

THE OUTSTATER

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commonly accepted accounting procedures do not apply. Yes, there are more or less accurate listings of pencils and desks and computers and union sick days. There is no independent counting, however, of what really counts — student enrollment, actual or projected.

The citizens of the FWCS taxing district, as well as the State Legislature and Board of Accounts, must take the word of a bureaucrat elite in the matter of the single bit of data that is both wheel and pulley for all the various financing machinery of government education.

The gentleman at the next table, untrained in modern journalistic technique, would sooner accept a declaration of import on Canadian whiskey signed by Al Capone.

THE PINK NEWSROOM

Noted in the *Wall Street Journal* last week was a small item announcing that more than a dozen U.S. newspaper corporations would attend a gay journalist employment fair.

We found ourselves wondering again how the newsroom ethical police will handle this new dynamic.

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As we understand the nature of both the political and scientific debate, the demand is that gaydom be elevated from a pathological condition or mere sexual preference to the status of one of several natural human divergences like hair or skin color.

The difference and the problem, as Gen. Colin Powell has pointed out, is that hair or skin color does not determine behavior while sex is one of its most powerful determinants.

A gay editor, like any other editor, might be convincing in a contention that he did not allow his sexually motivated behavior to play a part in news or editorial judgment. But when the matter is the special interest of organized homosexuals, how can the argument for anonymity be made? The question is especially critical when one considers that the more extreme of the gay movement consider themselves members of a sexually determined political party.

And finally, if gays have reached the point they are organizing employment fairs, what's to keep secret? Isn't gay diversity something the politically correct newspaper or editor

would want to make known — to promote, even?

INVESTIGATIVE PROPAGANDA

We've been reading "redlining" stories for more than 20 years now. It's a relatively easy story to get. A couple of reporters trot down to the nearest Federal Reserve Bank on a slow day and, using government-mandated records, determine where local loan officers are approving loans and where they are not.

Surprise of surprises, there will be a section of the city, any city, where loans are being "denied."

What has always been missing in these stories — because it is unofficial information; that is, information the newspaper would have to go to considerable expense and time to collect — is whether or not those in the red-lined areas pay back loans.

The only discrimination anybody ever finds is the kind that most editors don't print, e.g. banks would rather not make mortgages of less than \$40,000 because bureaucratic costs and federal regulations make them unprofitable.

It is discouraging to note that nothing has changed. From the *Wall Street Journal*: "When it comes to buying a home, not all Americans are created equal. If you're black, it's twice as likely your mortgage application will be rejected as it is if you're white."

Read further in the massive story, however, and you discover that, as a sidebar put it, "Credit-history information on applicants — a key element in lending decisions — did not have to be reported to federal regulators, so it couldn't be evaluated."

ONE JOURNALIST'S WISH LIST

An officer of this foundation keeps in his wallet a much-folded list of research projects that have hold of his professional heart — that is, projects which never seem justified by the time or resources at hand but projects which keep looming as huge gaps in his public discussions.

Every editor I've known keeps a similar list in the form of a list of three-part series that all of his peers agree to be of Pulitzer caliber if not cosmic import — a list, though, that never actually gets assigned to print.

Well, here's mine, compiled with some help from the other officers and Adam Meyerson, president for educational affairs at the Heritage Foundation.

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TEACHERS, HERE ARE YOUR ISTA DUES AT WORK

"Organized labor was a 20th-century phenomenon. Membership will decline to 7 percent by the end of the century, just where it was at the turn of this century. Only public-employee unions are vibrant. They have no competition and now make up 40 percent of the organized workers."

— Professor Leo Troy of Rutgers University

The IPR has obtained what purports to be the salary and benefit structure for the employees of the Indiana State Teachers Association — all 117 of them, as of August 1992. And after taking a close look at the six-figure salaries, extraordinary benefits and perks, all we can say is that organizing teachers certainly pays better than teaching.

Bill Styring, firing up his trusty calculator, estimates the total compensation package (salaries plus benefits) of 40 ISTA employees to be in excess of \$100,000 per year, many a whole lot more. Even the lowliest clerical employee makes more than many starting teachers. Here are some more findings from Styring's special report (pages 25-32):

■ The ISTA has contrived — legally — for 20 of its employees to be covered by the State Teachers Retirement Fund. Incredibly, that means Indiana taxpayers are picking up the pension tab for people who are lobbying their legislators to tax them more.

■ The teachers' association supplies 49 automobiles to staff members. "And they ain't Yugos," Styring remarks. The cars must

be Olds Cutlass Supremes or equivalent and must be equipped with "light group, power brakes, power steering, automatic transmission, air conditioning, tinted glass, variable speed delay windshield wipers, cruise control, heavy duty suspension, AM-FM radio, automatic trunk release, clock, steel-belted white wall tires, body side moldings, power seat, power door locks, dual mirrors, rear window defogger." In addition, there's a \$750 credit toward any other options of the employee's choice.

■ Employees tooling around in these ISTA-mobiles get 3,000 free personal miles and pay only a mercenary 10 cents per mile beyond that.

■ ISTA higher-ups get \$1,000 for "companion" travel each year, presumably to tote wives or other loved ones, as the case may be, to meetings held at various desirable locations throughout the country.

This lifestyle would be impossible, of course, if the ISTA didn't hold our children hostage in the government school system. Indeed, if students could enroll in any school in the state, public or private, with state education dollars following the students and the best teachers rather than being distributed as political reward, there would be no need whatsoever for the ISTA or its monstrous parent, the National Education Association.

That's why the men and women in Indianapolis pulling down those \$100,000 salaries don't think of parental choice as mere reform. It's their pink slip. — tcl



THE CULTURE WATCH

We offer you this excerpt from the "Miss Manners" column in the Sept. 8th Indianapolis Star as a reference point of how far the other side has advanced in its war against the culture known as Western Civilization. Miss Manners is responding to a reader who wants to know the general rules of etiquette covering the two principles of an extra-marital affair.

1. Third parties should never be placed in a position where they feel they must assist in a cover-up of behavior they do not approve.

2. One should not violate the privacy of one's spouse, even on the classic excuse that the spouse doesn't understand one.

3. Third parties should not be made to witness any physical displays of affection.

4. The possessions of a spouse (bathrobes, towels, etc.) should not be lent for use without that person's knowledge and consent. — tcl