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The PENNSYLVANIA EVENING POST  
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## Writer Sees Education As Two-Way Proposition

By RUTH VOGT  
 Special Writer

It is well and good to stress the fact that in the educational field we need many more schools, teachers, books and aids. However, after trekking back to textbooks, after trekking back to substitute teaching last week for the first time in 15 years, another viewpoint is dragged in for what it's worth.

After all the schools are built, after all the most wonderful new books (and they are a stupendous sight behind, they way they are put together so interestingly) are purchased, and after the teachers are trained to the last minute in the latest techniques for teaching, it might not be a bad idea to turn to the occupants of the school seats and simply state these facts:

"Boys and girls, you are here for one reason only." Before a few of the "brighter ones" sitting in the back row can sneaker out, "well, we're here 'cause our Moms can't stand to hang 'em around the house," it might be wise to go on with:

"AND CHILDREN, how many of you have the idea of how much it's costing each of your parents each day it's opened?" Before another bright lad could retort for all the class to laugh at, "oh another bright lad could retort for all the class to laugh at, it's worth it," the teacher might add:

In order to get the knowledge out from between the covers of your books and into your heads, the teacher must have your mind tuned in."

"That means simply that each one of your minds must push out the thoughts of the TV crime show you viewed last night."

And before some hand waves wildly from the middle row and before the student can launch into his favorite "gory show" he did see the evening before, the instructor should try to bring out how she cannot do this job of translating facts unless their minds are cooperative.

"THE TEACHER must not lose the thread of her own life here. What time do we go to lunch huh?" And if another yells back, "Stupid head, we go to lunch right before gym, you know that."

Even though there is a possibility that a general discussion will erupt at the mention of "lunch" and that they might be served that day, whether it'll be "guff, goo-dunk, dog-food or maybe cat-food," she must have courage and suggest that they now have an inkling of what they are in school for, "ah, to learn!"

"Are you foolish?" remarks must not upset her. She must sail on with the theory that at least a third of the class got something out of it.

TO SIMPLIFY, what could be done to a greater extent in this teaching business? Instead of dumping the blame on the school system, could it be hinted right here that perhaps the parents, those who so gladly pay out their dollars for a good school, need to do much more than merely pour out their money?

They need to dig around a bit, (just perhaps) the ground on the home-front from whence the students come.

Instead of expecting the schools and teachers and principals to "do all for our offspring, we might be wise to ponder what kind of a job we are attempting to accomplish before the four walls at home. Not exactly along the "intellectual lines" but along the lines of elementary childish manners and plain old vanilla respect for authority.

It's amazing how much easier the task of teaching becomes when these traits are predominant. The instructor is able to force ahead without grudging the teeth, without halting every few minutes with, "Johnny, dear, will you please give me your attention and stop trying to push Jimmie out of his seat?"

She is able to do the job she's hired for — to teach.

LITTLE JOHNNIE and Jimmie? They've been tiny Kimpes and they've been tiny Kimpes and they expect to carry their reign of childish authority to the classroom. It can't be done. Not with the idea of giving the parents their money-worth for that day.

Up to now we've concentrated on the center of concentrated parent wrath and failings; isn't it time we, in all fairness, roll up the curtain and take a peek into our home forts and see if we can't improve them also?

Habits, manners, respect. Surely, they haven't gone out of style! . . . Will I return to substitute teaching? You bet I will! I love it, because I love the challenge of trying to teach.

## What's Wrong With Us? Inquires Local Writer

By RUTH VOGT  
 Special Writer

What's wrong with us Birminghamites?

We are all aware that a well known national magazine has chosen our town in order to discuss what the word "affluent" means. This issue will appear in June.

However, what do we read in our local newspaper during Valentine week, but that our Child Guidance Clinic is actually facing a tragic death because of lack of funds.

In the same paper who does our Mayor challenge us with but to "take renewed interest, a constant critical interest in our local newspaper, our Community House and our local government." She added that these will remain vital and as good as our interest in them.

WHAT ABOUT this citizenship business? Is it "loving allegiance in return for political rights and privileges," or have we merely grabbed 'n grabbed until our fingers and minds are flabby from disinterest?

Peggy and Pierre Streit, frequent writers for the New York Times, wrote a heart-breaking piece for the Times at the end of the year describing "conditions" existing in the rest of the world. They compared them with "blessed America."

Before anyone exclaims: "Oh, but we've worked for ours; we have a right to enjoy our fruits," let's remember the authors pointed out that they've seen other people working for harder than any of us for a few cents a day or a piece of bread.

BEFORE someone else reminds that "It's our type of wonderful government, let's stop right here to null that one over."

It might be true when we declare that our fruits are the result of our forefathers' insight when they set up our particular type of governing powers.

However, every one of the signers of our Declaration and the formers of our Constitution labored under the wonderful vision that as this country grew and prospered, the population would develop and grow in mental strength right along with the physical aspects.

Have we?

Ignoring our ice-boxes, our cars, and even our schools and colleges, —not to speak of our homes and roads — how much of concerned interest do we lend to our local affairs?

IT MUST NOT be overwhelming if the Mayor speaks so frankly on showing "renewed attention" to what's happening in our front and back yards.

It's praise-worthy to weep silent tears over the unfortunates who are deprived of freedom in far off lands. It's equally important to dwell on our own plight of pure indifference to things that wait for us here on the local scene.

Each year we recall the virtues of Lincoln and Washington and all of the early shapers of our country we cherish so much. These men had the "unique unusual, world powers" that we, ourselves, do not possess right now in this year of '61.

## PEOPLE'S COLUMN Coverage of Seaholm Swim Team Praised

The Editor:

There are quite a few of us in this town who think it is high time we offered our congratulations on the fine job that is being done this year reporting the results of Birmingham Seaholm High School swimming meets up and down the state.

Not only are the articles accurate as to times and places, but also the names are correctly spelled and they are well written with a style that makes them interesting to read.

Only those who live with a set of our swimmer know how many hours of slugging up and down a pool are required to bring his time down even a fraction of a second.

WE KNOW, TOO, how much he sacrifices for the privilege of being on the team. Star or not, letter-winner or not, he practices after school every day until dark, frequently before school and on Saturday, and all through Christmas vacation.

He is not permitted to dance or participate in any winter outdoor sports. He is handicapped with red, streaming eyes from chlorinated water when after dinner, he tackles the inevitable homework.

His diet has to be regulated to the extent that he must give up many of the things dear to a boy's heart, such as rich desserts and pastries, French fries, soft drinks, candy, and so forth.

FURTHERMORE, dating is limited to one night a week. This period of restriction starts in October and continues until after State Meet in the middle of March.

So you see why so many of the parents and friends of swimmers are happy that the meets are finally on.

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## Jahneke to Head Harvard Campaign

Donald E. Jahneke, 460 Wooddale, Birmingham, who is with Ford Motor Company in Wixom, has been appointed chairman of the Detroit region for the 12th annual Giving campaign of the Harvard Business School Fund.

The campaign is being held to raise unrestricted, expendable money to meet current operating costs of the school.

The 1961 goal has been set at \$400,000 to be collected by Alumni Day, June 8.

Workers led by 81 such regional chairmen are canvassing 17,000 Harvard Business School Alumni throughout the United States and Canada. There are 170 alumni in the Detroit region.

IT WOULD BE more interesting if your sports writer could do a feature article on this fine young man.

We are also looking forward to a feature in "Meet the Coach" about Corey Van Fleet, the new swimming coach at Seaholm.

Thank you for a good job well done.

(MRS.) ALICE E. MELARTH  
 515 Abbey, Bham.

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