I never hesitate when it is my turn to buy breakfast. However, with the Friendly Undertaker it is another matter. He insists that I order first, then if he thinks my breakfast will cost too much, he suddenly left his money at home. I continue to tell him that he is so tight that when they bury him they will screw him in the ground. It doesn't affect him in the least. He just gets in the motor home and rides off into the sunset.

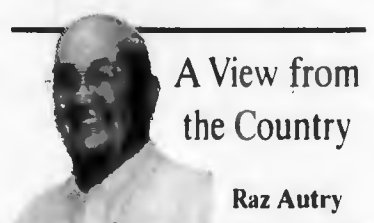
All of us at times say things we don't mean and mean things we don't say — such as announcements on church Bulletins Bloopers. Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services.

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning, "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight "Searching for Jesus."

The ladies of the church have cast



A View from the Country
Raz Autry

off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 p.m. there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sing.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 a.m. All ladies are invited to lunch in the fellowship hall after the B.S. is done.

The pastor will appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. Please use the back door.

The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5 p.m. — prayer and medication to follow.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage

sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "Hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you. Let the church help.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.

Irvin Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

Please place your donations in the envelope along with the deceased person you want to remembered.

My parting thought — Elderly patient: Help me, Doc. I am 90 years old and still chase women.

Doctor: If you are that old and still chase women, you don't need my help.

Elderly patient: But I keep forgetting why I chase them.



'Reeducation' lottery: not worth selling out for

North Carolina legislators are poised to sell out.

It is really not such big news when politicians sell out by giving up an important principle or position in return for something else that seems more important.

Selling out is part of the marketplace of representative government where, in order to achieve some important goals, a politician has to compromise on other, perhaps less important, ones.

It happens sometimes as early as a politician's first campaign for public office. The new candidate learns that his or her position on some important issue could result in the loss of critical votes or campaign contributions.

So the candidate decides to minimize or conceal this position or even change it.

After all, if you don't get elected, you can't do anything.

These "sell outs" also come after successful elections when legislators are trying to build the connections with their colleagues. These connections will be platforms to build the kind of coalitions that are necessary to "get good things done." In trying to build connections by helping their colleagues, legislators find themselves under pressure all the time to change their positions on issues that are important to them.

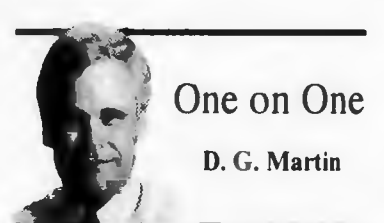
I have seen these "sell outs" happen so often, both during and after elections, that I might be more tolerant of them than you or most other people.

What is even sadder to me than watching a politician "sell out" is seeing one do it and get too little in return. It is the saddest when there is nothing in return. Then, all that is left is a politician stripped of a principle with nothing to show for it.

Take, for instance, a candidate who pledges not to campaign negatively against the opponent. But, toward the end of the campaign, the advisors and consultants say, "You can't win unless you go negative in a big way." So the candidate gives in and mounts a vicious campaign against the opponent. But the opponent wins anyway. Our candidate is a two-time loser of an election and of the principle and of the trust that supporters had given.

Other times, legislators have traded a principle in exchange for a building or a program that was important to voters back home. Sometimes, it turns out, the voters forget about what the legislator got for them, remember the abandonment of principle, and vote for the opposition in the next election.

The issue of a state sponsored lottery is the possible "sell out" that has my attention now. Instead of "Education Lottery" we should call it the "Reeducation Lottery." It still turns my stomach over to think that the State of North Carolina might start "reeducating" its citizens to persuade them to gamble — an activity that it has previously "educated"



One on One
D. G. Martin

Don't just establish a mini-version of the dull state lotteries of the states that surround us. All of them have already found that the lottery becomes old hat. It takes more and more expensive advertising and slicker and slicker games to entice people to keep on playing. So why not insist that North Carolina start with something that will be a real big moneymaker — something that will set us apart from the others.

For example, why doesn't North Carolina capitalize on the eagerness of its people to bet on the NCAA basketball tournament by setting up a state sports gambling monopoly? Think of all the options we could have had during the last few weeks. The state could have sold NCAA tournament bracket selections, with millions in prizes to those who picked all the winners.

We would have people from all over the country, not just South Carolina and Virginia, coming here to place their bets, and leaving their money to help with our schools.

Just to be sure you understand, I still think state run gambling is a terrible idea. I don't think North Carolina ought to establish a lottery under any circumstances.

But, if our legislators are really going to sell out an important principle, they ought to insist that they get something really important in return.

We Get Letters

Right to choose

To The Editor:

This announcement is to inform you that any person(s) receiving the following services has a right to choose from any agency at any given time. Personal Care Services, Home Health Care Services, CAP Services or DMA Equipment providers. The decision-making of a client switching to another agency or choosing an agency is "entirely" the clients or responsible party's decision. Client(s) or responsible party do not have to state the current provider, the reason they are switching, but must notify the current provider prior to switching agencies. Medical Doctors can offer you a preferred agency, but cannot choose for you. If you feel like your physician is not being beneficial to your needs, you can choose another physician of your choice.

Owners of healthcare providers cannot force the healthcare workers to stay with their agency. The owner or presiding "RN" cannot take away your CAN I or II license because of a decision in your leaving their agency, even if the client follows. They cannot take the healthcare worker to court to harm their license(s). Call Program and Integrity if you have any questions or complaints regarding this announcement at (919) 647-8000.

Kathy Gullick

Haven needs help

To The Editor:

After supporting the "Dogs of War" (a project begun after pets were left behind when troops were deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan), The Haven now needs an army to move mountains in Operation Rebuild.

The Haven — Friends for Life, North Carolina's largest no-kill animal shelter, is located in Hoke County, and serves Hoke, Cumberland, Moore, Richmond, Robeson and Harnett counties.

The Haven has always striven to support our communities' homes' pets, who due to unexpected deployments may have to find a home (temporary or otherwise) for their beloved pets.

Now, the Haven needs help.

New state animal welfare regulations are requiring immediate, large-scale remodeling. The Haven is asking service groups, churches and private citizens to open their hearts and give a helping hand with donations and the physical labor so that The Haven will not divert precious donation funds away from direct animal care. The Haven has already purchased some of the materials and is ready to begin the building/rebuilding project.

The Haven is looking to have several groups out helping each and every weekend. Please contact the Haven shelter director Linden Spear at 910-875-6768 to schedule yourself and/or your group to volunteer on this important project.

The Haven needs immediate help with:

- Dismantle dog runs
- Remove fence staples for landscape timbers
- Lay ground wire
- Frame new kennels with landscape timbers or railroad ties
- Spread gravel
- Erect new fence
- Construct shade covers
- Pick up and haul in railroad ties
- Funds to purchase additional materials

The Haven also needs to borrow, rent or accept donations of:

- A tractor with bucket & blade
- A flatbed truck to haul landscape timbers
- Wheel barrels, shovels, fence post drivers, fence tighteners
- Dump truck
- Large hand garden tiller
- Drag leveler for behind a tractor
- Drag tiller for behind a tractor
- Chain link kennels and fencing
- Aluminum roofing sheets
- Plastic dog houses
- Concrete and gravel

Conserving donation dollars will help in achieving the building goals. Also, volunteer assistance will be integral to the success of this large-scale project. The importance of making these changes as quickly as possible cannot be over stressed.

Last year, The Haven found homes for over 2,600 homeless pets. We cannot jeopardize the lives of current and future homeless inhabitants at The Haven due to lack of funds.

We know we have a loving community willing to take these abandoned animals into their homes and willing to donate time, love, and money to the projects lying ahead. The Haven is the final safety net that keeps abandoned pets alive in this community — giving them a real second chance at a forever home instead of inevitable euthanasia.

Success on this project starts one volunteer and one donation at a time. Their lives are in your helping hands.

For more information about Friends for Life at the Haven, please contact shelter director Linden Spear at 910-875-6768 or visit <http://www.thehaven-nc.com>.

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