Opinion

The 'new math'

For some time now, puzzled parents have had the frustrating experience of trying to help son Johnny and daughter Jane with their mathematics homework, only to find that the schools are now teaching a "new" math which bears little similarity with "ordinary" math. And any parent who presumed to protest would be booted out of school as a hopeless old fogey.

Now cometh a report by the "National Assessment of Education Progress"—a federally funded project, by the way—based upon a nationwide representative sample of 34,000 17 year olds. And the results of the survey show that the vast majority of teenagers can't begin to solve the most common, everyday mathematical problems.

For example: if your property tax is $29.87 per $1,000 of assessed value, the tax on your property assessed at $14,900 would be closest to: (a) $400; (b) $420; (c) $450; (d) $470? Would you believe that 60% of the teenagers were unable to come up with the right answer (c)?

Or: a gallon of paint will cover about 250 square feet of surface area. To make the problem extra easy, the questioners specified that this paint is sold in gallon cans only. The question: How many gallon cans are needed to paint an area 48 feet long by ten feet wide? Far less than half—only 41%—of our "new math" generation came up with the right answer—two cans.

Even on the question: if there are 300 calories in nine ounces of a certain food, how many calories are there in a three-ounce portion of food, 30% of the 17 year olds were stumped for the answer (100 calories)!

The National Assessment also found that the vast majority of those surveyed could not correctly figure a taxi fare; could not balance a checkbook; and could not correctly calculate the unit cost for a common utility bill.

A great uproar recently followed President Ford's veto of a multi-billion dollar education bill, on the theory that Federal control and disbursement in the field of education is somehow beneficial. The fact is, there is no evidence to show that Federal education policies have been an aid to education. On the contrary, as the amounts of Federal money have increased over the years, the scholastic ability and achievement of the school children have gone down.

The message seems clear; let control of the schools, including the disbursement of money to support the schools, return to the local community where the people—both parents and teachers —know what is best for the children in their care.

20 and 40 years ago

Thursday, August 25, 1955

Busy Bee 4-H Club held its annual One Day camp Wednesday. The theme for the day centered on Indian Reservation. The group which was divided into tribes competed against each other in games and other activities.

Mrs. Roy Snapp won an all expense paid trip to Cumberland Falls in a contest sponsored by the Ball Milk Company.

Mrs. Jerry Moore, clerk in Kern's Grocery where the contest was held also won 25 dollars for sales during the contest.

An estimated crowd of 3,000 attended the annual Southern States Carlisle Cooperative fish-fry, talent round-up and election Thursday.

New directors elected for the Co-op were Everett Duncan, Howard Sides, Paul House and Leon Gray, chairman.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hamrick of Paris a daughter on Aug. 5.

MARRIED—Miss Ruby Helen Curry, Carlisle to Pvt. George A. Fields, Liberty, Ind. on Aug. 17.—Miss Ethel Frances Smoot, Carlisle to Walter Simrall, Lexington on Aug. 20.

DIED—John Snapp, Aug. 11 in Chicago.—Mrs. Sophia Hunter Chandler, 85, Monday in Fort Worth, Texas Hospital.—Mrs. Thomas R. Farris, 69, Saturday at Bourbon County Hospital.

Thursday, August 22, 1935

Despite a steady rainfall throughout the morning, approximately 1,500 people attended the dedication of the new museum at Blue Lick Battlefield State Park Sunday. The program was arranged to commemorate the 152nd anniversary of the Battle of Blue Licks, which took place on Aug. 19, 1782.

Three officers and 58 enlisted men of Howitzer Company 194th Infantry returned Saturday from Fort Knox after spending 15 days in the annual training. The local unit was awarded highest rating in sanitation and second in athletics.

Sixteen Nicholas county youths were called for examination and enrollment in the Civilian Conservation Corps. They were Omar Byrd, Brown Crawford, Elmer Crawford, Sanford Crockett, Charles Hamm, Hobart Hamilton, J.C. Honaker, W.H. Hunt, Calvin Letcher, Howard McCarty, Elvie Myers, Ray Payne, Virgil Ritchie, Jess Shrum, Dudley Vaughn, John Watkins and Frank C. Henry.

Harper's Garage reports the sale of 69 V-8 Ford cars thus far this year.

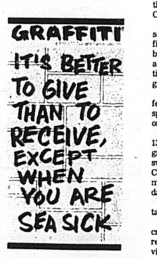
Water Works Superintendent Joe Clay has completed laying of the pipe line to the C.C.C. camp on the Piper farm near town.

At a meeting of Nicholas Chapter No. 41, Royal Arch Masons, Friday night the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Frank Huddleson, high priest; Robert C. Smathers, king; Frank C. Henry, scribe; W.T. Norton, treasurer; H.K. Veach, secretary; H.E. Colliver, captain of host; Sterling B. Blake, principal sojourner; Dr. A.T. Gardner, Royal Arch captain; E.G. Metcalfe, master third veil; E.R. Kendall, master second veil; Mark Kenton, master first veil; L.M. Gaffin, sentinel.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Herman McGinley, a son on Aug. 16.—To Mr. and Mrs. George Burberry, a daughter on Aug. 16.

MARRIED—Miss Dorothy Tilton and Albert Wheeler Curry, both of Lexington.

DIED—Benjamin Woodward, 74, Friday at a hospital in Lexington. —Houston Crawford at the Presbyterian Manse here on Thursday evening.—A.E. Tandy, 75, last Thursday while on his way from his place of business to his home in Warsaw.



IT MIGHT HELP TO MAKE HIM LOOK SMART

by Russ Metz

"Can you make him look like his rich uncle, doc?"

There's a pretty good chance Dr. Spiro Chaconas can, if you'll let him put your kid in braces for about six years.

This professor of the UCLA School of Dentistry has devised a system to look into the future and predict what a kid will look like when he is an adult.

He plots the position of 12 points on the face of a child about 10 years old, feeds the data into a computer and comes up with a picture of the face at age 16, when it goes out on its first date.

"We take this picture and show the parents what their child is going to look like when he is 16," Chaconas says. And if the kid comes out looking like the milkman, Richard Nixon or a poor relative, the good doc is in business.

Like the ancient Chinese who kept the feet of women small by binding them, this orthodontist uses force to reshape children's noses, jaws and lips. This was practiced many years in my hometown. It was then called street fighting. If you didn't like the looks of a kid's face, you could always invite him into an alley and try to change it.

Clever, those Chinese. They kept the women's feet small so they could buy the cheaper, children's size shoes when they were taken shopping. A few of the evil Chinese became monster makers, buying or stealing orphan children and making them hideous-looking to sell as freaks in circuses. This was done by breaking and distorting their limbs, slashing their faces and keeping them in small cages to break their minds and turn them into animals.

"We got the idea from primitive tribes," Chaconas said. "Some tribes in ancient South America used heavy braces to flatten the foreheads of their babies to make them look like the tribal chiefs."

He claims to have discovered a correlation between the growth of the upper jaw and the growth of the nose, and he says he can make the nose straighter than it would have been without braces.

"By manipulating the growth of the upper jaw, you are manipulating the growth of the nasal bone," he said. "We can make the nose somewhat smaller and straighter." Now he tells me. Where was he when I needed him the most.

"You got a Roman nose. It roams all over your face," the smart alecs used to tell me.

"Wanna try changing it," was the stock answer. And a few of them did temporarily alter it. The disadvantage of having a big nose is it offers a bigger target and bleeds a lot when suddenly flattened.

"We can do various things with the teeth to alter the shape of the lips, too," Doc Chaconas says.

This also tends to alter the shape of a parent's wallet, giving it a somewhat flatter appearance. The cost of making junior's mug look like its supposed to look comes to around $1500. Then you add another $1,000 for braces for the teeth and you have blown the price of a top tree dog and a new rifle with little to show for it. As soon as you get him rebuilt, you will never see him again. Unless you count the blur at the supper table and his dashes from the house to the car anything.

"Isn't he a handsome young man," my wife was saying the other day. "Such straight teeth, such a nice smile now."

"The next time, could you order an 8 x 10? It's hard to tell from these wallet-size school pictures."

—RM—

The reason guns are so misunderstood today is because they don't teach about them in school anymore. Not Little Red Hen, who found a grain of wheat and turned it into a conglomerate is too easily seen through as a fairy tale by kids, who know the chicken was already on welfare and you just can't improve on that.

You don't get many primers like the First Grade Reader printed in 1882 by Ginn & Co. for the State of Texas. It sold at the time for 18 cents new or 12 cents exchange. And one of the stories in it concerns a small girl named May, who is pictured looking at a rifle.

When the anti-gun lobby learns about this story, they probably will try to ban it in our national anthem. This is the way the story goes:

Here is Papa's gun.
I am, so glad. I can look at it all I wish.
I wish I could see Papa fire it.

He will not let me.
I'd like to fire a gun.
Brother Ben says he can.
It will not hurt me to look at it, anyway. I am going to do it.
May did look at the gun. She took it in her hand.
You see her doing it in the picture.
It cannot hurt me, I know, she said.
Poor little girl! The gun did hurt her.
It went off in her hand.
She is sorry now that she took it.
She shot her foot. Three toes are shot away.
I did fire a gun, Ben, she said, but I do not wish to again.

This is a good example of how the good old primers always had stories with a moral to them. Like toes are not the best things to shoot at if they happened to be your own.

And that is why all Texans want to be buried with their boots on. They don't want other folks to know they flunked out in the first grade.

Up, up and away.

'Oops, sorry! Just be thankful it wasn't high test.'

The Christian Science Monitor

Mercury Vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

Did you ever have the feeling that you'd been taken?

Now I have a distinct impression that such is the case—one might call it squirrel-ed—and why squirreled, well it all began several years ago. Come to think of it, back in the fifties I purchased two Concord specimen grape vines which were duly planted on the north east side of the backyard in town, approximately eight feet apart.

With only two plants, one might be accused of putting all his eggs in one basket.

For two summers those two vines had wet feet (roots) and somehow fell prey to the rotary push mower, though I thought their position well marked. They didn't make much upward progress, but I suppose they were able to develop a good root system.

In time they were moved to the west side of the yard where a sturdy arbor was set in concrete—there'd be no more accidental mowing, clipping back to ground level. Since their new position was near a storm sewer, they soon learned where to send that root system, and specimen vines they became. They set fruit each year and my only troubles were wasps, an occasional bird, a few young girls and the fact that I could never bring myself to follow Rebaury pruning instructs. You know, 50 or less buds to the vine.

Well one February, probably 1968 or nine, a helper and I dug them up, arbor and all will concrete still attached and hauled same to their present location on the western shore of Section C, Lake Carnico, lot C-212.

There've been some good years, some bad years, and now this year—the first year I brought myself to prune 'em by the book. I looked at my handy work and thought well, you've done it this time ole buddy. If you have a bunch of grapes you'll be lucky.

They received a little commercial fertilizer, plenty of rain and were sprayed once with an all purpose orchard spray.

Well, as of Wednesday morning, Aug. 13, things were looking up—there'd be grapes a-plenty. On my mowing sweeps, I'd ride by and sample a plump Concord now and then and think to myself, "Boy, they'll be good in a few days!!"

Well in the beginning I said I'd been taken!

First off I thought by two-legged creatures. Then closer inspection revealed the stems were still on the vine, the bunches sans grapes, the hulls on the ground under each vine. The dawn came! I'd been taken! The first year it was the plums on two dwarf Superior plum trees, the next year a dwarf Duchess pear lost its fruit to the nimble fingered varmits. They were developing some highbrow tastes.

And all along I just thought peanuts, corn and green hickory nuts in August was the bill-of-fare. Not so, they wanted and got the best of my meager grape crop.

I could almost take a few pot shots at 'em, but know I wouldn't. There are too damn many of them in this area, sorta like the ducks or the welfare programs—the more they get for nothing, the more they seemingly want.

—MV—

Revival Notices

Henceforth The Carlisle Mercury will handle "révival notices" in its news columns in this manner:

We will donate the equivalent of 10 per cent of the inch space that the revival advertisement occupies, (with a minimum reader space of one column inch or between 35 and 40 words). The story to be placed in the newspaper on the page of our choosing.

In addition, we will donate to the church organization a discount of 10 per cent from the base cost of all revival ads **paid for in advance.**

We support our church, and do not see the necessity of supporting all churches from a financial standpoint.

Several years ago we had it very ably pointed-out to us by the minister of a rather large congregation in Carlisle, that he wanted his revival notices published as advertisements—and not as news stories, as we had done. Since the establishment of a no news story policy, following this discourse, we have met some who violently oppose our way of reasoning.

Time has a way of mellowing ideas. We think our change in policy to the outlined method, will make for a closer working relationship with "the men of the cloth", so to speak.

*Please turn to page 5

MAGICWORD

HOW TO PLAY: Read the list of words. Look at the puzzle. You'll find these words in all directions — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards. Draw a circle around each letter of a word found in the puzzle then strike it off list. Circling it will show a letter has been used but will leave it visible should it also form part of another word. Find the big words first. When letters of all listed words are circled, you'll have the given number of letters left over. They'll spell out your MICWORD.

PICNIC CAPERS — Sol.: 11 letters

CLUES

A—Ale, Ants; B—Barbecue, Basket, Beach, Bench, Broil, Bun; C—Char, Coal, Corn, Cup; D—Drinks; F—Fire, Flames, Fluid, Foil, Franks, Fun; G—Grill; H—Hamburgers, Hike; I—Ice; J—Jump; K—Kindling; L—Lounge; M—Matches, Meal, Mitt, Music; N—Nature; P—Park, Pop; R—Roast, Romp, Run; S—Smoke; Summer, Swims, Swings; T—Table, Tea, Treat, Trees, Twigs; W—Wood

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: INVESTIGATIVE 171

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K	I	N	D	L	I	N	G	S	K	N	I	R	D	M
F	J	T	E	K	O	M	S	G	L	E	C	H	A	R
L	U	C	K	R	A	P	E	R	A	K	I	T	C	T
U	M	E	A	L	A	L	M	I	O	I	C	I	L	W
I	P	S	N	E	B	I	S	L	C	H	S	I	B	I
D	T	N	T	A	W	F	R	L	E	U	O	F	U	G
O	A	I	T	S	L	S	E	S	M	F	R	R	N	S
T	E	K	S	A	B	K	G	T	W	I	U	M	S	A
E	R	B	M	M	S	N	R	S	O	R	N	U	E	S
R	T	E	C	I	T	A	U	A	O	E	M	G	G	L
U	S	N	U	T	N	R	B	O	D	M	N	N	R	S
T	A	C	P	T	A	F	M	R	E	U	I	R	O	E
A	L	H	C	A	E	B	A	R	O	W	I	O	M	E
N	E	B	R	O	I	L	H	L	S	T	Y	C	P	R
F	U	N	B	A	R	B	E	C	U	E	P	O	P	T

Letters from our readers

To The Carlisle Mercury:

Persons concerned with the traffic problems between Paris and Lexington need to speak up for the proposed 4-lane highway. Presently there is opposition to its design which could mean extensive delays to this much needed road. There will be a meeting on the University of Kentucky campus the **28th of August to determine the highway's future.**

If you are interested in this highway, write me a letter or start a petition which I can present at this meeting. If you want to attend the meeting contact me at 289-5357.

Oliver Veach Berry
East Main St.
Carlisle, Ky. 40311

To The Carlisle Mercury:

As of this morning when I opened my newspaper, St. Petersburg Times, I was amazed to see an article that really shocked me—not dreaming that news from Nicholas county would be in a newspaper this far away. Also in the column of the weather forecast as it was predicting the weather for Florida also gave details of weather in other parts of the nation. Seems like Nicholas county was hit by a "flash flood", not stating what part, but that a four-year-old child was drowned which the name was very familiar. I don't know any of the particulars but it seemed so strange how news gets to the press box in St. Petersburg, Fla. I was very sorry to read of this sad occasion, and will be looking to get the Carlisle Mercury Saturday to read more about it.

Thought this would be interesting to let you know about this.

I look forward each week for the Carlisle Mercury and sometimes it's really sad to read of someone you have known for so long.

Thank you kindly for a "paper from home."

Sincerely,
Dorothy Eads

In Kentucky, slow-moving thunderstorms touched off a flash flood that swept a stalled car off a creek crossing in Nicholas county and drowned 3-year-old Bobby Bretz of Paris, Ky.

SENSING THE NEWS

Newspaper Column

By Anthony Harrigan

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

United States Industrial Council

918 STAHLMAN BLDG., NASHVILLE, TENN. 37201

TRUE RAIL REFORM

One of the essential elements of a sound national economy is an efficient railroad system operated on free enterprise principles. Such a system is a vital component in the nation's overall transportation system, which includes truck lines, barges and air line companies.

Unfortunately, excessive government regulation and paralyzing union influence have resulted in the crippling of major U.S. railroads in the Northeast and Midwest, notably the Penn Central railroad.

Only a few months ago the Rock Island line, which serves 756 communities and 1,668 grain elevators in 13 states, went bankrupt. This kind of disaster affects not only the stockholders of the affected lines but the residents of a vast region. In the Northeast, 45 per cent of the freight traffic is moved on the Penn Central, which is limping along on transfusions of money supplied by Congress.

In attempting to wrestle with the railroad problem, Congress passed the Railroad Reorganization Act in 1973 to deal with the widening rail crisis. Out of this has emerged the proposed-quasi-government "Conrail" system, which would provide service over bankrupt and near bankrupt lines.

Unfortunately, Conrail is likely to create more problems than it solves. It is a costly, poorly disguised step toward nationalization of U.S. railroads.

Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) recently said that Conrail "would require an enormous taxpayer subsidy of $2 billion initially, and could siphon off as much as $7 billion during the 14-year rehabilitation period. This is not only an unnecessary burden on the public, but it is also a dangerous step down the road of nationalization of the railroads."

Conrail isn't an answer to the rail crisis but it is simply another proposal for pumping taxpayer dollars into failing enterprises. Moreover, Conrail would do nothing about the antiquated railroad work rules, imposed by rail unions, which prevent railroads from operating in an efficient manner.

Not more government, but less is the proper approach to the troubled railroads. As Sen. Thurmond pointed out, "Congress must search deeper to find the real causes of the railroads' problems." He added, "Over a period of years, government has subjected the railroads to an impossible maze of unnecessary regulations, which have

CLASS REUNIONS HELD

Carlisle High School alumni hold annual banquet Saturday

Carlisle High School held its annual alumni banquet Saturday night at Blue Grass Industries Cafeteria. Over 200 persons attended the banquet, 149 of whom were alumni.

Officers elected for the coming year are Joseph H. Conley, president; Billy Guthrie, vice-president; Carolyn Terrell, secretary; and Billy Parker, treasurer.

Classes of 1925, 1935 and 1955 held class reunions during the day and after the banquet.

The class of 1917 won an award for having the largest percentage of members at the banquet. Of three living classmates, two were present.

Mrs. George Dale, president, introduced Robert Pitman of Lexington, the guest speaker and an alumnus.

Awards were presented to Lillian Alexander, class of 1911, and Victor Snapp, class of 1912, for being the oldest members present. Members of the last class at Carlisle High School (1963) were presented the youngest awards.

Annual reunions are held each year on the third Saturday in August.

The youngest members of this class, receiving awards, were Mrs. Bobby Hatton and Buddy Fecheck. Feeback is the grandson of Mrs. Alexander.

Carlisle High School members of the class of 1955 held their 20th reunion on Saturday at Carnico Country Club. They are Mrs. David Warren, Bimble; Mrs. Wayne Gaunce, Glasgow; Mrs. Don Hammonds; Cynthiana; and Mrs. Ralph Taylor. Back row, Jack Wells, Don J. Dampier of Frankfort; Kenneth Booth of Atlanta, Ga.; Joseph H. Conley; and Dr. Jack Shepherd, Georgetown. Attending the class reunion but not pictured is Mrs. Jerry Cameron of Frankfort.—Kingsolver photo

Of the 21 members who graduated from Carlisle High School in 1925, 17 are living and nine attended the alumni banquet on Saturday, Aug. 16. They are, from left, front row: Mrs. Geneva Galbraith Allison, Mrs. Lillian Mann Hollingsworth, Mrs. Clarine Hillock Gudgell, W.W. Cook; second row: Mrs. Blanch Collins Kenney, Clayton Huddleson, Mrs. Alzada Thompson Jennings, Mrs. Christine Myers Booth, and Mrs. Tempest Lawrence Saunders.

45th class reunion held Aug. 16

The 1930 graduating class of Carlisle High School held their 45th reunion on Saturday, Aug. 16, at 4 p.m. at Rock Haven Restaurant.

Of the 42 graduates, 31 are living and 15 were present. Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCann, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Darnall, Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Clark (Lucille Whaley), Raymond Kerns, Richmond, Ky., Mrs. Reynolds Allison (Lois Smith), Mrs. Ruth Elrod Anderson, Mrs. James Judge (Elizabeth Irvin), Miss Hallye Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Galbraith, Mr. and Mrs. Lovell Hollar, Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Hamm, Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Alexander, George Dale, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Talbert, Lexington, and Miss Mary Lois Campbell.

1935 class observes 40th reunion Saturday

The 1935 graduating class of Carlisle High School observed their 40th class reunion at the alumni banquet Saturday night at Blue Grass Industries Cafeteria.

Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lawrence of St. Petersburg, Fla.; Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Marshall (Daisy Sellers), Covington; Bill Branaman, Corbin; Mrs. Etta (Lawrence) Ledford, Lexington; Mrs. Clara (Conyers) McKee, Savannah, Ga.; Mr. and Mrs. Billy Conway, Manchester, Ohio; Mrs. Oma (Berry) Steele, Ind and Mrs. George Roberts Helen Hughes), Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Smart (Hazel Alexander), Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Eads (Ethel Smoot), Mrs. Ray Caswell (Thelma Hollar), Miss Alma Atkinson and William Power, all of Carlisle.

A social was held afterwards at the home of Mrs. Ray Caswell of Sycamore Hill. Honor guests were Mr. and Mrs. Chess Shearer of Lexington.

Other guests included Mrs. Caswell's two sisters, Mrs. Spencer Laughlin of Cincinnati, Ohio and Mrs. Willie T. Boaz of Paris.

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