

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ROTAGRAPH

Official Publication of the Rotary Club of Fort Worth, Texas

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Editorial

The Public School Dilemma

“Ready, Willing and Unable to Serve” is the title of a recently released Pentagon Report. Some 75% of young adults (ages 17-24) cannot join the military.

There are three crucial reasons why young Americans lack a high school diploma. The drop-out rate nationally is about 30%. And those who do graduate lack the academic skills to take their place alongside others in the workforce or in the military.

One in ten American youths cannot join the military because they have at least one prior conviction for a felony or serious misdemeanor.

Disqualification for health reasons is another central cause. But overweight tops the list. Some 27% of applicants fit this mold. Nearly 32% have other health problems. Still, others are not eligible because they have



Nathan C. Vail

drug or alcohol problems.

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Hugh Shelton, states it most succinctly: “The U.S. Military needs competent, healthy and educated individuals to staff the world’s most professional and technologically advanced military.”

Employers report: “What’s more, too few of those who graduate possess even the basic skills, too few can read well enough to fill out the applications. And they lack the communication skills to undergo a job interview.”

According to the Kiplinger Letter” “Critics blame U.S. mediocre performance on inferior text books, less knowledgeable teachers and less demanding classes.”

That is despicable when you con-

sider that 21.1% of State Budgets are spent on K-12 education. The Department of Education spends another 1.5% of the U.S. Budget. And the demand increases each year.

The trend: 21% of jobs in the immediate future will require more than a high school diploma.

Mr. Tony Wagner, author of the recently published “The Global Achievement Gap,” had extensive experience, over some 30 years, in the public school arena. He states that public school “course curricula and teaching practices have remained pretty much the same for 50 years or more.” He attributes this to “tests students must take in high school for state-accountability purposes usually measure to the 9th or 10th grade level.” Students spend much of their day “practicing” for tests. Deficient teachers carry on to the detriment of quality education. Bottom line: “Work, learning and citizenship in the 21st Century demands that students know how to think, to reason, analyze, weigh evidence, problem solve and communicate effectively.”

Public schools are being left in the dust as private schools (parents) *(Continued on Page 4)*

SPEAKERS:

Tom Grieve, Analyst
Jarrold Saltalamacchia, Catcher
Texas Rangers Baseball

Chairman for the Day:
Wayne Carson

Program
February 5, 2010

FORT WORTH CLUB

NEWSCAST: *J.R. Labbe*

Last Meeting



Jim Parr

Last Friday's Rotary gathering looked like an international club meeting with numerous members and guests dressed in the traditional shawls and attire of Swaziland, Africa.

Rotarian and international traveler, *Carlo Capua*, presented a fascinating description of his several trips to this tiny African nation in both words and pictures. The focal point of his presentation was his most recent visit to the capital city of Mbabane just last September.

It was a trip including seven other Rotarians along with members of Sister Cities, Samaritan House, the City Council, and other local partners. They journeyed over thirty six hours to deliver more than 2,800 books to elementary age children, And not just any books. These books, written and illustrated by children in Fort Worth, told the story of the Angels who had guided and comforted their lives in the midst of the loss of family

or friends to HIV/Aids.

Carlo pointed out the obvious connection to the children of Swaziland, which suffers the worst AIDS epidemic of any nation—with somewhere above 25% of its population infected, resulting in an average life expectancy of only 32 years!

All is not grim however, and *Carlo* showed pictures of children filled with hope and with a real thirst for the knowledge that reading brings. His words and images confirmed another meaningful contribution made by our club, the International Services Committee, and our Endowment Fund.

One of the other participants in the effort, *Ann Rice*, introduced the program looking mighty sharp in a Swaziland shawl with the phrase "Suo Bono."

Nancy Ricker introduced the numerous gusts and visitors while *Gyna Bivens* offered a crowd-pleasing newscast. Our club's newest member, *Wayne Smith* was introduced to the club, while *David Lamkin* and *William Fitzgerald* graduated to their blue badge status.

~ Jim Parr,
William C. Jennings Co.



C-A-T....R-O-T-A-R-Y

The Rotary Club of Fort Worth is looking for a few good spellers to participate in the Corporate Spelling Bee this year. Our team will consist of three spellers. We might even have to have a spell off so that we can bring our very best team to the Bee. If you have an interest in serving on the Rotary Club team, contact *Mitch Reitman*.

The Corporate Spelling Bee is hosted this year by the Tarrant Literacy Coalition. The Bee will be at the Trinity River Campus of the Tarrant County College in downtown Fort Worth on March 31.

Next Week's Program

February 12, 2010

SPEAKER:
Hal Jeffcoat

President,
Texas Wesleyan University

Chairman of the Day:
Mac McLain

ROTARIAN: Marianne Irvin, Jerry Hendrix, Charleen Goldston

ROTARIAN: Tim McKinney, Ann Rice, Sue Matkin

ROTARIAN: John Phillips

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Friday's Speakers



Tom Grieve and Jarrod Saltalamacchia

Tom Grieve will be in his 15th season as the analyst in the Rangers' television booth after debuting on Prime Sports broadcasts in 1995. He has been with the Washington/Texas franchise for nearly 40 of his 41 years in professional baseball.

Named the Rangers' Vice President and General Manager September, 1984 Grieve became the youngest General Manager in baseball at the time. He remained in the position until September, 1994, still the longest tenure of any General Manager in team history. Grieve was the Senators' first round pick in the October, 1966 June free agent draft after an outstanding high school career in his hometown of Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He played in the majors with the Senators, Rangers, Mets and Cardinals from 1970-79. Grieve was the Rangers' Player of the Year in 1976 with career bests of 20 homers and 81 RBI.

He joined the Rangers' front of-

...fice as director of group sales in 1980, became assistant director of player development in 1981, and was promoted to director of player development after the 1982 season.

Tom and his wife, Kathy, have three children, all accomplished athletes. His oldest son Tim, a 1994 graduate of Texas Christian University, pitched in the Kansas City and Arizona organizations and is now a Texas scout for the Detroit Tigers. His son Ben was the 2nd pick in the nation in the 1994 June draft. In 1998 he was the American League's Rookie of the Year with the Oakland A's. Daughter Katie was an all-state volleyball player at Arlington Martin HS and went on to play at Auburn University. She graduated from the University of Texas in 2000.

Jarrold Saltalamacchia began 2009 as the club's starting catcher and appeared in a career-high 84 games for Texas before having his season cut short by complications with Thoracic Outlet Syndrome...spent just over 2 weeks on the disabled list in

Make-Up Attendance

Western Fort Worth — 01.26.10 — Clem Constantine
 01.26.10 — Harry Knudsen
 01.26.10 — Don Pierson

late August with right shoulder soreness and ultimately had season-ending surgery to alleviate the symptoms on Sept. 21...eclipsed 200 at bats for the first time in the major leagues, establishing new career-highs in home runs, RBI and runs scored...hit the 5th extra-inning grand slam in team history on May 5 at Seattle...the grand slam came in the 10th inning of a 7-2 victory on May 5 at Seattle...blast came off right-hander Denny Stark during a 6-run rally by the Rangers in that frame to break a 1-1 deadlock...started 82 games as the Rangers catcher, 5th-most by any A.L. backstop at the time of his disabled list placement on Aug. 15...was on the 15-day disabled list from Aug. 15-Sept. 1 due to complications in his right shoulder related to Thoracic Outlet Syndrome...was the first DL stint of his career...Jarrod and wife Ashley have two daughters, Sidney (12/27/06), and Hunter Riley (12/20/07), and reside in West Palm Beach, Fla...attended Royal Palm Beach (Fla.) High School...hobbies include hunting and fishing.

Years of Service:

Dolph Compere, 39 Years

Dee Finley, 31 Years

Bill Collins, 27 Years

Jim Whitton, 25 Years

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ROTARIAN: Nancy Gibson

ROTARIAN: Walter Littlejohn

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February Birthdays

- 1 Beth Rivers
- 2 Randall Mays, Bob Scott
- 3 Brandy O'Quinn
- 4 Greg Petrey, Joel Burns
- 5 Mary Kathryn Anderson, Oscar Amparan
- 7 Eric Fox, Joanne Baumer, Bernie Toobin
- 8 Walter Littlejohn, Frank Sherrill, Chris Brooks
- 11 Tom Law, Jr., Don Shisler
- 12 Don Cosby, Fred White
- 13 Richard Kurz
- 14 Justin Harlin, Dave Lamkin
- 15 Jay Downie
- 17 Angela Robinson
- 18 Doug Thompson, Sherm Cundiff, Bill Parrish, Robert Earley
- 19 Cleve Lancaster
- 21 Gary Moates
- 23 Richard Vigness, Paula Parrish, Robin Sloane, Jack Hove
- 24 David Henderson
- 27 Sy Sohmer

Editorial

(continued from page 1)

siphon off those desiring a quality education. Drop-outs are rare at best and most go on to a four-year college. The same is true of those who are increasingly being home schooled.

What can and ought to be done to at least change this public school trend? The most proven approach is high-quality early education (Pre-K) for at-risk kids which increases graduation rates by 20% and reduces crime by 25%. At-risk children without quality education were 70% more likely to commit violent crimes.

The final dimension is parents. In the main they, too, have failed. They are not sending to school students well-fed, dressed, rested and prepared for instruction. Students lack the discipline to submit to the standards set by principals and teachers.

Rotary, I submit, should shift its resources to pre-school to help turn around the quality of the high school graduates in the future.

~Nathan C. Vail

Compass International Inc.

Jim is the owner of the Salt Creek Properties. *Jim* received his B.B.A. in Accounting at the University of Texas at Arlington. *Jim* is a member of the Fort Worth Airpower Council, and is involved with Camp Summit and Jewel Charity organizations. *Jim* enjoys golf, hunting and fishing. *Jim* is married to Donna, and has 2 grown children.

ROTARIAN: Bo Soderbergh, Mary Kathryn Anderson

ROTAGRAPH

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Publication office, 715 Fort Worth Club Building 76102
TELEPHONE: (817) 332-7977 — FAX: (817) 335-4759

EMAILS: neva@rotaryfortworth.org
rotaryoffice@rotaryfortworth.org

WEBSITE:
www.rotaryfortworth.org

Executive Office, 715 Fort Worth Club Building
Luncheon Friday, 12:15 p.m., 12th Floor
Fort Worth Club Building
Neva Williams, Executive Director
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ROTAGRAPH

Drew Martin	Editor
Associate Editors	
Robert Gleason	Last Meeting
Paula Parrish	Advertising
Betty Harvey	Personals
Pat Dohoney	New Members
Drew Martin	Editorials

Personals

If you didn't see the film during the Fiesta Bowl half-time show on Ira, you should. The film was made by *Suzy Williams'* son Tim. To view the piece go to: www.thunderboltfilms.com/thunder and click on travelogue on second page.

Workplace Literacy Summit

February 24, 2010
8 a.m.
Fort Worth Club

Registration is \$50 per person

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