

March, 2006

*"It's only free
speech when
you use it."*

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The President's View *by Don McKell*

Most ESTA members will have heard by now that we ratified the proposed contract settlement by an overwhelming majority in our election on March 1. ESTA members turned out in record numbers – nearly 80% – and voted to approve the tentative agreement by around a 4-to-1 margin. Once the school board conducts its own vote to ratify, the new Collective Bargaining Agreement will succeed the old one and will remain in effect until August 31, 2008.

I congratulate the ESTA Negotiators for a difficult and lengthy job well done. Our team was composed of: Don Dawson (SC), Kim Schaupp (OG), Julie Pratico (AH), Marisa Vera (EV), Robert Suhr (Peg), and Theresa Flores (ST). Collectively, these folks logged a thousand hours or so in meetings and negotiations from the beginning to the end. All but one are classroom teachers, and all have lives away from East Side. Now maybe they can get back to those lives for a while.

For many years, the ESTA Assembly has approved annual budgets for the Association that provide stipends for certain positions within ESTA, including members of the Negotiations Team. I'm pretty sure none of our Negotiators do it for the pay – there are easier and more lucrative ways to earn money – but rather for reasons they'd have trouble putting into words. But whatever their motivation, I am convinced that they delivered the best contract possible under the conditions in which they worked, and that we are all better off for their efforts.

I am concerned about the 200 ESTA or so members who voted to turn down the proposed contract by voting “no”. In looking over those ballots during and after counting process, it became pretty clear that there was a high level of passion at work on many of them. While most “yes” voters just put a simple X in the “yes” box, a third or more of the “no” voters used thick, heavy, repeated lines when indicating their choice, virtually engraving the paper. A few of these even thought to include personal notes of one sort or another. To the extent that I can, I remain willing to discuss the issues with these members. No ESTA member should feel alienated.

For the remainder of this article, I want to outline some ways in which ESTA members can get more involved with their Association. When you add them all together, there are about 80 individuals – out of a total of around 1,200 – who do something “official” in the Association other than pay dues and vote. We are all better off if that number increases. In a recent issue of the ESTA Update, I included a brief piece that mentioned the wide variety of committees, duties, and offices in which ESTA members can serve. That list is duplicated here, along with some additional comments about what sort of commitment would be called for on the part of those who might choose to help out.

- **ESTA Elections Committee:** This may be our most critical immediate need. Assuming that we eventually adopt some version of our amended Bylaws, it will be necessary to create an Elections Committee with at least three members who are NOT on the ESTA Executive Board and who are not candidates for office. Beyond these three individuals, the new Bylaws will not prohibit members of the E-Board or Assembly from serving, providing that no candidate for an office being decided by election will exercise a leadership role on the Elections Committee for the duration of that election. ESTA needs some detail-oriented persons to take

the lead in promoting, conducting, and reporting the results of our general elections, of which we seem to have a minimum of two each year.

- **Sick Leave Bank Committee:** Not a critical need at this time, but a good place for members who may only feel comfortable committing to an occasional, irregularly-scheduled meeting. Thanks to work of the original Committee, current members of the SLB Committee have plenty of history to draw upon, and only have to meet on rare occasions.

- **ESTA reps for District Special Education Task Force:** Despite the fact that 3 ESTA members and 3 District managers spent half a year in meetings a couple of years ago to generate a general set of recommendations for changes in SpEd, the District continues to carry on two different sets of so-called SpEd Task Force meetings. Even now, there may be ESTA members involved in these meetings, but there is no established reporting mechanism to bring back progress reports to ESTA leadership. Our sole connection between the Assembly and the Task Force recently decided to stop participating in the Task Force.

- **Writers and a Cartoonist for *Panorama*:** ESTA is always on the lookout for folks to take up their pens and make periodic contributions to *Panorama*. It has often been suggested that we “lighten up” the monthly newsletter with cartoons, but no cartoonist has emerged who is willing to do that. Our current editor, Marty Brandt at IHS, would welcome additional contributions.

- **ESTA Scholarship and Awards Committee:** The Scholarship Committee generally has had a very limited annual obligation for meetings, confined to a few weeks in March. I have suggested that this Committee expand its scope somewhat to investigate the establishment of some annual member award program. ESTA members receiving awards would be honored not only in our own meetings but also at the new Awards Dinner being promoted by the CTA SCC Service Center Council. This could be an upbeat, rewarding way to contribute to the betterment of our members by recog-

McKell, continued

nizing excellence in our midst.

• **Benefits Advisory Committee:** Typically, the BAC is composed of up to three ESTA members, who are joined in the monthly meetings by representatives CSEA, management, and others to examine trends in benefits, discuss the pros and cons of certain modifications to the benefits packages, and advise the Bargaining Team through the E-Board. Ideally, some of the ESTA reps on the BAC would be E-Board members and/or members of the Bargaining Team.

• **ESTA Bargaining Team:** Our Bargaining Team is up to full strength right now, but it is always wise to begin identifying future members and begin the training process. Typically, potential negotiators would agree to attend a succession of CTA Summer Institutes (five days in late July at UCLA), all expenses paid, and sit in as observers at future negotiations.

• **ESTA Political Action Committee:** This group can have any number of members, and is particularly important now as we begin gearing up for ESTA involvement in the June and November elections. There will certainly be an election to choose three members of the East Side School Board in November, and it is not impossible that we may have another attempt at a Parcel Tax election at about the same time. The current PAC Chair, Jerry Dyer, has begun receding from a full leadership position on that Committee as he takes on more of the duties of SC Site President and deals with some other personal issues. We are in great need at the present time for a hard-driving, well organized person to carry on with a leadership position in the PAC, plus additional PAC members who simply want to have an influence in the political environment in which we find ourselves.

• **ESTA Organizing Committee:** We have ratified a contract, and in some respects this would mean that the OC will less active in the coming months. I hope not. There is a wide variety of low-key activities that could continue to be planned and carried out by a dynamic OC. After all, we have less than two years to gear up

for our next contract bargaining session, and if we wait until that season is upon us, we'll be playing catch-up with ourselves. In addition, ESTA finds itself with a hundred or more new members every year, and a prime objective of the OC could be to foster a feeling of identity and cohesiveness with our newer members through a variety of school-site activities. Ideally, every school should have a couple of OC members.

Please call or email me if you'd like more information on any of these possibilities, or to volunteer.

PANORAMA MARTIN BRANDT, IHS EDITOR

Panorama is a monthly publication of the East Side Teachers' Association, 888 S. Capitol Ave. San Jose, CA.

Panorama is a forum for ESTA members, and welcomes all member contributions. Submissions must include author's name, position, and school site. Those with fewer than 250 words will be printed in the "Letters" section. All submissions may be edited for length or clarity.

Letters, articles, columns, queries, or classified ads (for ESTA members only) should be emailed as Microsoft Word Attachments to brandtm@esuhsd.org. Deadline for April submissions is Friday, March 31, 2006.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in *Panorama* are those of individual members and may not represent the official views of the East Side Teachers Association. *Panorama* will not print ad hominem attacks, personal insults, or racially provocative imagery.

HHH 1910-1993

Postmarks

Mt. Pleasant High School

Although I am in the education field, I feel very uneducated about the upcoming contract vote. When voting on a statewide election, voters receive a pamphlet describing the pros and cons of each ballot issue. The opinions are supported by factual information. The ESTA flyer containing "Common Questions" explained the proposed contract, but never explained why we should vote for it. Considering that on the same day I received the ESTA flyer the San Jose Mercury News stated "PG&E Predicts 23% Rise In Heating Costs This Month", I am wondering why I should be compelled to vote for a contract with COLA -2%?

It would be helpful to hear the facts that caused each negotiator to decide that the upcoming contract should be ratified. The facts I am hearing from the news do not support it. The facts I am hearing from my colleagues question it.

I question the answer to ESTA "Common Question #9" on class size. Why did negotiators feel that members wanted to go back to smaller class size, at the expense of full COLA? Did the negotiators meet with staff at each school site? Were school sites surveyed? I worry when I hear feelings instead of facts. Please give me the facts!

Past ESTA practice has been to hold the contract vote on the day of an ESTA assembly meeting, or ESTA executive board meeting. Moving the voting day up so that the vote occurred before this meeting made it nearly impossible for ESTA members to write letters to *Panorama* in order to express opinions to our fellow ESTA members at other school sites prior to the vote.

--Betsy Mielke

Andrew Hill High School

Quick Quiz:

Which guy running for mayor was on the ES-UHSD board when COLA came in?

Which guy has kids in public school? Which guy went to school--all the way through Santa Clara University--in this valley?

Which guy comes from a tradition of public service?

Which guy came from immigrant (grand) parents? (Hey, it worked for Zendejas every time she talked!)

Which guy has tried to shine the light of day on the scandal in the mayor's office while one other can-

didate votes to protect e-mail and evidence from scrutiny?

Who will be the best mayor for San Jose by opening up City Hall, taking care of the little people and making developers pay their fair share?

If you Answered David Cortese, YOU WIN!!! And if David wins, we all win!!!

I was born in San Jose, as was my dad. My grandparents came here from Northern(er) California as newlyweds nearly a hundred years ago and an elderly aunt and uncle still live in that turn of the last century house on 22nd Street. I care about San Jose; Dave and I have this in common. And I care about education and kids; Dave and I have that in common, too. And we both believe he will be the best mayor that San Jose has had for at least eight years!!!

Although the ESTA PAC decided (not unani- mously) to endorse no candidate for mayor in June, many of your colleagues who know Dave Cortese's work and career have melded into Teachers for Cortese. Like all campaigns, volunteers are the center and core of any success. I can do computers and phones, others with more time and better knees do precincts, and those with dulcet tones may choose phones. For those with less time, you can write a check, sign out a lawn sign (they are in my car!), or talk to people in line at the bank or grocery store. You can also lend your name to the growing list of people who endorse Dave. That is the easiest and least time-consuming way to offer support! And isn't it nice that someone believes that teachers are this important? And isn't it nice that someone believes that the City should increase partnership with our schools? (Social studies/govt teachers: getting kids to work for ANY campaign is great real-life experience. Dave is available to talk--not campaign--to classes about city government and individual participation and responsibility. You have but to ask...)

The campaign will be giving us a literature piece aimed at the education community. This will help us with talking points or just give you something to give your brother-in-law when he asks why he should vote for Cortese while you are trying to savor your main course that is probably not on your diet.

Bottom line: If you support Cortese and can help in any way, please contact me (cell 509-5446, home 945-0355 or wstege1042@aol.com) or e-mail rabia@davecortese.com or noak@davecortese.com. COME JOIN US!!! All volunteers gratefully welcomed!!!

--Wendy Stegeman

ESUHSD Lexicon

air con•di•tion•er *n.* A device used to cool classrooms during winter months.

a•pol•og•y *n.* A rhetorical device used to placate dissent just long enough to effectively deliver a beginning of the year speech.

ben•e•fits, med•i•cal *n.* A scapegoat, to be sacrificed whenever the follies of district financial policy are exposed.

board *n.* An oligarchical body suffused with a sense of its own importance, and before whose altar teachers are made to supplicate themselves.

bud•get *n.* A large figure of money which invariably shrinks when teacher salaries are under consideration, yet which swells for district officials' salaries.

col•lec•tive bar•gain•ing a•gree•ment (Also CBA) *n.* a document blessed of dire importance when it suits the district's needs, yet with all the permanence of a paper napkin when it doesn't.

chil•dren *n.* The ultimate justification for any policy, regardless of how ruinous. i.e. *"We're adding more standardized tests for the children."*

class•room *n.* A nuisance, requiring vast expenditures of public money for maintenance.

co•la *n.* Abbreviation for Cost of Living Adjustment, an odious principle of probable Marxist origin, which dictates that people should be paid enough to live on. To be minimized at all cost.

com•mit•ment *n.* A feeling or sense that is frequently demanded of teachers, yet never of district officials. i.e. *"Now that we have revoked your pink slips, please renew your commitment to this district."*

cur•ric•u•lum Whatever your betters in the district office tell you it is, punk.

heat•er *n.* A device used to warm classrooms during summer months.

in•struc•tion *n.* The practice of preparing students for high-stakes standardized tests, the more the better.

life•long learn•er *n.* Something we want students to be; entirely unnecessary for adults.

March, Ides of *n.* The high holy day of the administrative calendar, for which administrators have spent ceaseless hours training and accruing their power.

mis•sion state•ment *n.* A declaration of a Platonic ideal, usually the product of much debate over issues of diction and phrasing, and largely ignored upon publication. (*See: Constitution, U.S.*)

NCLB *n.* A battery, which, when activated, can generate even the most inusufferable dullard with inspirational rhetoric about achievement.

of•fice, dis•trict *n.* The radiant star around whose gravitational force revolve the minor satellites known as schools, who are to be grateful for the chance to bask in its warmth and brilliance. (*See also: Education Center.*)

pro•fes•sion•al *adj.* a sedative which, when properly administered in a timely fashion, can quell growing murmurs of dissent among members of the teaching caste. i.e. *"We need to be professional about this"* means *"Just shut up and do it."*

pub•lic ad•dress sys•tem *n.* A device which allows the inarticulate to address the uninterested about matters unimportant, during times of greatest inconvenience.

re•sour•ces, hu•man *n.* A mine, filled to overflowing with disposable and interchangeable bounty.

raise *n.* an inducement deemed critical to attracting the highest level of executive talent for administrative positions, yet largely unnecessary for teachers.

re•form *n.* **1.** The driving agent behind most school administrative functions (*See: busy work*); **2.** a device meant to preclude whatever satisfaction teachers might dare to take from a job well done, i.e. *"We're doing some things well, but we really need more reform."*

school *n.* A minor satellite revolving in the gravitational pull and luminous brilliance of the District Office, to be tolerated at the pleasure of said office.

stan•dards *n. pl.* a style of wall paper, popularized in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, thought by some to possess mystical powers to inspire students to unprecedented heights of academic achievement.

stan•dard•ized tests *n.* a drug known for its addictive properties, and known to provoke wild hallucinations of success or failure among its users.

su•per•in•tend•ent *n.* a prophet, unwelcome in his own land and therefore a forced into an itinerant caste of ascetics who scrape by on less than \$300,000 a year

tea•cher *n.* a menial worker; a drudge. *See: peon.*

tea•chers' un•ion *n.* a Satanic organization, founded by known practitioners of occult, and designed with the explicit purpose of interfering with the sacred purpose and visions of the prophets in the District Office.

work or•der *n.* A paper possessed with magical powers to explore each and every in-box in the entire district, before returning unfulfilled to its point of origin.

I've long admired the work of the aptly-named Studs Terkel, whose oral histories of ordinary people have added a much-needed texture of honesty to our understanding of American history. So several years ago, when I heard old Studs tell an audience at the Herbst Theater that "I'd rather vote for what I want--and *not* get it--than vote for what I *don't* want--and get it," I found for myself a voting philosophy that stood me well through the Bush-Clin-ton-Bush years: attacks on the poor, cloaked as welfare "reform?" Sorry, Bill. Lesser of two evils? Not me. To the delight of my Republican friends, I gleefully voted for Ralph Nader in 1996 and 2000, an act for which some of my Democratic friends have never fully forgiven me.

Here's the kicker: they were right. I wasn't being quite dishonest--I agreed utterly with Nader's arguments, and I do now--but I had been abdicating my responsibility in self-governance, adorning myself permanently in the self-righteous armour of the old "Don't blame me, I voted for whomever" bumper sticker.

But armour gets rusty, and by November 2004 I had seen enough to conclude that the Bush presidency was a grave threat to the health of this republic. As much as I love Ralph Nader, and as little as I could understand John Kerry's position on the war, I asked for the oil can and moved myself at last to vote for the "lesser of two evils" argument.

I say none of this for the visceral delight of insulting the President, or for baiting my Republican colleagues. I simply have come to the conclusion that sometimes it is necessary to vote for someone or something you don't like.

Such was the case with the contract ratification. There are lots of things to dislike about a contract process which forced us to fight like hell for what seemed like so little--coming so soon after the vicious insults of last March, and the plaintive apologies of last August.

But as I sat in the Assembly meeting on February First, listening intently to the debate and agreeing with both sides, a couple of things came to my mind: one was that our bargaining team had performed a Herculean labor just to get the district to concede what it did. I'm sure work-to-rule had something to do with it, too.

The other was that there can no longer be any

By
Martin Brandt
IHS

doubt that this district considers its teachers to be nothing more than a nuisance. To put it another way, what happened last March was anything but an unfortunate, accidental convergence of events, but instead the natural product of a sick mentality which assumes always that the teachers are an obstacle, a problem, a hindrance to the greater possibilities this district could achieve if only they could see things the right way.

I don't want to be a demagogue here. I'm only stating what I see, and as I've already admitted, I've been wrong before. I'm sure that somebody, perhaps on our board, or at 830 N. Capitol might read this and respond reasonably that teachers have their share of sickness, too; that we are adversarial and paranoid, prone to self-serving rhetoric and resistant to honest reforms.

I admit that this describes me pretty well. But in this strange and now permanently strained relationship between workers and master builders, I can't help but ask: which party here has actually made the greatest sacrifices for the greater good of the district? Who here has suffered the most massive interference in their work, the most public humiliation, all while shouldering the greatest burden?

Whoops, there goes my impulse for demagoguery again. But oh, how desperately does this district need us! And how little they seem to understand it! I'm tired of being the object of apologies, tired of being told how great and how appreciated we are--as a prelude to another apology or further insult. Actions, not words, are the only things I have to go by anymore.

March 15 is coming again. I cannot think about that date without experiencing the same rage and nausea I felt when I opened up my registered mail envelope in front of the post office on that afternoon last year. I was among the first IHS veterans to receive my notice. A couple of weeks later came the "Notice of Accusation," as grave a professional insult as I'll ever receive.

COLA minus 2, eh? Fifteen percent cap on benefit costs? Well, nothing says "respect" quite like grudging agreement to cover medical benefits.

But swayed by the arguments about the district's deficit spending, I voted "yes," hoping once again to help save the East Side Union High School District from itself.

Forgive me, Studs.

ESTA Classifieds

FOR SALE: Beautiful (NEW) timeshare at the Westin Ka'anapali, on Maui. Two-bedroom lock off, island view. Excellent investment! Has appreciated 40% in two years!! Two kitchens, two bathrooms, all housekeeping supplies, sleeps 8, pools, waterslides, kids' club, on the beach, grocery delivery, etc. Use the one bedroom one year, then use the studio the next or use the whole unit every other year (floating week); you can even stay for two weeks!! Current selling price: 32-37K -- we're selling ours for only 25K. Website: www.westinkanapali.com. Please call Pat at 532-1332 or email phboyd@pacbell.net.

MindsInSight Online Classroom Tools - MindsInSite is a hosted Moodle solution for teachers and trainers of any kind. Allowing us to host your remote learning solution allows you to spend your time developing content rather than managing software and hardware. Cut your time spent on paperwork in half. 10% discount for all ESUHSD teachers. Take a look at our services at: <http://www.mindsinsight.com> and/or contact Bruce Selzler @ 347-4936

VACATION RENTAL: Cozumel houses available by the week. One and a half blocks from ocean. Easy walking distance to shopping & ferry to mainland. Three rental units: 3 bedroom, 2 bath \$950; 2 bedroom, 1 bath \$650; & 2 bedroom, 2 bath \$680. All 3 units combined for \$2,052. Ten percent discount for teachers. Summer rates are lower. All have kitchen, A/C, DSL internet, cable, safes, and phone and access to pool, rinse tank for scuba, courtyard, and sundeck on roof. Contact Mike at 251-1584 or cloughmf@msn.com.

For Sale: Wurlitzer Organ. Full pedals, 2 keyboards, beautiful walnut finish. Sounds great. \$300.00, negotiable. Contact Nick Shehadi (408) 265-0351.

Room Available in Cambrian Area From James Garcia (MP) 700 per month close to Oak Grove and Santa Teresa Nice Home Excellent Neighborhood contact Julia Guerrero (831) 601-3156 Female teacher preferred to live with Julia.

Don't miss Sha-Boom's Farewell cruise! Rock 'n roll on the high seas Easter Vacation to the Western Caribbean from Galveston. 4/16/06 7 days from \$786.42 per person Carnival's "Conquest." Also **Oceania Cruises**--FREE air and two-for-one Cruise Fares: Copenhagen to Stockholm: 8/3/06, 10 days from \$2,799 pp. **Norwegian Holiday Cruises** from \$649 pp. Contact Marian Dotson, **CGT Travel**, at 831-338-1959 cgravelpals@yahoo.com CGC Travel cst 2027232-40

Cosco travel crib, in pristine condition Great for traveling to motels, hoetls, visiting grandma. Can pack in a case for travel. Please call and buy: Mary at (408) 296-7632, or email at mlnavarrete@comcast.net.

Duplex-like 1 bdrm/ 1 bath, with private patio and parking spce in Cambrian/Willow Glen area. All utilities and cable included. No pets; non-smoker preferred. \$1100/mo. Call Kathleen (MP) @ 347-4712

LOS GATOS LATTICE: fences, decks, gates, pergolas, arbors, patio covers, retaining walls, automated gates, outdoor projects. Also, general construction/remodelling as well: crown molding, baseboards, doors, windows, drywall, finish work, etc. Call DAVE FREDERICKS @ 947-1019 or contact at big57wave@yahoo.com. References from colleagues at all ESUHSD schools.

Looking for a responsible house mate to share a 2BR, 2.5BA 1500 sq ft. townhouse in the Evergreen Area of San Jose. Gated community, 3 Great Tennis Courts, Clubhouse, Running Trails, 2 Swimming Pools, and 2 Jacuzzis. Room has vaulted ceiling, private bath, and ample closet space. Use of 2 car garage for parking and storage. Rent includes utilities. Security deposit and last months rent reqd. Contact Scott Sachs, (EVHS) at 408 270-7268, or reply to: anon-124589802@craigslislist.org

Maui 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom condos available July 3-17. 1 bedroom \$750 a week and 2 bedroom \$950 a week. Call Gary Miller at Yerba Buena or cell number 408-892-1873.

For sale: Nice Dark Wood Dining Room Table. Four-leg style, 43" round, 60" when built-in leaf is extended. Four matching, upholstered chairs. Heavy and well-made, legs removable for easy transportation--but bolted on with BIG bolts, so not flimsy at all. Great for second table or small area. Well worth the \$250.00 asking O.B.O. Contact Catherine Baron at Mr. Pleasant HS or email catherinebaron@sbcglobal.net.

*Deadline for Submissions to the
April issue of Panorama is
Friday, March 31, 2006*

The Backside

Lies, damned lies, and statistics

New contract contains 'Lenten Sacrifice' clause

One day after voting to ratify a new collective bargaining agreement with the East Side Union High School District, teachers were shocked to discover the existence of a small but powerful contract clause that gives the district the right to suspend for the duration of the Lenten Season any portion of the contract which it deems problematic.

District spokesman Yuri Voltin admitted that the clause, surreptitiously slipped into a footnote at the end of a marathon bargaining session, could cause controversy among teachers--especially non-Catholics--but that "Forty days of sacrifice is a good idea for the pampered and spoiled teachers of this district, whether they're Catholic or not."

Voltin added that "The district needs such broad, discretionary powers during these times of financial insecurity."

Teachers were startled by the news. "At first I was greatly offended that the district would yet again expect teachers to sacrifice in order to solve problems of its own creation" said teacher Luke Lazarus. "But after I thought about, I figured I had probably done something to deserve this punishment, anyway."

Lazarus added: "In the end, I'm just happy to be eating the crumbs from the district's table."

Meanwhile, *The Backside* confirmed rumors that--in anticipation of contract ratification--district officials had thrown a huge Mardi Gras party.

"None of us around here are much into Lent, ourselves," said Voltin, still covered in bright, colorful beads. "Lent is for suckers. But Mardi Gras? Dude, we're all about that."

Since the vote to ratification took place on Ash Wednesday, Voltin announced the immediate suspension of health benefits until Easter. "This ought to save the district plenty of money, and we can have a super far-out out Mardi Gras bash next year."

In a final bit of advice for teachers, Voltin suggested "Just be careful out there and wash your hands," he said. "Cold and flu season is still with us, and medical costs are skyrocketing."

D.O. official dissatisfied with raise

In a rare show of district-level dissent, East Side official O. Howie Cheatham yesterday told *The Backside* that he is deeply dissatisfied with the district's offer of a ten percent salary increase.

"Ten percent? Come on, that's an insult! I'm not some scrub teacher living in his parents' basement! You'll look far and wide to find a man of my quality!"

When asked why he deemed a ten percent increase of \$200,000 insufficient, Cheatham grew red in the face and replied, "Sure we make a lot of money; but we spend a lot, too! These Rolex watches don't just pay for themselves, you know."

When told that the district had already found someone of his quality, Cheatham retracted his statements.

Flush with cash, teacher buys new clothes

Spurred by a sudden infusion of cash in his pocket, East Side English teacher Ray Gettiandi could not resist the impulse to buy himself some new clothes on Saturday.

Gettiandi credits the district's COLA -2 for allowing him to take the impulse shopping trip to the Goodwill Store, where he purchased trousers, shirts, and accessories to match the avocado green leisure suit his mother bought for his first day in the classroom in 1979.

"It was kind of fun," Gettiandi told *The Backside*. "But to tell you the truth, I was a little disappointed in the quality of the fabrics available. All they had was old-fashioned stuff, like silk, cotton, and wool. Doesn't anybody sell those space-age fabrics like rayon anymore?"

Gettiandi's colleagues and students noticed the change in his appearance immediately. "Ray's students can expect a real increase in the quality of his teaching now that he has updated his professional wardrobe," said his principal. "As we all know, image is everything."

"At first, when I seen him, I was all like, 'Cool, we gotta sub,' and then when I seen it was Mr. Gettiandi, I was all like, 'Wow!' you know? Cuz he looked so different in his new clothes," said sophomore Ima Ditz.

"Then I asked him, 'Why'd you buy new clothes for?' and he was all 'Shut up!' and I was all, 'Stupid! I'm sure!' and he goes like, 'Get to work!' and I'm like, 'Whatever!'"