



# INTERCOM

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS OF CHILD WELFARE AND ATTENDANCE

JANUARY, 1991

William Booth, Editor--2937 E. San Gabriel, Fresno, CA 93726



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Past President



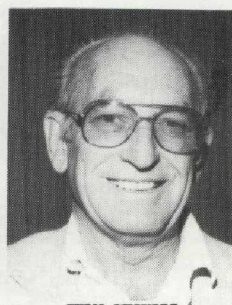
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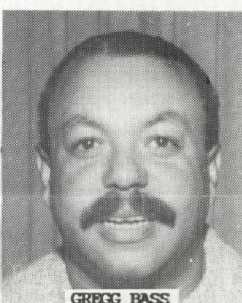
**KATE KIRKENDALL**  
State Secretary



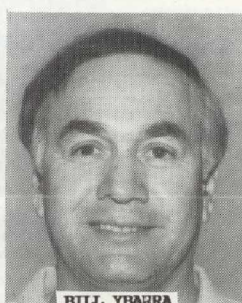
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**BOB BRAZIL**  
President  
Bay Section



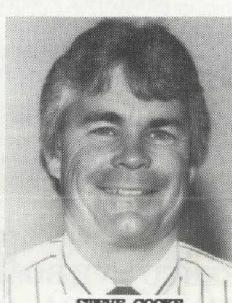
**GREGG BASS**  
President  
San Joaquin Section



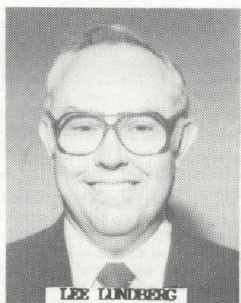
**BILL YBARRA**  
President  
Southern Section



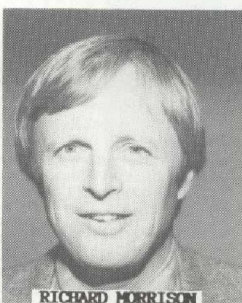
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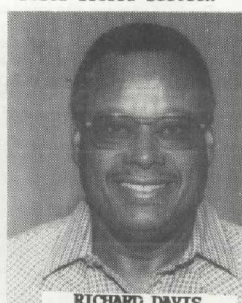
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State Agency  
Liaison

*C.A.S. C.W.A.*  
*State Executive Board*  
*1990-1991*



**DELORES FARRELL**  
Attorney General  
Liaison

## PRESIDENT TURNER REMINDS US OF CASCWA'S VISION



**DALE TURNER**  
CASCWA State President

The CASCWA State Executive Board and I extend our wishes to you and your families for a most exciting New Year. Now that we have all had a few days of from our busy schedules it's time to move on to our many tasks.

Thanks to "Bob and his Troops" we all had the opportunity to take part in a very exciting and informative fall conference. The State Executive Board meeting resulted in many opportunities for CASCWA members. The By-Laws and Constitution are being updated and should be finalized in February. A video tape of the workshop presented, in Santa Clara, on "Do You Have a Leak in Your A.D.A." will be made available to members. State wide membership is improving and we are all encouraged to bring new members into CASCWA. Southern Section is in the process of revising the Truncy Handbook. Your Executive Board continues to pursue opportunities to provide members with those tools necessary to carry out our important task of providing services to students, parents and the community.

As we begin a New Year it seems appropriate for us to reflect not only on our own lives personally and professionally, but also to a vision and mission statement approved by your executive board in February 1988:

### CASCWA'S VISION

To develop and support safe, secure peaceful and effective schools.

### CASCWA MISSION

To serve as a source of information and an initiator of activities designed to maintain maximum student attendance and continue in keeping with existing laws and student rights.

As I read these two statements I am reminded of the pride I continue to feel as a CASCWA member. Being a part of the CASCWA team has given me the opportunity to know and experience the support of many exceptional people as friends and colleagues. It's this type of commitment that makes being a member of CASCWA so important. Again, have a great New Year and get ready for Palm Springs.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD DELIBERATES AT SANTA CLARA



**KATE KIRKENDALL**  
State Secretary

Greetings from your Executive Board! Thanks to all of you who joined us in Santa Clara for the Fall Conference. I think everyone agreed it was a worthwhile gathering and we look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Conference in Palm Springs

Your executive board considered many important issues during the conference and I'd like to give you a brief report. Our membership at the time of the conference numbered 211-165 active, 22 associate, 18 institutional, 6 retired, and 4 honorary life members. We encourage you to extend an invitation to join CASCWA to colleagues, former members and especially paraprofessionals who may benefit from the association. We are in the process of updating the flip chart that Rich Morrison put together for us. It turned out to be a valuable recruiting tool and generated many new members.

The board is in the process of proposing changes in both the by-laws and the constitution. Changes in the constitution must be approved by the membership and you will soon receive copies of the documents for your suggestions.

CASCWA has agreed to underwrite the cost of workshop materials for Milt Dooley's presentation called, "Do you have a leak in your ADA?" The materials will be available from the state for purchase by the sections at half the production price of \$7.00. The workshop has played to rave review all over California. Preventing the loss of ADA is the way most CASCEA members justify their continuing employment so we expect these materials to be a hot ticket item.

The Golden Rule Award for Outstanding Service is ready for presentation to the person selected at the February Executive Board meeting. Rich Morrison secured a large framed poster of Norman Rockwell's painting called the Golden Rule which was displayed at the Fall Conference. There will be a plaque attached giving the recipient's name and date and it will be presented at the Spring Conference. This will be the ongoing state award for outstanding service.

Mary Weaver is working on standards for the Pupil Personnel Services credential. Candidates take a core program then specialize in either school psychology, school social work, or school counseling. Nine additional credits are required for CWA. Mary is taking suggestions for any

changes. There is no longer a person at the California Department of Education doing the crime report which may mean districts will stop submitting reports. The Legislative Committee is looking into having the program continue.

Dolores Farrell has updated versions of Law In School and Child Abuse: Educator's Responsibility which will be available soon. She is also working on a video for a safe schools planning guide.

Please approach any of the Executive Board members with suggestions or requests. WE will be in Palm Springs ready to consider the business of CASCWA, keep our organization responsive to your needs, and have some fun. Hope to see you there.

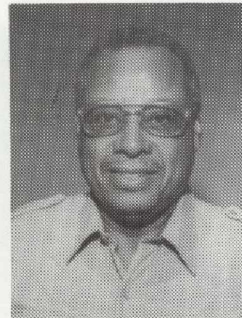


## CASCWA BOARD MEMBERS HONORED BY STATE SARB

At its fall conference, coordinated with CASCWA's fall conference, State SARB saw fit to honor two members of CASCWA's state executive board for their contribution to SARB, and to the students of California. Lee Lundberg from San Leandro and Bill Booth from Fresno Unified were presented with very impressive plaques. Both Lee and Bill expressed their thanks for the personal honor, and their gratitude that SARB and CASCWA have worked so well together as a team for the benefit of kids.

It is difficult for a newsletter editor to write about items he is personally involved in, since we are by nature humble souls, but the glory goes to CASCWA as well as the individuals involved, so I feel duty bound to tell the world.

## OUT-N-ABOUT RETIREES



**RICHARD DAVIS**  
Chairman  
Special Projects

I heard from Ron Lackey, Southern Section and was surprised to learn that he did not "actually" retire, just switched positions. He is now working as Assistant Professor of Education and Director of Counselor Education at Chapman College. Ron indicated that they hope to offer a new CWA Curriculum as part of the revised PPS Credential Program starting at the spring semester. He is also working as a State Special Education Mediator out of McGeorge School of Law.

**RALPH KINGSBURG**, Southern Section and longtime CWA advocate is still traveling around the country and enjoying his long deserved retirement. He just returned from a trip to the Pacific Northwest. His most recent overseas trip was to Spain, Portugal and Morocco. When not on the road Ralph is enjoying gardening and taking care of his many Fruit Trees. He is also doing quite a bit of volunteer work for his church and community.

**DON & CAROL HOLTON**, Southern Section, are both enjoying retirement at their beautiful home in Indian Wells (Palm Springs). They manage to stay quite busy visiting the grand children and traveling.

They recently spent a month at the beach in Carlsbad. After returning home for a brief stop over and some R&R they took off again for Europe and France for a week. Don & Carol are at home now enjoying the beautiful weather which the desert provides this time of year. I recently served on the CASCWA State Board with Don & Carol and found them most pleasant and enjoyable to work with. We wish them well and much happiness in retirement.

**LAWRENCE WEARY**, Southern Section moved to Jayees Mississippi after retiring from Compton Unified School District is doing just great. 1990 was a good year on the farm. The harvest was bountiful which they shared with neighbors and friends. Larry and his lovely wife Estelle are enjoying each day, each other, their families and many friends. Larry indicated that I should pass on to any of you out there, "If you would like to make some extra money in your spare time to contact him." He is working with a "good company". For more information call him at (601) 876-4611 or write Rt. 3 Box 188, Jayess, MS 39641. Slow down Larry and take care of yourself!!!!

**SARA RAY AND ROSCOE** just returned from their annual trek up north. We met them in Medford, Oregon and spent a good these weeks together. She is doing fine and looking as chipper as ever. They stopped for a short time at the Delta, near Rio Vista, Pollock Pines and are headed south until the weather warms up.

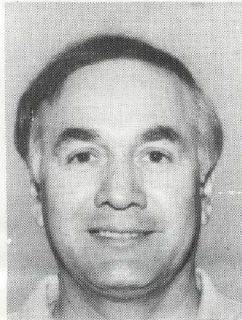
Oh! I almost forgot, **Rich Davis & Dolores** had a fun vacation this year to the Shakespearean city of Ashland. I highly recommend it to anyone that has not been there. We continued on to Medford Oaks, Oregon, Crater Lake, Diamond Lake and Mt. St. Helens. Then into Vancouver Canada, up to Horsebay for the ferry to Nanaimo to visit a friend. We fished the Campbell River for Coho Salmon. This is absolutely the best salmon fishing area in North America. We returned to the states via Victoria to Port Angeles Washington. After a few days in the Puget Sound area, our next stop was West Port also in Washington. This must be the best fishing (Salmon) on the mainland for "Kings and Chinooks". Returning home for a short R&R we took off for Orlando, Florida. Took in Disney World, Epcot Center, Cape Canaveral and the Space Camp. **WHAT A TRIP!!!** May go back again someday. Now I know why so many retirees end up in Florida.

**FLASH!!!** Just heard that Clyde Powell, Southern Section, and Bill Booth, San Joaquin are retiring this year. With deep regret I just learned that Georgina Allen passed away early January. Georgina worked in the Sacramento County Office of Education as the Attendance Supervisor prior to my arrival in that same position. She was loved and respected as a Children Advocate.

If any of you have any information about retirees out there, please let us know. Or, who is retiring.

#### OVER 'N' OUT

### SOUTHERN SECTION PLANS FOR PALM SPRINGS CONFERENCE-PLUS!



**BILL YBARRA**  
President  
Southern Section

The Executive Board from Southern Section is in the midst of planning and gathering names of workshop presenters for the Spring Conference in Palm Springs. Not only is the conference an event by which members can obtain valuable information on viable programs and special topics, but a time to honor members who have been selected by their colleagues to receive special recognition. The theme for this year's Spring Conference is: "Investing in Kids Today, our Resource for the 21st Century: CASCWA Making a Difference."

In addition to the quality workshops and keynote presentations, a special workshop from the Los Angeles County Office of Education, Attendance and Administrative Services Unit, will be made on pupil records. Those who attend this workshop will receive the updated publication, *Administrative Guidelines to Pupil Records*.

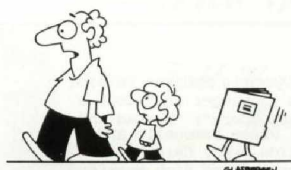
On December 7, 1990, Southern Section is sponsoring a luncheon program in conjunction with its regularly scheduled meeting. A junior and senior high school gang prevention program will be featured

at this luncheon. This program is likely to draw a large number of individuals from the Ventura County area. Thanks to Christine Smith, president-elect, for her efforts in putting this program together.

At the January 11, 1991, Executive Board meeting, a luncheon has been planned for Southern Section members. Milton Dooley will be making a presentation on "How to Prevent Leaks in Your ADA." Those who attend this meeting will receive a complimentary publication from CASCWA. Notice of this program will be sent to all Southern Section members in December.

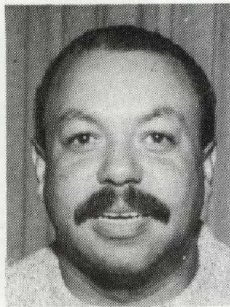
All Southern Section members are always welcome to attend the Executive Board meetings, which are held once a month at different locations throughout the Southern California area. To obtain information on these meetings, please call me, Bill Ybarra, at (213) 922-6301.

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"When my teachers told me that my records would follow me through life, I thought they were exaggerating."

### SAN JOAQUIN SECTION HAS ACTIVE YEAR PLANNED



**GREGG BASS**  
President  
San Joaquin Section

Hello Fellow Members,

On behalf of all the San Joaquin members, we would like to thank and applaud Bob Brazil and the Bay Section for the spectacular State Conference in the fall. It was evident that a tremendous amount of time, energy, and planning went into the preparation and presentation of such an edifying session. I'm sure all who attended, went home marveled, proud to be a part of CASCWA, and ambitious to put our new perspectives to work. Thank you Bay Section and Kudos on a job well done.

The San Joaquin Section is off and running in this 1990-91 school year. We started the year out by having an overniter-section workshop in September at the Pine Resort in Bass Lake. The session was very reinforcing and the fellowship/networking inspiring. In November, we were given an opportunity to meet as a section at the Fall State Conference. Fortunately, we were able to get lot of business done. I was also impressed with our Section representation at the State Conference.

In early December our section attended the Fresno County SARB workshop. I found out there's strategies when working with students and families that I was unaware of. The Clovis Unified School District had a group of four CWA officers (Chong, Erlinda, Josephine and Kelly) which presented "Home-School Liaisons-Strategies That Work" Not enough space to show the rave reviews. Their show goes on the road again on February 6, 1991, in Modesto (Holiday Inn, 8a - 3p), in which the San Joaquin Section will be sponsoring a SARB workshop. More info to follow and all are invited to attend. If you happen to miss that one, Bill Ybarra (Southern Section Pres.) has already put them on the program for our Spring State Conference in Palm Springs (May 1 - 3, 1991). This is a treat you'll not want to miss. On December 14, our section Cabinet and committee chairpersons met to review, update, and plan for future activities. Our Nominations committee submitted names for new section officers. The Professional Standards committee submitted names to receive outstanding Section and a nomination for Outstanding State Awards, and, our Steering Committee is already making plans for the 1992 Spring State conference our Section is scheduled to host. Boy, I know time is getting ready to fly.

Again, on behalf of the San Joaquin Section, we wish you a safe, happy and prosperous Holiday and New Year season.



### BAY SECTION DOESN'T REST AFTER FALL CONFERENCE



**BOB BRAZIL**  
President  
Bay Section

Bay Section finished last year and started this school year devoting 150% of its time to final planning of the Fall Conference. The Section meeting at the conference was used to complete our slate of officers and committee assignments. The following members accepted assignments in the positions indicated:

Membership - Phyllis Clark, Pleasanton Unified-V.P.  
Sherry Talmage, Santa Cruz City  
Schools-Secretary  
Pat Gardetto, Fremont Unified  
Treasurer

Standing Committees:

Professional Growth-Lee Lundberg, San Leandro Unified  
Legislation-Shari Lawson, State SARB/PTA  
Scholarship-LaMoyn Frank, Petaluma Jt. USD  
Activities-Janice Kyne, Mt. Pleasant Unified  
Carm Moore, Berryessa Unified  
Bulletin-JoAnn Allen, Santa Cruz Office of Educ.

Bay Section is presently planning to co-sponsor a workshop with the Alameda County Office of Education which has been scheduled for 25 February at the Alameda County Office. The topic will be "Do You Have a Leak in Your ADA?" All Bay Section members who attend will receive the binder that has been developed for this program free of charge.

Following the workshop there will be a Bay Section luncheon and a section meeting.

## DELTA SIERRA PROVIDES WORKSHOPS



**RENEE FEMENELLA**  
President  
Delta Sierra Section

Delta Sierra CASCWA is moving ahead full speed in the Northern part of our state. This past fall was filled with exciting events for us. We held our first Delta Sierra in Focus Workshop for the 1990-91 school year. Tad Kitada, Coordinator of Prevention in Placer County, shared some important research on Risk Focused Prevention Strategies from David Hawkins, Univ. of Washington and Richard Catalano.

Our upcoming in Focus Workshop on January 30 is an all day training on the "World of Difference", a Prejudice Reduction Project of the Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'Rith. People who have attended previous sessions have praised the curriculum loudly. Delta Sierra is very pleased to offer this training to our members and colleagues.

CASCWA members are on the forefront of blending prevention with intervention strategies for children and families as more of us collaborate a partnership effort in our respective areas. The Delta Sierra conference committee is planning a very dynamic agenda for Fall 1991 that integrates both prevention and intervention in our themes and workshops. Don't

forget to mark your calendars for October 23, 24 in Sacramento! In the meantime, I look forward to seeing all of you at the spring conference.

## CWA HEAD SPEAKS UP ON TAX SAVINGS

Many people think that public education costs taxpayers too much money. They think of all the tax dollars that have gone into education and ask, "How much more money do the public schools want?"

Most taxpayers are inclined to maintain current funding levels but not to increase them. They do support more jails and the funds required to build and maintain these jails. They see education and law enforcement reinforcing one another.

What most taxpayers do not know is that it costs approximately \$45,000 a year to incarcerate one prisoner and approximately \$38,000 for one child's public school education from kindergarten to 12th grade. A prisoner doing five years' jail time costs taxpayers \$225,000. This amount equals all the public funds given to the average California public school district to educate a child for 75 years or to educate almost six children from kindergarten through high school.

The major predictor of adult lawlessness is school truancy, according to Ira Reiner, district attorney for Los Angeles County.

I commend the district attorney for initiating the truancy mediation program designed to return truant students to school. I hope that more public officials and taxpayers will begin to look at what it will cost us not to help students at risk.

Spending tax money for public education is an investment with real and substantial returns.

Charles Sanacore  
Attendance Supervisor  
Unified School District  
Bellflower

## Save the Dates

May 1, 2, & 3, 1991

"Investing in kids today, our resources for the 21st century:  
CASCWA making a difference"



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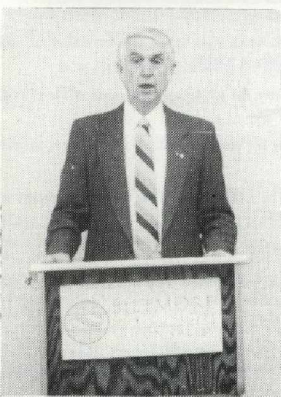
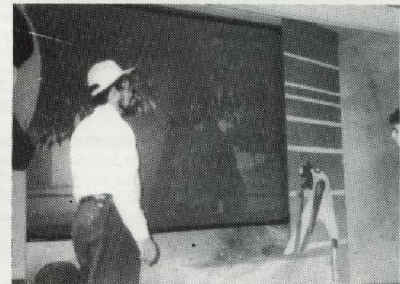
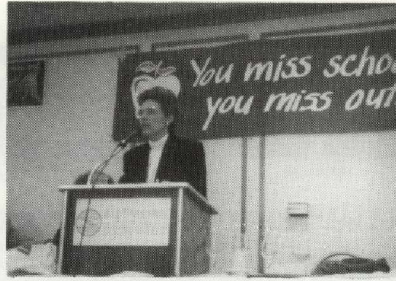
CASCWA - Southern Section

Place: GENE AUTRY HOTEL  
PALM SPRINGS, CA

**THE SANTA CLARA SCENE (Conference Scenes)** Left to right; top to bottom. Keynote Speaker Delaine Eastman; Luncheon Speaker Sylvia Pizzini, State Department of Social Services; Ron Kinninger on "Adopt a School Attendance" Program. The CASCWA Board takes a lunch break; San Jose's Show Stoppers"; "My Dad and Me" presentation.; Carol Jean Dancers; John Gilroy, Shari Lawson discuss Legislation; Renee Femenella and Kaystone Cops. A T ant T made helpful presentation; Rosemary Tisch, founder of "Kids Are"; Carol Jean Dancers. Tom Fox helped CASCWA members with information on Living Trusts; Mike Furlong and Rich Morrison help us with "safe Schools"

**EDITOR'S NOTES:** The Jim Rowland on page 6 is indeed the Jim Rowland we know, head of the California prison system; makes his article all the more significant. Front page is lacking a picture of John Gilroy, also A CASCWA Board member, but with no suitable picture. Special thanks to Clovis Unified office staff for their help in typing, headlines, etc. Anita and Margaret in particular.





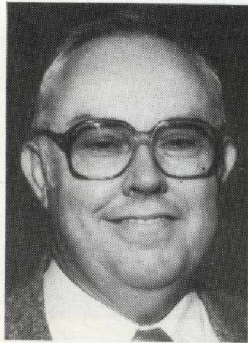
*The Santa Clara Scene*  
*Fall C.A.P.C.W.A. Conference*  
*Oct. 31- Nov. 2, 1990*





# LEGISLATION

## 1991 CHAPTERED LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



**LEE LUNDBERG**  
Chairman  
Legislation

The following bills have been chaptered into law and will go into effect on January 1, 1991 unless the bill has an urgency statute. You may obtain copies of any of these bills by calling the Bill Room at (916)445-2323.

### CASCWA STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Chairperson:** Lee Lundberg (415)667-3503  
**Bay Section:** Shari Lawson (707)449-3439  
**Delta Section:** Tracey Wiltshire (916)924-3502x29  
**San Joaquin:** Arnold Hedlund (408)649-1567  
**Southern:** Milt Dooley (213)922-6111

### ASSEMBLY BILLS

BILL #	CHAPTER #	AUTHOR
AB 43	391	Elder

Under existing law, a parent or guardian who fails to comply with the compulsory education laws to protect their child's right of access, can be fined after going through the SARB process. This bill would subject the parent or guardian to a fine of up to \$500.00 upon a third or subsequent conviction. The current law allows a maximum fine of \$250.00 which was established in 1981 for an infraction. (Amends Education Code 48293)

**AB 1716** 267 Nolan  
 This bill requires the California Department of Education, in collaboration with the Office of Criminal Justice Planning, to develop a model gang prevention curriculum for grades 2, 4, and 6 and make it available to school districts and county offices. The measure appropriated \$200,000 to the Office of Criminal Justice Planning to contract for the development of this curriculum.

**AB 2638** 246 Tucker  
 This bill renewed the sunset provisions requiring superintendents to inform principals, teachers and counselors, as needed for their protection, of pupils convicted of a drug or violent offense. (Welfare and Institution Code 827)

**AB 2645** 1664 Epple  
 This bill increased the State prison terms for individuals engaged in specified unlawful acts with a minor involving specific controlled substances. The bill provides definitions for playground, youth center, video arcade, video game machines and also provides penalty provisions within 1000 feet of the grounds of any public or private school. The bill also increases penalties for the sale of controlled substances to minors by adults. The bill further included other controlled substances and offenses including imitation controlled substances. The bill prohibits the possession of specified drug paraphernalia used for injecting or smoking drugs. (Amends Health and Safety Codes 11353, 11353.1, 11353.5, 11364, 11380 adds Health and Safety Code 11380.1 and repeals Section 11380.5 amends Welfare and Institutions Codes 729.8)

**AB 3794** 1231 Eaves  
 This bill would require a school district to respond to the request of another school district regarding the expulsion or recommendation for expulsion of an applicant for enrollment. The bill would further require the notification of expulsion to include the obligation of the parent, guardian or pupil to inform any new school district that the pupil has been expelled. In addition, the bill would require that the governing board of the expelling district to enclose a copy of the statement of the reasons for the expulsion with the records it forwards upon the request of the new district. (Amends Education Code Sections 48915.1 and 48918.)

**AB 3880** 1234 Farr  
 This bill limits suspensions for special ed. students to no more than 10 days unless the parent/guardian or court agrees to a longer suspension. Determination to expel should be based on pre-expulsion assessments. Requires the administrator to ensure a pupil is provided an interim placement not to exceed 30 days. This bill modifies the Doe vs. S.F. Board of Education Supreme Court case only and does not impose additional state requirements. (Amends Education Code 48911, 48912, 48915.5, 48917 and 56325)

**AB 3844** 261 Murray  
 This bill makes affixing graffiti on or in the facilities or vehicles (including those rented or leased) of any governmental entity (including school districts) illegal and allows a court to order the defendant to perform the necessary labor to clean up, repair or replace the property damaged by that person. The crime is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250 which would be credited to the governmental agency for removal of the graffiti.

**SB 665** 552 Davis  
 Requires SDE, in consultation with the School/Law Enforcement Code and Office of Criminal Justice Planning, to contract development of a comprehensive resource guide for gang violence prevention, curricula and programs. (Amends Education Codes 51267)

**SB 1429** 776 Green  
 This bill authorizes the disclosing of information gathered by a law enforcement agency relating to the taking of a minor into custody to be disclosed to a school district police or security department. Other agencies are currently defined in law. The bill would authorize the school district police or security department to provide written notice to the superintendent that a minor enrolled in the school district has been found to have used, or have sold or possessed controlled substances or to have committed other specified crimes. This bill would authorize the transmittal of this information to any teacher, counselor or administrator with direct supervisory discipline. Such information needs to be received in confidence. An intentional violation of confidentiality could be cause for a fine not to exceed \$500. This bill is an extension of current law. (Amends Welfare Institution Code 828 and adds Welfare and Institution Code 828.1)

**SB 2112** 1665 Boatwright  
 This bill provides for prison enhancements for the sale or possession of controlled substances by an adult to a minor. The bill further recasts provisions of the code regarding drug offenses. This bill is very similar in content to AB 2645, and AB 3744 outlined in this report. Because SB 2112 was chaptered after AB3744 and AB 2645, the provisions of this bill will take effect if there is conflict between the three versions.

**SB 2227** 363 Robbins  
 This bill specifies the State Department of Education is to provide forms to be used by the public schools to report pupil suspensions and expulsions separate from the school crime reporting forms currently supplied by the State Department of Education. The reporting process would be separate between school crime reports and suspension/expulsion reports. (Amends Section 6 of Chapter 1306 of the Statutes of 1989, urgency statute)

**SB 2460** 526 Green  
 Requires the CTC to undertake leadership activities for standards of preparation for certificated personnel concerning violent behavior by students. (Adds Education Code 44276.5)

**SB 2635** 1697 Mello  
 This bill extends the persons directing a person under 21 years of age to deliver alcoholic beverages to include parents and relatives. This bill also would require the notification of the police department for certain acts to be given within one school day after the suspension or expulsion. These violations are outlined in Penal Code section 245. Notification may be by telephone or any other appropriate method chosen by the school. This bill would also provide broader definition for permission to transport alcoholic beverages by a person under 21 years of age under specified conditions. However, this bill would not effect the disciplinary action taken against students for possession, use or sale of alcoholic beverages or look-alikes on a school campus or activity. (Amends Business Professions Code 25662, amends Education Code 48902, amends penal code 19.8, amends Vehicle Code S13202.5, 21200.5 and 23224 and amends Welfare and Institutions Codes 256 and 257)

## MOTHER SUES SCHOOL OVER TRUANCY

**FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.**  
 -The mother of a truant 15-year-old has sued Deerfield Beach High School and five school officials, saying they have done nothing to help keep her daughter in school.

Peggy Gibbs, 40, is asking for \$2,500 in damages from the school and from each of the officials in a suit she typed herself and filed in small-claims court.

Gibbs said she has gotten virtually no aid in forcing her daughter, Cherie Lyn Gordon, to go to school, despite countless appeals for help.

"I'm tired of parents taking the blame," she said. "The school is not doing their job, and they are breaking the law by not forcing Cherie to go to school."

Gibbs said her two older daughters dropped to go of school at 15 and 16.

"I lost two children to the system because I wasn't outspoken. Now they will suffer because they don't have proper educations," she said. "This is my third child, and I still can't get any help. I'm not going to lose this one because the school doesn't care."

Named in the suit are Assistant Principal Eunice Harvey, attendance clerk Ellen Serrentino, guidance counselor Jay Cunniff, school social worker Michelle DeSouza and teacher Bruce Frimet.

"What is this, educational malpractice? A child can't perform, so it's our fault?" Cunniff asked.

## SOME YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK BECOME A THREAT TO SOCIETY

I will never forget Donny. Like thousands of young people, he was definitely at risk, and like thousands of these young people he probably could have survived his at-risk years and become a responsible citizen. That is, he could have survived and become a productive citizen had there been intervention, support and assistance. But there wasn't, and he didn't.

I first became involved with Donny because his parents were, by anyone's standards, leaving him alone much too often and for too long. Unfortunately, services simply weren't available for an eight year old who was being left unsupervised by two very neglectful parents. My second contact with Donny was for the irresponsible use of a pellet rifle. It seemed to me that someone should do something with an at-risk young person who was terrorizing the neighborhood with a pellet rifle. The Department of Social Services (then referred to as the Welfare Department) was overwhelmed with physical abuse cases and the juvenile court was very busy with serious offenders. Big Brothers and Big Sisters did not exist in that community in those days, and School Attendance Review Boards didn't exist. Nor were there any volunteers working with at-risk young people, and the juvenile justice system had no mechanism to recruit citizen volunteers. So Donny continued on unsupervised and without services.

My third contact with Donny occurred a few years later, and this contact was prompted by his fascination with a .38 caliber revolver. This time, the juvenile court decided that Donny needed attention. He got that attention. He was placed in a juvenile institution, but it appeared to me that "a lot was done much too late."

I checked on Donny a few years later, and he was at Atascadero State Hospital for rape. I checked again, and he was at San Quentin State Prison for armed robbery.

All young people should be held accountable for destructive, irresponsible and criminal behavior and certainly not all at-risk young people become serious offenders, but a significant percentage do and government will never solve this problem alone. Governmental agencies, service groups, private agencies, schools, churches, and concerned volunteers working together can and have reached thousands of at-risk young people in a very positive and productive manner. But, a lot more needs to be done much sooner.

I would like to think that Donny's case was the exception. Unfortunately, I am convinced that he is not.

Jim Rowland

These are times when one's funny bone is tickled by an inadvertent irony. Even newsletter editors are involved. In this case, I received a letter from a college student in Washington inquiring about CASCWA. The letter was addressed to the "Editor of INTERCALM". If ever our function needed explanation, this was it! "INTERCHAOS" I could have accepted.

## SOME RESEARCH FINDINGS TO PONDER

Fresno Unified continues to provide us with "fascinating facts" or "revitalized research", depending on your point of view. Here are some research findings that were interesting to your editor:

**HIGH EXPECTATIONS:** A study from researchers at the University of Delaware, Temple University and Bryn Mawr College indicates that young children who are pressured to excel in academics may become less creative and more anxious about tests without gaining a significant advantage over their peers. The observational study, one of the first to highlight how early academic pressure affects children, involved 126 middle-class families in Pennsylvania and Delaware. The researchers found that mothers with high academic expectations were more apt to pick preschools with a strong academic emphasis. They noted that while placement in such schools hastened children's acquisition of skills in the short run, the advantage was not sustained by the end of kindergarten. The children from more play-oriented preschools had significantly lower test anxiety and more positive attitudes about school.

**DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND CIGARETTES** The results of the 1988-89 national survey by the National Parent's Resource Institute for Drug Education of high school students (9-12), when compared to the results of the survey in 1984-85, showed:

\* Beer, liquor, marijuana and cocaine use decreased during the four-year period:

- \*\* Beer - from 68% to 56%
- \*\* Liquor - from 54% to 52%
- \*\* Marijuana - from 26% to 22%
- \*\* Cocaine - from 6% to 5%

\* Cigarette smoking increased during the four-year period from 33% to 38%.

**SMALL FAMILIES:** A researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles reports in a new book that children from small families far outstrip their classmates from large families in education attainment. Nearly 85% of only children graduate from high school on average, while less than 60% of children from families with seven or more siblings graduate. In addition, about 65% of students from families with one or two children go on to college, but less than 50% of children from the largest families do so. The sharp difference in high school graduation rates is particularly striking because high school completion is not based on families' ability to pay for school, at least to the degree as college. The primary reason for this difference we found to be that children from large families start school with a distinct disadvantage of poor verbal skills. For children in large families there is less contact, less direct intervention in their verbal development, less correcting and less attention to how they express themselves. Further, children from large families often lack the self-esteem to succeed in school. The opposite is true for children from small families - theirs often outstrips reality.

**DISCIPLINE-SUSPENSIONS:** The following strategies were compiled by researchers and administrators to cut down on out-of-school and in-school suspensions (from Urban Education):

Work with police and public agencies on ways to minimize gang activity.

Assign each potential problem student a teacher-advisor who becomes the student's friend at school.

Remind teachers to reward good behavior, encourage students to feel that each is capable of succeeding and be proactive in avoiding potentially difficult situations.

Increase your staff's sensitivity to the many subcultures in our society.

Encourage the coordination between the counselor and the social worker to put home and school problems in perspective.

Supervise non-academic areas and establish "roving" counselors who identify and help students who need counseling.

Develop a preventive counseling program and establish a drop-in time-out area so students themselves can be proactive in avoiding improper behavior.

Encourage teachers to act as positive role models and to exemplify respect for all human beings in general.

Stress to teachers the importance for them to adhere to a schoolwide discipline policy in their classrooms.

Create a peer-support "buddy" system for potential problem students.

**POTENTIAL DROPOUTS:** From an article titled "Differentiating Characteristics of High School Graduates, Dropouts and Nongraduates" from the Journal of Educational Research, the results of a longitudinal study are summarized below:

\* Grade point average - Using a GPA cutoff of 1.7 in the 9th grade, the researchers could predict dropouts with 90% accuracy.

\* Poor attendance - Absenteeism often starts as early as the 3rd grade, by the 5th grade, future dropouts are absent twice as often as those who go on to graduate: and, by the 9th grade, they are absent three times as often.

\* Number of failing grades - By the 9th grade, researchers could predict 85% of dropouts by the number of courses they failed.

\* Negative teacher comments - Nongraduates, those who reached 12th grade but never graduate, looked like graduates in almost every respect except elementary report card comments. Negative comments distinguished both dropouts and nongraduates with about 70% accuracy.

\* Special education referrals - More than half of the dropouts had been referred to some form of special education. Only 30% of the graduate had received such referrals.

**TEACHERS ENCOURAGED:** America's teachers are more optimistic about the future of their profession than they were five years ago, even though they recognize a growing number of serious problems in the public schools, according to an annual survey conducted by Louis Harris and Associates. Two-thirds of the 2,000 polled teachers said they would advise a young person to pursue a career in teaching, up from 45% in 1984. More teachers also said they earn a reasonable salary and gain more respect from the community than they did five years ago. Fifty-three percent said education reforms have helped students, and 38% rated their schools as "excellent," up from 31% five years ago. These gains are tempered, however, by growing concern over drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy and school dropouts, the survey said.

**WORKING AND SCHOOL:** Forty-one percent of Hispanic students who drop out of school do so because they need to work, according to a new study by the Hispanic Policy Development Project. The study concluded that the programs aimed at keeping Hispanics in school will be effective only if they recognize that the students they are targeting must also work. The study recommended that job-training programs provide stipends and offer flexible scheduling to accommodate the outside jobs of participants. The project also found that Hispanic males under age 20, both dropouts and high school students, work more hours per week on the verge than white or black students or dropouts. (ACSA Issue Traces: Winter 1989)

**WHO SAYS 'NO' TO DRUGS?** A rare long-term study by researchers at Columbia University found that teenagers who take up marijuana or cocaine mainly "to go along" with what their friends are doing are most likely to "just say no" to continued drug use. This is in contrast to those who primarily use the drugs for a pleasurable "high" or to cope with stress. Factors that correlate with the continued use of marijuana and cocaine in adulthood are much the same as those that best predict who will be attracted to drugs as a teenager - these are having numerous drug-using friends and consistently engaging in violent or criminal acts.



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