# Central State **Needs** Action Right Now!

By FRANK SUTHERLAND

The filth, the outmoded facilities, the lack of personnel, inadequate treatment and the dominance of nonprofession-alism has once again been exposed at Central State Psychia-tric Hospital.\*

In January, I wrote a series of articles about the conditions at the hospital, based on the 31 days I spent posing as a patient there.

After the first two of those articles appeared, the commissioner of mental health appointed a blue-ribbon committee of professionals and lay citizens to investigate conditions at the hospital. While that committee did not make an exhaustive study of the hospital. It said it saw enough to warrant some major recommendations and an in-depth study of the hospital is said it saw enough to warrant some major recommendations and an in-depth study of the hospital is not expected in the same recommendations were:

— The hospital should be accredited as soon as possible.
— The State Department of Mental Health should seek an additional gest million from the legislature to obtain additional gest million from the legislature to obtain additional gest million from the legislature of the million and the million and the million and committee of the million and the After the first two of those

mendations 1 diff. Among the committee's findings and recommendations were:

— The hospital should he active. The Spite Department of Mendal Health should seek an additional \$2.5 million from the legislature to obtain additional personnel and equipment.

— The present organization of the hospital, by which patients are assigned according to the county in which they live, should be replaced with a system that mere effectively utilizes person.

— The large geriatire population at Central State, which includes about 600 elderly patients, should be reduced as soon as possible, as many of these patients do not belong in a psychatric hospital.

— A thorough in-depth study of the sospital is should be right of the sospital in the properties of the properties of the sospital and whether any new buildings should be constructed. Such a study should be constructed. Such a study should be conducted. Such a study should be conducted by "out of-state professionals."

### It's the Exception

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It's the Exception
The committee found, as I did, that 'individual treatment is the exception rather than the rule.' It recommended that the unil-censed physicians at Central State be given a time limit to become licensed or be exclassified by the limit of limit of the limit of the limit of lim

peared in the Tennessean and the committee released its report, five former officials of Central State Issued a joint statement, calling for a moratorium on all new buildings on the grounds and a complete reorganization of the hosnital.

A Need tor Action

From the results of my stay at the hospital, from the findings of a blue ribbon committee appointed by the mental health commissioner himself and from the recommendations of five licensed psychiatrists who spent a clear and immediate need for the legislature to take the responsibility for remedying the intolerable conditions at Central State.



garet Sealy at Central State.

The state mental health department has, estimated that, among other things, about 1,500 additional personnel are needed to meet accreditation requirements. The department asked the governor's office for more than 800 of these employes for the 1974-75 budget, but the governor's staff reduced that number to 1872. That would leave the state with almost 1,400 employes to find in 1872 the 1872 the

to 107.

That would leave the state with almost 1,400 employes to find in two years if it is to meet the 1977 federal deadline for accreditation.

# Twin State Thruway Could Cost a Mint

Tennessean Statt Writer is being promoted by citizens it be area interested in econom development.



### More Money for Schools—And Does It Really Help

committee made this recommendation (among several-others) despite their findings which show a 200%, increase in public education spending over the past decade, but an "absolute" decline in students' achievements in the basic educational skills during the last four years.

For instance, Metro school system has the highest per pupil expenditure (\$705 per child) of any action system in the state, but its ACT overage\_(1881) is





state's public colleges and universities.

— In 1962, Tengessee public schools spent \$206.4 million. In 1972, they were spending \$61.68 million. Per every dollar spent in 1972.

— The number of enrolled youngsters however remained larly stable. The report cites "two major reasons" for the uniform the reason of the private school enryllment.

— There has been an in reason private school enryllment.

— There has been an in reason group major reasons of the private school enryllment.



## Action Is Needed at Central State Hospital-Right Now

(Continued From 1-B)
I g e m e n t I r o m the
administration.

"An even more alarming situtition, however, is the lack of
trained psychiatrists on the
"hedical staff. Only seven of the
ophysicians have had psychiatric
training, and one is certified by
the American Board of Psychia
try and Neurology. Of this group,
two are involved solely in a
sure and non-certification des
not necessarily imply incompetence." "a title point with the sole the side of
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physicians nate an psychiatric primaring, and one is certified by reaction in urses and \$7.8% are classified by a compared to the property of the property of

"It is difficult to recruit young psychiatrists to practice in a state hospital with the over-whelming patient-to-physician ratio, the time consuming and frustrating administrative responsibility and the professional isolation which makes practice most unattractive.

"It is our conclusion that action must be taken immediately to hire additional licensed, qualified psychiatrists."

The committee generally commended the medical care unit of the hospital. It's only recommendation in that area was to add family nurse practitioners to provide much of the day-to-day care under the supervision of a staff physician.

The report said that in sychology services, five of the eight psychologists with PhD degrees hology services, five of the eight psychologists, with the provide much increased individuals should be required to pursue licensing vigorously," the report said.

In social services, the report said.

In social services, the report said there is a "serious need for inadequate, the patient-to-myring personnel must be embusing a different patient in the Department of Committee members said they commended the medical care unit of the hospital. It's only recommendation in that area was to add family nurse practitioners to provide much of the day-to-day care under the supervision of a staff physician.

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Robert specializes in books on the Civil War, both rare books and his own reprints. This past week my evenings have been devoted to his recent reisses of Chickamauga: Bloody Battle in the West, by Glenn Tucker. The book sells for \$8, and is distribut-ed in Nashville by Charles and Randy Elder.

Randy Elder.'
Glenn Tucker is expert in his field. And the great, bloody Battle of Chickamauga has always been a fascinating subject to Tennesseans and Southerners. Some of the elements that caught and held my attention:

and ned my attention:

—The skillful but finally reck-less maneuvers of Rosecrans in the mountains as he scattered his army over 60 miles of rough terrain in the face of a nement he imagined to be retreating — but was in fact gathering its strength to attack.

to attack.

"The dramatic and successful movement of Longstreet's corps from the Army of Northern and the successful movement of Longstreet's corps from the Army of Northern States of the superiority on the battlefield.

—Rosecrans fatal error when he ordered Wood to "close up on the Peynolds" to make a disastrous gap in the federal line.

—The final stand of Gen. George Thomas and his Pederals on Snodgrass IIII, where the "Rock of Chicksmanuaga" won his fame.

"Rock of Chickannauga" won his
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in this book cleen Tucker did not
quile reach the level of receive
ment and suspense of "light Thio,
at Gottysburg," that takes nothing from the excellence of this
book — both the writing and the
research are of high-order. While
Chickannauga was fought just
across the Georgia line it was in
fact a battle fought for Chattan
ouga, and for all practical or i
poses can be counted
ace battle for CLAT We
collectors who may not have the
cutter collidors of Tucker's book
this handsome new reprint offers
30 opportunion."

TENNESSEE BOOKMAN

with its two totaout maps in good condition. "

Two weeks ago this column-carried "cuttines" under an il-instration of Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, drawn by Civil War artist A. R. Waud. The lines shalf a Confederate officer with his hat on his sword, charging to the cannon's mouth, was Gen. George Pickett himself.

Not so, writes Rupert D. Palmer of Nashville. He says the officer was probably Brig. Gen. Lewis K. Armistead of Virginia,

1 5 5 7 1

Good Morningside



will not cure its ills."
"It may be well to ask if spending more money on Central State is not a matter of throwing good money after bad," the five good money after bad," u said in a joint statement.

said in a joint statement.

The five are Dr. J. N. Fidelholtz, former director of theforement of the forement of the vanderbilt unit at Central State; Dr. Edmon L.
Green, former assistant director of the Vanderbilt unit; Dr. Virgil L. Metts, former assistant superintendent for clinical services, and Dr. Louis Sampson, former senior staff physician.

The five doctors also urged

former senior statt physician.

The five doctors also urged immediate accreditation on a unit by unit basis and suggested that separate facilities be set up for those patients who need nursing home but not psychiatric care.

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"Obviously a change in administration have already made their recommendanistic by the providing enough unds to adequately take care of ure motionally sick people, but hey are equally guilty in penitting such anarchy in administration to exist."

The doctors also urged an end care,
"Obviously a change in administration is mandatory,"
they said. "The legislature may
be guilty of not providing enough
funds to adequately take care of
our emotionally sick people, but
they are equally guilty in permitting such anarchy in alumiistration to exist."

to political patronage, interference and political admissions but insisted that the hospital remain accountable to the fegislature.

The action at the hospital to the fermion of the five payment of the five

### Money for Schools-And Does It Help

(Continued From 1-R)

said "useable" information was

said "useable" information was obtained from 290.

After a series of public hearings in Nashville, Memphis, Knoxville and Chattanooga, the report stated, "In many school systems, (the) need for money is critical.

"However, the testimony and the evidence show that money alone is not the answer to all of the problems which ill public education. (But) if we desire excellence, then we have to institute changes and be willing to foot the bill.

"The number-one problem facing our school children, is their ability, every child is handinged, and the standard of the property of the committee's chairman, Rep. Dick Clark, (D-Nashville), that most of the committee's chairman, Rep.

By Hugh Walker

mendations are aimed toward improving the child's basic edu-cation development. Especially

reading.
"This is especially important when we discover that 40% to 60% of our school children read below grade level."

peiow grade level."

Four counselors in different secondary schools within the Metro public school system, cited a need for more money for remedial reading programs for all youngsters who need them—not just those who quality according to IQ level and scioeconomic background standards.

dards.

"The youngster who is below a certain Q category or percentile range doesn't get into the remedial reading program," and birs. Sammie Steele, a minti Junior High School, "This youngster is hopelessly lost whether we have a reading program or not."

Mrs Stealendist and the stealendist that the s

whether we nave a reasung purgram or not."

Mrs. Steele said that the Litton Junior, High; remedial reading program was recently eliminated for "economic reasons." "Of the 300 ninth graders at the school, I'd say one fourth need a remedial reading grogram," she added.

Although a different situation exists at Two Rivers Junior High School, counselor Charles Robinette said, "To get things better, we do need more money."

At Two Rivers, Robinette said, "At Two Rivers, Robinette said,"

Morningside Bookshop at Dayton, Ohio is an active book selling and publishing imm rum in the near future is a new printing of Stevenson's Balle of Stevenson's Balle of the Wilson County Donnell family, early settlers around Doals of the Wilson County Donnell family, early settlers around Doals of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Two weeks ago this column

Tucker's account of Pickett's charge bears him out that Picket thinself never reached the Federal lines.

A. R. Waud was present at Gettysburg and his sketches of the battle appeared in "Harper's" at the time, but this some was not among them. The assumption is that he made this sketch at a later date—perhaps for another publication.

The original error in cultime identification was made by the synchrophy of the programs geared solely to eligible the sketch was correctly identified in AP files. This column apologies for allowing the error to pass—and thanks Rupert. Palmer for his correction.

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All Maplewood, there are approximately and the sketch was convected in the sketch was convected to the special reading skills. "But the enroll-metal to the special reading class file when the sketch was convected to the special reading class files and the sketch was convected to the special reading class files the special reading class files that the special readi

added.

Another recommendation by the legislative special education committee is the teaching of the property of the property

dren'n graces: I through 12 who need help in improving reading skills."

Another solution is remedial reading at the college level. Drender of the college level of the college shade of the shade of the college shade of the shad

ties.

"This is a horrible waste of money," the report said. "Not to mention the terrible waste of human resources for us . . . to teach our students in our colleges and universities what they should have been taught at the elementary school level."

The report pointed out that the committee's choice of ACT

But according to Dr. Bob Bogen, executive director of the Metropolitan Nashvillie Education Association (MNEA), "leaching reading as a subject doesn't mean that much."

"Many leachers fielt they reach reading all day," said Bogen, whose agency represents some 94% of the Metro school teachers can be subject as the said of the Metro school teachers determine the said of the Metro school teachers determine the said of the Metro school teachers the said of the Metro school teachers and the state universities and colleges have "indemended to the said of the Briglish, mathematics, social studies (including history), and natural sciency, the University of Tanadation, the State universities are universities and the College entrance test, and are among the 75 higher education institutions and scholarship agencies in the state using ACT score reporting of financial services, the report said. "Also, since the test measures the basic communication and comprehension skills, students who go directly into the work force having low scores, will likely have difficulty with jobs requiring proficiency in these basic areas."

requiring proficiency in these basic areas.

"In comparing ACT scores over the past four years, the committee found that the average score dropped from 19,0 in school year 1989-70, to 18,3, in 1972-73.

"This drop can be generally taken as an indicator of absolute report said. "Since the number of graduating seniors (about 49,000) and the number 148,000 and the number 148,000 remained stable during this period, it can be assumed that the composition of the student group . . remained fairly constant."



However over the four year period, the percentage of students in the highest scoring ACT category (28-36) increased by 13-8. But there was a 70% increased in the lowest scoring category (1-15). In the two intermediary scoring categories, the number of students placed in the second highest group (21-25) dropped by 3%; in the third highest group (12-25) dropped by 3%; in the third highest group (18-20), there was a drop of 55-76. The report goes on to say that among state high school seniors entering college in 1983-89, 17% had ACT scores of 15 or 1685. But by 1971-72, the number of students in the lowest category had increased to 24%. Of the low ranking seniors, community colleges attracted almost half or 48%, universities and 1974-1974. The senior score of 15 or 160-100 and 1974-1974. The senior score of 15 or 160-100 and 1974-1974. The senior score is the senior score of 15 or 160-100 and 1974-1974. The senior score is the senior s

### Twin State Thruway

(Continued From 1-B)
normally considered to be indicative of a viable project..."
Specifically, the consultant estimated that the road would produce only 28% of the funds necessary for bond retirement and maintenance.

Retiring the bonds necessary

maintenance.
Retiting the bonds necessary to finance construction, then, would require massive infusions of other state dollars. Considering interest and other costs, the consultants say the subsidy would amount to \$592,691,000 over the 40-year band period.
The annual subsidy would be between \$15 million and \$49 million.

lion.

Kentucky has developed turn-pikes probably more than any other state, with 12 of them in operation. Roberson's bill is modeled on the Kentucky law.

miodeled on the Kentucky Inw.
Figures prepared by the Tennessee Department of Transpertation show that only one of the
Kentucky turnpikes — the one
tween Fitzabethion and Louis
ville — pays its own way.
Triat globaldes in Kentucky
Triat globaldes in Kentucky
salam, or 7.5% of that stale's
between formal stale's
delivery from the control of the control
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one state official who has studied the question made these points about turnpikes last week:

— Using 100% state funds means that no environmental impact studies need be made. While this may speed construction, it could produce unknown of the produced by the General Assembly and sold by the funding board.

— Turnpikes cost Tennessee axpayers twice—through rod asset axes and then through the unknown of the produced by the funding board.

Sen James Roberson

use taxes and then through the toll.

— The legislation as written would have the state pay the cost of relocating utilities along the right of way, a cost borne by the state of relocating utilities along the right of way, a cost borne by the But the most telling point midde by the state-official was a political one.

"Knowing the state-official was a political one.

"Knowing the legislature," he said, "when they start log rolling to get turniplees in their form the said, "when they start log rolling to get turniplees in their form whether the reads can pay for themselves or not."

Roberson disagrees.
"The only way we can ever get alequate roads in rural areas may be turniplees," he says, "It's a sample as that".