

# Letters to the Editor

## Battleground for Ideas

September 3, 1956

Editor, *Educational Leadership*

Dear Sir:

Re your introduction to my first column for "The Importance of People," *where* did you get the idea that I am "charitable to all"? Wait until you see the column on higher ed!

Now for a comment on the November column. You will find it rather hard-hitting, but I feel strongly about the whole business and think that someone needs to say the things I say. Which brings me to my conception of a magazine column.

I believe that a column, as distinct from an article, ought to be a sort of battleground for ideas rather than simply another piece of research reporting or some "nice" statement. It ought to have a strong flavor, some individuality if possible, and it ought to make people *feel*, either for or against. It ought, most of all, to make readers look forward to the next issue, saying, "What's he going to do this time?"

Straight educational reporting can't do this sort of thing. One has to be too careful about his evidence! But people like Bestor, Lynd, and Bush do it all the time, and I believe our column ought to be the place where we do likewise, though perhaps from the other point of view.

So, I hope you will go along with the whole thing. This column ought to stir people up, and stirred-up people will

read and react. Maybe there's a little bit in me of the "I'd rather be hated than ignored" feeling!

RICHARD L. HENDERSON  
Column Editor, "The Importance of People"

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