

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

The Federal Commitment

On the eve of his first run for the presidency, Republican Thomas E. Dewey observed, "It is a cruel illusion to pass laws which are a mere promise without also taking the measures necessary to fulfillment of that promise."

Dewey's 1939 observation could today serve as a commentary on federal laws that support public education. For despite the President's and the governors' pledge to improve education, despite their commitment at the recent education summit, rhetoric and reality remain out of sync. We still await the performance that would give substance to these promises.

Just how wide the chasm between promise and performance has become is documented in a recently released report titled *Federal Education Funding: The Cost of Excellence*.

This research-based document details the gaps in funding for 12 of our nation's most important, and most successful, federal education programs—programs such as Head Start, Chapter 1, college student grants, and the Education for All Handicapped Children Act.

The *Cost of Excellence* documents the decade-long decline in federal support for essential education programs. The report also offers realistic estimates of the level of federal assistance needed to make these programs available to all eligible students.

Federal education funding has been on a treadmill for several years. In fact, in many areas we're actually going backwards. Case in point: the federal government promised to fund 40 percent of the cost of educating America's handicapped young people, cur-

Time To Stop Promising, Start Performing



KEITH GEIGER
President, NEA

rently \$8,800 a year. Meeting that promise would require a federal contribution of \$3,352 per handicapped student. In reality, the contribution is \$352. That's a 90 percent shortfall!

Another example: Head Start, arguably our nation's most successful preschool program, currently serves 450,000 students. That's impressive. But 2.5 million American youngsters are eligible for Head Start. That means our federal funding commitment denies more than 2 million needy students access to this program.

This performance makes a mockery of recent promises. It was, after all, less than three months ago that President Bush and our nation's governors set forth an impressive agenda designed to ensure America's preparedness for the 21st century. They defined six national education goals—all ambitious, all impressive, all true to the ideal of equity.

These goals will remain no more than pipe dreams unless, and until, fiscal commitments match rhetorical commitments.

If the pledge to improve education is not to be an empty gesture, all segments of our society—teachers, administrators, parents, businesses, religious institutions, and communities—must demand fundamental shifts in national funding priorities. Progress in this direction has been, at best, sluggish.

Congress is now debating the federal budget for fiscal year 1991. It's time for all Americans to band together and insist that powerful promises be matched by powerful performance. We need strong action, action that gives real meaning to the pledge that all our youth shall be prepared for the challenges and the opportunities that await them.

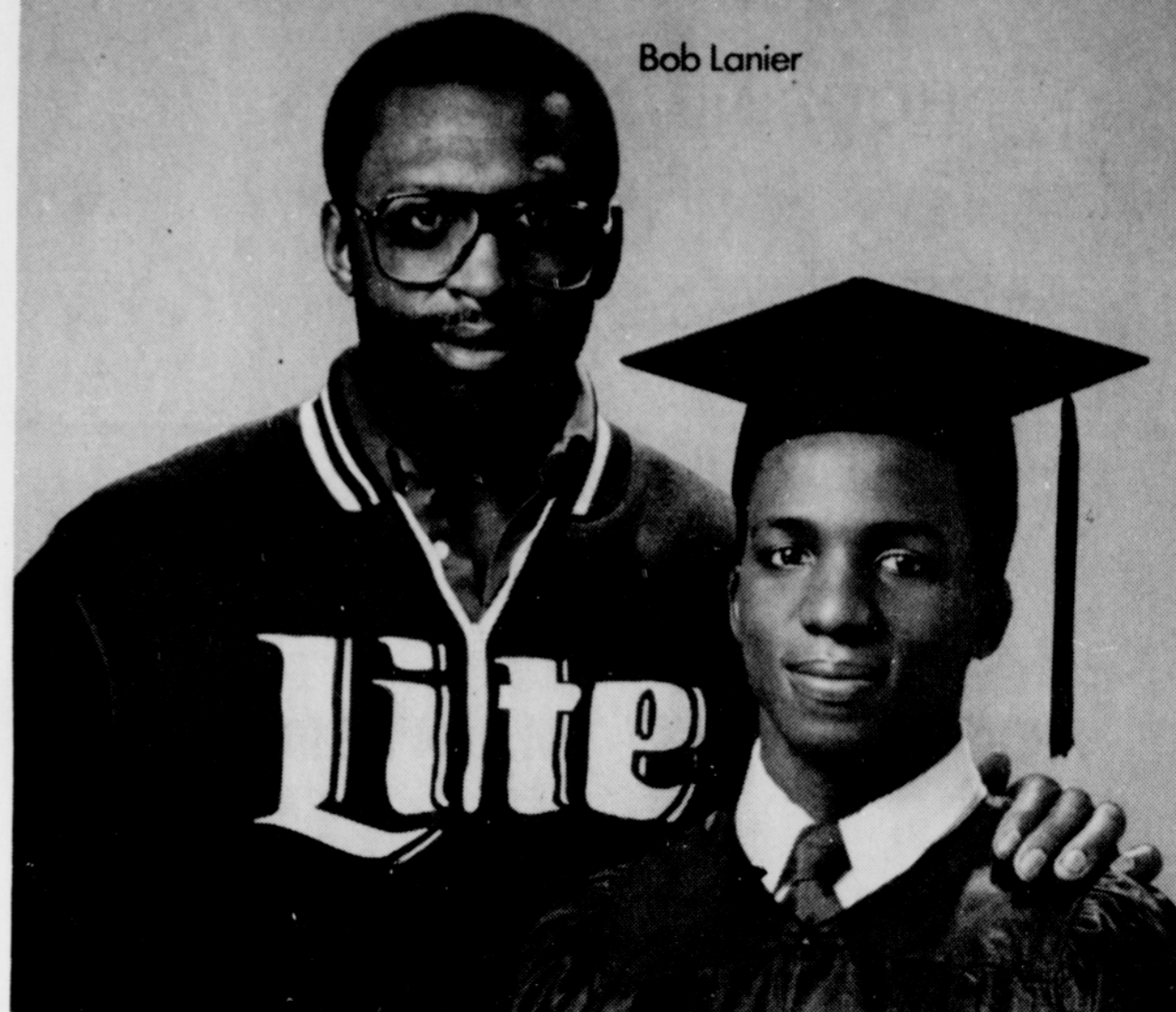
We must remember that today's students are the guardians of America's tomorrow. Right now, too many of those students are suffering. They are victimized by policies of neglect, policies that border on child abuse.

The only way to end this abuse is for the President and the Congress to stop promising and start performing. And the place to begin is with a new fiscal agenda that will unleash rather than stifle the potential of America's young people.

NEA National Education Association • 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W. • Washington, DC 20036
(202) 822-7200

A future should be something everyone can afford.

Bob Lanier



I was lucky. A talent for basketball helped me make it. But not all kids are that lucky. For many young Blacks education is the only way. That's why Miller Lite and the National Basketball Association created the Thurgood Marshall Black Education Fund. To support public Black colleges and their students. Public colleges do not get the backing that some private colleges do. With your contributions, the Thurgood Marshall Fund can

help deserving students pay for schooling, and preserve the quality of our public Black colleges.

So give to the Thurgood Marshall Black Education Fund. With Miller Lite and you, we can help put a higher education within reach. **Because a future should be something everyone can afford.**

THE THURGOOD MARSHALL BLACK EDUCATION FUND

I want to support the Thurgood Marshall Black Education Fund. Here's my donation of \$ _____ towards the future of our public Black colleges.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Please send check or money order (do not send cash) to: The Thurgood Marshall Black Education Fund, One Dupont Circle, N.W., Suite 710ML, Washington, DC, 20036.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of Corrections is expanding!

We need career employees from all ethnic groups in the areas of:

Accounting	Education
Administration/Management	Farming
Clerical Support	Food Services
Computer Services	Health Services
Industries	
Maintenance/Trades	
Social Services	
Security (Correctional Officers)	

Oregon Department of Corrections
2575 Center Street, N.E., Salem, OR 97310
TELEPHONE (503) 378-2497

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

KAISER PERMANENTE

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A REWARDING CAREER IN HEALTH CARE?

Established in 1945, Kaiser Permanente's Northwest Region extends from Salem, Oregon to Longview, Washington. We offer a variety of positions and schedules, career enrichment, and promotional opportunities. Jobs are available in medical, dental, administrative, clerical and technical areas. Applicants can review our current open positions list at one of the following Kaiser Permanente Human Resource offices:

Bess Kaiser
Medical Center
Human Resources
5055 N. Greeley
Portland, OR 97217
(503)240-6215

Kaiser Sunnyside
Supply Center Bldg.
Human Resources 10200 SE Sunnyside Rd.
Clackamas, OR, 97015
(503)652-5770

Kaiser Permanente Medical Ctr.
Human Resources
Room 110
3600 N Interstate
Portland, OR 97227
(503)280-2940

*The open position listing are posted each Friday. Applications are accepted between the hours of 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

KAISER PERMANENTE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER