



### SPORTS

Bloomington youths participate in soccer and baseball leagues. See articles on page 6.



### EDUCATION

Many move to Bloomington for the quality of the schools. See more of our focus on Education on pages 8 & 9.

# The Bloomington Gazette

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## FOCUS ON EDUCATION

### Blueprint 2000

#### Florida's quest for school improvement and accountability

by Janice E. Arnold-Jones and Oliver Boody

In the spring of 1991, Florida's Legislature raised a white flag and admitted the educational system was broken and needed fixing. They acknowledged that decades of meddling in the why, where and, most importantly, the how of public school education had not provided a viable system. The Legislature's resolve through BLUEPRINT 2000 is to provide clear guidelines for achieving educational quality by returning responsibility for education to those closest to our students; that is the schools, teachers, and parents. This legislation throws down the gauntlet and challenges communities to raise standards by decentralizing the system, leaving school districts and schools free to design learning environments and experiences which better meet the needs of each child.

BLUEPRINT 2000 is the most daring and controversial renovation of Florida's education system in the last two decades. It has two objectives: accountability and school improvement.

Accountability addresses the cascading chain of command upon which responsibility for implementation of BLUEPRINT 2000 ultimately rests. The chain begins in Tallahassee with the Legislature, the Florida Department of Education, and the newly created Florida Commission on Education Reform and Accountability. These agencies have approval and oversight authority that transfers down to school districts. Each school is the end-terminal where accountability and responsibility resides. Authority, however, to determine inadequate progress, resolution, funding and spending, still resides in Tallahassee.

School Improvement requires a shift from teaching "the material" to teaching to achieve specific results, described as "outcome based results". For example, instead of "How many students understand an algebraic equation?" the new approach will be "How many students can successfully apply algebra in solving a problem?" Standards are written to reflect the highest level of expectation because it is believed that ALL students can learn. To ultimately reach these standards, schools must continually improve. School improvement teams are responsible for mapping out how their curriculum addresses each standard and each goal.

Outcome based education will require retraining educators, both in the way they teach and in the way they assess student performance. Administrators will have to revise their methodology and management styles. Traditional methods of determining student progress are being re-thought, including new grading concepts. Grading may be done subjectively by the teacher based on each student's ability and achievement. Additionally, samples of a child's work will be contained in a portfolio that will follow their educational career. Cooperative learning is being encouraged throughout many disciplines. At this time, methods of assessment have not been determined for all outcomes described in BLUEPRINT 2000.

#### What is Accountability and BLUEPRINT 2000?

From the House Committee on Public Schools Appropriations Summary: (May 1991)  
"BLUEPRINT 2000 creates a new system of school improvement and education accountability based upon the achievement of state education goals and upon an intent to return the responsibility for education to the schools, teachers, and parents. The commission on Education Reform and Accountability is established to recommend details of the program and to monitor implementation. Schools are directed to do a needs assessment and to develop school improvement plans designed to meet state and local goals. The public will be informed of each school's progress

## Building self-esteem in children

by Susan Narup

Think back to when you were a child. Remember all those feelings of uncertainty and insecurity? All the questions? While being young was often a wonderful time, it certainly wasn't easy!



Joe Pergola Family Life Specialist

Studies indicate that children with high self-esteem tend to do better in school. In many ways, self-esteem helps young people have the confidence to face life's challenges. Lithia Springs Elementary parents started off the new year by attending a "Parenting: the Underdeveloped Skill" workshop titled "How to be a Somebody Maker: Building Self-Esteem in Children". The workshop featured guest speaker Tampa Bay Area Family Life Specialist Joe Pergola, Hillsborough County Extension Services, University of Florida IFAS. Pergola immediately put parents at ease by stating improvement, not perfection, would be the goal of the workshop.

"Mirrors", a film sponsored by the Keebler Company, reflected that a positive self-image will help your children resist the temptations of drug and alcohol use. The family plays an important role in helping develop a positive self-image.

Pergola pointed out the difference between long-range parenting, which develops responsible adults with life skills, and short-range parenting, which results in co-dependent, rebellious, or unhealthy pleasing adults. The

long-range parenting skills encourage children to solve their problems while teaching them the skills to do so. It allows the child to make mistakes yet seizes the opportunity to learn from the mistakes. The long range parent listens and is nonjudgmental. Conversely, the short-range parenting deals only with the child's behavior, not the beliefs behind the behavior. The adult is in control instead of the child, which discourages problem-solving skills. The short range parent tries to prevent the child from making mistakes; the child's behavior is guided by rules, not decision-making. In effect, the child lacks responsibility for his or her own behavior.

Parents, when asked what they had learned, responded favorably to the long range parenting skills presented by Pergola. One parent hopes to "encourage the positive rather than pointing out the negative"; another encourages parents to "do things with your child rather than to, for, or neglecting" your child. Yet another parent said, "Prepare and empower rather than protect and control."

To help children believe in themselves, Mr. Pergola offers the following tips which may be taped in a visible place to be kept them in mind everyday:

- Communicate openly with your children.
- Be a good listener.
- Include your children in family discussions. Value their opinions.
- Try to understand your children's point of view. Remember how you felt at their age.
- Give your child responsibilities appropriate for their age.
- Set firm limits. Young people need to know what is expected of them.
- Be generous, yet sincere when offering praise and encouragement.
- Help your children set goals and work together toward accomplishing those goals.
- Remember that winning isn't everything. Trying is what is important.
- Be a positive model.

## News anchor urges parental responsibility

by Mary Karcher

Madonna, MTV, profanity on the radio, white collar crime, disrespect. These are but a few of the challenges confronting parents according to former channel 10 news anchor John Wilson. Alafia Elementary invited Wilson to their January PTA meeting.

Media reflects the changing world; Wilson emphasized that "adults set bad examples in every aspect of life — judges, members of Congress, news anchors, bankers, clergy, and sports heroes" have disregarded the standards of right and wrong. He laments that children have few real heroes. Society instead offers a negative outlook of the future through Wilson's statistics:

- 1 out of 5 businesses report computer theft
- 1 out of 4 people become a victim of domestic violence
- 1 out of 50 people get AIDS
- 1 out of 5 people are involved in auto accidents

However Wilson encouraged parents to accept their responsibility to guide children to a brighter future. "As parents," Wilson slowly stated in his deep voice, "we have to do a better job." It is the responsibility of parents to improve our schools. His children attended a school in need of encyclopedias and a fence for protection from a busy road. Wilson said that parents should not have let that happen. The PTA rallied and the school soon had new encyclopedias and a fence.

Despite Wilson's realistic view of the breakdown of morals, it is clear that he is proud of our society. After a trip to Moscow in 1991, he truly appreciated the hospitals,

schools, democratic government, and freedom that Americans have. The school books in Moscow were from the 1920's; doctors' methods were behind current procedures; and workers hired to make hamburgers and fries at the first fast-food restaurant needed years of training to achieve the high standards the American company required.



Photo by Shirley Hefner

John Wilson, news anchor, encourages parents to take an active role in their children's lives.

The Alafia parents were critical of both radio and television programs which are not meant for children, yet are aired during hours which children would be listening. Wilson encouraged parents to watch television with their children and to talk to them about what they see. And finally, he insisted that parents write a post card or call a news or radio station to voice their opinion of programs, both positive and negative. Parents have power when they refuse to support the advertisers.

# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

## From the editor . . .

### OF NEW BEGINNINGS . . .

Our White House has a new President and the country has a new beginning. People, like countries, need new beginnings. A time to regroup, renew, readjust. A time to consider what works, what could be improved, and what should be discarded. New beginnings offer hope.

All that we are and even all that we have the potential to be, is determined by our beginning — our childhood. As a child, we develop a sense of self-worth; a faith in our capabilities; and a curiosity to explore, to learn. We are naturally eager to touch, taste, watch, and listen. We are eager to walk and to reach for that which is just beyond our grasp.

When formal education begins, our natural inclinations carry us forward. Yet the success of schooling is dependent upon nurturing those natural tendencies to explore. There are many teachers in a child's life: parents, grandparents, neighbors, friends, and of course, school teachers. Some teachers will use a child's natural tendencies to plot a map for learning. This map will indeed be a treasure map for the curious child. The "treasure" lies in the child's own success, resulting from meaningful, often tangible accomplishments. Other teachers may try to channel a child down an assembly line, inevitably geared to limit individuality, consequently inhibiting curiosity, and tending to define what a child does not know. Mark Twain said, "Soap and education are not as sudden as a massacre, but they are more deadly in the long run."

The positive influence of a good teacher is everlasting. Who cannot picture at least one perceptive, interesting teacher who has made a major impression in one's life? Who does not remember a project which required much attention and sweat-of-the-brow, yet yielded much satisfaction? How about a special activity that gave you a chance to think or create? I can still remember my fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Waters, reading *Charlotte's Web* to the class, a little bit each day, all of us eager to hear about Wilbur the pig and the education Charlotte gave to him.

This issue is dedicated to education; to learning; and to new beginnings. Some of the issues raised in this month's paper are controversial. Feel free to respond by writing a letter to the editor.

I encourage you to think about your children's education, as well as your own education. Parents are their children's models. Read. Explore. Ask questions. Learning never truly ends.

*Mary Karcher*

## Principals speak out...

### How we improve our schools

#### Lithia Springs Elementary

by Constance S. Gilbert

Children arrive at the doorstep of schools today with many different problems and attitudes from children of yesteryear. Today's society and lifestyles expose children to issues and experiences unheard of during our childhood.

Schools must be prepared to meet the challenges presented to them as children expect teachers to be as entertaining as their electronic games; ask questions about AIDS, condoms, relationships; and need personalized attention because of dysfunctional families. Schools must prepare students for challenges they will meet as they participate as members of society. Educators must teach children to think logically, become problem solvers, live and work cooperatively with peers, and make good choices when presented with difficult decisions. Appropriate resources, human and financial, must be designated to

enable schools to accomplish these tasks. Educators, parents, community leaders, and business partners must work together to plan what is best for the local school and then do whatever it takes to get the job done.

*Constance S. Gilbert is the principal of Lithia Springs Elementary School.*

#### Brooker Elementary

by Milton Lovelace

I believe schools can be improved by empowering parents, teachers, principals, and other staff at local school sites, to make the critical educational decisions about their students and the educational program they receive. The goal of every school should be to help students become contributing, knowledgeable citizens in our democratic and world society.

The Accountability Act, known as "Blueprint 2000", recently passed by the legislature, has given every school the opportunity to make advances toward the goal of improving the

education for all students. I believe it is a challenge well worth the time and effort.

*Milton Lovelace is the principal of Brooker Elementary School.*

#### Burns Junior High

by Linda Kipley

Improving our schools is the main focus to which Hillsborough County Schools has committed itself. Each school is writing their own plan based upon its needs and desired outcomes. I personally believe you need to involve the community, parents, students, teachers, and staff in this process. We all need to work together and commit ourselves to goals from which we can evaluate and grow. Our main focus should be student outcome. Are we preparing them successfully for their future?

*Linda Kipley is the principal of Burns Junior High School.*

(Ed. note: These principals responded to a request from the paper to provide their opinions.)

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## MEETINGS

All meetings take place at the Bloomingdale Community Office. These are monthly public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

### SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

Second Monday of the month at 7:30 pm

### BHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm

### THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm

### BLOOMINGDALE OAKS SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

First Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm

### MEETINGS FOR MOBILE WATCH & NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Watch this listing for dates & times. The meetings are held on a per need basis.

## Help us help you

Our readers have responded to this column by sending articles and suggestions. Thank you! We hope you will continue to support the only Bloomingdale newspaper that truly represents your homeowners' association. The BHA publishes this paper and our foremost purpose is to be the link between the homeowners and the board of directors. This is YOUR paper. It will follow YOUR needs and suggestions. Please have a voice and let us know your opinion. As always, we welcome signed letters to the editors addressed to our community office at 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 101.

We are in need of a 35 mm camera. If you have one which you could donate, please let us know. We also accept pictures which reflect our community's lifestyle. Share your snapshots with us!

Our community is full of people who dedicate their time and energy to sports programs, schools, charity, or neighborhood improvements. Do you know someone who deserves recognition for their contributions? Let us know. Kids, don't forget your teachers, coaches, or even your best friends who do good deeds.

In the coming months we hope to feature sports happenings. We have received support from BAYSL's John Bard and Bloomingdale Little League's Alan Berry. If you have a sports story to tell, let us know.

## Letter to the Editor Another Fad?

Apprehension about BLUEPRINT 2000 abounds, just as one would expect with any plan that promotes change. Could it be just another program-of-the-month from Tallahassee? Many educator and parents are, unfortunately, taking a "wait and see" approach. Detractors do not like the program because it is a change from the old way of doing things, which not too many years ago was the current program-of-the-month from Tallahassee. Regardless, change is coming and like it or not, BLUEPRINT 2000 is law! The only alternative to BLUEPRINT 2000 is a grass-roots revolution that convinces the legislature to rescind the law.

Parents and business members of community must help make schools "centers of excellence". Their involvement with BLUEPRINT 2000 and the evolution of its programs will create a working partnership between each school and its community. This is the public's opportunity to take back and keep control of schools, rather than acquiesce to the demands of the Florida

Legislature. If parents do not get involved this time, it will be a clear signal that parents are unwilling to back up their complaints with action. A lack of participation will only encourage and support the retention of an ineffective, massive bureaucracy that continues to feed on itself. Whatever becomes of BLUEPRINT 2000 will be a direct reflection of the most dominate stakeholders in this process. Sadly, parents and business members are minority voices for most School Improvement Teams. Those voices must speak out and be heard.

Oliver Boody and  
Janice E. Arnold-Jones

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Attend the BHA sponsored Community meeting with the Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation Department

February 9th - 7:30 p.m.

Bloomingdale Community Office



Laura Hammett and Annah Rustenberghe try to think of the last line of their poem.

## Partners in writing at Brooker

*"I worked with Kevin Beddow. He was a joy. And I learned a lot from him, too! Like how he prefers his stories. And he was so interesting. I felt really good when he laughed or smiled at me. It was a real learning experience! I loved it!"*

Kendra Andrews

*"I love to write with her, but the best part is when she lets me color the pictures."*

Kevin Beddow

by Mary Karcher

What have these Brooker Elementary students discovered about writing? That writing with a partner is fun.

The writing partnerships pair Ms. Joyce Gregory's fifth grade students with Mrs. Melinda Willham's kindergartners or Mrs. Helen Conley's first graders. The fifth graders have been writing storybooks with the younger students

since October. Ms. Gregory is enthusiastic about the program, "This is a super learning experience for my class. They actually see the steps necessary in writing a book."

This month the writers have been busy creating Valentine poems. Often a drawing spurs their imagination. Kendra Andrews used Broc Gome's picture of "heartman", a huge heart with a smiling face, hands, and feet, to help Broc write, "Roses are red, violets are blue; There is a heartman who really loves you."

To observe these children writing is to see the creative thought process at work. Students are comfortably sitting on the floor, some laying on their tummies, talking, listening, writing, and drawing. There is very little interaction needed from the teachers; the fifth graders' visit is obviously a special occasion to the kindergartners.

Melissa Reinstein zeroed in on Joseph Buckley's love of kittens to write their poem:

Melissa: "One more poem. What do you want to write about?"

Joseph: "Kitties!"

Melissa: "There was a little kitty who was black and blue. Who needed some love . . ."

Joseph: "LOTS of love!"

Melissa: "Who needed lots of love just for you!"

When asked if he had a kitty, Joseph said he did not, but added, "Someday, when I grow up!" Until then Joseph is excited to write about kitties.

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### Tax tips

#### Home office deductions

Robert J. Morris, CPA, CTP

On or about Jan 12, 1993, the Supreme Court unfortunately sent a disturbing message to the public severely curtailing the legal definition allowing a home office deduction on your tax return. In a 8 - 1 decision they stated that taxpayers who do not spend a majority of their work related hours in their home office, in general, may not take deductions for that home office on their tax returns.

Final analysis of this ruling had not been completed at the time of preparing this article, but it definitely throws a spotlight on the deductibility of these expenses. It initially appears that more record keeping is required to substantiate the time allocated and work performed in the office as compared to total work time. You may also be required to document the old who, what, when, where, and why detail requests in other areas of deductible expenses and be able to support the detail.

For those taxpayers affected by this rule, you need to determine if your deduction benefit is substantial enough to warrant the risk of review and the time and cost expended to defend your position. If the deduction is relatively minor, you may need to determine if the benefits are worth the potential risks and discuss the facts with your tax advisor before proceeding any further. For those taxpayers whose deductions may be substantial and warranted I suggest you seek advice on how to document the necessary details to defend your position.

In all of the wisdom of the Supreme Court, they once again have made a ruling that does not define the parameters accurately. They have done nothing more than to confuse the issue with ambiguous rhetoric such that only time and wasted energies will be spent testing this ruling in the future. Once again, the small self-employed individual will most likely carry the load and lose the most.

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## BSHS band announces All County members

by Nancy Waters

Ted Hope, Director of Bands at Bloomingdale High School, proudly announces the selection of eleven members of the Bloomingdale Jazz Band for participation in the 1993 All County Jazz Band. Hope also proudly announces that 33 musicians out of the 100-piece Hillsborough All County Band for 1993 were from Bloomingdale High School.

The musicians for the All County Jazz Band are: Steve Westenzwieg on alto sax; Matt Danielson on tenor sax; Aaron Hoffman on baritone sax; Ishmael Lebron-Bravo and Ryan Sollars on trumpet; Chris Akers, Matt DeJesus and Matt Gilchrist on trombone; Matt Gillis on drums; Chris May on bass guitar; and Dan Dufford on piano.

The musicians for the All County Band include: Chris Akers, Bryan Allison, Melissa Ames, Azee Avery, Kimberly Bailey, Shannon Brevik, Cory Camp, Matthew Danielson, Matt DeJesus, Brad Evans, Kenyon Evans, Angela Foesman, Matthew Gilchrist, Jodie Goldberg, Scott Harden, Ryan Hoffman, Allison Kirnee, Esther Langan, Ishmael Lebron-Bravo, Trevor Lewellen, Kristofer Marshall, David Moorehead, Anthony Natale, Melissa Pinkston, Keith Robbins, Richard Robison, Leonard Rosenbeck, Robin Russell, Tasha Saliceti, Kristy Thomson, Evie Tzibris, and Dawn Welch. Alternates include: Dan

Dufford, Sara Frame, Aaron Hoffman, Ryan Sollars, Kathy Verzano, and Anna Zuazo. Members of both of these honor bands were selected through a taped audition process.

## Crimson Dolls to attend national competition

Twenty four members of the BSHS Crimson Dolls attended the Universal Dance Association Dance Camp which was held in Sarasota this past July. Squads rating "superior" in every area of competition were then invited to participate in the 1993 National Dance Team Championship. For the first time ever the Crimson Dolls did qualify. The national competition is being held at Sea World in Orlando on Feb. 6 and 7. The Crimson Dolls, the only local squad to be invited, will compete against the finest dance squads from all over the United States. The event will be televised on ESPN. The prestigious honor of being invited to participate has the girls "kicking their heels", mostly due to the rigid practice schedule to ready themselves for competition. The skill, dedication, and spirit that the Crimson Dolls bring to their art is a source of great pride to Bloomingdale.

## Make money by prepaying your mortgage

by Michael Davis

Sound crazy? Well, if you have got a mortgage, then simply add a little extra to your payment every month. When you pay extra on your mortgage it reduces the principal, not the interest. You may cast the idea aside, but take a minute to calculate how fast your loan can shrink. Look at a \$75,000 loan at 10% for 30 years. Add just \$25 every month to the \$658 payment and you will be taking five years off the term of your loan. The extra \$7,400 you invest will erase \$34,000 off what you would ordinarily pay. That is a sizeable profit and you are out from under your mortgage five years sooner. Who would not want that?

What if you paid \$100 more? That is 12 1/2 years free of a mortgage payment. A lot can happen in that time. Your children may be thinking about college, you may want to take a cruise or to buy a larger house.

### Prepayment penalties

If you have a mortgage with a prepayment penalty, do not give up. If you pay in small regular installments, many institutions will not go through the hassle of processing the monthly penalty paperwork. You may want to ask your loan officer about that policy.

### Adjustable or fixed rate - okay

Whether you have an adjustable or fixed rate loan, you can prepay. Some lending institutions even provide a space on your payment coupon to indicate a prepayment. As a courtesy, call your lender and let them know you will be prepaying. They may want you to write the prepayment amount on a separate check or include it in the total of your regular payment check.

### How to calculate the right prepayment for you

Read *A Banker's Secret* by Mark Eisenon, a proponent of prepayment. The book includes a data sheet so you can develop your own repayment schedule. Just fill out the financial information and send back the sheet. Eisenon will send back your complete prepayment plan.

See MORTGAGE no. 7

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**Book review: Eyewitness Books**  
**Funtastic facts for kids**

by Pat Miller

Children's books keep getting better and better. It is truly amazing to see all the new books that are available each year that make reading both more fun and educational for children. There are several series for parents to read to children that teach lessons without the kids ever realizing it.

One of the nicest educational series available is the "Eyewitness" series. These books, which are available for at least forty different subjects, present wonderful information in a very interesting format. For instance, the book about birds examines many facts about birds: the relationship between dinosaurs and birds, and how birds' wings work. The books, which are printed in beautiful color, thoroughly explore their subjects. The information is presented in a way which appeals to any age group, including adults.

The newest additions to this series are called *Eyewitness Art*. The three books now available are about Van Gogh, Monet, and Gauguin. These books are the essential guides to their lives, their work and the influences that shaped their work.

If ever there was a series of books which are both fun and educational, this is it. Enjoy!

Pat Miller is the owner of The Little Professor Book Center.

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by Alice Becker

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elaborating; keep to the simple "fact-a-day" format and you will keep their interest. The list is as important as you care to make it. It will open the door to many subjects that will stir the child's imagination. You will be giving them fundamentals upon which they will build for the future. Here are a few facts to get you started.

Alice R. Becker is the director of Concerned Parents Association.

**February 1993**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Every star is a sun. Every sun is a star.  1	Your heart is the pump that pumps the blood.  2	Alaska is our largest state.  3	Take a breath, oxygen is going into your body.  4	Paper comes from trees.  5	Some furniture is made from trees.  6
Yellow and blue make green.  7	Blue and red make purple.  8	Bees make honey and wax.  9	The Mississippi is the longest river in the U.S.A.  10	24 hours make a day.  11	Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president.  12	Two cups make a pint.  13
Sand is used in making glass.  14	Canada is in North America.  15	Brazil is in South America.  16	People in Spain speak Spanish.  17	People in England speak English.  18	There are 60 minutes in an hour.  19	The Earth is round.  20
There is an image of Lincoln on a penny.  21	Fourteen hundred and ninety two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue.  22	Yeast makes the dough rise.  23	An oak tree grows from an acorn.  24	People in China eat with chop-sticks.  25	Chalk is soft white limestone.  26	A brick is baked clay.  27
Butter, cheese and ice cream are made from milk.  28						

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### Bloomington Little League gets set for winter ball

by Mary Karcher

Getting ready for baseball season involves an orchestrated effort among the approximately 200 volunteers that participate each season. The Bloomington Little League President, Alan Berry shuns personal recognition saying, "The credit goes to all the people on the board and the volunteers." The league relies entirely on the support of volunteers and businesses because it receives no county funding. The land is privately owned and it is maintained by volunteers.

The league is comprised of 60 teams ranging from tee-ball, to softball, to the minor A and B teams, to the major division. With 6 fields and 60 teams, the scheduling gets quite difficult. Enter Jim Griggs. Griggs uses a computer to schedule tryouts, practices, and regular season games.

The teams depend on sponsorships to provide uniforms; enter Riley Tucker. Tucker's job is to solicit corporate support for the teams. He arranges for advertising (signs on the field) and a plaque for those who provide full sponsorship for a team.

Parent Tom Hayden, a professional painter, donated his company's services to paint all the dugouts in preparation for the winter season.

Large companies have also supported the league in the past with Pepsi, Co.™ providing the scoreboards, and Martin Concrete donating all the concrete products for a concession stand and for the base of the scoreboards.

The season officially begins with an opening ceremony on Feb. 19, which includes all the teams on the field with their sponsors, coaches, and managers, and the singing of the National Anthem. The league is still in search of electricians and carpenters, as well as sponsorships. To volunteer, call Alan Berry at 684-8422.



Photo by Steve Allen  
Batter Ted Gouton eyes the pitcher during tryouts, while catcher Jeff Donlan and umpire Robert Eaton get ready for the pitch.

### Youth soccer games in full gear

The Brandon Area Youth Soccer League (BAYSL) is midway through its 13-week season. The league, one of the largest in Florida, has 95 recreation teams and 17 select teams, a total of 1360 players.

Select teams compete with teams throughout central Florida. Their schedule includes the Region C Cup, which concludes with the championship games in St. Petersburg on April 4 and 5. There are 14 co-ed teams and 3 girls teams.

The recreation teams play other BAYSL recreation teams. Their schedule includes the All-Star games which are scheduled for Feb. 13, and the Brandon Cup, scheduled for March 20 and 21, 27 and 28. These standings reflect the first 5 weeks of the season.



Age Group: U-7			
Standings	W	L	T
1 Barons	5	0	0
2 Lightning	4	1	0
3 Panthers	4	1	0
4 Bruisers	3	2	0
5 Bulls	3	2	0
6 Hurricanes	3	2	0
7 Bulldogs	1	1	3
8 Pythons	2	2	1
9 Dynamite	1	2	2
10 Radical Crew B	1	2	2
11 Chargers	1	3	1
12 Red Robins	1	3	1
13 Terminators	1	4	0
14 Raiders	0	5	0

Age Group: U-8			
Standings	W	L	T
1 Bulls	5	0	0
2 Sharks	5	0	0
3 Terminators	2	1	2
4 Blue Angels	2	2	1
5 Bulls	1	1	3
6 Raiders	1	3	2
7 Hornets II	2	3	0
8 Croppers	1	3	1
9azers	1	3	1
10 Bands	0	5	0

Age Group: U-9			
Standings	W	L	T
1 Bruisers	5	0	0
2 Red Raiders	3	1	1
3 Singers	3	1	1
4 Renegades	2	3	0
5 Hot Shots	1	4	0
6 Cyclones	0	5	0

Age Group: U-10			
Standings	W	L	T
1 Spots	3	1	2
2 The Spirits	3	2	1
3 Town & Country	3	2	1
4 Tampa Palms	3	3	0
5 Central Pasco	2	2	1
6 Hurricanes	2	1	1
7 Zephyrville	0	6	0

Age Group: U-10			
Standings	W	L	T
1 Kicks	4	1	1
2 Town & Country	4	1	0
3 Crusaders	3	1	0
4 Zephyrville	2	1	3
5 Central Pasco	1	4	0
6 Northside	0	4	2

Age Group: U-11			
Standings	W	L	T
1 Hurricanes	3	0	2
2 Kicks	3	1	0
3 Renegades	2	1	1
4 Jaguars	2	1	1
5 Thunder	1	2	1
6 Warriors	0	4	0

Age Group: U-8			
Standings	W	L	T
1 Blazings	4	1	0
2 Rockets	4	1	0
3 Storm	4	0	0
4 Pythons	3	1	1
5 Rowdies	3	1	1
6 Sweepers	3	1	1
7 Eagles	3	2	0
8 Explorers	3	2	0
9 Raiders	2	3	0
10 Brandon Bulls	2	2	0
11 Dynamis	1	2	2
12 Hurricanes	1	2	1
13 Lightning	1	4	0
14 Sharks	1	4	0
15 Bulls	0	5	0
16 Termination	0	4	0

Age Group: U-9			
Standings	W	L	T
1 Pasco	5	0	0
2 Temple Terrace	5	1	0
3 Zephyrville	5	1	0
4 Hawks	3	1	2
5 Spirits	2	1	2
6 Town & Country	2	3	1
7 Central Pasco	2	3	0
8 Northside	1	4	1
9 Renegades	1	4	1
10 Tampa Palms	0	6	0

Age Group: U-11			
Standings	W	L	T
1 Comets	4	0	1
2 Dozers	3	1	1
3 Crushers	2	0	2
4 Bulls	2	2	1
5 Thunder	2	2	0
6 Panthers	1	4	0
7 Thunderbolts	0	6	1

Age Group: U-12			
Standings	W	L	T
1 Terminators	4	1	0
2 Hurricanes	4	1	0
3 Raiders	2	3	0
4 Storm	2	3	0
5 Lightning	1	3	1
6 United	1	3	1

Age Group: U-13			
Standings	W	L	T
1 Team	3	1	0
2 Spruce	3	1	0
3 Arsenal	0	3	1
4 Heat	1	3	1

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<b>Pastels</b> 1:00 - 3:00 Fee \$36. Feb 8, 15, 22, Mar 1	<b>Teen/Adult Drawing</b> 5:30 - 6:30 Fee \$30. Feb 2, 9, 16, 23	<b>Calligraphy</b> 4:00 - 6:00 Fee \$40. Feb 4, 11, 18, 25, Mar 4
<b>Kid's Oil Painting</b> 5:00 - 6:30 Fee \$40. Feb 1, 8, 15, 22	<b>Clay Portraits</b> 6:45 - 8:45 PM Fee \$36. Feb 2, 9, 16, 23	<b>Watercolor</b> 6:30 - 8:30 Fee \$36. Feb 4, 11, 18, 25

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**Suggestions sought for parks improvements**

Speak up now or don't complain later! Here's a chance for all Bloomingdale residents to affect the way Hillsborough County spends the \$20 million bond issue that voters approved last October. At the Feb. 9 BHA meeting, residents will have an opportunity to make suggestions and hear plans for improving parks in our neighborhood. The money will fund the construction of new ballfields, concession stands, restrooms, parking areas, playground equipment, recreation centers, and additions to existing buildings. Please join the BHA at 7:30 p. m. on Feb. 9 at the Community Office (at the intersection of Lithia Springs and Bloomingdale). Call 681-2051 for information.

**BSHS Band Booster Association prepares for auction**

The 5th Annual Benefit Auction for the Bloomingdale Senior High School Rajan Bull Band and the Crimson Dolls will be held on March 13th in the school cafeteria. Local business merchants are making the auction possible with their generous donations. This fundraiser will help to defray the cost of the band's trip to nationwide competition at Myrtle Beach in April, as well as to raise money for musical operational costs.

**American Cancer Society to host move-along-a-thon**

Making Strides Against Cancer is the theme for a special fund-raising activity for the American Cancer Society. Everyone is invited to walk, run, wheelchair, skate rollerblade, or push a stroller along the route at Bloomingdale East Park, corner of Nature's Way and Springvale, on Feb. 13. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Participants may "stride" as a team with at least 10 members, each raising at least \$25 (How about family members, co-workers, friends, or club members?); or individuals may "stride" for a \$10 registration fee (waived if \$25 or more is raised). For more information, please contact the American Cancer Society at 1339 Oakfield Drive, 685-0670.

In conjunction with the "Making Strides Against Cancer" activity, the American Cancer Society is creating a "Tree of Hope" to be decorated with star ornaments containing the names of cancer survivors, as well as loved ones lost to cancer. Donations are being accepted so that you may place your loved one's name on the "Tree of Hope" so that they will live on in other's memories as well as yours. Mail your donation to American Cancer Society, Brandon/Southeast County Unit; 1339 Oakfield Dr., Brandon, FL 33511. Include the name of the cancer survivor or loved one.

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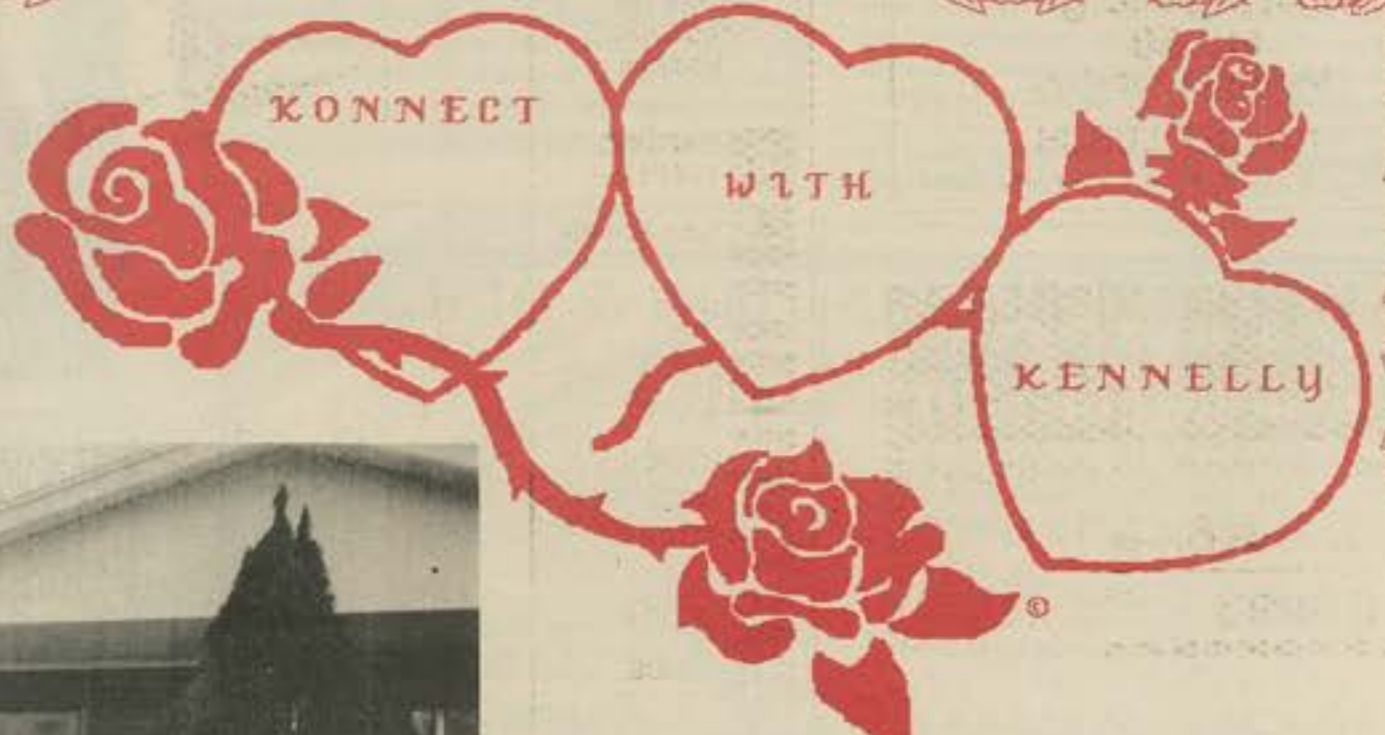
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## Analysis

### How does BLUEPRINT 2000 measure up to parental expectations of the schools?

by Oliver Boody and Janice E. Arnold-Jones

Most parents are relatively clear about what they expect schools to do for their children. They expect the schools to give children a firm foundation in basic fundamentals in the following order: **FIRST:** skills to read, to write, to perform fundamental math skills (with or without a calculator), and to search out information when needed. **SECOND:** A solid foundation in science, history, geography, civics, and some technology. **THIRD:** physical education, art, music, foreign language. Anything beyond these fundamentals is nice, but not at the expense of mastering the fundamentals.

These same parents also expect schools to prepare students for the post-graduation demands of college, vocational training, or direct entry into the work force. They want their children to attend neighborhood schools that have student-teacher ratios no larger than 25:1.

Small business, the part of the economy that provides approximately 80% of the current jobs, is equally clear about their expectations. They want to hire individuals who can communicate clearly, think and act independently, yet be able to work within small groups, and have basic math skills that do not rely on technology. Expectations from the business community are that BLUEPRINT 2000 will provide a more qualified workforce.

#### Outcome based education (OBE)

BLUEPRINT 2000 focuses on outcomes. Basically, OBE is a way of thinking about school, learning and teaching. It is not a kit, program, package, or simple answer to the complex problems of success for all children. OBE is more complex than it first appears, and means a rethinking of "why" education is run the way it is. All the great teaching methods, ideas, and programs still fit — the goals and philosophy are what change.

At first glance it would seem that outcome based education solves many of our problems. The school system finally seems to be hearing what parents have been saying for twenty years. Unfortunately, the language barrier between educators and the general public may yield results quite different than the typical parent or business owner may expect.

The new language includes mastery towards specific outcomes. OBE's tenet of teach, test, remediate, re-test will certainly enable more students to pass with an A or B. But when they get to the real world, how many of their bosses will allow them to run a stamping press several times before producing the right piece? How many chances will a sales manager be given to meet a stated quota? General Motor's Bob Stempel, a fabled "car guy", is no longer at the helm of this troubled company. He didn't get a chance to remediate and take the test over. No time for that. OBE deletes the variable of time. But in the real world, we all must be able to meet a deadline. Heck, McDonald's prides itself in serving fast food, done right the first time. The future of the United States of America, especially in light of the European Commonwealth depends on future generations being able to produce within the constraints of time, from the factory floor to the top floor.

Achievers who master tasks on the first go-around may become bored and disillusioned because performance

standards were adjusted downward. There are provisions for the achiever to advance to the next level, however, a clear path for this advancement does not yet exist. Underachievers will learn very quickly that they have multiple chances to "get it right". There is no encouragement or sense of urgency for preparation or accomplishment. They always have a second, or third, or fourth chance.

Schools will be assessed on performance standards and outcomes for their student population. A lack of adequate progress may require remediation. Will performance standards be uniform throughout all schools or will each school have a different set of performance standards to avoid intervention from Tallahassee? How will these varying performance standards affect local graduates or students who must transfer to schools in other states?

Researchers at USF defend Outcome Based Education and Subject Mastery stating that this methodology brings the education process closer to the underachiever. Teachers implementing OBE must be willing to put in even more hard work than before because they are charged with making sure that each student learns the material. That is a big difference from making sure that the teacher teaches the material.

Teachers must be prepared to Re-teach outside of class time to those students who did not master the outcomes. They must try different methods and then re-test to see if the students have reached a mastery level, then maybe re-teach again. Weak teachers are going to be weak teachers and strong teachers are going to be strong teachers. OBE really doesn't have anything to do with it. Good teachers will be putting in hours and hours of extra time.

Parent and business members of School Improvement Team's agree that a major obstacle in implementing BLUEPRINT 2000 is the absence of a clear, concise manner of assessment. The target is obvious, but can we get there from here? Having completed many hours of "Accountability Training" offered by Hillsborough County, there are concerns about adequate preparation for what lies before us in the fall of 1993. Very little time, if any, has been spent discussing the values or merits of Outcome Based Education.

#### Site-based Management

Another "new" concept is "site-based management". Again, this sounds ideal. But what does it really mean? How far can School Improvement Teams become involved in day to day operations of their school? Can they suggest staffing changes? Can they evaluate budget and expenditure concerns? Are they free to pursue negotiations that may affect or change contracts or statutes? These questions are generally not well-received by members of the educational administration.

Participating in the development and implementation of BLUEPRINT 2000 is very similar to the process of writing a business plan, except, a business plan is viewed as dynamic; the educational community views the mission, vision, and goals as static. A business has full intentions of being prepared to meet the needs of their public and clients. Businesses are product oriented and therefore outcome oriented because the clients receive what they have asked for. Can we say the same about BLUEPRINT 2000?

The retort from educators is: "We are not talking about a product. We are talking about children." Care must be taken to proceed slowly. One can only guess what happens to children caught in the middle of a transition that takes seven plus years to accomplish.

#### BLUEPRINT 2000: A winner or an also ran

An interim analysis indicates the plan looks and sounds good, but the implementation is questionable. Levels of assessment are not known yet and schools are to be in position to utilize this process this coming fall. Teachers and administrators throughout the system have not been adequately trained (or retrained) in the implementation of Outcome Based Education. This is further complicated by the fact that each individual school now has the responsibility to meet the stated performance standards, outcomes, and goals but does not have all the pieces of the puzzle with which to work.

When asked, teachers comment that the problem with the existing system is too much paperwork, too many meetings, too many children, too little discretion. One must ask if fine-tuning and responding to teachers' concerns would more closely meet the expectations of parents, rather than a complete system overhaul. A telling comment by one administrator suggests the overhaul is the only way, "It is easier to change the whole system than to take on the bureaucratic nightmare of correcting the obvious." In a time of tight budget constraints and no certainty that additional funding will be available, one administrator mentioned that it is easier to spend new money than to try to go back and become more efficient with the money they already have. It seems that people within the system fear the system. They would rather let waste continue than face retribution or a career-ending blunder. There is a potential for vocal parents to see their children singled out because their parents are asking too many questions.

BLUEPRINT 2000 is not inherently wrong. In fact, it is the most flexible vehicle of change presented in years. Without direct involvement however, even the most high-performance vehicle will not move forward one inch. If parents, business, and the community at large become involved, ask the uncomfortable questions, demand response, demand details and data, and face being ostracized by the educational administration, BLUEPRINT 2000 can meet or exceed the greatest expectations. Without a top down repositioning of resources and assets accompanied by efficient and effective funding, BLUEPRINT 2000 will become the next great plan that did not work.

*Oliver Boody is an independent financial planner and member of Alafia Elementary School's SII. He has a BA in Biology and an MS in Botany from North Carolina State University. Mr. Boody and his family have lived in Bloomingdale since 1981.*

*Janice E. Arnold-Jones is a homemaker/civic activist/writer-producer and a member of one the the Bloomingdale area's RFT's. She has a BA in Speech Communication from the University of New Mexico. Part of a military family, Ms. Arnold-Jones has lived in Bloomingdale since 1991.*



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**The fine arts: an integral part of our children's education**

by Mary-Ellen Houghton

One of President Clinton's campaign proposals is to help the arts become an integral part of education in every community. Hillsborough County finally has an elementary art program in the majority of its elementary schools. Although the program is only three and one half years old, it has given students a new and exciting way to learn. Students not only learn about creativity, art history and art appreciation; they learn to relate different subjects areas with art activities. Because of the hands-on nature of art, students retain the knowledge acquired in art class for a long period of time. Pupils experience a high degree of success when they complete a work of art. This promotes a positive self-image.

The art program at Lithia Springs Elementary School is an example of how art can be a catalyst to integrate a variety of subject areas. Initiated by the art specialist, two grants were written to integrate art with other subjects. The first grant was awarded by the Hillsborough County Education

Foundation. This allows the art and music departments to work together on a Medieval Fair. The fair was planned to show the students the relationships between medieval art and music. Presently many other teachers are getting involved. Lessons on dance, storytelling, mathematics, social studies, computer technology and the environment will be taught in conjunction with the fair. A second grant was awarded to the art department from the Federal Government's "Say No to Drugs" Program. Art is integrated with guidance and health, since the students are making coats-of-arms showing the positive aspects of being drug-free.

Art is an important part of any community. Students should have the opportunity to learn about the history and creation of artworks. Art, when taught by an art educator, can also become an effective vehicle to learn the relationships among other disciplines.



Photo by Mary-Ellen Houghton  
Robert Parsons works on an art project.

Mary-Ellen Houghton is the art specialist at Lithia Springs Elementary School. She holds a B.S. degree in Art and Elementary Education from Plattsburgh State University, N.Y.; an M.A. from U.S.F. in Education and Supervision; and is working on an Ed.S. at U.S.F. in Curriculum and Instruction. Mrs. Houghton lives in Bloomingdale and is a member of BHA.

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**Resource Center to open**

by Mary Karcher

School libraries are now called "media centers"; librarians are now "media specialists"; but school media centers are no longer just for students. Parents are now invited to get a card and utilize the resources available. One Lithia Springs Elementary parent has even created a Parent Resource Center to provide information to parents.

In the fall, Susan Narup was involved in compiling information for a school health fair. She realized that there was a wealth of information available for parents but it was attainable only through phone calls, letters, and research. So she decided to catalog the information she received from Tampa General Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital and then expand the information by contacting community service organizations throughout the Tampa Bay area.

Narup discovered an indispensable source of information was the book *Tampa Bay Kids! The A to Z Source Book* by Sherry Stein and Carmen Martin Schultze. She also received a wealth of information from the National PTA, the County Extension Center, and businesses. She is pleased to see how businesses are eager to provide information. Keebler offers a catalog which has books, movies, and tapes that parents can borrow. Another discovery was a free hearing test offered at Seminole Elementary to children in Hillsborough County. St. Joseph's Hospital gave hardbound books which covered 14 subjects like babysitting and burns.

The Parent Resource Center will especially benefit from a nationwide computer network which is linked to Pennsylvania State University. This system will enable parents to type in a topic and receive articles about that topic.

Susan Narup has created an effective system to catalog materials to make them available to parents. She hopes to open the Lithia Springs Elementary Parent Resource Center by the end of February.

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**Target has good aim in support for healthy parenting classes**

Being able to build a satisfying family life represents both a significant challenge and a necessity in today's complicated society. The Family Service Association of Greater Tampa, Inc. helps parents move toward this goal by offering a series of Healthy Parenting courses. Target Stores, Inc. recently reinforced the agency's efforts with a \$4,000 grant.

The contribution allows Family Services to hold seven Healthy Parenting courses during 1993. Parents receive insight on important topics such as how to better communicate with family members and how praise can be used effectively with children.

Each 16-hour course takes five weeks to complete, and the first will begin February 6 at the Brandon office (407 N. Parsons Avenue). The sessions last from 9:15 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

While the program fee is normally \$25, a sliding fee scale is applied so that nobody is turned away due to financial reasons. The same philosophy exists with every Family Service program, though the agency is sometimes forced to refer people elsewhere because demand for services is growing faster than the number of available therapists.

Richard Whitehead is the manager of Target's Brandon location and he presented the grant to Family Service Board Chairman Jim Newcomb. Both Newcomb and agency President & CEO Audre Floyd expressed their excitement and gratitude for a second consecutive year of assistance by Target Stores. More than 260 parents and children were helped during 1992 in Healthy Parenting classes, and Whitehead is pleased by the positive impact. "It's clear that this program helps prevent various forms of family abuse, and is the kind of effort that is right up our alley as far as financial support is concerned."

For more information on enrolling in a Healthy Parenting course, call Gilda Johnson at 238-3727.

**Bloomingdale Real Estate Report**

**Residential Box Score**

	Sold (Closed)
Dec. 15, 1991 - Jan. 15, 1992	9
Dec. 15, 1992 - Jan. 15, 1993	13

Contracts Pending 26

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BLUEPRINT from pg. 1

toward the goals, and school boards will be responsible for assistance and intervention plans should schools not make adequate progress. A method is put in place to establish consequences and penalties should schools fail to make adequate progress at the end of three years of assistance and intervention." (CS/SB 2054 & 1504 — Final Bill Analysis)

Who implements Accountability and BLUEPRINT 2000?

In Hillsborough County, representative "stakeholders" are specifically identified as: principal, assistant principle, teachers, parents, business members, Classroom Teachers' Association (CTA), CTA education support personnel, non-instructional personnel, students (if appropriate), and community leaders.

A minimum of eight stakeholders is required to make a "School Advisory Council" (state language) or School Improvement Team — SIT (Hillsborough County language). School Improvement Teams will be representative of the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic mix of their community. Each SIT must establish a vision, mission, motto, and action plan to be completed by March, 1993. Implementation begins in school year 1993-94.

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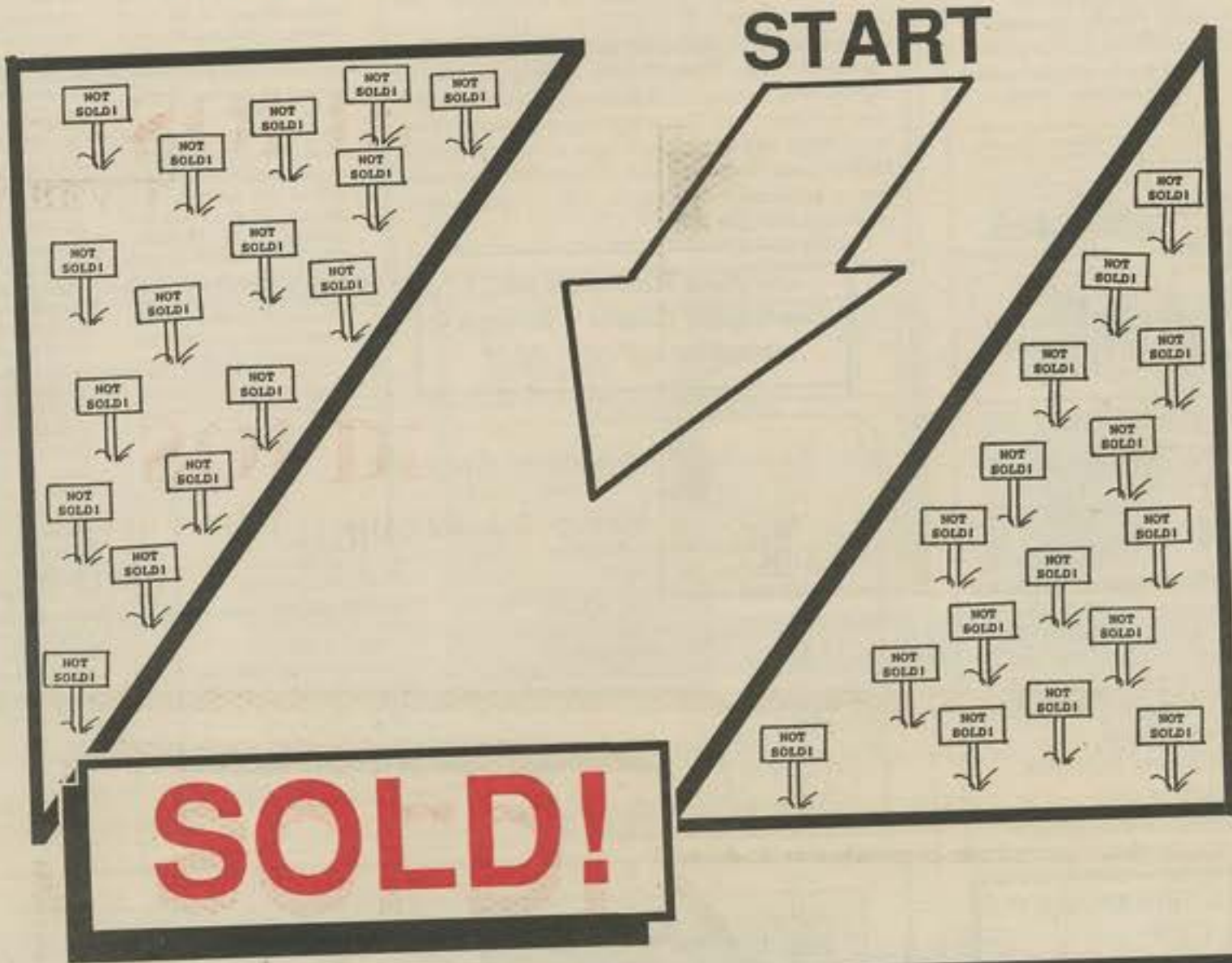
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