

Monday, September 6, 2004

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

South Jersey

Commentary

Labor of Love

We invited readers to tell us — for Labor Day — what they love about their jobs and why the jobs fulfill them.

Changing lives

Teaching is multifaceted. The average person might oversimplify the teacher's role by confining teaching to the formalized activities of the classroom. The teacher's only task, one might say, is to make children learn by giving assignments, asking questions, encouraging right answers, chiding the unprepared, and maintaining discipline — the stereotype of teaching.

The teacher asked to describe teaching responsibilities should enumerate such roles as group leader, planner, tutor, evaluator, club sponsor, counselor, behavior manager, parent connector and troubleshooter. Teachers have multiple responsibilities and are a major factor in the development of children. They have a right to view their position as diversified and complex, involving parents and children, extra classroom functions, and the preparation of societal members.

Teaching is challenging. Most teachers consider it re-

warding, and the community must realize that education is not exclusively a pedagogical process. It has expanded to include the development of wholesome attitudes, proper channeling of youthful emotions, preparation for an ever-changing world as well as academic preparation.

My "Labor of Love": I prepare teachers who will have an effect on many young people. I am helping to change the world to be a better place to live.

Morton Tener

Professor of secondary education/foundations of education
Rowan University
Glassboro