

Waco Tribune-Herald

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Waco Tribune-Herald **OPINION**

4A

Dedicated to Truth, Honor and Integrity

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Story ‘unbalanced’

The Trib’s front-page story Sunday regarding a newly released book about the former Waco State Home [“A school’s brutal history”] had little balance. The reporter could have asked where these children would have been without the home.

They might also have asked for positive memories during their stay. Many children living in private homes had had it as bad, or worse, as those in the home.

Quincy Carpenter, Waco

Monday, February 21, 2011

Book reveals Waco State Home

In regard to Quincy Carpenter’s Tuesday letter about the Feb. 13 Trib story about the history of brutality at the Waco State Home, it appears Carpenter is basing his comments strictly on the newspaper story about the bad that happened there. Perhaps he needs to read the book “We Were Not Orphans,” by Sherry Matthews. The book has balance. It contains uplifting and inspirational success stories.

But ultimately, how much good can outweigh the brutality that occurred there? How much good can outweigh the mental and physical abuse suffered? What scars do some of the former home children carry, and at what cost?

This book shows our government’s shortcomings and bureaucracy. It is inspirational because of the storytellers. They dared, after all, to be children. Matthews should be highly commended for daring to publish such a controversial book. She did this for her three brothers and the other children who lived at the home. Perhaps through this book, closure will be found for that chapter of their lives.

Buddy Tucker, Waco