

Teacher's PET



Newsletter for the Professional Educators of Tennessee

Professional Educators of Tennessee, 2001-2002, Volume 8; Number 5, August 2001
Four Corporate Centre, Suite 130, 810 Crescent Centre Drive, Franklin, TN 37067
1-800-471-4867 www.teacherspet.com

REPORT ON 2001 ANNUAL MEETING

The 8th and 9th of June found a good group of leaders from across the state gathering in the Holiday Inn Resort Hotel, Pigeon Forge, for the Leadership Training Conference and the Professional Educators of Tennessee Annual Meeting. Both days meetings were begun by Tracey Bailey, 1993 National Teacher of the Year, with optimistic projections of education in our nation and the future of our association. On Saturday, we were treated to the introduction of Tracey's wife and his seven children.

The bulk of the morning session on Friday was a detailed explanation of the benefits of our association and a comparison to those of our competitors. PET staff and officers have worked hard to insure that we not only offer competitive members benefits, but those which are better than our competitors. Executive Director, Walter Jewell, and Director of Legal Services, Larry Crain, explained how striving to offer the best, especially in our educator's liability package and in legal services, has been successful.

The afternoon session was broken into three parts. Association of American Educators Executive Director, Gary Beckner, and AAE Director of National Projects, Tracey Bailey, led the group in the new look of leadership in our time pressed society. Members from successful locals then shared ideas with the group on those things that have worked well in their local associations. Lastly, the necessary communications and forms between the state and local associations were explained and any questions answered. The 5:00 PM adjournment was a necessity to allow for a meeting with local Sevier County members and for a state PET Board of Directors meeting that evening.

Saturday started with a bountiful breakfast sponsored by VALIC/American General Financial Advisors. (American General Financial Advisors has recently been selected to offer PET members complete financial planning services.)

Congressman Van Hilleary, Fourth Tennessee Congressional District, spoke to us briefly and then took an extended period of time to answer our questions and give us the chance to tell him what our problems are in education and how we think that things can be im-

proved. We definitely did not hold back on our suggestions. We will remain optimistic on the outcome of our suggestions. [Phil Bredesen was also invited to address the members, but was unable to attend. We were informed that he would be interested in meeting with our leadership later in the campaign year. Both Mr. Bredesen and Congressman Hilleary are aware that PET does not endorse candidates for public office.]

Mike Speich, PET volunteer lobbyist and professional member from Cumberland County, gave an inspiring and detailed presentation of the place of our locals units and individual members in a campaign for positive education legislation. Mike has the background and the drive to lead our effort in dealing with the legislature to improve the situation of educators and students in Tennessee. We are looking to Mike for the leadership to make a difference with the Tennessee legislature.

Larry Crain reported on the educational issues that were legislated and decided by the courts in the past year. Larry also reported on several cases where PET had been able to represent our members in extraordinary situations during the past year. We are pleased with the service we have been able to offer these members and the good outcomes that have been obtained for them.

Lunch for those present was provided by Paul Copeland of Paul Copeland & Associates (our agent of record for insurance and benefits) and Terry Skinner of Myron Steves Insurance (who services our professional liability insurance package.)

Dedrick Briggs from the Charter School Resource Center of Tennessee explained the history of Charter Schools in the United States and explained the bills that have been presented in Tennessee dealing with charter schools. Several members expressed interest in how to form a charter school, if a bill is ever passed in Tennessee allowing them. [PET currently has no position on charter school legislation. Our membership was split on the last questionnaire.]

Continued on page 3...



Renewals are due on or before September 30.



NEW WEB SERVICE FOR TEACHERS

Today I was able to back door into a comprehensive new web site under development. The site should be open in the next few weeks. There is one major characteristic that sets this site apart from its counterparts: it is focused on serving the needs of teachers and school administrators. The Educator's Key (www.educatorskey.com) is designed not only to give teachers their own little place in cyberspace but also to enhance the reality of the educational job market.

Educatorskey.com provides three types of services. The first is a web toolkit for teachers. The site offers email accounts, customizable layouts and interfaces, greeting cards and games, and news, stock, and weather reports. The second is a place for networking with teachers all over the country through chat rooms, online subject forums, and special-interest stories. The third and most ambitious is a complete teacher-targeted resume center. Educators will be able to log on, create a resume by either uploading it or making their own through the site's resume builder, and store it. Adminis-

trators are then able to search through the resumes and contact the teachers via email or post their own job advertisements.

This site does have one other distinguishing characteristic: all three levels of service are free. Typically, employers wishing to either post a job opening or contact a candidate on a resume-driven website must pay a fee, but www.educatorskey.com has taken into account the limited and usually exhausted budgets of the nation's school districts. Instead of charging the educational institutions, Educator's Key will seek its funds from advertisements.

In short, educatorskey.com seeks to break the stigma of the dot com environment. Rather than focusing on dreams of wealth and stock market revenues, this site strives to provide the benefit of updating the resources and the job placement process for that most important of careers. As PET's executive director, I am pleased to recommend educatorskey.com to PET members. You may find it so useful that you will make educatorskey.com your start page.

NEW LOCAL UNIT FORMED

The PET members employed in the Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools have formed our newest PET local association. Officers elected at the organizational meeting are Cathy Kolb, president; Elizabeth French, secretary; and Tammy Messmer, treasurer. These officers and a good group of willing volunteers will insure that the PET-CMC local will bring a positive influence to their system for the students and educators. Best wishes to the new officers and all those who will help in their local endeavors.

SCHOOLIES © 2001 by John P. Wood



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Another year beginning and another time for renewal. With this new school year let us remember that the time we spend with our students is a blessing. Whether sometimes we believe it or not. Here is why:

...I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made....
(Psalm 139: 14)

Each human being we encounter bears the divine image. Each of us — irrespective of size, age, or intelligence — is unique, irreplaceable, and invaluable

It is good to give thanks for having the chance to educate a child. The master teacher, Jesus made it clear that the way we treat children is especially important. "And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, and said, 'Truly I say to you, . . . whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me'" (Matthew 18:2, 5).

Best wishes for each of you to enjoy this new school year and may you *also* be blessed.

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Inquiries and articles should be mailed to:

Teacher's PET

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It is history that teaches us to hope.

Robert E. Lee

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

As of the deadline for this article, both the federal and state legislation dealing with education is still uncertain. On the federal level, HR1 is still in conference committee trying to work out the differences in the House and Senate versions of President Bush's Education Plan. There will be changes but not as drastic as those first proposed.

Governor Sunquist has vetoed the budget and the state legislature will be called back to Nashville to override or sustain the veto. The feelings expressed by many members of the legislature is that while they are not satisfied with what has been passed, they are not ready to try again to work out another budget in the current atmosphere of game playing. Those who express that they want to control runaway spending and those who are interested in adding an income tax are not going to solve their differences this summer. Therefore, an override of the veto is most likely and that will safeguard the 3% raise that both houses have voted in which is in the current budget.

A short summary of major legislation from the state must include that the Governor's reading program was passed but not funded. Since education makes up roughly one-half of the state

budget, many long overdue reforms in education continue to face financial hurdles. This year three separate bills were introduced which proposed a state lottery as a means of earmarking funds to education. Teacher retirement benefits, insurance, extended leave of absence for teachers who are victims of violence, limits on class size, tuition credits – all have been routinely deferred to Finance and Education committees for further fiscal review.

Some of the more controversial measures debated this year have been: charter schools, teacher certification, requirements for diversity and cultural sensitivity training for elementary students and faculty, posting of the Ten Commandments, and proficiency testing.

New Law:

Public Chapter 197 requires the immediate suspension and dismissal of teachers convicted of certain drug offences.

Public Chapter 271 allows electronic textbooks to be recommended, adopted, and purchased in the same manner as regular textbooks.

Continued, 2001 Annual Meeting...

The formal business of the meeting included PET and AAE Executive Directors' Reports. A report by PET President, Billie Hamilton, and PET Financial Reports. Newly elected board members, Frank Bellamy of Maury County and Larry Evans of Montgomery County, were introduced and sworn in.

Dr. Billie Sue Hamilton was the recipient of both the Award of Academic Excellence and the Executive Director's Appreciation Award. Billie had just received her Doctorate the prior week. During the time she had prepared for this milestone, she had always made time for service to PET. She is an outstanding example of a professional educator.

The PET 2001 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM. The PET Board of Directors had their first meeting of the 2001-2002 membership year following. Those who have attended these meetings in the past expressed that this was one of the best. Vice-President, Michael Miller, is in charge of planning for next year's meetings. Please send recommendations to him millerm02@ten-nash.ten.k12.tn.us.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FAILS THIRD AUDIT

For the third year in a row, the Education Department has failed to receive a clean audit according to the latest reports of the General Accounting Office and Education Department Inspector General. At least \$450 million was misappropriated during those three years, including \$250 million in duplicate payments to local and state education agencies and \$200 million in lost payments.

The results of the fiscal 2000 audit were revealed at a hearing of the House Select Education Subcommittee. "In many ways, it's beginning to look like we are dealing with a Third World republic," said Rep Pete Hockstra (R-Michigan), the subcommittee chairman.

Jef Steinhoff from the General Accounting Office said the most recent audit showed some progress from previous years, but underlying weaknesses include: poor segregation of duties, lack of supervisory review, inadequate computer application controls. New Education Secretary Rod Paige has indicated that he is making it a priority to fix these problems.

Education Matters May-2001

Human history is in essence a history of ideas.

H.G. Wells

We receive many calls and emails from members wanting information on the NEA. For those of you who are interested:

- ★ www.landmarklegal.org: Information on reported illegal political activities
- ★ www.eagleforum.org/column/2001/july01/01-07-25.shtml: The story of the withdrawal of the NEA's new "B" resolution
- ★ hometown.aol.com/educintel/eia/index.html: For inside information on what's happening in the education establishment
- ★ www.family.org/gradingthenea/: NEA's agenda, politics and views.

"What do they do with all that money? What a system! They get our money, then they use it to get more from us." -- Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura, commenting on news that Education Minnesota, the newly merged NEA and AFT affiliate, spent almost \$725,000 in lobbying and public relations in the first six months of 2001.

(July 25 Minneapolis Star-Tribune)

Here are some sites that may help you find information on funding sources and opportunities:

"Teacher Grants"

A collection of resources to give teachers ideas for seeking funding from local sources.

<http://www.teachergrants.org/>

"eSchool News School Funding Center"

Information on up-to-the-minute grant programs, funding sources, and technology funding.

<http://www.eschoolnews.org/funding>

"Philanthropy News Digest-K-12 Funding Opportunities"

K-12 Funding opportunities with links to grant seeking for teachers, learning technology, and more.

<http://fdncenter.org/pnd/20000328/funding.html>

"Information on U.S. Department of Education Initiatives"

Among a wealth of other information, the ED site provides comprehensive information on applying for grants and listings of current funding opportunities.

<http://www.ed.gov/funding.html>

"School Grants"

A collection of resources and tips to help K-12 educators apply for and obtain special grants for a variety of projects.

<http://www.schoolgrants.org>

NO EXCUSES

The following question and answer come from an interview with Dr. Pedro Garcia, the new Nashville Director of Schools. Before coming to the U.S. from Cuba in his teens, Dr. Garcia was a counter-revolutionary fighting against the Communist regime.

"Q: You were Metro's new schools director less than an hour before you boosted expectations to a goal of 90% of students achieving at grade level in all subjects. In an urban system like Nashville, how realistic is that goal?

"A: It's very realistic. I'm reading a book right now called No Excuses. It's about 21 schools nationwide that are high-poverty but also have high achievement. The problem that we have is that they are isolated cases. Whenever there's a poor school that's successful, it's sort of like, 'Wow!' instead of like, 'Well, sure. They ought to be that way.' There are many schools nationwide that are successful. But they're not entire systems. And that's what intrigued me about Nashville--I believe we can have an effective system, not just an effective school here and there. I don't know if it can be done in four years, but I always shoot high. Rather than do 70% and hit it, I would rather do 90% and hit 83%."

The Tennessean, July 1, 2001

MEMBER COMMENTS

ONE MEMBER'S EXPERIENCE

When I was a member of another teacher organization which championed itself as a teacher and student's friend. I only got to speak to its attorney about five minutes. The lawyer agreed the school system was not being upright with me but follow-up was totally in my camp. In later years, I separated from that organization because it was activist in behalf of positions I could not support religiously. Later, I learned about PET which paralleled my views of a teacher association, e.g., non-involvement in candidate campaigns in favor of direct presentation to legislators about educational issues, non bashing of fundamentally-focused Christians, active collaboration with lawmakers and policy bodies about instructional approaches promising genuine improvement, etc.

lawyer who had practiced before the U.S. Supreme Court. Moreover, PET's Executive Director remained in contact and provided emotional support, as well.

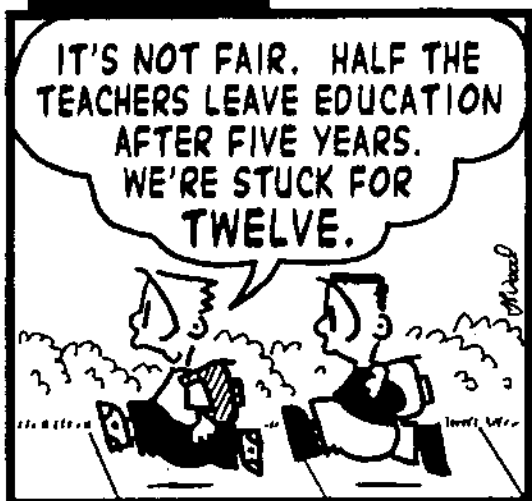
I know firsthand that PET and affiliated state organizations have surfaced and grown because it has not become a social-agenda agency but true to the desires of dedicated educators, has maintained a focus upon students, schools, and learning. I benefited from PET's teacher-rights function, but that is not what PET is primarily about. It is about the teaching of students in enriching classrooms and preparation for their taking productive roles in American businesses and homes. That is why my wife and I are both educators and PET members."

*David Glasgow
Maury County PET*

After becoming a member, I twice had occasion to access PET's attorney. Each time, my conversations with legal counsel were extended and intensive. It was reassuring to have representation from a

PET encourages its members to send comments to this column. All comments will be published. Please remit to publishing@teacherspet.com

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DUES INCREASE WILL TAKE PLACE OCTOBER 1, 2001.

In their first meeting of the 2001-2002 year, the Professional Educators of Tennessee Board of Directors voted to raise the dues for Professional Members to \$149. While the dues increase will take affect on October 1, we expect the vast majority of members will have already paid their 2001-2002 dues before then. Those paying before October 1, will renew or join at the old \$97 rate.

The board also voted to lessen the impact of the increase on current members by allowing them to join for up to five years in advance at the old \$97 rate. Monies from these pre-paid memberships will go into a separate bank account and only the amount of the current year's dues will be deducted. This will insure that funds are available for these members in the future.

Many improvements have been made in your PET membership since the dues were set at \$97. Even the \$97 was a compromise between those wanting higher dues at that point and those wanting to stay at the current level. At the time that those dues were set, we were just having to add staff to service our members. We had reached the point in our growth that running the state organization by volunteers was not only impractical but would curtail our ability to grow. My children were grown and had moved away and we had several rooms in my home that could be used as donated office space. We were able to set dues at \$97 and operate efficiently at that level for four years. During that time, growth has caused us to have to move into an office and we are again at the point that growth will be curtailed if we do not increase the size of our staff.

How have member benefits improved during those years since we set dues at \$97? We have seen many changes. Some are very evident and some are not. Our liability coverage was increased from \$ one million to \$ two million. In some other education associations the upgrade to a two million dollar policy is \$33 per member (ACTE which provides a \$500,000 upgrade for \$33 above the regular membership dues), or \$56 (CEAI which is above the \$100,000 included in the dues). PET does not pay these additional amounts per member because we include the two million on all of our members and because of our excellent loss ratio.

Other sections of our educators' policy were also improved to make sure that we have the best in protection for our members. The criminal charges defense fees for attorneys were raised from \$5,000 win or lose to \$35,000/\$10,000. Employment rights coverage has been raised from \$5,000/\$500 to \$10,000/\$1,000. What is even a bigger change is that most of our attorney fees do

not even go through our insurance. We have arrangements with the attorneys throughout the state and pay them directly. This means that members are not limited to just the legal services provided through the insurance policy. Members often call to seek legal advice without having to fill out any paperwork or red tape.

Separate from our educators' policy, we have added \$10,000 in Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance on our members and afford them access to a host of other member benefits at reduced association rates. At the request of members, we also carry \$1,000 term life insurance on each member under age 70. We added this benefit mainly to allow new members to purchase up to \$50,000 with out medical screening. When negotiating these benefits, we asked that our members be given the best rates possible rather than the PET receiving a portion of the premium as other associations do.

Printings, postage, supplies, telephone, insurance, payroll taxes and other expenses associated with any business have also increased over the last few years. While we have used several economies of scale to reduce some of the per unit cost of these expenses, the overall result is that it cost more to operate now than it did in the past. When the board was discussing this increase, the consensus was that we "bite the bullet" now with an increase that would see us through the foreseeable future rather than a small increase each year for several years.

Before the board meeting, I had asked the membership at the annual meeting to give their opinions on a dues increase to the members of the board. I know that several of those in attendance did. The board took into account the suggestions given to them at that time.

Those of you who have been members for many years may think that this increase is excessive. I have heard from one that was distressed over this action. However, most that I have heard from are supportive of the action. I do know that those new members who have contacted us this month have expressed that the \$149 is a great deal compared to the competition.

Since most of those who join this year will join at the \$97 rate, do not expect many changes in PET this school year. The funds to move forward will be coming in for the 2002-2003 school year. I trust that all of you know that at \$149 PET is still the best product at the best price.

TRADE PAPERS AND WE WILL GRADE THEM???

The long used practice of swapping papers to grade them may be in jeopardy because the Supreme Court has agreed to decide if the practice violates students' privacy rights. The issue arose in 1998, when Kristja J. Falvo sued the Owasso, Okla., school district, contending that her three children were embarrassed when classmates graded each other's work and called out grades to the teacher. A federal judge rejected her claim. However, the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver ruled last year that the grading practice violated the federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, which prohibits schools from releasing students' records without parents' written consent. The implications could expand to prohibit teachers from allowing parent volunteers to check papers or schools from displaying graded student artwork and projects. Some educators are even rethinking the publication of student honor rolls. Be aware of the current trends.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE IS BACK

As most of you know, we are repeating the membership recruitment incentive from the past two years. The personal recommendation of a PET member one-on-one has always been our best advertisement and always will be. You will receive \$20 for each NEW professional member you recruit between, May 15 and September 15, 2001. Many of you are already recommending us to your colleagues. Those of you who are not, maybe this is just what you need to get into this area of service to the association.

Details

New members: For this promotion, new members are defined as professional members who have not been members of PET or AAE in the immediate past three years. This promotion is open to all classes of membership. Award money will be paid to a member of any membership class who signs up a new professional member. Applications must be postmarked on or before September 15, 2001.

Receiving credit: To receive credit for a new member, you must write "recruited by" and your name at the lower left of the membership form and the new member must pay their PET dues by September 15, 2001.

Those who join by credit card over the telephone must name their sponsor during the call when they pay their dues. The online application at teacherspet.com has a place to put the name of the person who told them about PET.

Sending a list of names of people to whom you have given brochures will not qualify you as their sponsor to receive the incentive if they join later.

You will receive credit as the sponsor of the new member as soon as their check, payroll deduction form or credit card transaction has cleared.

All award payments will be made in November, which seems to be a good time for Holiday shopping. 1099s will be issued in January to those who receive payments of \$600 or more.

No withholdings for income taxes will be made on these payments.

This offer may or may not be offered again in following years. Members who are recruited while attending a special program or meeting sponsored and paid for by PET are ineligible to be sponsored.

Employees of PET are ineligible to be sponsors. Questions about this program should be directed to PET staff members at 800-471-4867.

SPECIAL DIRECTIONS FOR DUES PRE-PAYMENT

Those of you who want to take advantage of prepaying for the coming years' membership can easily figure your dues by multiplying your 2001-2002 dues by the number of years you want to join and simply paying that amount. For example: to join PET only for 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005, multiply your dues of 97.00 x 4 (this year and three more) = \$338. You would then include this amount with your application.

Other methods to pre-pay for this and extra years:

One check for the full amount dated on or before September 30, 2001

Three checks for the total amount (three relatively equal payments) one dated currently, one dated October 31, 2001 and the other dated November 30, 2001

Credit Card for the full amount when calling 800-471-4867

Methods you **cannot** use to prepay for extra years, but can use for this year's membership:

Through payroll deductions, where available.

Over the internet at our web site at www.teacherspet.com

PLEASE COPY FOR USE BY A COLLEAGUE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30

Application for Membership in

Professional Educators of Tennessee

Four Corporate Centre, Suite 130 * 810 Crescent Centre Drive * Franklin, TN 37067

Name (Last) (First) (Mi)

Address

City Zip Home Telephone

E-mail Address

School District

School

Job Title

DISC MC VISA Expiration Date _____

Credit Card # _____

Signature _____

(Please check)
 new member
 renewal

If paying by ck., make ck. payable to PET

Professional Membership

- PET only \$97.00
 PET and AAE \$122.00

School Support Membership

- PET only \$70.00
 PET and AAE \$95.00

Student Membership

- PET \$15.00
 PET and AAE \$25.00

Associate Membership

- PET only \$20.00
 PET and AAE \$45.00

FOCUS ON BENEFITS

FULL SERVICE FINANCIAL PLANNING AND ADVICE

As teachers, we often are so busy that we forget to plan for our financial future. With the volatility in the financial markets today, a good financial plan is essential in providing you a secure future and peace of mind. PET has chosen to endorse VALIC / American General Financial Advisors (AGFA) based on their long-term commitment to educators and the excellent personal service and counseling available anywhere throughout the state. With AGFA we have access to a broad range of mutual funds and insurance products from leading financial organizations.

Your local financial advisor can assist you in developing a comprehensive cash management program that can include college planning, retirement planning, tax planning, risk management, and a complete brokerage account. Let our VALIC /American General Financial Advisor help you remove the stress from your financial future and allow you to focus on your classroom. AGFA is registered in all fifty states and all representatives are highly trained financial professionals. To find the local financial professional for your area call Allan Cameron, CFP, District Manager at (865) 560-0620 or (800) 448-2542.

2001 NATIONAL PTA CONVENTION, BALTIMORE, JUNE 23-26

The message of the keynote speakers this year was a complete departure from the messages at previous National PTA conventions. For the last eight years, the predominant message encouraged parents to rely on the "village" to raise our children. In addition, the PTA audiences were encouraged to seek increased funding from the government – money which we somehow deserved, and which was deemed critical to help us do our jobs as parents.

Dr. Benjamin Carson, the director of pediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, emphasized personal individual responsibility, completely rejecting the concept of excuses and blame that are so often a part of the it-takes-a-village concept where no one is really accountable. Carson credited his mother for instilling in him and his brother the importance of reading, even though they discovered years later, that she could not read. While Carson doesn't begrudge athletes for their accomplishments, he feels strongly that academic achievers should be rewarded similarly. To this end, he and his wife established the Carson Scholars Fund, a scholarship program to honor the academic achievement of exemplary students.

Carson encourages students and parents to **THINK BIG**, his philosophy for success in life. **T** is for the talent that each of us has. And since very few of us can be sports or entertainment stars, Carson urges parents to encourage their children to strive for academic achievement. **H** is for honesty. **I** is for insight, which comes from listening and learning from others. Carson issued a challenge to us in the audience: **N** is for nice to everyone for one week to see the difference it makes. **K** is for knowledge. As he often did throughout his remarks, Carson quoted Solomon who said knowledge, wisdom and understanding are valuable God-given talents. Not surprisingly, **B** is for books; reading is an invaluable mechanism for obtaining success. **I** is for in-depth learning as opposed to superficial

TAX-DEFERRED ANNUITIES/403(B) PLANS

Often referred to as a "401(k) for teachers" a 403(b) Tax-Deferred Annuity is often the first step in saving you money on your taxes and preparing for a secure retirement. The VALIC retirement plan endorsed by PET provides you access to many excellent investments with investment companies such as Vanguard, Janus, Invesco, Putnam, North American and more. VALIC was the first company to provide these plans to teachers (beginning in 1955) and is the largest provider of 403(b) plans to teachers nationally. Your local American General Financial Advisor can assist you in making the right choices for your personal situation.



learning, which he characterizes as cramming for a test only to know nothing three weeks later. To Carson, this explains why American students are academically so far behind students in other nations. The last letter **G** is for God. Stressing that "God is an important part of who we are," Carson dismissed the current politically correct idea that we cannot talk about God in public – including public schools.

Despite his numerous professional accomplishments, Dr. Carson emphasizes that parenting is the most important job in the world. Along with his motivational speeches – often to hundreds of minority students and other black parents – Carson inspires his audiences to **THINK BIG**. "Accomplished people take responsibility," he said; "unaccomplished people have excuses!"

Perhaps better known as the father of golf champion Tiger Woods, Earl Woods, addressed the PTA audience with a similar message. In fact, at one time, he asked the audience "Who is responsible for raising your children?" Although taken by surprise, most of the mothers and the handful of fathers in the audience responded by answering "I am". Woods then reiterated: "You are responsible for raising your children. Not the school, not anyone else. You are!"

In his emotional appeal, Woods emphasized that "every kid has a right to the dreams of America and they have a right to accept the responsibilities that go with those dreams." He chastised parents who give up on kids too easily and who turn over their parenting responsibilities to others. Without abandoning their parents roles, Woods encouraged the PTA and its members to participate in the nationwide character development program for 11-14 year olds. The program is a partnership between the Tiger Woods Foundation and Target Stores that help kids establish a set of positive core values that will guide them throughout life and develop their potential for success.

Mike Antonucci
Education Intelligence Agency

NEWS BRIEFS

COLLEGE TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID INCREASE

After slowing for most of the 1990's college tuition increased this year according to the College Board's Annual survey of college costs. The American Council of Education said big increases in energy and health costs were responsible for the change. Tuition at four year public colleges rose an average of 4.4 percent for the 2000 school year. The College Board reported that in-state tuition and fees at public schools this fall averaged \$3,510. Room and board averaged \$4,960. At private four-year colleges, tuition and fees averaged \$16,332; room and board was \$6,209. In addition to paying higher tuition, students this year received a record \$68 billion in financial aid, with just over half coming in the form of federal student loans.



TEEN CHARACTER STUDY RAISES CONCERN

Seven in ten students surveyed admitted cheating on a test at least once in the past year and nearly half said they had done so more than once, according to a study by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Joseph and Edna Josephson Institute of Ethics. 78 percent said they had lied to a teacher and more than one in four said they would lie to get a job. Nearly one in six students said they had shown up for class drunk at least once in the past year. 68 percent admitted they hit someone because they were angry. 47 percent said they could get a gun if they wanted to.

A morsel of genuine history is a thing so rare as to be always valuable.
Thomas Jefferson

Last Fall, 49.4 percent of all first-time Freshmen at Tennessee's state schools took one or more remedial or developmental courses. At community colleges, 72.1 percent of first-time Freshmen needed remedial or developmental work. In recent years, bills introduced in the Tennessee General Assembly have tried to make school districts pay colleges for every graduate from their high schools who needs to take such courses.

The Tennessean, "Remedial-Class Cuts Could Trim University Rolls", July 23, 2001

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