

Study focuses on city school success

By BARRY ESPENSON
Of the Emerald

The University Center for Education Policy and Management is currently involved in a project designed to bring problem solving in urban schools back to the "Grass-roots" level.

The project, started in 1975, is funded through the National Institute of Education (NIE). The center received a \$130,000 nine-month grant from the NIE to

complete the project.

The goal of the project, under the direction of psychology professors Richard Schmuck and Philip Runkel, is to gather information from nine selected urban schools that have been successful in raising the level of achievement of their students through innovative programs, Schmuck says.

Schmuck says the center was chosen by the NIE because it is one of the few institutions in the

country with the capabilities to carry out the necessary research for the project successfully.

The University center joins the Center for New Schools in Chicago in the study. The purpose of this partnership is to split the nine successful schools that are being studied into two regions with the University center researching the western schools and the Chicago Center studying the eastern schools.

The two centers often collabo-

rate on research. Their joint effort is called the Documentation and Technical Assistance Project.

The nine schools involved in the study are located in Oakland, San Jose and Los Angeles, Calif.; Louisville, Ken.; Chicago, Ill.; Washington, D.C. and New York City. These school districts are all in low income urban areas.

Problems encountered by these schools are common among low-income area school districts. The students in these schools typically have a low level of achievement compared with IQ and also compared with students in schools in higher income areas.

Schmuck cites reasons for this problem as mainly a lack of teacher and parent dedication. The quality of teacher that is available to low income, minority school districts is generally inferior, he says.

"Many teachers hired are either inexperienced or are available only because they could not get hired anywhere else," Schmuck says. Teachers in these areas

also have a tendency to leave as soon as a more prestigious position is available, he adds.

Another major problem is the lack of rapport between the middle class teachers and the lower class parents and students. Schmuck believes most teachers do not understand the problems that exist in impoverished areas.

The role of the center is to document the successful procedures that are in use and put them in a written form that will be readily available to teachers, administrators and parents in problem areas. Observing the day-to-day activities of the nine successful schools is the center's main source of information, Schmuck says.

The object of the Documentation and Technical Assistance Project is not to advise, Schmuck feels, but to show by example that total involvement by all people concerned is needed to solve the problems of urban education in low income areas.

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Watching the river flow

By Steve Dodge

Although it's not clear whether or not last week's reported cloning (creation of a being from a single cell) of an American millionaire into a 14-month old boy is true or not, scientists say cloning will be a reality much sooner than 2525 — and at least a few are worried.

Jonathan Beckwith, a professor of genetics at Harvard University and Ethan Singer, professor of genetics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology have joined in a Freedom of Information suit to force various agencies to make public just exactly what is going on in genetic research.

"It is time that the whole array of scientific and medical 'advances' which allow meddling in the human gene pool be explained to the U.S. population," said Beckwith in an interview with the Associated Press.

Beckwith couldn't verify last week's reported cloning, but said federally funded research has made such a development possible.

"Cloning of humans will obviously be possible before very long," said Prof. Singer of MIT. "This method has profound and extensive implications for society as a whole, because of the questions it inevitably raises," Singer said.

Among those questions, he said, are: "What are the rights of cloned individuals? What are the ethical and moral aspects of cloning humans? Who has the right to clone?...What are the political implications of having cloning available to some and not to others, and or hiring women to carry fetuses not their own?"

The scientists are seeking the records of the National Institute of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Departments of Defense and Agriculture.

The Treasury Department has proposed a new copper dollar to Congress, a recent Associated Press report said.

The department told the House



Coinage Committee that the new dollar, which would be slightly larger than the current quarter, but smaller than the half-dollar, would cost between two and three cents to produce, with an average life span of 15 years.

Paper dollars cost only 1.7 cents apiece to make, but they wear out much faster, the department said.

Vending machine operators want a new dollar coin, according to AP, so they can sell products costing more than a dollar.

Some members of Congress have expressed fear it would also allow vendors to raise prices, and Nevada casinos are on record against the copper dollar because the old silver ones are attractive to gamblers, the report said.

A recent issue of "Good Housekeeping" said a new "highly effective and remarkably safe" contraceptive for women may be available within the next 12 months if testing proves it out.

In its "Family Doctor" column written by Alan Nourse, the magazine said the so-called collagen sponge, a pad the size of a silver dollar and half an inch thick has none of the side effects of the pill and does not require fitting by a doctor.

A natural fibrous material, the sponge utilizes the same potent sperm-killing agent used in many vaginal creams and foams.

After the film "Close Encounters" debuted in Japan recently, police agencies were swamped with reports of UFO sightings. — UPI