

Title: **We can't throw these kids away**

Author:

Size: 64.32 square inch

Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



CINDI ROSS SCOPPE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
THE STATE

We can't throw these kids away

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His point was that while it was "statistically" accurate to say that a better education leads to a better outcome, the many notable exceptions negated my suggestion that South Carolina needs to provide a decent education to all children.

Then his bottom line: When children don't get a good education, it's not the schools' fault — and by extension, it's not the state's fault; it's the children's fault. Children who want an education will get one no matter how bad the school; children who do not want a good education will not get one, no matter how good the school.

Truth be told, there's a lot of truth to that last part; much less, but still a tiny bit, to the first part. But even if we imagine that

there are no shortcomings in our poorest schools, and that the problem is the children instead of the schools, we are left with this reality: We can't wash our hands of the problem.

The "liberal" reason is fairness: When children don't value education, it's often because their parents don't value it. Are we really willing to doom a child to a life of failure because she has bad parents? For how many generations will we visit the sins of the parents upon the children?

The "conservative" reason is this practical fact: We can't throw those children away. Can't ship them off to another state. The children who don't get a decent education in our state are the ones who will stay here, and they will continue to drag us down.

They will end up with lousy jobs, held afloat by government safety-net programs. Some will become criminals, and we will have to spend more on police and courts and jails to defend ourselves against them. They will raise children who are just like them.

And this takes us back to that argument about Messieurs Lincoln, Edison, Franklin and Gates, which seems so reasonable ... until you take about 10 seconds to think about it.

Then you recall that "statistically" speaking is the only way we can speak of whole populations, particularly when the statistics are so lopsided.

You remember that exceptions are ... exceptions — and that the overwhelming majority of us are *not* so extraordinary as our Renaissance men. Our society could not have built the technological foundation from which Mr. Gates built so much more if we had relied solely on the few geniuses among us. A good education allows the mediocre — which, statistically speaking, is most of us — to become productive and creative. It allows those who are below-average to become contributing members of our communities.

You realize that Gov. Nikki Haley and the Legislature would not be under court order to provide a decent education to the children in South Carolina's Corridor of Shame if those children had access to the exclusive preparatory school Mr. Gates attended, much less his two years at Harvard.

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It is difficult to know how to do that — although it would be much less difficult if we stopped worrying about turf protection and job protections and making sure the right people get lucra-

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It is difficult to get our legislators and our governor to ignore those distractions. But it is their job to do that.

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But when have Americans said we won't do something just because it's difficult?

Doesn't American exceptionalism flow from our willingness

to do the difficult work in order to achieve success?

Aren't we the nation that was inspired to rocket to the moon and defeat the Soviet Union and become the most prosperous people on the planet after a president reminded us that "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard"?

The sad thing is that as difficult as it will be for our leaders to develop a plan and our teachers to implement it, the hardest part could be convincing ourselves that it's worth doing.

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Title: **Q&A: Understanding what a '1,000-year storm' means**
 Author: BY AMY CLARKE BURNS The Greenville News
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 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Q&A: Understanding what a '1,000-year storm' means

BY AMY CLARKE BURNS

The Greenville News

Q: Does a 1,000-year rain really happen every 1,000 years?

In short: Not really. The 1,000-year – or 100-year or 500-year – terminology is really a shorthand way of talking about statistical probability and isn't related to how often a certain event is expected to happen.

A bit more: The frequently used weather terms, liberally applied in

situations like South Carolina's record rainfall and devastating aftermath, are misleading misnomers.

"We're trying to convey the probability of that happening in any given year," said Jim Kolva, hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Office of Surface Water.

Answer: A 1,000-year event is

one that, based on historical data, has about a 0.1 percent chance of happening. Likewise, a 100-year event has a 1 percent chance of happening; a 500-year event, a 0.2 percent chance.

"It's better to think of it as a chance of something occurring than it is the number of times in

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FROM PAGE 1C

STORM

any given period that it would occur," said Joshua Palmer, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Greer.

"It does not mean that in the next 999 years, you won't get a storm like you got," earlier this month, said Kolva. "There is no immunity that comes with a natural disaster like this."

Terms like 100-year or 1,000-year likely originated as an effort to make the probabilities more understandable, something a little simpler to digest than jargon about percentages, statistics and confidence intervals. But they may be contributing to some misapprehensions.

"It's common for people

to misunderstand the terminology, which frankly is probably not very good terminology," Palmer said.

Gov. Nikki Haley said in a news conference, "We haven't seen this level of rain in the Lowcountry in 1,000 years." And media reports commonly referenced this "1,000-year rain."

Comedian and South Carolina native Stephen Colbert skewered the comments with a quip about "surviving Kiawah Indian meteorologists."

But in truth the "1,000-year" probabilities are based on a limited amount of historical data. Rainfall measurements began locally in the late 1800s, Palmer said. Streamflows have been charted only for

the past 100 years or less.

An informational brochure from the USGS highlighted that floods and other weather phenomena occur irregularly and unpredictably.

"If we had 1,000 years of streamflow data, we would expect to see about 10 floods of equal or great magnitude than the '100-year flood.' These floods would not occur at 100-year intervals. In one part of the 1,000-year record, it could be 15 or fewer years between '100-year floods,' whereas in other parts, it could be 150 years or more between '100-year floods,'" it said.

"There's nothing to say that Columbia or the state of South Carolina is in the clear now for 10, 20, 30, 40, 1,000 years," Palmer

said. "That's certainly not the way to look at it."

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MATT WALSH mwalsh@thestate.com

A National Guard Humvee during a rescue in a Forest Acres neighborhood Oct, 4.

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Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



Paying for roads after the floods

But now, a special session of the Legislature to deal with flooding doesn't seem like the best use of public dollars, especially since the state doesn't have estimates on the extent of the problem.

However, dealing with the flood and its impact on the state's infrastructure — must be the top priority when lawmakers return. This dialogue should also reinforce the need to find a long-term, comprehensive plan to deal with our needs related to roads, bridges and dams.

This issue largely became a political pox for the Legislature this past session with the debate becoming bogged down by certain demands of legislators, as well as S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley.

However, the longer the state waits to make an initial investment in road funding, the greater it will cost to pay for upgrades. This doesn't mean the General Assembly should write a blank check to the state's Department of Transportation. The real trouble with South Carolina's roads isn't wholly a lack of money. Any real effort to address these roads issues must also involve taking a closer look at the bureaucratic structure of the state's Transportation Department. The agency and the current system of prioritization and funding roads projects has been marred by criticisms of little transparency and being generated through a complex formula.

— Aliza Staudera

Title: **Teach kids how to prevent domestic and sexual violence**
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Teach kids how to prevent domestic and sexual violence

South Carolina has been in the top 10 states for women killed by men for more than 15 years, with a domestic violence rate more than twice the national average. This won't change until we unite as a community to address this costly and deadly problem.



Despite the implication of its name, interpersonal violence isn't a private matter that should only be addressed at home. We must discuss this at school, church and anywhere else people

gather. Domestic and sexual violence are costing our state millions of dollars each year and countless lives.

The best way to stem the tide of violence is to provide young people with primary violence prevention education as recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Our Youth Violence Prevention curriculum helps young people build communication, boundary setting and other relationship skills that prepare them to have healthy friend and dating relationships. They learn to safely intervene as bystanders to end violence much like the anti-smoking campaign worked to dramatically reduce the number of new smokers.

The domestic violence law signed by Gov. Nikki Haley this summer

requires schools to educate students on domestic violence; Erin's Law requires them to provide education on sexual violence for grades K-12. Unfortunately, there's no mechanism to make schools comply, so parents and community members must advocate for youth to receive the appropriate education.

Primary prevention addresses the societal problems that lead to domestic and sexual violence. It is often illustrated with a story of a person standing at a river watching people float by and drown. The person cannot save the hundreds of people who continue to drown, but instead goes upstream and finds where they are falling into the river and builds a bridge. We must serve people impacted by domestic and sexual violence, but it is irresponsible not to go upstream and build a bridge.

Please join us in building the bridge that will end domestic and sexual violence in our community. Make sure your schools or youth groups have invited Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands to implement our curriculum. Talk to the young people in your life about sexual and domestic violence and the important role we all play in ending violence. Don't delay acting; our future depends on you.

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— *Aiken Standard*

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THE BUZZ

Roads? Bonuses? A Q&A on SC's flood recovery

BY JAMIE SELF

jself@thestate.com

As South Carolina shifts into recovery mode after historic rainfalls and flooding this month, ques-

tions are swirling about what the S.C. General Assembly will do to help flood victims and at what cost.

The Buzz has some answers:

Will the S.C. Legislature come back early to address flood damage?

No.

State House Reps. **Rick Quinn**, R-Lexington, and **James Smith**, D-Richland, have called for an emergency session to

borrow money for roads and help homeowners

BUZZ FROM PAGE 3A

thing for homeowners, but it should not be in the form of grants.

"We want to be as helpful as we can be, and maybe we can set up a specific flood victims program to, maybe, do some low-interest loans," Martin said. "But I don't see us paying off mortgages on houses or writing a check to a homeowner."

What other ideas are being discussed?

Borrowing more money for roads.

State Sen. **John Courson**, R-Richland, said a proposal to borrow money for maintenance at state colleges and universities could be expanded to include money for transportation when lawmakers

with costs of rebuilding not covered by insurance or federal disaster aid.

But state Sen. **Hugh Leatherman**, R-Florence – the leader of the Senate – said Tuesday he does not plan to call senators back to work before January because lawmakers do not yet have clear estimates of the damage. Leatherman appointed a special panel Friday to assess flood

damage.

Gov. **Nikki Haley** said Wednesday she does not foresee lawmakers needing an emergency session.

And House Speaker **Jay Lucas**, R-Darlington, said his chamber's state bud-

get-writing committee will hold hearings in coming weeks to determine the impact of the flood and potential costs of the recovery. A spokesperson for the speaker would not say whether Lucas thinks that work will continue until January, which would rule out an emergency session.

Are state employees' bonuses safe?

Yes, all you people emailing The Buzz!

One-time \$800 bonuses for state employees who earn less than \$100,000 a year went out late last week. (Check your bank account). The bonus does not apply to schoolteach-

ers who are paid by school districts.

Will lawmakers consider relief for homeowners?

Anyone's guess. Quinn and Smith – the bipartisan House duo – are pushing for aid to homeowners. But Leatherman said using the state budget to assist homeowners victimized by the flood would "have to be looked at very carefully."

Translation: He's non-committal.

State Sen. **Larry Martin**, R-Pickens, said the state likely can do some-

SEE BUZZ, 9A

return to work in January.

Leatherman said last week he plans to push that borrowing package for education again next year.

How much federal aid could the state receive?

Perhaps, a lot.

If Hurricane Hugo is any guide, within the first 60 days after that hurricane hammered the state, federal aid had topped \$250 million.

Will the state have to spend money on the recovery?

Yes.

In mid-1990, the S.C. General Assembly agreed to borrow \$31 million to pay costs related to Hugo, which hit the state on Sept. 24, 1989. The money included \$18 million in

matching funds for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

BUZZ BITES

● Gov. **Nikki Haley** was in Georgia when the historic rainstorm struck Columbia on Oct. 3-4. Haley left South Carolina for a Republican Governors Association's retreat in Sea Island after giving a media briefing about the threat of flooding at the S.C. Emergency Management Center on Oct. 2, her office said. The retreat draws large donors to the association. She returned to South Carolina about noon Oct. 4. "Gov. Haley has been working on the flood all day, every day, since before it began," said Rob Godfrey, Haley's

deputy chief of staff.

● A State Ethics Commission hearing into Lt. Gov. **Henry McMaster's** possible excessive campaign contributions, scheduled for Wednesday, has been postponed. The two sides are in settlement negotiations, commission director Herb Hayden said. A final order could be issued within several weeks. McMaster was charged with accepting \$72,700 in improper contributions from 51 donors to pay off debt from his 2010 bid for the GOP nomination for governor.

2016 IN SC

Where the presidential candidates will be this week:

● **Jeb Bush**, Florida's

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former GOP governor, will join U.S. Sen. **Tim Scott**, R-N. Charleston, for a town-hall meeting at Bishop England High School on Daniel Island at 9 a.m. Saturday.

- Republican **Carly Fiorina** will attend a Greenville County Republican Women's luncheon at the Poinsett Club at noon Thursday. On Fri-

day, the former Hewlett Packard chief executive will speak at the University of South Carolina-Beaufort's auditorium at 2 p.m. and at Magnolia Hall in Sun City at 4 p.m.

- U.S. Sen. **Lindsey Graham**, a Seneca Republican, will speak to the S.C. Construction Financial Management Association about the threat of radical

Islam on Monday at 12:15 p.m. at the Poinsett Club in Greenville.

- U.S. Sen. **Marco Rubio**, R-Fla., will join S.C. Attorney General **Alan Wilson**, R-Lexington, in West Columbia on Friday for a Conservative Leadership Project presidential forum on legal issues. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. at Brookland Banquet and

Conference Center, 1066 Sunset Blvd. Rubio will speak at a Concerned Veterans of America town hall in Greenville at 11 a.m. Saturday.

- Republican **Donald Trump** will hold a rally at the Anderson Civic Center on Monday at 6 p.m.

Staff writers Cassie Cope and Andy Shain contributed. Jamie Self: 803-771-8658, @jamienself

ONE-TIME \$800 BONUSSES FOR STATE EMPLOYEES WHO EARN LESS THAN \$100,000 A YEAR WENT OUT LATE LAST WEEK.



Title: **Haley's 1st flood assistance event Friday**
Author:
Size: 7.59 square inch
Orangeburg, SC Circulation: 20345



Haley's 1st flood assistance event Friday

SUMTER (AP) – South Carolina is sending teams of officials to flooded areas to help people find relief and assistance.

Gov. Nikki Haley will join the first Team South Carolina event Friday at the Sumter Civic Center.

From 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., anyone affected by the flood can register for federal disaster assistance, apply for unemployment and mort-

gage or rent assistance, get a tetanus shot or a kit to test their well water to see if it is contaminated.

The sites will also include donation areas and booths with tips to flood-proof and clean damaged homes.

Haley says she wanted to bring assistance to people in heavily-damaged areas. More events will be scheduled in other hard-hit counties.