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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Basile's leadership

Dr. David Basile's clear-headed, swift, well-orchestrated response as principal of Stall High School to the outbreak of in-school fighting and tip-off of a loaded shotgun reassures the public that we have a real professional with his finger on the pulse in leadership of this key North Area high school of great potential.

Dr. Basile's vision for Stall High School was aptly reassured by Stall's improvement committee, who praised the principal for "doing a solid job," saying that under his leadership, "Stall High School has come a long way from where it was just a few years ago. Stall has made great strides."

Having been there a few years ago as a Junior League volunteer with "at-risk" teens, I know firsthand the challenges that were before Dr. Basile. He has taken the next step initiated by the Junior League by maintaining Heritage Community Services under Anne Badgerly's capable leadership.

With Heritage Keepers curriculum, Heritage teachers come to Stall and teach character-based, abstinence-only, life skills to ROTC students, using 12 chapters, one a semester, each focusing on one desirable character trait. Would it not be a true service if the entire student body could be reached?

President George W. Bush and Gov. Mark Sanford support this free public school service, knowing that it is the best investment of our taxpayer dollars.

What independent surveyors have found is that Heritage Keepers curriculum produces students with strong, patriotic, all-American convictions. They are challenged to determine goals for their lives and gain a future orientation, to set boundaries to show they are in control of themselves. Dr. Basile is wisely implementing Heritage into the newly separated ninth-grade academy as well as ROTC.

With South Carolina leading the nation in sexually transmitted diseases, Dr. Basile and Heritage Community Services deserve our enthusiastic support and appreciation. They are fighting the good fight.

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