

Need for Return to Fundamentals In San Francisco Schools Stressed

San Francisco - (UPI) - Education's perennial great debate - "3-R or progressive schools?" - is being renewed in San Francisco with fresh vigor.

It was sparked by a committee of eight university professors who made a 10-month study of the city's public schools at the request of the board of education.

Their verdict: Back to fundamentals.

So-called progressive education was bitterly criticized in the 72-page report issued by the professors, four of whom were from the University of California and four from Stanford University.

"We believe that the purpose of education is to inform the mind and develop the intelligence," they wrote.

Standards Said Lowered

"Recent pedagogical theory, however, has tended to make 'education for life in a democracy' the primary purpose of the public schools, interpreting and applying that phrase in a sense profoundly hostile to excellence in education. The result has been to skimp academic subjects, to lower standards, and to confuse and retard the whole educational process."

The professors found that San Francisco schools do not compare favorably with the national average. They recommended drastic changes in organization and teaching of courses, in training of teachers and especially in the "atmosphere of lassitude, boredom and even resentment (in the classrooms) that must be overcome if genuine education is to take place."

They urged San Francisco schools to:

- Increase emphasis on the "3-Rs" by requiring that two-thirds of the elementary school day be devoted to reading, writing and arithmetic instead of the present one-half minimum.

- Require foreign languages in the sixth grade and ultimately in the third so that by the time a student finishes high school he has a fair knowledge of two foreign languages.

Four Years of English

- Require four years of English instead of three in high school; double high school science laboratory periods; toughen physics, chemistry and biology courses.

- Include more essay questions, fewer true-false and multiple choice questions on examinations.

- Reduce physical education from the present state requirement of five periods a week to two or three times a week.

- Emphasize homework beginning with higher grades of elementary school and increasing with each grade.

- Reduce such practices as "sharing, building Indian villages and visiting the post office and the fire station."

- Schedule rallies, games, community affairs, Christmas pageants and similar extracurricular activities outside academic class hours.

- Abolish automatic promotions; distinguish between diplomas and mere certificates of attendance.

- Raise teacher salary schedules at the top and gear them

Beer Drinking Snake Missing

Miami, Fla. - (UPI) - Rodney Charlie Herr's beer drinking indigo snake, is missing and Herr has offered \$150 for its return.

Herr thinks Rodney is unique. He should, with a name like Rodney. Because Rodney is a female.

Herr said Rodney sticks out her tongue in answer to her name and he didn't want to change it "because I don't want to confuse her."

Herr says he has used Rodney for a companion, conversation piece and an auto ornament.

Rodney also can balance herself across six beer cans, Herr said. She has startled Herr's guests by posing as an ashtray then suddenly uncoiling.

"I even tried to get her a pollo shot," Herr said, "but I was told she couldn't catch pollo."

Vale Area Blaze Still Uncontrolled

Vale (UPI) - A fire that had burned some 11,500 acres of brush and some timber was reported raging out of control 50 miles from here late Monday.

The blaze, just north of Juntura, started about 2 p.m. Monday and was fanned by strong winds. The fire covered an area seven by three miles.

Cause of the fire was unknown.

to merit increases; make it possible for teachers to attain a salary comparable to that of administrators.

Reduce Workload

- Reduce the classroom size and workload of teachers, freeing them from clerical, administrative and other duties not immediately related to teaching.

- Provide qualifying examinations for teachers that test knowledge and understanding of subject matter rather than knowledge of educational theory; fire incompetent teachers.

San Francisco school Superintendent Harold Spears called the survey "a provocative and stimulating" report but voiced reservations. He endorsed several of its recommendations, including one

that qualified college-educated housewives be hired to help English teachers correct papers.

- Spears calculated that the annual cost of putting into effect all of the professors' recommendations would be approximately \$2.5 million.

- Spears said proposals that the great bulk of the student body take a heavily academic course with few electives would leave San Francisco schools resembling specialized European schools.

- This, he said, would have two ill effects:

- Reduced enrollments in the fields of business education, industrial arts, home economics, music and art would present the problem of dismissal of teachers in such

fields or transferring them into academic fields.

- San Francisco would be practically the only school system requiring a set academic course for graduation, and students transferring into it would be handicapped in meeting such requirements.

- The school official took issue with a recommendation that science courses be eliminated in the first three grades and that social science courses be eliminated in the first two, with more reading and arithmetic substituted.

- Spears replied, "Reading and writing cannot be taught abstractly, they are dependent upon content. The loss of this subject content in the primary grades in either science or social studies would hinder greatly the instruction."

FBI Agents Smash Bombing Plot at Little Rock School

Little Rock, Ark. - (UPI) - The FBI smashed what it called a "sinister plot" to blow up a Negro college dormitory with 40 sticks of dynamite early today, two hours before a bomb blasted a hole in the side of a public school warehouse.

A spokesman for the FBI in Washington said quick action by FBI agents "may have saved some lives." But Dr. R. E. Arnold, dean of instruction at Philander Smith College, which owned the dormitory, said no students were in the building. The FBI arrested three men.

The bomb at the warehouse blew a 15 by 6 foot hole in

the wall. It injured nobody. J. J. Casper, special agent in charge of the Little Rock FBI office, wouldn't speculate as to whether the dormitory and warehouse incidents were connected.

But another source doubted they were. The warehouse is 10 blocks from Central High school, the best known integration battle-ground in the country.

Central Point Grange

Central Point Grange will hear a report on the State Grange convention at a meeting Friday, July 15. Mrs. Homer Jeffries, Grange lecturer to 4-H club summer school turer, has arranged with Carol in Corvallis.

The FBI arrested Emmett E. Miller, 44, and Robert Lloyd Parks, 39, whom, Casper said, they caught touching a match to a candle that would have touched off a fuse leading to 40 sticks of dynamite in a black box.

FBI agents arrested Hugh Lynn Smith, 33, Bassett, Ark., at his home.

Miller, Parks and Smith were the first persons arrested under anti-hate bombing provisions of the new civil rights law.



PLANE WITHDRAWAL DEMANDED—Leftist demonstrators staged a protest demanding the withdrawal of U.S. U2 planes from Japan, at Atsugi Naval Air Station at Atsugi, Japan. Japanese Foreign Minister Aichiro Fujiyama has revealed that all American U2 planes stationed in Japan have been withdrawn. (UPI Telephoto)

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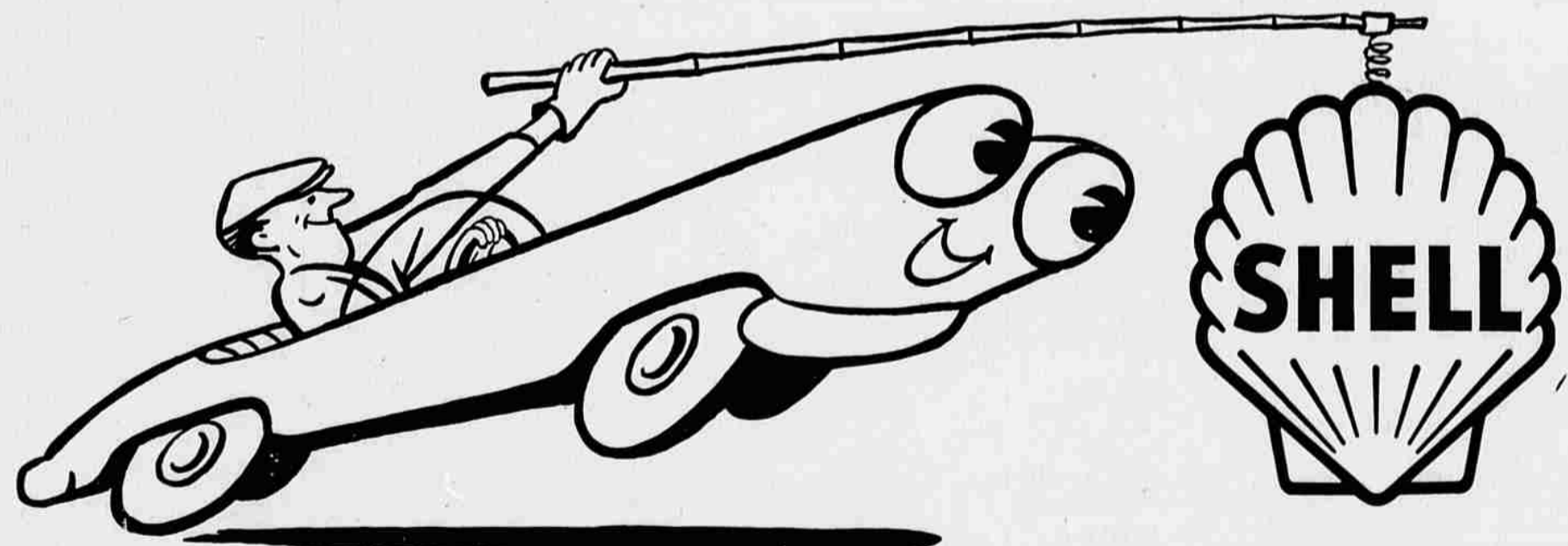
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