

Letters to Editors to Utah Newspapers responding to Deseret Morning News article of June 7 and editorial of June 9, 2004

Test Innovations ideas DMN, Saturday, June 12, 2004

Every innovation which has led to an advancement for mankind has been scoffed at by the established powers. You would think that we would learn something from this.

So when someone comes along with an idea that might actually improve education and the education system chides or derides it, it is probably worth looking into. How about setting up a pilot school that would test if the Innovations in Educations ideas work?

Ted Jubeck
Salt Lake City

Scientology offers a lot DMN, Sunday, June 13, 2004

I would like to clear up some information regarding an article written by Jennifer Toomer-Cook on June 7. She mistakenly called what Ed Fila is doing Scientology. As a representative of the Church of Scientology, I have run across this type of misconception before.

Fila is an LDS Church member who has studied workable methods of education across America. He has found the secular version of the study technology created by L. Ron Hubbard to be the best method of educating children. The secular version of study technology by no means covers what is taught by the Church of Scientology but is a highly effective learning method successfully utilized by schools around the world for 40 years.

I find it heartening to see individuals like Fila searching for answers to the dismal situation that education is in. Isn't our main concern that our children be well educated and think for themselves? With the study technology they can. I know because I live with two children who are and do.

Lora Mengucci
Director of Special Affairs
Church of Scientology, Salt Lake City

Give 'odd' plan a chance DMN, Monday, June 14, 2004

For every fresh pioneering spirit, there are 1,000 old men appointed to guard the past. Galileo was ridiculed by the crowd at the Leaning Tower when trying to demonstrate that two stones of unequal size would fall in the same time. After all, how could a mere experiment top Aristotle's word?

In the bill unfortunately vetoed by Gov. Olene Walker, each project would be a pilot program, done with just enough students to demonstrate whether a concept worked as expected by Dr. Ed Fila Jr. or other distinguished members of Innovators in Education.

In this case the laughing crowd included members of the education establishment, the News reporter who labeled the plan odd and the editorial staff who labeled the plan strange and suggested someone got carried away.

Steven C. Barrowes
Salt Lake City

Innovations worth study DMN, Thursday, July 1, 2004
(Note: also printed in the 7/1/2004 SL Tribune)

On June 7 and 8, I attended the Innovations in Education conference organized by Ed Fila and Mike Phillips. I walked into the conference feeling hopeless. I wasn't seeing my junior high students learn and progress in an excited, positive manner. I left the conference feeling hopeful. I had seen programs that were working. My 26 years of teaching experience allowed me to recognize that the innovations presented were powerful and worth further study.

Rebecca W. Boren
Tooele