

FROM THE EDITOR

Money and the Military



Some call it a “downturn.” Others go a step further and say we’re in a full recession. Whatever the term, school districts are feeling the push, pull, and pinch of a tight housing market, Wall Street’s all-too-quick plunge into hard times, and the lingering uncertainty of a war that shows no sign of ending soon.

Money and the military certainly were on our editors’ minds this month, as four staff members examined the economic impact of a huge base realignment, the emotional strain that children of our servicemen and women face, the tough budget decisions board members have, and the impact of lower state revenues on your school districts.

In “Moving In, Moving Out,” Senior Editor Del Stover looks at how school districts are dealing with the pending redeployment of U.S. military troops. In one of the most significant realignments in our history, 11 states with military institutions are experiencing significant growth, and districts must be ready to accommodate more than 75,000 students by 2011.

Senior Editor Lawrence Hardy pulls at the heartstrings in the opening to “Children of the Wars,” which looks at the challenges and stresses children face when their parents are called to active duty. As the story notes, school districts that serve these families must also be

prepared to address these kids’ needs.

As part of our editorial focus on budgets and finance, Senior Editor Naomi Dillon provides lessons learned by other districts in “Hard Times, Hard Cuts,” a must-read primer for board members and administrators. And Associate Editor Joetta Sack-Min looks at the “Uncharted Territory” districts face in this year’s “cloudy” budget process.

Sadly, the first programs to face the budget axe are those considered nonessential. As frequent contributor Bruce Buchanan notes in our special Arts in Education supplement, there is a growing body of evidence that shows the audio and visual arts are absolutely essential. Bruce, a freelance writer based in Greensboro, N.C., also writes about how technology is revolutionizing arts programs.

Finally, our feature well this month ends on an upbeat note—a photo essay showcasing some of the iconic images featured in “Picturing America.” This new program, a project of the National Endowment for the Humanities, is something that every district should utilize for its students.

These articles, combined with our usual slate of columns, make for a strong month for *ASBJ*. We hope you enjoy it.

Until next month ...

Glenn Cook, Editor-in-Chief