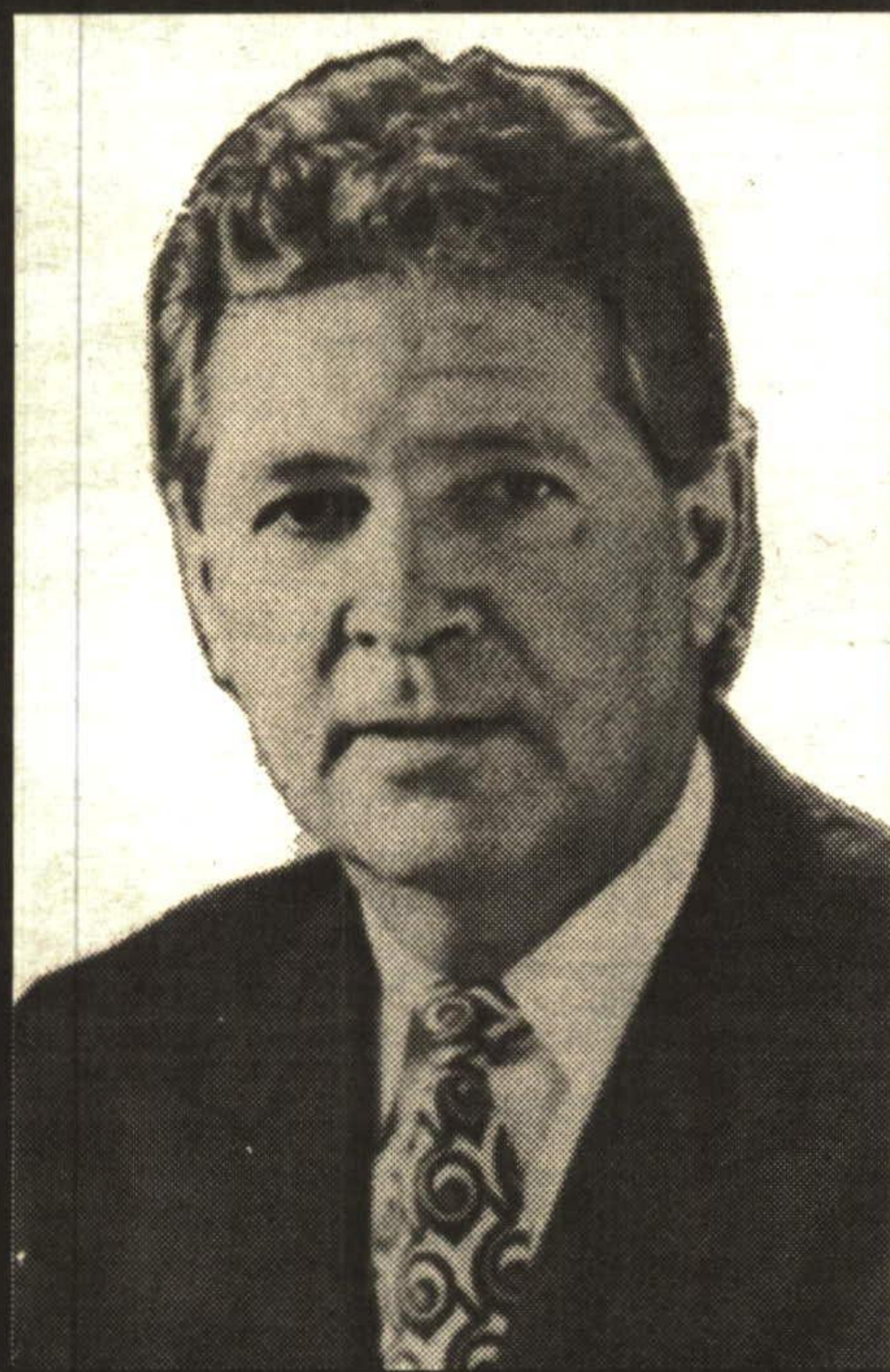


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## Our Readers Write

# Private nursery schools provide quality education

Dear editor:

It is not often, that after reading an article in *The Independent/Free Press*, that I feel that it is necessary to put pen to paper, but after reading the article about Mrs. Simons I could not contain my disgust and anger. As an Early Childhood Educator, who is employed as a nursery school teacher, I was infuriated about Mrs. Simons' comment regarding the superiority of the Junior Kindergarten (JK) program to that of nursery school.

Personally, I feel that Mrs. Simons needs to objectively compare the two programs before making such broad statements.

Firstly, in JK, the teacher to child ratio is very high, 1 teacher to 21 children. While in nursery school the number of teachers number 1 to 8, with most classes being limited to either 16 or 24 children. Next, staff in a nursery school program have been exposed to at least two years of extensive education focused solely

on the development of young children and age appropriate curriculum and goal planning. Board of Education teachers, have many degrees, but only one year of their formal education focuses on teaching.

Agreed, Junior Kindergarten programs to have more physical resources, such as use of a gymnasium, audio-visual materials and machines, free laminating through the board office and what seems to be an endless supply of creative supplies ... but we should compare budgets, there is no comparison.

In my opinion, there is room in our society for both the JK program and nursery schools to operate at equally valuable and respected entities. Both programs strive to provide children with an opportunity to grow and learn, while laying the foundation for prosperous educational future for each child.

DeeDee Haynes-Ridley  
BAA, Dipl. ECE

## Gilwellian says thanks for support

Dear editor:

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to two local scouts, Kevin Moore and Trevor McBain, both of 4th Georgetown, who willingly loaded up our truck during the Scouts and Guides' 5th Annual Food Drive.

Thanks also to Bob Bairstow for

organizing the Georgetown area, Elaine Hannah for the Limehouse area, the many Gilwellians and Scouters helping at the warehouse and the Love In Christ Food Bank. Also to the community for their generous donations.

Scouter Jean Layman  
"A Gilwellian"

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