

Education reform mag isn't looking for labels

Edcentric, a Eugene-based magazine dedicated to political reform, shuns the pigeonholes often inflicted upon it.

"We don't advocate a political line," stresses Elise Thatcher, an *Edcentric* staffer for over two years. "Some people call us humanist, some socialist, some far-left, some progressive. We don't put labels on ourselves." But she adds, "At least no one calls us fascist."

Thatcher remembers the man who phoned her, and asked if *Edcentric* was a "radical" magazine. "I told him that we try to be more humanist than radical," she recalls. "And then he said that we must be a radical magazine because getting humanism into education these days is really a radical idea."

Whatever its political coloring, the magazine has suffered the financial ups and downs common to most small publications. Conceived in 1969, and headquartered in Washington D.C. during the heat of the anti-Vietnam era, *Edcentric* was initially nourished by a Ford Foundation Grant. But soon, the Ford Foundation withdrew its support.

According to Linda Duggan,

a three year *Edcentric* staffer, "The people who started the magazine worked for real educational change. They didn't sit around on their butts in some office and spend their money on public relations. And because the magazine did exactly what it said it was going to do, the Ford Foundation didn't like it."

Edcentric relocated in Eugene in 1971. Under the auspices of the Center for Educational Reform, a non-profit organization, a collective of assorted individuals was created to publish the magazine.

But long hours and scant pay soon decimated the few faithful who poured their idealism and imagination into the magazine. *Edcentric* began to be published irregularly. Subscriptions slackened. And even though such provocative articles as "Education in North Vietnam," "The Case of the Measurement Junkies," "Sexism in Elementary Math Textbooks" and "Educational Progress in China" enlivened the magazine's pages, *Edcentric* nonetheless verged on extinction.

The struggle for survival is still intense, but the magazine is far from dead. In fact, a new scheme may breathe more life into the ailing publication. Since last September,

Edcentric has operated a bingo parlor in Springfield. Business has been so good that the magazine will open up a second bingo parlor in Eugene sometime this summer.

"We had our doubts at first about bingo," Thatcher says, "but then it's not quite like investing in McDonald's, either."



Enough income has been generated from the bingo operation to finance a new issue of *Edcentric*, which will come out in May. The magazine tries to have four issues a year, but because of financial problems, hasn't been published since last spring.

The upcoming May issue will feature articles on gay rights

for teachers and students, the Bakke case and the introduction of "nuclear power" games into New Mexico schools by power companies.

Both Duggan and Thatcher emphasize their desire for more community input into the publication.

"We're trying to encourage people to get involved with the magazine," Duggan stresses. "This magazine is a communication tool. I see it as a way to link people together and share information. We need photographs, art work and writing."

"We get a lot of articles from Ph.D. types," Thatcher laughs, "who try and unload their stuff on us. It's usually pretty dry stuff. We want writing that's alive, not dead."

From past issues, *Edcentric* has a large bank of talent to draw upon. Locally, Ron Eachus (now an aide to Congressman Weaver), Norman Solomon (a state organizer for TDA) and Nick Gallo (a University journalism graduate and free-lance writer) have all worked for *Edcentric*.

Also, such alternative education personalities as Jonathan Kozol (*Death at An Early Age*), Herb Kohl (*The Open Classroom*), John Holt (*Why Children Fail*) and Paul Goodman (*Growing Up Absurd*) have written articles

for the magazine.

Duggan, a part-time special education instructor in Springfield, wants *Edcentric* to address itself more aggressively to the development of political power for students, teachers and parents in the public school systems. "This can only come from better local control of the schools," she asserts. "Ultimately, it will mean changing the entire system, the entire society."

She is even more expressive about the University education school. "It's saturated with a behavior mod mentality," she declares.

Chet Bowers, University education professor, agrees with Duggan's harsh assessment. "This school is a manifestation of technological consciousness," he states. But Bowers also has his reservations about *Edcentric*. "It has done a lot of good things," he admits, "but it has too much of a born-again Marxist perspective. It tries too hard to be out in the forefront of radical thought in education."

"Some teachers think that *Edcentric* is too radical, too threatening," Duggan says.

And Thatcher adds, "But we want to make it even more threatening."

By Bruce Campbell

Welch

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single didn't do a thing and he's Paul McCartney — so it's not what you expect, but what you hope for. This one has done really well and

Review

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Number 5, nowhere near done yet, will be called "The Pyramid Issue" and will be concerned with the Great Pyramid of Giza.

Individual issues are \$2.50. Special situations may be set up whereby any three issues are available for \$6. (please list choices by number) or all seven may be had for \$12. Cash, check or money orders should be sent to SITO, 85829 Ridgeway Rd, Pleasant Hill, OR 97401. Individual copies should be available soon at the Health Food and Pool Store, 141 N. 3rd, in Springfield.

Finally, a brief note on 10 point five, whose last issue was reviewed in this section.

This magazine falls somewhere in-between *Northwest Review* and *Clark Corner*. It is more local than the former, yet does not draw as much from the University as the latter.

"Our aim is to present quality work in an inexpensive, easily accessible publication," says the introduction.

It was founded in the early spring of 1975, by Oz Publications, Inc. The format is larger, contains mostly poetry, with an interview with a writer or artist.

Almost all of the contributors are from the Northwest or California.

In case everybody doesn't know by now, the magazine's title refers to the cycles per second that make up the median alpha wave frequency of the human brain.

Story by Eric Maloney
Photos by Erich Boekelheide

Oregon Daily Emerald

I'm very pleased."

His singles have received a lot of AM play with two topping the charts. But Welch feels his audience hasn't jelled yet. "I'm looking for a little of both — AM and FM. FM audiences are broader and they tend to stay with you longer, AM audiences are mainly people driving to work and kids with transistors," he said.

Working with producer John

Carter and manager Mick Fleetwood, Welch hopes to be back in the studio at the end of the summer. He may do another total do-it-yourself or he may use his current band. "I'm working on the material as we go... I'd like to use more instruments — keyboards and acoustic guitar — but I don't want to be arbitrary about it; whatever works," he said.

Welch retains some part of

Fleetwood Mac with him not only evident in his music but with Mick Fleetwood as his manager. "The main thing is that he is my friend, so I know he's not just out to make a few quick hundreds," he explained, "and he's a musician still playing on stage and sweats, so he understands what it's like to be on the road."

On the road will be Welch's song for the next few months as

he will be sharing the bill with Jefferson Starship, Foreigner and Heart in the coming months. "We're doing these gigs to see what people think of the music; trying it out on different areas."

If you'd like to be in Bob Welch's audience tickets are available at \$6.50 in advance and \$7 Sunday at the Sun Shop, Everybody's Records (Eugene and Corvallis) the LCC information desk.

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