

## Editor's mail

# Polk 'drama' a rerun of a biblical parallel

The writer of the following letter was employed at Polk State School and Hospital from 1934 to 1972, when he retired.

Polk, Pa.

Editor, The Herald

The plot for the recent play staged in the "Capitol Comedy Theater" at Harrisburg would appear to be a plagiarism of a similar play recorded in the Bible. The original play is recorded in I Kings, Chapter 21, and the striking similarity of it to the modern day drama compelled me to comment on it.

As you entered the theater you would be handed a program and the Cast of Characters would read as follows:

King Ahab ..... M. Shapp  
Jezebel ..... H. Wohlgemuth  
1st False Witness Mrs. Clapp  
2nd False Witness E. Elkins  
Naboth ..... J. McClelland

Like Naboth, J. McClelland, was not aware of the plot and therefore unknowingly became a member of the cast. If Naboth or J. McClelland had known of a plot I am sure they would have declined to participate in an x-rated play with such an x-rated cast.

In both plays, Jezebel plays the leading role, the two false witnesses a secondary role and

## Dr. McClelland a man of love

Grove City, Pa.

Editor, The Herald

Perhaps my indignation at the dismissal of Dr. James McClelland, superintendent at Polk State School, stems from a guilty conscience. When my children were quite young, I was so desensitized as to confine them to a small wooden cage. It was called a play pen. In my blindness I thought it was for their safety.

Anyone who has visited Polk, or known Dr. McClelland, would find it impossible to believe the accusations. Long before the "behavior shaping specialists," referred to by Dr. Sidney Kaplan, were in graduate school attempting to master the gobbledegook so necessary to qualify as a certified do-gooder, Dr. McClelland and his dedicated staff were dispensing what is so badly needed by his charges — love.

Edward R. Bowden

King Ahab went to bed, turned his face to the wall and refused to eat.

Looking back to the finale of the original play, the one Supreme Critic and Judge (God) does not approve of the plot and in Verses 17-22 He voices His disapproval to King Ahab and announces the end of his career. The final curtain was lowered on the career of King Ahab in I Kings 22:29-38.

In Verses 23-24, God voices His disapproval of Jezebel and announces the end of her career. The final curtain was lowered on the career of Jezebel, II Kings 9:30-37.

No further mention is made of the two false witnesses. They were not worthy of any further recognition. Of course there are the stooges, both past and present, who will be rewarded according to the importance of the roles they played.

We now await the finale of this modern version and I am sure the same Judge who looked down upon the original play will also be watching this second play, Heb 4:13.

Will history repeat itself? Watch your news media for complete coverage of this repeat performance and final outcome.

A. D. Armstrong

# Polk school head deserved better

Farrell, Pa.

Editor, The Herald

I am a mother of a child at Polk and I would like to say that I think it is outrageous the way Dr. McClelland was fired without a moment's notice. I didn't think such a thing happens in the United States. If it was in Russia, well, that's different.

Mrs. Wohlgemuth has no idea what it takes to care for a helpless, retarded child, nor does Governor Shapp even to tying them on toilets and in playpens to keep them from falling and hurting themselves. They sure are taking a rotten way to make a name for themselves. BRAVO

Who gave Mrs. Wohlgemuth the almighty authority to just fire anyone without a trial? Even the president has to confer with Congress to act on anything. Where is American justice? Even a known murderer has a trial. BRAVO

But a man devoting his whole life to his work and, he didn't have to, should not be treated like Dr. McClelland was. He should be given medals and aid to better the conditions. It's about time that good deeds win

out over greed and politics.

I dare anyone, and especially Mrs. Wohlgemuth, to give TLC to these children for only a week and then pass judgment.

Louise McCormick

## Patient care at Polk called best possible

Transfer, Pa.

Editor, The Herald

I am writing to you to protest the politically-inspired, summary and unjust firing of Dr. James McClelland from the post of superintendent of Polk State School.

We have an 11-year-old grandson who has been there several years and another close member of the family who has been there many years. We have visited the school a lot in the past few years and we know that the patients are given excellent care. A little over a year ago our grandson caught cold and was immediately hospitalized and we then saw the very good hospital and how well it was managed.

We are convinced that nobody could do a better job under the same circumstances than Dr. McClelland and his staff have done...

Mrs. William E. Gardner