

# cape Council for American Private Education outlook

"Voice of the Nation's Private Schools"

January 1994 Number 197

**Council Members:** American Montessori Society • Association of American Military Colleges and Schools of the U.S. • Christian Schools International • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Friends Council on Education • Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod • National Association of Episcopal Schools • National Association of Independent Schools • National Association of Private Schools for Exceptional Children • National Catholic Educational Association • National Society for Hebrew Day Schools • Seventh-day Adventist Board of Education, K-12 • Solomon Schechter Day School Association • U.S. Catholic Conference • **Affiliated state organizations in:** Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin

## **Annenberg Gives \$500 Million for School Reform**

President Clinton, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley, and education leaders joined retired publisher Walter Annenberg at a White House news conference on December 17 to announce a \$500 million grant from Annenberg to improve public education — the largest single private grant ever made to education. Annenberg made news last summer as well with his gift of \$100 million to the Peddie School, the biggest gift ever to an independent school.

Annenberg, the 85-year old philanthropist billionaire, said, "I believe those who control sizable funds should feel an obligation to join this crusade for the betterment of our country." The former magazine and newspaper publisher has led that charge with gifts to education and academic institutions totalling at least \$865 million in 1993.

Initial recipients of the five-year, half a billion dollar grant were also present in the Oval Office for the announcement, including Frank Newman, president, Education Commission of the States (ECS); Vartan Gregorian, president, Brown University; Theodore Sizer, Chairman of the Coalition of Essential Schools and professor at Brown University; David Kearns, chairman and president, New American Schools Development Corporation (NASDC). The bulk of the grants to be made from the gift, however, will be made through the Phila-

delphia-based Annenberg Foundation.

ECS will receive \$15 million to work with governors and other leaders in all 50 states and four U.S. territories to help them determine which education reform designs are most promising for their schools and create public policy that supports school reform efforts. ECS, in association with NASDC and the Annenberg National Institute for School Reform, will make available NASDC and other proven school designs to help state leaders develop their own plans in each state.

In addition to disseminating information, ECS will work with state and territory leaders to determine what plans will best build on or enhance current state efforts to transform the education system and will provide technical assistance in planning, implementing and assessing the progress of such efforts.

"This is a golden opportunity to move from an education system that has isolated successful experiments to one that brings the best ideas in education to all students," says Frank Newman, ECS president. "With the generous support of Walter Annenberg, we have the means necessary to put in place all of the things that have been proven to work in improving the education system for all students. No longer must we be satisfied with a small percentage of schools making real progress."

Annenberg stunned the education and philanthropic communities in June with his announced gift of \$100 million to his alma

mater, the Peddie School in Hightstown, New Jersey. The secondary school, a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), had a \$17 million endowment prior to the gift. Annenberg is a graduate from the class of 1927.

With the new funds, the 500-student school will be able to fully fund its financial aid needs and increase salaries of faculty members, as well as provide a strong, sustaining endowment. Further, it will allow for the continued development of a new pilot program of interdisciplinary curriculum, now known as the "Annenberg Plan."

It is this kind of education reform and improvement that the Annenberg gifts hope to foster. Funds from the recently announced gift will be primarily used to support, expand, and showcase cutting-edge initiatives in education that address the needs of teaching and learning.

Most of the funds will go to schools to help continue reform projects and retrain teachers. Nearly a third of the money will be distributed to the nine largest public school districts where the challenges of school violence and declining community involvement and respect have debilitated these urban centers. Recipients of Annenberg Foundation grants will be called "national schools", reminding the school



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community of its importance locally and nationally.

The other awards announced as part of the \$500 million Annenberg grant include:

- \$50 million to the New American Schools Development Corporation to complete the work of its design teams. NASDC is a non-profit organization established by corporate America to create designs for "break the mold" schools; and,

- \$50 million to fund the work of the recently-established Annenberg National Institute for School Reform. The Institute, to be housed at Brown University and headed by Theodore Sizer, was formed to conduct cutting-edge research on improving the education system and to analyze, document and publicize the results; and,

- Additional grant money will be used to develop an electronic library to easily and quickly connect public schools with current information and a telecommunications network for teachers, students and schools engaged in school reform.

The remainder of the \$500 million grant will be awarded at a later date.

## Seeds for Schools

The America the Beautiful Fund recently announced its program of "Free Seeds For Earth Day" in anticipation of the "Earth Day" celebrations. The April day has been set aside in recent years to put national focus on environmental neglect, to encourage sound ecological and health habits, and to create more beauty and harmony on our planet.

"In the past year, ABF has assisted more than 35,000 community projects in all 50 states and in 22 foreign countries. We wanted to have a program to help our Earth, not just for Earth Day, but for this entire Environmental Decade," said Paul Bruce Dowling, Executive Director of the America the Beautiful Fund.

Dowling announced the "Green Earth" program will distribute more than 750,000 packets of free flower seeds and free Green Earth Kits to schools and community volunteer groups. This program will help local groups improve neighborhoods, start environmental education programs, create new parks and community gardens, and show that growing plants can give people and communities new hope as they "help to beautify and nourish America and create a greener planet."

The "Green Earth" program will provide free seeds to local civic groups and schools on a first come, first served basis for only the cost of postage and handling. "We expect these seeds to go fast," said Dowling, "so people who are interested should write to us as soon as they can." Educational and charitable groups can request these free seeds and a Green Earth Kit by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to ABF, Department ED, 219 Shoreham Building, Washington, D.C. 20005.

America the Beautiful Fund is a national, non-profit organization started 26 years ago to preserve and protect the natural and man-made beauty of America. ABF has received numerous national conservation and environmental awards and was selected as one of the top 10 Volunteer Organizations in America by Good Housekeeping Magazine.

## CRIS Names New Executive Director

The Council for Religion in Independent Schools (CRIS) recently announced the selection of The Rev. Fr. Robert J. Rokusek as Executive Director. Mr. Rokusek is presently Director of Campus Ministry at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He will assume the direction of CRIS, an organization that promotes religious and moral education in over 300 independent schools, on July 1, 1994, upon the departure of the present Executive Director, The Rev. Daniel Heischman.

The choice of Robert Rokusek was announced at an extraordinary meeting of the CRIS Board of Trustees in Washington on December 13. The Board unanimously confirmed the recommendation of the Director Search Committee. Board President John Bird remarked, "CRIS has been blessed in recent years with extraordinarily fine leadership. The Board looks forward to having Robert Rokusek carry on that tradition when Dan Heischman departs in July after seven exemplary years as Executive Director."

Rokusek has served for twenty years at Georgetown in campus ministry. In 1981, he became the Director of the ministry's inter-faith staff which includes Jewish, Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox chaplaincies. Mr. Rokusek received his undergraduate degree from Sacred Heart College

in Detroit and pursued theological and pastoral studies at St. John's Seminary in Plymouth, Michigan before ordination. He also holds a Master's Degree in Liturgical Studies from the Catholic University of America.

Previously, he served in the Archdiocese of Detroit as an Associate Pastor and as a teacher of religion in Detroit area parochial high schools. Mr. Rokusek has also been involved with social justice, family life, and other community issues in the Metropolitan Detroit and Washington areas. He has been recognized by many pastors and educators as having sound ecumenical sensibilities and equally able to provide leadership and guidance to schools of diverse religious affiliation as well as to the non-affiliated schools that constitute approximately 60% of the CRIS membership.

CAPE wishes Fr. Rokusek good luck as he undertakes his new duties this summer and thanks Rev. Heischman for his exemplary service to CRIS over the last several years.

## Legislative Update

### CAPE Legislative Conference Coming Up

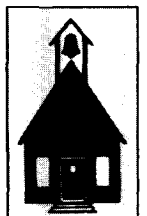
The deadline is fast approaching to register for the 4th Annual CAPE Legislative Conference scheduled for March 15-16. The conference schedule will include legislative updates, a White House briefing, and time to visit Members of Congress about issues of concern to private schools.

Most conference events will be held at the Barcelo Washington Hotel in Washington, (2121 P Street, NW, near Dupont Circle). A special CAPE room rate of \$95 has been secured for early reservations and will be honored by calling the Barcelo at (202) 293-3100. (Deadline for this rate is February 13.)

A conference registration fee of \$150 is required of participants. This includes the Tuesday night banquet honoring the recipient of the Second Annual CAPE Education Leadership Award. For more information on the conference, please call CAPE at (202) 659-0016.

### Education Avoids New Budget Cuts

Prior to adjourning for the



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year in November, the House rejected an attempt to make additional budget cuts that would have affected some education programs.

The vote on **H.R. 3400** to cut an additional \$53 billion in discretionary spending, was defeated by a vote of 213 to 219. The effort to make these further cuts came from Representatives Tim Penny (D-Minnesota) and John Kasich (R-Ohio).

The effort was opposed by the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), of which CAPE is a member. A letter circulated on Capitol Hill by CEF read in part: "In the August reconciliation bill alone, education contributed \$4.3 billion in savings from the guaranteed Student Loan Program .... Our nation's most vulnerable citizens, including our children, should not once again be forced to pay the price for this failure to invest in their long-neglected needs. Passage of the Penny-Kasich plan would negate the ability to reprioritize any savings for the education of our children, youth, and adults. We cannot continue to mortgage our children's future, nor can we deny them a future of their own."

Despite the drawn out budget battle last summer that resulted in narrow vote victo-

ries for the Clinton Administration, some Congressional leaders wanted to see additional cuts and savings made in the budget. This was their first attempt to test Congress' will to go farther in cutting popular programs from the budget.

### New Draft of Reform Bill Out

The Senate version of an education reform bill pushed by the Clinton Administration has again been revised prior to consideration by the full Senate. The original version was passed in the Labor and Human Resources Committee last summer.

The primary function of the bill is to provide \$400 million in federal grants for state and local reform efforts. Such technical and financial support is expected to spur education reform initiatives which will promote improved teacher training, increased parental involvement, and ultimately higher performance for all students. It further codifies the National Education Goals established by the nation's governors after the education summit in 1989 called by President Bush.

Among some of the changes to the bill that will be recommended by its chairman,

Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Massachusetts), are adding language on "parental involvement" and the "importance of physical and health education" to the national goals. It would further establish an Office of Technology at the Department of Education to coordinate and assist in bringing technology to the nation's classrooms.

The legislation, **S. 1150**, establishes two primary reform committees on the national and state levels. CAPE has urged the Senate to include private school representatives in the mix of individuals to serve on the National Education Standards and Improvement Council (NESIC) and state reform panels. However, this latest draft of the legislation continues to exclude mention of private educators from the list of required representatives. While the bill does not specifically require private school officials to serve, it does mandate inclusion of government officials, teachers, administrators, students, schools board members, as well as representatives of business, labor, community-based and civil rights groups. In fact, added to the list were tribal officials and representatives of institutions of higher education.

The legislation is expected to be consid-

### cape Legislative Conference 1994 Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birthdate\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Soc. Sec. #\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Required for White House security (bring photo ID to conference)

\_\_\_\_\_ School/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ CAPE Member Organization (e.g. NCEA, NAIS): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Who is your Member of Congress?: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have a personal contact with any of your Congressional delegation?: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the 4th Annual CAPE Legislative Conference, March 15-16, 1994.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed my registration fee of \$150.

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_ Kosher meals \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian meals

For more information on the Conference, please call the CAPE office at (202) 659-0016 during the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For accommodations, contact the Barcelo Washington Hotel toll-free at (800) 293-3100, prior to February 15, 1994 for the "CAPE Conference" rate of \$95 per night, single/double occupancy.

**Please return this form to CAPE as soon as possible but NO LATER than February 1, 1994**

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ered very early after the Senate reconvenes January 25. CAPE will continue to press the Senate for a private education voice on such panels which will have a significant impact on our schools, teachers, and students.

## No Asbestos Funds in FY 94

Despite efforts to amend the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding bill last fall by Senator Paul Simon (D-Illinois), the Congress "zero-funded" the Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Act (ASHAA) Loan and Grant program for fiscal year 1994. President Clinton's signature of the EPA appropriation bill 8, the program is without funding for the first time since it was established in 1985.

The trouble began this summer when the House of Representatives cut funding for the elementary and secondary school health and safety program last summer. The Senate appropriations subcommittee followed suit which was affirmed by the full committee.

However, when the funding measure came to the Senate floor for debate, Senator Simon led a fight to redirect \$30 million to help the program survive and continue to serve schools struggling to manage or remove asbestos. That amendment was passed by voice vote after an effort to table (kill) it failed, 31 to 68.

The House-Senate conference commit-

tee however yielded to the House recommendation for no funding.

The EPA has informed schools and education organizations that the "lack of 1994 funding for the ASHAA Program does not relax current compliance provisions under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)." They also pointed out that "removal is not the only option available for controlling exposure to asbestos" and that the agency remains available to answer questions about the program and requirements on schools.

The ASHAA Coordination Center toll-free telephone number is (800) 462-6706.

## CapeNotes

► Texas Governor Ann Richards, formerly an outspoken critic of any school choice plan involving private schools, told a Texas organization recently that she was open to a pilot project aimed at low-income families to test the viability of the concept.

Speaking before the Texas Association of Taxpayers, Richards said, "If we can use vouchers as a tool to improve the quality of the public schools in a very limited way and prove that it works, I'm happy to do that."



She apparently will support funding for a limited test program of this sort in the next state legislative session.

► For 25 years, **Ronald McDonald School Shows** have entertained millions of children worldwide, bringing the world's most favorite clown into U.S. and Canadian schools to sing and perform magic, all while educating on a variety of topics important to both kids and teachers. The typical school show audience is between 5- to 11-years-old (K-6), and ranges from 100 to 600 children. Generally 40 minutes in length, the shows are normally performed in grade school auditoriums in both public and private schools.

The most successful and efficient method to disseminate the Ronald McDonald School Show is through the vast network of McDonald's franchisees. The school shows are a complement to the more than twenty programs offered through McDonald's Educational Resource Catalog, a comprehensive collection of educational materials. The catalogs are also mailed by request to educators at schools around the country.

For more information, please contact Andy Eklund or Joe Micucci about how your school can participate. They can be reached at Harris Communications, Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611 or by telephone at (312) 836-7100 or by Fax at (312) 836-7170.

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a coalition of 14 national associations serving private schools K-12

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