Mooresville Tribune

"Although I Disagree With Everything You Say I Will Defend Unto Death Your Right To Say It"

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Len Sullivan's

Shucks

Cause for alarm

Vanloads of Mooresville classroom teachers drove to Raleigh after school Monday to be among some 700 who milled about the legislative building and otherwise made their presence known to legislators. They got home after 1 a.m. and were in their classrooms by 8 a.m., rested, alert and ready to give their kids 100 percent. While education happened without interruption, more Mooresville educators joined more educators in Raleigh today.

To what end, pray?

Mooresville Supt. Sam Houston was asked during a Monday morning community meeting with Rep. Robert Brawley what position the N.C. Association of Educators (a classroom teachers' union) is taking in the N.C. Senate's move to withhold administrative funds from school systems in multi-system counties.

Houston said the NCAE has one item, and one item only, on its legislative agenda: teacher salaries. Brawley added: "generally, the NCAE supports spending and taxing. When legislators see them coming we assume they're after higher taxes."

So what are teachers doing in this fight?

One answer: to confuse the issue.

As if it weren't opaque enough.

Fact: public school teachers would like to make more money.

Fact: the front line of education is the classroom. If it doesn't happen there it doesn't happen anywhere.

Fact: no politician in his right mind (not always an oxymoron) is about to do anything that poses a threat to the essential teacher-student relationship.

Fact: administrators administrate exponentially, layer upon layer. Which is to say their primary reason for being is to create reasons for other administrators to be. Which is to say something on the order of 80 percent of administrators are to function what teats are to bulls.

So, do not send teachers to know for whom administrators in North Carolina public education are concerned. They are concerned about themselves — rebels without a cause beyond preventing confirmation of their worst fear: peel away a few layers of administrators and invigorate the whole educational process. So, in desperation, they are using teachers to cloak themselves in save-the-children armor.

Most concerned are administrators in Mooresville's schools and those of 33 other school systems in counties with more than one school system. Others readily join the chorus of concern, reasoning, rightly enough, there but for the grace of contract and/or transplanted tenure go I.

These administrators view with justifiable alarm the N.C. Senate's definition of administrative efficiency in public education. To them, the concept is self-contradictory. (Mooresville's administration says it is the very model of every conceivable category of efficiency; the U.S. Department of Education's 1990 N.C. Public Schools Statistical Profile says Mooresville inefficiency — as measured by administrator-to-student ratio — is third-worst in the state, after Durham and Monroe.)

So, inspired by concern, the school administrator of the 90s has become the television evangelist of the 80s. Both sell salvation — as the middleman. You send your money to me and I'll handle all the travel arrangements. Both insist you cannot get there without them.

The flimflam religionist holds the key to the Pearly Gates as surely as the school administrator controls the quality of public education. Meanwhile, pastors and teachers go about their necessary work. Blessed be their names.

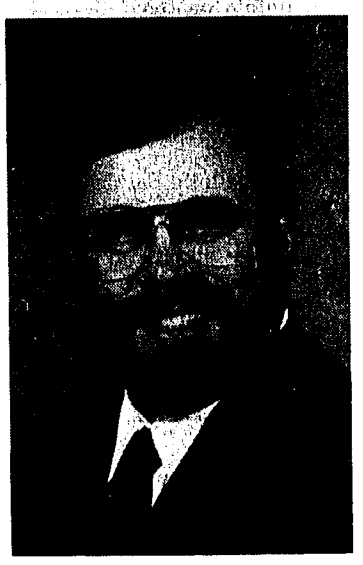
That said, it must be said that the rawest politics to come down the Tar Heel pike in recent memory is being applied to and within the General Assembly in support of and in opposition to this Senate plan to "encourage" movement toward one school system per county. Republicans are glorying in their trapplay. They've sucked no-guts Democrats into supporting

(continued on page 2)

Firemen Plan Event To Salute Students

Mooresville firemen want to salute young people who have delivered fire safety messages in local schools. And next Friday, that's what they'll do.

As a way to thank the students who have served as members of school Fire Patrols during the year, the full-time and volunteer firemen with the fire department will sponsor a picnic and hands-on learning event for the students.



BOB LYON

Special activities related to fire fighting and fire prevention will be held in a carnival-like setting at Mooresville Stadium behind junior high.

In addition, the Fire Patrol members from Mooresville schools will be treated to hot dogs and hamburgers.

The men of the fire department are currently working to secure donations and contributions to enhance the Fire Patrol event, but no matter what the salute will be held.

The local firemen see the celebration as a way to recognize the Fire Patrol members for their in-class efforts during the year. Fire Patrol students at the school are responsible for coordinating their classrooms fire drill responses and to eliminated fire hazards.

At past picnics, special activities have included fire extinguisher lessons and practice as well as introductions to basic fire department duties.

The firemen sponsoring the event are:

Full-time firemen: Ronald Wilson, Perry Deaton, Dennis Nantz, Doye Baker, Jeff Baker, Ronnie Towell, Mitchell Mayhew, Melvin Rogers, Joe Benson, Steve Brannon, Mitchell Bryant, Eddie Nantz, Bobby Compton and Doug Nantz.

Volunteers: Milton Almond, Tricy Jolly, Ralph Kennerly, Dean Baker, Chuck Lee, Roger Gibbs, Danny Beaver, Rick Robinson, Jeff Bowles, David Rathbone, Eric Caldwell, Kenneth Rogers, Gene Caldwell, Erskine Smith, Tommy Caldwell, Tim Sines, Ralph Cloaninger, Greg Nantz, Jimmy Deaton, Dean Baker Jr., Mike Deaton, Andy Weatherman, Jack Harwell, Brian Weatherman, Jason Fleming, Mike Holcomb, Jack Jackson and Bobby James.

Peninsula Baptist Ordains Lyon

Bob Lyon, who has been serving as pastor at Davidson Baptist Fellowship since November, 1990, was ordained by Peninsula Baptist Church during a special service Sunday night.

Lyon was a member at Peninsula prior to his service at Davidson Baptist Fellowship, a mission started by Peninsula in 1989.

The ordaination service included a report from the Ordination Council, by Bob Foy; the charge to the candidate, by the Rev. Robert Jackson, Peninsula pastor; and the charge to the churches, by Dr. Roy J. Smith, executive director/treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Special music was shared Ron Touchton.

Several churches were represented at the special service. They were Jersey Baptist Church, Lexington, Lyon's home church; Peninsula Baptist Church and the congregation of Davidson Baptist Fellowship.

Mr. Jackson presented the certificate of ordination and a Bible to Lyon. The membership and friends of Davidson Baptist Fellowship presented Lyon with a plaque, this being done by Larry Brackett, music director at Davidson Baptist Fellowship. The benediction was given by Lyon.

A reception followed the service.

Lyon, who is a graduate of Liberty University, is presently continuing his studies at Liberty. He plans to graduate next year with a masters degree in religion.

The Davidson Baptist Fellowship is presently meeting at the American Legion Building in Cornelius, with services beginning with worship at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday morning.

."It is my desire to see a church grow and reach the Davidson and Cornelius communities for Jesus," Lyon said.

"If you want to experience excitment in serving the Lord, then new church work is the place to be. Our doors are open to all who will come."

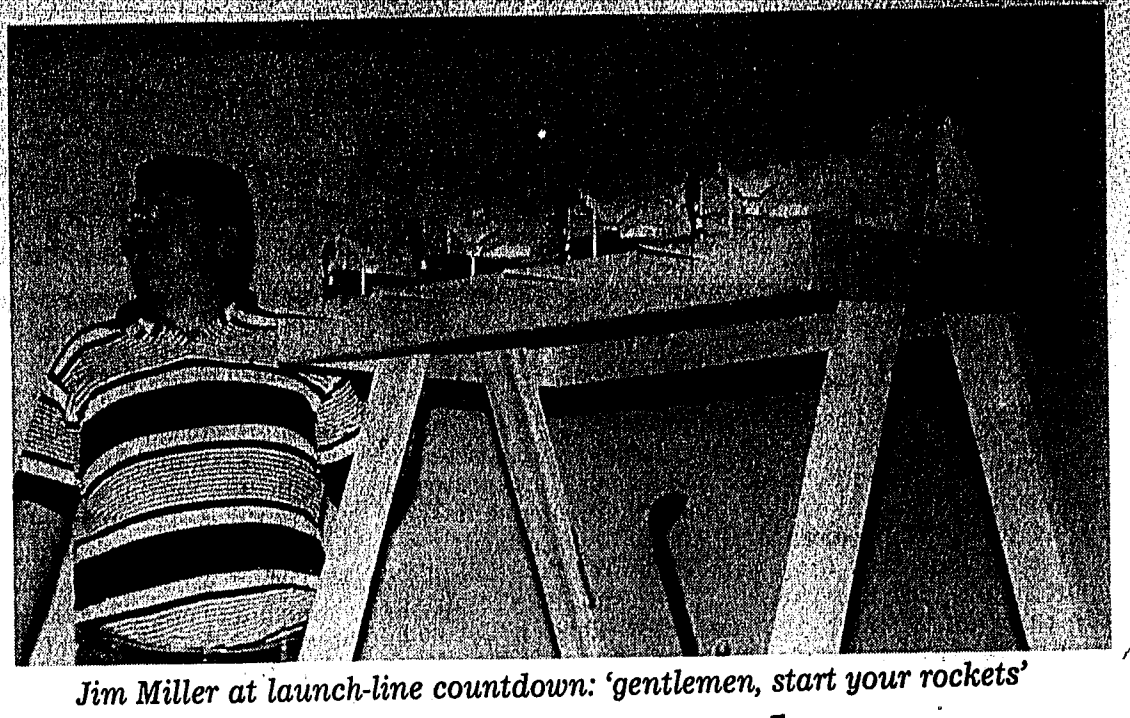
Shucks

their governor in something, namely his call for one system per county.

Robert Brawley, not at all incidentally, says in his editorial-page commentary this week that he supports the governor's proposal to "cut the bloated education bureaucracy in order to avoid cuts in the classroom." You guess which bureaucracy the governor means. Brawley means, of course, the bureaucracy in the N.C. Department of Public Instruction under Democrat Bobby Etheridge, whom he casts as the Darth Vader of this morality play. Monday, he told local administrators he supports their cause:

"The little red schoolhouse got us where we are. The bigger you get the farther away from the child education gets. Track administrative expense (and you'll find) costs in (consolidated) Mecklenburg expand at twice the rate of three-system Iredell."

Does the governor agree with Rep. Brawley?



Jim Miller at launch-line countdown: 'gentlemen, start your rockets'

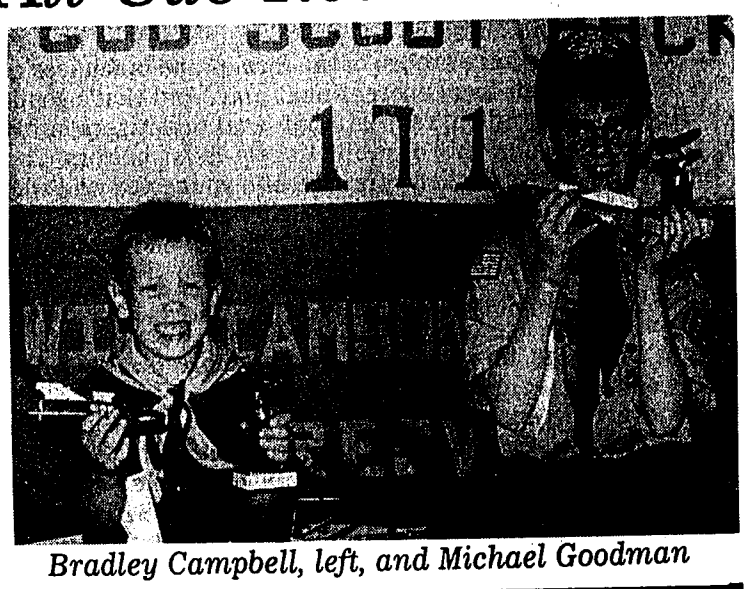
Calling All Cub Rocketmen

Cubs in Pack 171 have thrown down the gauntlet: okay, you space-rocket jockeys, we'll take all of you on.

The idea of inter-pack competition grew from the pack's first Space Derby recently at the home of its sponsor, Williamson Chapel United Methodist Church.

Sixteen Cubs built rubber-band-powered rockets of lightweight balsa and raced them in heats of four along wires. Something akin to a space-age Pinewood Derby.

The boys and their adult leaders had so much fun they want to share. So Cubmaster Doug Thomas is putting out the challenge to other packs: come and try to get us.



Bradley Campbell, left, and Michael Goodman

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