

# cape outlook

COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN PRIVATE EDUCATION

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## CAPE BOARD NEWS

The March meeting of CAPE's Board of Directors was the last for two members whose cumulative service totalled 24.5 years.

Sally Sibley of the National Association of Private Schools for Exceptional Children (NAPSEC) in Washington and Michael Ruiter of Christian Schools International (CSI) in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Board's senior members, served three terms each on the Executive Committee and a term each as President. Their colleagues gave them a grateful and affectionate send-off.

Fred Stephan, representing Seventh Day Adventist Schools, has also stepped down to accept a new position with the Church's schools. Fred served as treasurer of the Board and has been a much beloved member for nine years.

The new Directors are Ken Terrell, Executive Director of NAPSEC, Sherri Haan, President-elect of CSI and Gilbert Plubell, the new Director of the Seventh Day Adventist Board of Education.

CAPE's Board of Directors is made up of the directors of its 13 school association members and the chairman of a foundation. The Board convenes in Washington each March and October.

At the recent March meeting the Board discussed CAPE's goals and priorities in anticipation of the arrival of its new Executive Director, Joyce McCray, who will begin on July 1. Farewells were paid to retiring Board members and a reception was held in honor of retiring Executive Director Bob Smith.

Amongst the reflections Bob left for CAPE are the following remarks he made at his reception.

"CAPE is a very special kind of Washington organization. For it defines its self-interest as broadly as possible. Although it works hard to serve its constituents well and faithfully, it always tries to keep in mind the good of the whole of education. So we are idealists in this town where narrow views and predictable reactions are the coin of the realm.

I hope we stay that way. For that will assure that we will continue to attract top-notch people to lead us and that we can exert far more influence than our size otherwise permits."

## SCHOOLS CONTROL LEAD IN THEIR WATER

Exposure to lead can be particularly damaging to children. Lead pollution has been reduced by imposed controls on gasoline, but lead is also contained in air, soil, dust, food and water. EPA reports that "(c)omparatively low levels of exposure have been linked to damage to the central and peripheral nervous system, learning disabilities, shorter stature, and impaired formation and function of blood cells." Congress took action last fall by passing the Lead Contamination Control Act of 1988. It amends the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 by requiring EPA to help states set up programs for schools and day care centers to reduce the level of lead in their drinking water. States will therefore be responsible for directing schools on how to control lead in drinking water.

All schools will receive a flyer describing EPA's publication, *Lead in School's Drinking Water*, which was sent to the Governors in February. This is the guidance document that instructs schools on testing for lead and reducing drinking water lead contamination. If you need a copy, contact your Governor's office or call the Government Printing Office at (202) 783-3238 and with a Master or Visa card and request document #055-000-

00281-9 for \$3.25. EPA informs us that it is currently compiling a list of Governor designees handling the problem and that there is a state drinking water administrator in each state who can also provide information.

*Lead in School's Drinking Water* explains how schools should undertake their program and suggests that each school choose a suitable person to administer it. EPA has scheduled a day-long training session in five cities throughout the country for approximately 50 officials in each. Those people will then conduct their own training sessions for more and more personnel.

The document instructs schools to test their water at every drinking source. One contaminator could be water coolers with lead-lined tanks or lead-containing parts. EPA sent a list of manufacturers of those coolers with their model and serial numbers to the Governors and also published it in the *Federal Register*. The Consumer Product Safety Commission is to order those manufacturers to repair, replace, or recall and provide a refund for those coolers by October 31, 1989. Regardless of whether the Consumer Product Safety Commission acts, schools will be required to have repaired, replaced, permanently removed or rendered inoperable any water cooler unless it has been tested and found safe.

Water should also be tested at the source, and the public water supplier should test to make sure that the supply contains lead levels of less than or equal to five parts per billion. Some schools are their own suppliers and must conduct their own test. The federal law requires that schools post all test results in their administrative offices and that they notify parents and employees

The most likely source of contamination is the water "delivery system"—the pipes, solder and fixtures.

CAPE strongly recommends that schools get the guidance document immediately, test their water and take action to bring the lead level down to EPA's recommended safe level.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**S. 5—The Act for Better Child Care Services (ABC)** passed the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee on March 15 by a vote of 10-5 with two Republican Senators, Jeffords (R-VT) and Hatch (R-UT), voting for the bill. An amendment clarifying the church-state language but not creating major changes passed. An amendment increasing funding authorization for Head Start programs also passed. The bill next goes to the Senate floor for debate and a vote but a date has not been set. The House version of ABC, **H.R. 30**, is still in committee hearings with other child care proposals, principally **H.R. 3**.

**S. 601**—A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the **Working Child Care Assistance Act of 1989**, was introduced by Senator Dole (R-KS) for President Bush on March 15. This measure would provide a new refundable tax credit to families of children under age 4 whose income is below \$13,000 a year, with a maximum credit of \$1,000 per child for a family earning under \$8,000. (Those families whose income falls between \$8,000 and \$13,000 would receive a credit ranging from a high of \$900 and decreasing as the income approached \$13,000.) The bill was referred to the Finance Committee and no action has been taken.

**S.598 and H.R. 1300**—A bill to amend the **Head Start Act** to increase funding authorization for FY 1990 to \$1.55 billion was passed as an amendment for S. 5, but also introduced independently and sponsored by Senators Dodd (D-CT), Kennedy (D-MA) and Coats (R-Ind). **H.R. 1300**, introduced by Congressman Kildee (D-MI), would also increase Head Start authorization. No action has been taken.

**S. 602**—A similar bill to amend the **Head Start Act** to increase authorization to \$1.48 billion was introduced by Senator Dole for President Bush. No action has been taken.

**H.R. 1089—The Child Care and Education 2000 Act** was introduced by Congressman Don Edwards (D-CA) on February 23 to amend the **Elementary and Secondary Education Act** by establishing or expanding child care or early childhood development programs in public schools. Like **H.R. 3** and **H.R. 30** it would authorize \$2.5 billion. Religiously affiliated schools and child care centers would not receive funds. This bill was designed to get child care legislation passed by avoiding First Amendment questions.

**H.R. 770 and S. 345—The Family and Medical Leave bill**, which would require employers of 50 or more to grant unpaid leave for serious illness of the employee, his or her parent or child and for parents of newly adopted or newborn children passed the House Education and Labor Committee on March 8. The Senate version has not been acted upon.

**S. 3, H.R. 660, H.R. 717,...**—Approximately 12 House and eight Senate bills have been introduced for the purpose of encouraging **national service**, and hearings have been held in both the House and Senate. The bills differ vastly and together suggest a wide range of service options from creating a Conservation Corps to rewarding weekend volunteer work in local communities. Most of the proposals offer educational benefits after service is completed, and some offer job and basic skills training.

**H.Res. 95**—Sponsored by five Congressmen so far, this expresses the sense of the House that individual school districts should make youth service programs available to young people by incorporating service programs as course electives in secondary school curricula.

**S. 429**—This bill, introduced on February 22 by Senator Boren (D-Okla), would establish a National Foundation for Excellence to encourage outstanding students committed to public school teaching careers by offering them scholarships. No action has been taken.

**S. 451**—Introduced by Senator Bingam (D-NM) on February 23, this bill would provide grants to states for fellowships for those with outstanding ability, interest in teaching and willingness to teach in shortage subjects or locations. No action has been taken.

**S. 478**—Introduced by Senator Dodd, this bill would authorize \$25 million over three years for research and development of equitable and comprehensive methods of assessment for the voluntary certification of teachers. Funds would be matched by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. No action has been taken.

**S. 498**—Senator Pell (D-RI) reintroduced this bill on March 2 on behalf of the Council of Great City Schools to provide programs for the recruitment, training and professional development of teachers. No action has been taken.

**S. 4 and H.R. 2**—A bill raising the **minimum wage** over three years from \$3.35 to \$4.65 an hour passed the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee. An amended version, raising the minimum wage to \$4.55, passed the full House on March 23.

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## APRIL CAPENOTES

\*The new director of CAPE's Private School Facilitator Project is Charles Nunley, a veteran school administrator and most recently a superintendent of schools in Virginia. Nunley replaces Frank Delany who gave the Project a strong start and has recently moved into other pursuits.

The Private School Facilitator Project, funded by the Department of Education, enables private schools to use the different programs of the National Diffusion Network. Since the Project began in January 1988, more than 400 schools have received funds for curriculum enrichment.

\**Outlook* was in error last month when it printed that none of the state CAPE organizations has a full-time paid executive director. Billie Wimmer is the executive director of the Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools.

\*The Senate Subcommittee on Children, Family, Drugs and Alcoholism held a hearing on March 16 to address the use of pesticides in produce. EPA testified that "foods containing pesticide residues resulting from legal use of pesticide products are generally safe." "EPA uses a sophisticated and protective process to evaluate the risks posed by pesticides in the diet. Our process follows the approach to risk assessment recommended by the National Academy of Sciences...." They have conducted extensive testing of Alar and cite the National Research Council's findings that "there was no evidence that residues of individual pesticides in our diet contribute significantly to the overall risk of getting cancer." In fact

they conclude that eating even more fresh fruits and vegetables can reduce the cancer risk.

\*Grants to fund projects for the improvement of math and science instruction in elementary and secondary schools are available from the Department of Education under the Fund for the Improvement and Reform of Schools and Teaching (FIRST). Deadline for application is April 28. Contact FIRST, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20208-5524; (202) 357-6496.

\*Other grants available under FIRST are available for the support of expanding the use of computers in the curriculum, health education, use of telecommunications for student instruction and teacher training, and innovative programs in other areas.

\*The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awards grants of up to \$750 to humanities scholars to defray travel costs associated with research at libraries, museums and archives. The research must be conducted in North America or Western Europe and must not be degree-related. Contact Kathleen Mitchell, Program Officer, Division of Fellowships, NEH, Washington, DC 20506; (202) 786-0463.

\*NEH awards \$3,500 stipends for two consecutive months of full-time summer study to college faculty and independent scholars in the humanities. Contact Joseph Neville, Division of Fellowships and Seminars at NEH; (202) 786-0466.

\*The Department of Educational Administration at Teachers College, Columbia University offers a Masters of Arts Degree in Educational Administration with a focus in private school leadership. Included in the program are courses in legal aspects of private school administration and marketing and financial management. Students can enroll full-time or part-time and will participate in administrative internships at private schools. Contact Professor Pearl Kane, Box 125, Teachers College, Columbia U., New York, NY 10027; (212) 678-3870.

\*The U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources reports that use of all illicit drugs among high school seniors hit a 13-year low in 1988. Eight percent of the seniors surveyed reported some use of cocaine during the prior year but 89 percent did not approve of cocaine use. Crack use was reported by 3.1 percent; marijuana use, 33 percent. Sixty-four percent had consumed alcohol within the past 30 days, and 35 percent had consumed five or more consecutive drinks within the past two weeks. Of those surveyed, 28.7 percent were cigarette smokers. (*Education Daily*, March 1)

\**State Education Indicators 1988* was just released by the Council of Chief State School Officers. It lists such state by state data as school demographics, income levels, public v. private enrollment, mandatory age for school attendance, course work requirements for graduation, teacher preparation and licensing requirements and use of "Effective Schooling Programs." For a copy send \$12.50 to the State Education Assessment Center, CCSSO, 400 North Capitol St., N.W., suite 377, Washington, DC 20001.

\*CCSSO also publishes a *Directory of State Education Agencies 1988-89* listing key personnel in the state education agencies and national organizations concerned with elementary and secondary education. For a copy send \$12.50 to the Public Information Office at CCSSO.

\**Learning in America* is a five-part documentary airing on March 27 and continuing on consecutive Monday evenings at 9:00 p.m. EST. The series is hosted by Roger Mudd and co-produced by the MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour and WETA of Washington, DC. The programs examine "how the U.S. educational system stacks up to that of Japan...; the politics of school reform; the consequences of class and economic inequality and the growing teacher shortage."

## TAX BENEFITS CHANGE

A new law, Section 89 of the Internal Revenue Code, which passed as part of the 1986 Tax Reform bill and took effect on January 1 of this year, requires all institutions to reduce the disparity between tax-free benefits offered to top-level employees and those offered to the general work force.

Employers must have available a written statement outlining their benefits to ensure that general employees represent at least half the recipients in each benefit option, offer 90 percent of the general workers a benefit worth at least half of the most expensive benefit given top-level employees and provide general employees with benefits worth at least 75 percent of those offered to top-level employees.

The law is inordinately complex and its proposed regulations total approximately 200 pages. Although a strong effort will be made to repeal it—a House bill of Congressman LaFalce (H.R. 634) currently has more than 250 cosponsors—total repeal seems unlikely because its purpose is to provide long overdue employee equity in tax-free benefits.

## CAPENOTES (continued from p.3)

\*The Association of American Publishers recently released *Helping Your Child Succeed in School*, a 36-page booklet for parents. Send \$1.50 to School Division, AAP, 220 E. 23rd St., New York, NY 10010.

\*The National Foreign Language Center recently published findings on foreign language instruction and acquisition in the U.S. including the following: In 1975 "almost 18 percent of the population aged 14 years or older claimed a mother tongue other than English (seven out of ten of them native-born Americans), and one person out of eight aged four or older lived in a household in which a language other than English was spoken." "About five-eighths of secondary schools offer some foreign language instruction, but in 71 percent of these less than half of the students are enrolled in foreign language courses." Yet, "the small place for foreign language instruction in public education is compatible with the widespread American view that bilingualism is a handicap, a mark of inadequate control of English, and a sign of membership in an unassimilated and presumably otherwise disadvantaged minority group." "American educators give small place to foreign language instruction and on the whole do not expect students to acquire a working competence in the language they study; the brief exposure to a foreign language serves more as an inoculation against further study than as a foundation for achieving advanced levels." "Private schools tend to offer more and better FL instruction than public schools do, but they still fall within patterns already described." "Americans tend to regard competence in a FL as a kind of all-or-nothing personal attribute not particularly related to the process of acquisition or the nature and level of proficiency."

\*The National Geographic Society has a curriculum which is part of the National Diffusion Network. "Teaching Geography: A Model for Action in Grades 4-12" provides materials and services to teachers interested in improving their knowledge of geography and passing it on to their students. The program offers a curriculum, a handbook and one and two-day training workshops. For their brochure write Geography Education Program, National Geographic Society, P.O. Box 31738, Washington, DC 20077-4567.

\*National Geographic also sponsors *Kids Network*, a telecommunications-based science curriculum with geography emphasis. Students in grades 4-6 conduct science experiments in their own classrooms or communities and share the results with others in North America and abroad. For information write Dorothy H. Perreca, Manager, Kids Network, National Geographic Society, 17th and M Streets, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

\*The Social Science Education Consortium, under the leadership of a professor from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a professor from the National Center of Effective Secondary Schools at the University of Wisconsin, has published a series of units to enhance the teaching of social studies by using "a rich array of historical and literary cases along with contemporary analogies to help students understand issues that endure across time." For more information contact Laurel Singleton, SSEC, 855 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80302; (303) 492-8154.

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