

Our say
As schools open,
big issues loom

SUMMER VACATION never seems long enough to most schoolchildren, especially when rainy days dampen August activities.

Summer 1985 is now mostly a memory for the youths of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. It is time to get back to the challenges of learning. We wish a rewarding school year for the children, their teachers and all school employees.

We also wish to see progress on the big issues confronting public education in this county.

The most pressing of those issues is school buildings. There aren't enough of them to accommodate the ever-increasing number of school-age children. It is estimated that 10 new schools must be constructed in this county within 12 years. But state funding for such construction continues to dwindle, and the county's present financial resources aren't nearly enough to make up the cash shortfall.

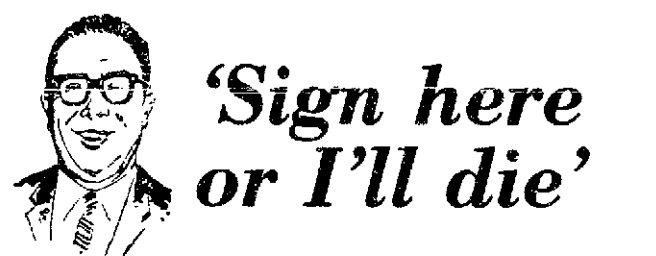
Just recently, a member of the governor's task force that is examining this issue scolded Anne Arundel county officials for allowing situations to persist that could cause an overcrowding crisis similar to what we experienced in the early 1970s.

The criticism is justified. Until just recently, this county contributed only the minimum capital funds necessary to get state monies for school construction. In the past, the school board and administration ducked tough decisions about redistricting and school closings.

We must change course now, because the amount of state aid we receive from the 1986 General Assembly depends on bolstering our credibility. County officials and council members must begin working soon with school administrators and board members on a practical strategy.

They cannot escape the simple truth that this county has to raise more money, somehow, to build and renovate schools. That fiscal responsibility ultimately rests with the County Council. The school system cannot continue such luxuries as keeping open under-enrolled schools simply to satisfy community constituents. School Superintendent Robert C. Rice, after his first year at the helm, appears ready to buckle down and make some necessary changes, but he needs school board support and cooperation from county officials.

Art Buchwald



I was sitting with Carol Burnett at the Kennedy Center at dinner when a lady came up, plunked a piece of paper in front of her and said, "My son will kill me if I don't get your autograph."

Carol signed it and the lady left with the paper clutched in her hand. Then Carol said to me, "Do you really believe her son would have killed her if she hadn't come home with my signature?"

"I don't know. I've heard people say it before. I guess you can't take a chance."

Carol said, "That's what I thought. Can't you just see the scene tonight if I hadn't signed her paper? The kid is waiting by the door and he says, 'Did you get Carol Burnett's autograph?' and the mother says, 'No, she wouldn't give it to me.' So the son picks up a shotgun and shoots her."

"It's obvious you prevented a matricide," I agreed.

We started talking about people and autographs. "I get threatened all the time," Carol said. "A man last week told me his wife would die if he didn't get a signature. He didn't say he'd kill her but he looked like he might. I felt like asking him how she would die, but I really didn't want to know."

"Have you noticed when people ask for autographs they rarely admit it's for themselves? It's always for someone in the family. A man asked me for one last month and said it was for his mother. I wanted to know his mother's name so I would autograph it to her, but he said he forgot."

Carol said some people are rather strange about autographs. "There is the type that always says, 'I've never asked for anyone's autograph before.' Then I say, 'Are you sure?' and they get very red in the face."

"I wonder why people want autographs?" I said.

"I think it's a question of credibility," she replied. "Someone says, 'I saw Tim Conway in a restaurant,' and the person who is listening wants proof. No one believes anybody anymore."

"You're right," I said. "I was once dining in a Madrid restaurant with Cary Grant, and an American tourist came up to him while he was struggling with a plate of paella and said, 'How about putting your John Hancock on this paper napkin.' Cary was furious and said, 'My name isn't Hancock.'"

"I know that," the tourist said.

"What do you want it for?" Cary asked.

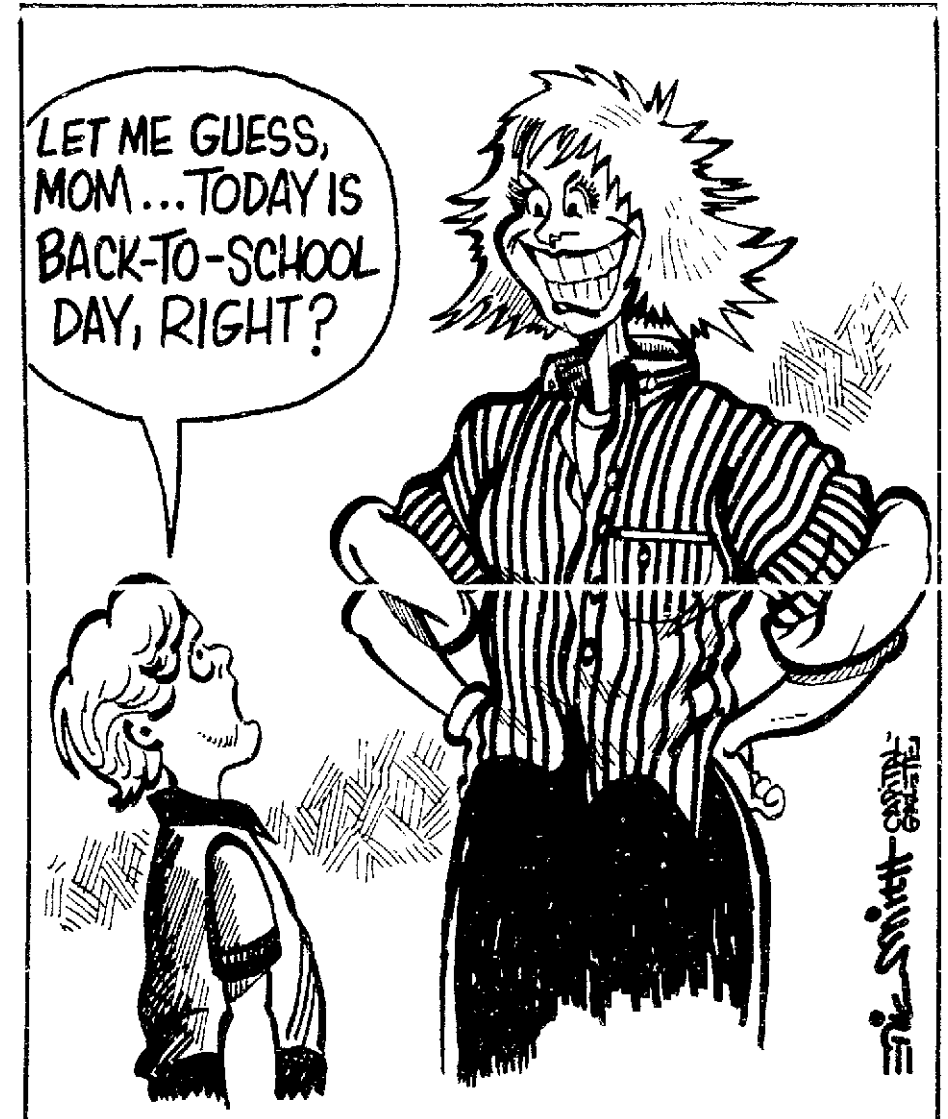
"The tourist replied, 'My wife won't believe I saw you unless I have your autograph.'"

"Grant stared at the man with steely eyes and said, 'What kind of relationship do you have with your wife, that she wouldn't believe you if you say you saw me in a restaurant?'"

"The tourist went back to his table a broken man."

Many celebrities are so used to signing autographs that they do it automatically. The great football coach Vince Lombardi used to sit at the first table at Duke Zeibert's Restaurant in Washington. One time at lunch a little boy of 10 came shyly up to the table, and before he could say anything Lombardi took a menu and signed it for him. The boy said, "I don't want a menu. I want to borrow the catsup."

(Art Buchwald is on vacation. This is one of his past columns.)



Capital readers
give their views

Annapolis Run

Sir:
On behalf of the 2,500 entrants of the 10th Annapolis 10-Mile Run held Aug. 25, I'd like to thank the many people and organizations who continue to support the event.

The race would not be possible without our commercial sponsors. Additionally, the Naval Academy Athletic Association continues to be instrumental in supporting this event.

The Annapolis Striders hosts the event but draws on many outside agencies including the city, county, and state police; the Maryland Department of Transportation; Richard Hillman; Jim Lighthizer; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks; the South River High School Track Team; the United States Marine Barracks at the Naval Station; the Maryland Department of Buildings and Grounds; St. John's College; B.P.O.E. Elks No. 622; the Arundel Radio Club; the Anne Arundel General Hospital; the fire department and evacuation units; the Annapolis Sports Medicine Center; several local businesses and a large pool of qualified medical volunteers. These are the people and organizations which have provided the help which made the 10th Annapolis Run a success.

Once again, *The Capital* provided generous coverage and space for the publication of the complete race results. I know all our finishers enjoyed seeing their efforts recognized.

Part of the proceeds of this year's race will be added to the \$3,000 sum raised last year to help repair the trails in Truxtun Park. The Striders are looking for volunteers and interested organizations to join in this venture. We can be contacted care of: Box 187, Annapolis, 21404.

MICHAEL VAN BEUREN
Race Director

Hyatt's 'castle'

Sir:

In his column Aug. 27, Joe Gross states that the remodeled Hyatt building on West Street resembles a fortress. Personally, I think he needs his glasses changed. Then again, I guess it's the way you look at things or how long you've been in Annapolis to see changes made.

My eyes see a complex that evolved from a tiny frame house that was purchased in 1962, where an enterprising young man took a real gamble to start out on his own in the real estate and insurance business. One year later, to make room for expansion, a small brick building was constructed to take the place of the little house. Gradually through the years, additional units were built on. Actually a complete strip developed.

Early this year Lou Hyatt decided to give the entire complex a newer look. Looking toward the future, and considering the fact that his son Alan has a law practice at this location, and his daughter Jo Ann is active in the real estate end, the remodeling took place. This building represented 23 years of honest, hard work, long hours, the ups and downs that any competitive business goes through, and pride in having something to do with the development of Annapolis. A team of loyal and dedicated associates certainly helped in this achievement.

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I know Lou doesn't think of his building as looking like a fortress. If a term like that must be used, I hope he thinks of it as a castle!

As I said, it's all in the way you look at things. But then again, I am slightly prejudiced.

FRAN (MRS. LOU) HYATT
Annapolis

Those 'vice' boats

Sir:

This is in response to the recent articles that have appeared in your newspaper concerning sportsboats. As the area representative for Fountain and Cigarette offshore powerboats we would like to present our views on the matter.

To begin with, where did the term "vice boats" come from? It is certainly not a correct representation of the type of boat you are discussing. It seems that everything that is low to the water and has thru-transom exhaust is now being targeted as a so called "vice boat," which is ridiculous. None of us in the performance boat field particularly identify ourselves with the concept or the television show the name seems to have been taken from.

We as dealers spend a tremendous amount of time educating the owner of a new sportboat on how to operate the boat in a safe and respectable manner, including trips to the factory with training provided by factory drivers. The people who buy these boats are not crazy madmen with super egos and laundered money, at least not in our experience. They are respectable businessmen, engineers, and owners of companies interested in having a boat that allows them maximum use of the limited amount of time they have to use a boat.

There are always a few people that spoil the fun for the majority in anything that people do for pleasure. Don't categorize every sportboat owner as a crazy maniac. Let's all work together to find a way to all mutually enjoy the water and the fun and relaxation that being on it provides all of us. Isn't that what it is all about?

DAVID TROSTLE
Feltman High Performance Boats
Edgewater

Filth abounds

Sir:

(The following letter was written to James J. Kilpatrick about one of his recent columns in this newspaper.) In regard to your column "Lewd transmission," you state: "I am of two minds on this trash. Part of me says that Congress should prohibit the use of telephone lines for dial-a-porn calls and the use of cable TV for explicit depiction of sexual acts. It debases and trivializes the First Amendment to cite its protection for this material. Another part of me cries hurrah for the Supreme Court's 1969 decision in Stanley vs. Georgia: if the First Amendment means anything, it is that a state has no business telling a man sitting alone in his own house what he may read or what films he may watch."

Well, I think it's the other part of you that is confused and causing so much confusion in many people. But, I feel yes, a man can sit in his own house, read and watch whatever films he wants to, but the First Amendment cannot and never was meant to be used to protect porn hucksters. So, using the telephone and cable TV to sell hard-core porn has to be made illegal and that's all there is to it — no other side.

At least, some of the filth that's floating around today would not reach our highly impressionable minors.

Let's start using the First Amendment in the way it was intended, and not as something to hide behind.

M.L. WEBER
Chesapeake Beach

Jack Anderson



Equal pay battle

The Battle of the Sexists was raging hot and heavy in the House when Congress took off for the summer, and there's every indication that it was just a sneak preview of the fireworks to come when it reconvenes tomorrow.

What lit the fuse was a proposed study of women's jobs and pay scales in the federal government.

But the actual issue — whether the federal government should get involved in the controversial concept of "comparable worth," or equal pay for jobs of equal social value — has been overshadowed by the rancor of the brief pre-recess battle. Intemperate personal attacks, questioned motives and ill-concealed derision have characterized both the public debate and remarks made off the floor.

The brawl started when Rep. Mary Rose Oakar, D-Ohio, introduced legislation ordering a comparable-worth study of federal jobs; it sailed through committee and appeared headed for passage. In what Republicans call "damage control" and Democrats call "dilatory and frivolous" tactics, GOP members introduced more than 150 amendments on the House floor on July 30.

The ringleaders of the opposition, Reps. Richard Armey, R-Texas, and Dan Burton, R-Ind., claim this was the only way they could intercept the bill for proper debate, since the House has no provision for Senate-style filibusters.

Some of the amendments would have packed the commission in charge of the study with presidential appointees certain to be hostile to the concept of comparable worth. But there was a strong suspicion that the Republicans were trying to laugh the bill to death. Among the subtitles proposed for the bill by GOP amendments were:

- The Sexist Socialism Act
- Feminist Folly
- This is What Happens When the Democrats Are in Control
- Being Railroaded Through on a Greased Track
- Let's Soak the Taxpayer Again
- Done by a Loaded Commission
- The \$320 Billion Mistake

"Humor can be used to deftly make a debater's point," said an aide to Burton.

Ms. Oakar was not amused. She said the amendments reflected a "narrow and demeaning mentality," and showed "the pathetic quality of what they are trying to do."

William F. Buckley Jr.



Straight drug view

The mailbag continues heavy since I wrote that circumstances argue the legalization of drugs combined with massive public education.

Rep. Charles Rangel of New York entered my last column into the Congressional Record, introducing it with a few paragraphs about the extent to which he opposes drugs; and then passed along the package with a covering letter urging me to re-think my conclusion in the matter.

He writes: "My Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control has held many hearings on the subject of drug abuse and ways to control it. I assure you, our findings clearly show that legalization is not the solution you seek..." But neither in his letter nor in his speech on the floor does Congressman Rangel tell us what his committee has accomplished.

I don't know when the first of Mr. Rangel's meetings was held, but I wager with confidence that between then and now, a) drug consumption has increased, b) drug-related crime has increased, and c) the price of drugs has come down.

When the price of illegal drugs comes down, the market is telling you something as plainspoken as the oscillations in the price of an airplane ticket: competition is setting the price. When there is a reduction in the price of street drugs, this means that our massive efforts to keep drugs out of the country are failing.

Not all my correspondents are in Congress. One sits in Sing Sing, and he writes with that declarative vigor that cuts through much obfuscation. I quote him exactly:

"You are 100 percent correct and the people who wrote to you saying that you are wrong about legalizing drugs have no

Ms. Oakar is a 45-year-old former college professor and drama coach. She may become the first woman speaker of the House some day, and will certainly be the next chairwoman of the House Democratic Caucus.

Usually cool and composed, Ms. Oakar was biting in her comments to our reporter Stewart Harris. Never before in her nine years on Capitol Hill, she said, has she heard such "sexist... outrageous" statements as those directed at her bill.

"There's an old adage my mother used to say: 'When you get outrageous comments, you have to consider the source,'" she said.

Ms. Oakar denied, however, that she had called Armey "an idiot," as the GOP congressman's aide said she had. "I think it's a much too serious issue," she said. "I never called him any names — tempting as it might have been."

Ms. Oakar includes comments from the Reagan administration among the unsavory rhetoric she says has been unleashed on her bill. President Reagan has called the idea of comparable worth "harebrained," while Civil Rights Commission chairman Clarence M. Pendleton Jr. has said it is "the looniest idea since 'Looney Tunes' came on the screen."

"It has been a systematic approach to demise this study because they fear it will spill over into the private sector," said Ms. Oakar.

CONSUMER REPORT: The Reagan administration's policy toward the Soviet Union moves in mysterious ways. While its anti-Soviet rhetoric remains as flinty as ever, the word we get from Foggy Bottom is that the administration is about to end the ban on direct imports of Russian furs that was imposed more than 30 years ago.

MINI-EDITORIAL — Have you heard that a new group called "Accuracy in Academia" will soon be planting spies in college classrooms to root out Marxist professors?

Frankly, we are up to our keisters with ideologues like these. We're tired of left-wing and right-wing fanatics, their simplistic formulas for solving the world's problems, and their presumption that most of us are too stupid to know the difference between horse sense and horsefeathers.

conception of what is going on in this country because of drugs.

"Eighty-five percent of the New York prison population is black or Hispanic."

"Seventy-five percent of the entire population in New York prisons and probably the whole country, are in because of drugs or drug-related."

"The local junkie must steal every day of the week, in order to keep up his or her habit, they must steal \$1,000 a day or more, in order to get \$100 or \$150."

"Every junkie helps young people to start using junk, or pills, or mary-jane, or something to get them started, and the business escalates with new customer every day."

"Marijuana is no different than alcohol. Excessive use will drive you crazy or kill you."

"Cocaine is not addictive, rich man's toy."

"All pills are dangerous."

"Heroin is a killer and addictive."

"The price and profit of dope is so high that honest people go into the business, who would never commit a crime, they take the place of those who get caught."

"They say it takes \$100,000 to build one cell."

"They say it takes \$40,000 to house one inmate (for one year)."

"If you legalize all the drugs, the prisons would be almost empty, crime would be reduced by 75 percent. Marijuana would be sold and taxed by the government, it would produce millions of dollars, to be used constructively."

"As you know all this, supply and demand would kill the drug trade."

One needn't accept all the asseverations of the anonymous prisoner. But the ring of truth is there. The largest psychological obstacle remains the public notion that to legalize drugs is to pronounce benediction on them.

This isn't an entirely benighted idea. About a generation ago, Inland Revenue collectors in London decided the time had come to tax the whores, and so estimates were made out of their income, and tax bills were sent out. These included forms, and under "profession," the disconsolate girls would put down such things as "hostess," or "companion," or "nurse." One girl wrote down carefully, "prostitute." A few weeks later her check was returned. His Majesty's government was not going to participate in the wages of sin.

Something of that attitude carries over into the notion of a tax on drugs. But the paradox is as easily penetrated as the proposition that because we permit the publication of Hustler magazine, we approve of reading that vile journal — which, by the way, we unblushingly tax. We are overdue for hard thought on this pained and divisive subject.

