Guest commentary

Cut education bureaucracy

By ROBERT BRAWLEY

From time to time, those of us holding public office have to make tough decisions. Our budget problems this year call for many tough choices. Regrettably, many of those tough choices will come in the public education budget.

In my view, nothing we do in state government is more important than educating our young people. The sad thing is that the system has done such a poor job despite massive spending increases over the past years. In 1984-85, the state spent approximately $1.9 billion for public education. By 1990-91, the annual appropriation was up to $3.3 billion. Unfortunately, that $1.4 billion increase has not shown the results that parents and taxpayers have the right to expect.

I am among a number of legislators concerned about our budget problems and the state of our schools. We have aggressively pursued priority in the class and core academic programs with a reduction in education bureaucracy and administration as a responsible approach to spending.

Those of you who know me know that I consider public education to be the top priority of all that we do. I ask those of you who do not know me to consider my positions:

•Supporting Governor Martin's education proposal that increases (not decreases) spending on public education by $42 million next year;

•Cutting the bloated education bureaucracy in order to avoid cuts in the classroom;

•Giving more decision-making control to local school boards rather than making so many important decisions in Raleigh.

I expect the liberal media and those interested in preserving bureaucracy to continue their attacks. Nevertheless, you can expect me to continue to advocate responsible government and a public education system that does what it is supposed to: educate our children.

Robert Brawley of Mooresville represents the 43rd District, which includes Mooresville/South Iredell, in the N.C. House of Representatives.

The Bush plan

The Christian Science Monitor

President Bush's new education plan could give the nation's schools a needed jolt, after eight years of furious talk about reform and a modicum of action.

The plan was forged by Education Secretary Lamar Alexander and his team of avid reformers. It favors the free-market model for schools already popular within the administration.

The secretary also wants to set up a grant program to fund a number of innovative public schools across the country. These schools would function outside the traditional school-district bureaucracy.

Uncle Dan from Doolie says

Time for good men to come to

One on One

By D.G. Martin

Johnathan Rhyne's announcement this month that he will consider a state-wide race in 1992 should have been a wake-up call for North Carolina Democrats. Rhyne, a Lincoln County Republican, is serving a second term as minority leader in the N.C. House.

He gets credit for helping arrange the Republican-disaffected Democrat coalition that overthrew the established House leadership in 1989. He is an able leader of the not-to-easy-to-lead Republican opposition. Even though there are only a few Republicans in the House, they often go in many different directions. Nevertheless, when it's time to vote, Rhyne usually has them voting together.

Why should Democrats worry about just one state-wide candidate — even an attractive one like Rhyne? The reason: Rhyne's announcement is just one of many that will come from attractive candidates the Republicans are recruiting to run for state-wide office next year.

In 1988 they proved that they could use the strength of a strong gubernatorial campaign to elect the first Republican lieutenant governor in memory. Now they are ready to assault the entire Council of State, and try to take charge of all parts of the executive branch of government. Old line and popular Democrats like Jim Graham, Harlan Boyles, Rufus Edmisten, Ed Renfrow, Bob Etheridge, Lacy Thornburg, John Brooks and Jim Long have kept Republicans from being elected to the Council of State since anybody can remember.

But all of them had close elections last time. And there will be some open seats. Renfrow and Thornburg are running for lieutenant governor and governor, and Boyles may be thinking about retirement. There may be other vacancies, too.

In the past, Republicans had trouble getting strong candidates for these offices. Everybody thought the Democrats had them locked up. Not now. There will be a full slate of attractive Republicans for Council of State offices, and they will be hard for Democrats to beat.

Wake up? Have Democrats waked up? Not yet. For a group of politicans constantly accused of being too "activist" in economic and social policy, the Democrats are almost absolutely "laissez-faire" when it comes to recruiting candidates to fight the good fight.

In the governor's race, many Democrats are just sitting around waiting to see if Jim Hunt will run, and if Thornburg will stay in the race if Hunt declares. And they are waiting to see who else will run for lieutenant governor.

Is anybody out there recruiting s slate of state-wide candidates to face the Republican slate? "No," Democratic leaders will tell you, "we just have to be evenhanded. And we have to be sure that we have a fair contest and don't favor one primary candidate over another. We can't get anybody angry. That would be bad for the party."

Clearly, if the Democrats are to win their fair share of state-wide races next year they will have to field an extremely attractive and diverse ticket. That means at least one woman and at least one black as candidates. The Democrats can't expect to win again with a ticket of white males.

Is every Democrat just waiting for the candidates to self-select themselves? Is anybody thinking about what kind of team can win? Is anybody...Is anybody ready to...

Wake up?

D.G. Martin of Chapel Hill is secretary to the University of North Carolina. He shares these opinions with state newspapers.

Mooresville Tribune

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Your turn

I would like to express myself regarding the land use plan. I was not able to attend, and I expect more than a few who were there were glad I was not.

As for the mayor's remark not to annex, he knows if property is taken into town he would have plenty of problems meeting municipal responsibilities in those area. The only difference now is, the town does not receive taxes from rural property. Yet the town — the sheep in wolf skin — will have complete say-so over the property by zoning.

Now, Mr. Mayor, what else do you need, with the South Iredell Industrial Park, The Mooresville Business Park and the Lakeside Industrial Park?

Second, I would like to say that a few on the board, the mayor included, have forgot that our beloved Senator Ervin said a man's house or business is his castle and his property is his domain. The land use plan simply denies this. We in the expanded planning zone have nothing to look forward to except the town and planning boards telling us what we can do and cannot do. This leaves the door open to those in control to do as they want to.

Third, Mr. Randall, the 100 people present did not represent the number of people this program covers. So your remark was totally out of order. From what I hear, there were more against it than for it. There are people who will not speak up and defend themselves because they know you and the board have already made up your minds to what you are going to do. Do not deny this, for it is the truth.

Mayor Knox stated that the proposed legislation on the perimeter in the land-use plan is ready to go to our representive in Raleigh. Come on fellows, this is property grabbing. We send our troops to the gulf to drive out Saddem Hussein for grabbing Kuwait, but here we have no one to stop you and your pack of wolves from taking over our property.

As for Rep. Robert Brawley, he should go someplace and bury his head. He does not represent the people, he is only for the higher up. He never discussed with the people to see what their feelings are, as he knew about this some time ago. He has forgot he represents we the people, just mayors or town officials. The day is coming that his ups and ups will come down. Come on, Robert, get with the people who put you in. Listen to them.

All of you property owners just remember the next election and remember who sold you down the drain.

If this old simple country boy had been at the meeting, he would have said all this and more. This is what I fought for, freedom to own and to protect. Now we have dictators telling us what to do, Where is our freedom to do what we want to do with what we have?

John Berg

What a treasure the Tribune gave us in its April 17 feature on the Browns' swimming pool and skating rink. I'm sure it was enjoyed by everyone, and especially by all of us who know the Browns and the wonderful recreation spot they provided for our enjoyment.

My era there was the early forties and I met my husband at the skating rink — what a handsome sailor! We've been married nearby 45 years.

We always knew we would be free from rowdies there because the Browns would not tolerate any misbehaving. They looked after us as if we were family and if anyone fell or got hurt in any way they would both be on the spot to help. This was not because they were afraid of being sued as in today's times. No one thought of such a thing. They were genuinely concerned about the individual. Many times all five of their children would be skating and never did I see them take an advantage or try to impress anyone because they were the owners' children.

I stopped in to see Nell and Frank last year while passing through but couldn't get down to the rink because of the damage Hugo had done earlier. Your photo and interesting article in the newspaper made a good substitute for the trip I missed. Thank You!

Helen Edmiston Yost
Taylors, S.C.

Papers fill in the news gaps

The "Lifestyles" sections of big daily papers ain't nothing but a conspiracy with the wimmen to get men to use news about restoring furniture and building bird boxes. — Bug Hookum

"Lifestyle" sections that ain't nothing but a conspiracy with the wimmen to git men to use news about restoring furniture, building bird boxes and turning one corner of the spare bedroom into a computer center that keep better records than the bank and the church, and will hold more family history than the back of the Bible.

Farthermore, Bug said, the eye of the usable news allus is on the market. You will see 10 long pieces on how young married can learn to tolerate one another fer ever mention of how to repair a upper plate broke on a ice cube. Even the sports features is weighed in favor of the right outfits to wear fer beach volleyball and mountain biking and hard agin checkers and games the old, slow crowd play to keep the neighbor dog out of the garbage without actual hurting the critter.

Zeke Grubb said Bug was right about the marketplace setting everthing from the size of the paper to the flavor of the news, but that's the best system fer the society we got. The plain fact is, Zeke said, everthing is linked to the economy, and a paper is as solid or as shaky as advertisers that are first to feel the boost and the pinch. All the folks in a paper's town are its friends, but advertisers are its special friends, was Zeke's words.

Ed got the floor to vote with Zeke. Ed said a newspaper worthy of the name hits hardest on what means most to its people, and whuther it's the price of wheat or the bond issue to build a school it's all tied to the pocketbook.

Instead of his usual shirt pocket full of clipping, Ed Doolittle brung one to the country store Saturday night. It was a report on that survey where high school children learn more from newspapers than from television and radio. Ed said it was natural fer the papers to play it up, and it would be just as natural fer radio and TV to beg to differ. But, Ed told the fellers, it was a timely reminder all the same.

The Middle East mess turned television into a magnet, Ed recalled, and everbody was glued to it fer a few weeks. Onct our side quit shooting, he went on, we had to go back to reading if we wanted to git any kind of grip on the situation. Print is there when and as long as you need it, Ed said, which is why we ain't content to watch the ball game on TV. We got to read what the paper says about that call at second that got the manager throwed out.

Fer sure, Ed said, if print news is literature in a hurry, radio and TV news is shorthand. It is good to see that students raised on TV are reading to fill in gaps in the news, Ed declared, and it goes to show that some of em still are undertaking education instead of undergoing it. They know learning won't soak in like water in a sponge, they got to reach out and grab it, was Ed's words.

The fellers all read the papers reglar, and they were full agreed that active learning beats passive ever time. But Bug Hookum noted that the papers have took to some strange side roads in trying to keep the attention of folks pulled from all sides. The comics and the crossword puzzles are with us always, Bug allowed, but the big dailies have gone in heavy fer what they call "news you can use."

Fer instant, Bug went on, the papers have took to putting out

Communicating With Your Government Representatives

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Town	Manager	Rick McLean	663-3800 664-7735
	Mayor	Joe Knox	663-0426 664-1051
	Ward I Commissioner	Grady Shoe	664-1300 664-1365
	Ward II Commissioner	David Tompkins	663-7572
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	At-Large Commissioner	Richard Mantz	664-5805 664-9027
	At-Large Commissioner	Robert Randall	663-3221 664-1921
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	Commissioner Chairman	R.B. Sloan Jr.	873-5241 872-8664
	Commissioner Vice Chairman	Alice Stewart	582-4222
	Commissioners	Sara Hairs	663-1777 876-0715
		Doug Madsen	873-5651 873-9887
		Frank Mitchell	876-0133 876-4327
State	24th District Sen.	Howard Bryan 1420 Mt Vernon Ave. Statesville, NC 28677	919-733-5783 872-9000
	43rd District Rep.	Robert Brawley Route 6, Box 96 Mooresville, NC 28115	919-733-5931 663-2635

A roof fire at the home of Mr. Roy Denny of North Broad Street at 5:30 o'clock last Saturday afternoon did damage to the extent of $150. The firemen extinguished the flames with but little damage, but water ruined a portion of the household furnishings. The firemen had to fight against a very strong wind. Origin of the fire was from a spark.

Charles Melchor, the Mooresville champion of the flyweight boxers in the Golden Gloves contests for the Carolinas, is in Cleveland, Ohio, this week, where yesterday the contest was put on a nationwide scale and Charles friends and backers in North Carolina and Mooresville are expecting to hear good news from him today.

OUR COMMUNITY

IN OTHER YEARS

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TIM MATHESON: ACTING OUT NIGHTMARES

by Sell Groves

"It's a theme that most people will relate to — realizing that most of us never really forget the nightmares of our childhoods. We simply covered them up. But they're still there when we're forced to confront them. The nightmares of childhood is when you begin to see if they were real or not then, and if they're still real right now."

Tim Matheson was talking about his newest film, "Stephen King's 'Sometimes They Come Back,' " which CBS scheduled for airing on May 7. The movie is based on a short story written by King, the modern day master of horror. The film deals with the return of a man named Jim Norman (played by Matheson) to his home town. He becomes a high school teacher and is prepared to settle down into his new life, complete with his brother by a group of vicious teenagers. But very soon three of his students die mysteriously and are replaced by a trio of strange teenagers who are disturbingly familiar to him. Jim realizes that he may have inadvertently caused the deaths of his brother's killers and they've moved to town for revenge. The movie also stars Brooke Adams as Sally, Jim's wife. She and their son are also caught in the horror that has returned to haunt Jim-Norman. William Sanderson (Larry of "Newhart" fame) plays a down-on-his-luck alcoholic who was the only other survivor of that bloody night years earlier.

Describing the film as "...a Stephen King movie, so you know it's going to be scary," Matheson went on to say, "What I especially love about Stephen King, and why I think that his work is so good, is because it's based on things that are real. I know this may sound strange because we tend to think of his books and the movies that are made from the books as horror and fantasy. But the reality is there: in the human psychology — in the mind. It's where we have our nightmares as children and in adulthood. The almost universal acceptance and embrace of Stephen King's work makes one wonder: Is it because he knows the child in all of us, and for the kids he worked with. The child's fears??

"Exactly," Matheson answered. "And he deals with them in a way we can understand. The theme in our picture centers on the nightmares of childhood and then moves into the present. He's a chance to go back to that time finally rid yourself of those monsters that would help find a way to solve this crisis and end this plague that's attacking so many people and threatening so many areas of our culture.

"A Stephen King story can be scary when you sit through it. But you know it's going to end. Now living through it you don't know when it's going to end. That's why anything is real. And that's why anything is real. And that's why anything is real. And that