

## NCASL CONFERENCE SUMMARY

The North Carolina Association of School Librarians began its conference in Durham with *Dr. J. Lloyd Trump* as the first major speaker. Dr. Trump's provocative address included his definition of independent study and his ideas about who should pursue independent study, where it should take place, the role of classroom teachers, and the types of library facilities necessary for such study.

The orations of Quintilian, Roman rhetorician, provided Dr. Trump with his definition of independent study, the concept involved being that independent study begins when the teacher stops talking. He stressed independent study is for all pupils, regardless of talents, achievements, ability, age, or interests. It is two dimensional in that it consists of that which the school requires of everyone in every subject plus that which allows the student to follow his own special interest, going into greater depth OR being creative. To be creative one does not go into depth since not knowing so much about a subject allows one to be more creative.

According to Trump some of the study should take place on the premises of the school, other away from the premises of the school, in libraries in the community, museums, art centers, offices, shops in the community, social agencies, governmental agencies, making the transition from full-time school to full-time work hardly noticeable.

The Trump Plan would have teachers meet with students in groups twice each week in each subject for thirty-minute periods. During these thirty-minute periods the teacher would provide necessary motivation and supply materials which might not be found by the students, and students would be taught how to discuss, how to get along with each other, and how to communicate. Teachers would spend time planning, developing materials, overseeing the general program and occasionally visiting areas where students are pursuing independent study. Teachers would not supervise independent study.

Dr. Trump does not advocate the large type library resource center, which he indicated overwhelms people because of its tremendous size. He advocates resource centers for every subject, resource centers containing the tools of the trade in every subject field.

In a very inspiring speech at the banquet North Carolina author *Mebane Burgwyn* revealed the secret of her high standards of craftsmanship in writing for children by stating her writing must allow her to do three things: (1) Share experiences, incidents, places, people with others, (2) Be creative, (3) Answer questions children and young people ask wherever she goes. Her craft, she indicated, is concerned with the covering up of these three motives.

Mrs. Burgwyn indicated she is concerned *with* rather than about youth of today.

She added, "Young people are going through difficult days. Some of it, I believe, is the result of a lack of discipline and the need for strong authority figures. Many children have grown up without these figures of authority in their lives. And, adults are so impressed with young people, with how much they know, with how poised and secure they seem that we are all inclined to relax and to pull back the boundaries of discipline which might offer some degree of security. And we all this maelstrom of opportunity to crowd in on our young people and it is pretty bewildering to them sometimes. Such a lack of discipline leads to weak patterns of self discipline, I think, and somehow our young people have to search for their own patterns which will offer discipline."

*Dr. Frances Henne's* report concerning new media standards for school media programs concluded as she quoted from an intended portion of the new media standards, penned by her, which fell on the cutting room floor. It was, she indicated, a tribute to school librarians, a sign of appreciation from her as a citizen.

The media center can be a paradox. It is humdrum for some students because they are required to use it. Foremost, its resources are a never ending fount of information and imagination. To some only tedious facts are obtained for a stipulated requirement. To most there is the perennial adventure of probing, comparing, exploring. To many comes the thunderous impact of finding a great idea, a whole new world, or all the images and mysteries of man self-revealed. To each his own, and the media center neither belittles the one nor makes grandiose the other. It is a span of all the world's horizons encompassed in the breadth of the records of man that makes the media center a truly educational force — educational in the right sense, not pedestrian, not coercive, not forced, not superimposed, but alive, intriguing, stimulating, leading the young to realms in as well as beyond the domains of the classroom, making him aware of the blazing thoughts surrounding the world, of the many avenues for his individual endeavor and of the quieter moments of appreciation. Who can assay the wonder, peak curiosity, stimulation, and excitement that open to the child or young adult, when he comes upon one, several or many avenues that present and illumine the thoughts, aspirations, or records of man? The immensity of the concept of the media center is too often overlooked. That seemingly static space in the architect's blueprint is alive with its tremendous actuality and potentiality. Everything that man has thought, imagined, reported, stormed against, prayed for, dreamed and lived, to each young person the responses are manifold, not only in shared, already experienced belief but also in the opening, exciting vistas of the unknown. And *you* are there to help it.

---

## PUBLIC LIBRARY DECLARES ONE-DAY MORATORIUM ON FINES

In order to recover its overdue books and stimulate borrowing the High Point Public Library decided to let bygones be bygones on its birthday, November 11, by omitting all overdue charges that day. Handy book bins were placed at several convenient locations throughout the city for the convenience of overdue borrowers. Reminder cards were sent to known borrowers with overdue books, asking them to take part in No Fines Day and wish the library a happy birthday.