



Education and technological revolution

by Dr. Matthew Prophet
Superintendent,
Portland Public Schools

All signs point to the fact that in the next twenty years this country will experience a technological revolution far greater than any in our past.

The students in our schools today will live their lives in a society of high speed communications, high technology and computer science.

In order to better prepare students to live and succeed in this changing society, the public schools must place greater emphasis on providing students with the skills needed to get and hold a job in the fast-paced society that is their heritage.

On numerous occasions since I arrived in Portland, I have stressed the need for the district to increase its emphasis on the whole range of vocational, industrial, and technical training and education available to students in our schools.

In my judgment the truly unsung programs in the schools today are those that could provide the level of skills essential to students to earn a living after high school, advanced technical training and/or college.

In the real world of the 1980s, vocational and technical education, in all of its diversity, may very well dominate the thrust of public education. All of the statistics tell us that in the 1980s job skills training and education will loom as a dominant function for the public schools, particularly in the cities.

Please understand, it is in no way my intent to downgrade strictly academic programs. They are absolutely essential and I will continue to upgrade their quality throughout the

Portland Public School System, but the educated student of the future should have a balance of vocational and academic training and education to increase the career options and opportunities they will face.

It is one of my goals for the future of the Portland Public Schools to maximize the options for all students, and to better equip them to function effectively as productive contributors in our society. To do this will require the support, interest and participation between the schools and all of its publics.

Vocational education has not received sufficient attention in the Portland Metropolitan Area and in Portland Public Schools during the past decade and more. Programs have steadily declined in number and quality—often in seeming oblivion to the needs of the local economy. For example, Portland Public Schools now has electronics programs in three high schools as opposed to eight programs ten years ago—this, despite the amazing growth of the electronics industry in our area.

Declining enrollment, eroded state and federal support and a beleaguered national and local economy have been prime villains in decline of vocational education. However, other school districts have faced these same problems, and have emerged with stronger programs and retooled delivery systems that provide quality programs in the most cost-efficient manner.

Recent reports show that our academic programs are significant improvements in teaching students the basic skills. The recovery of vocational education must be engineered with the same dedication and take advantage of this recovery.

Educators over the past two decades have been forced into listening to vocal advocates from competing interest groups. The tragedy is that seldom have these voices been raised by those in our communities who employ people and pay their checks.

It is ironic that the greatest potential strength of vocational education has often been somewhat of a weak area in our school system, that being our relationship with our business and industrial community. Though we have made gallant attempts to involve advisory committees, we have found any consistent, meaningful involvement difficult to maintain.

We simply must develop a delivery system for vocational education in the Portland Schools that closes these enormous gaps and, most importantly, gives full ownership to the local business and industrial community.

I have committed myself to working closely with the business and labor leaders of the Portland area, and to do my best to mobilize and focus the support of influential heads of corporations and small businesses in the Greater Portland Area toward improving the overall vocational/technical program in our schools. I am confident that this vital task can be accomplished within a reasonable period of time.

Now is therefore the time to begin a comprehensive review of the existing vocational education delivery system, with a goal to establish more effective and efficient methods to prepare those students who so choose, to have salable skills upon high school graduation, while at the same time contribute toward meeting Portland community economic needs.

Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

With the March Against Prostitution fresh on the community's mind, the Street Beat team asked, "How did you feel about the march against prostitution?"



Charles Maxey
Local Merchant

I approve of the march if there is a follow-up. A follow-up with the benefit of the authorities. If not then the march was just a show. And the march has done nothing but further prostitution.



Terri Chatan
Lady of the Evening

I think they should let a lady do what a lady does best. If she's good at typing then let her type. If she's good at other things then let her be. Everybody has their own job. Again, let a lady do what she does best.



John Ray
Student

The march was productive. If the march continues, especially if they march on the mayor's house, it will make the mayor aware of the problem and the products of the problem.



Steve Bollin
Sawsmithman

I heard about it on the news and the citizens must feel very strongly about it. I think that it ought to be legal—then we wouldn't have that problem (although I have never been confronted with it).



Marie Matsanga
Nurse's Aide

The people feel that is something they want to do. I don't like the whole idea of prostitution. The thought of selling one's body turns me off.



Vickie Kavanaugh
Kitchen Worker

I don't live over in that area but if I did it would bother me. I don't think you can stop it because it's the oldest profession. It's just something that happens.



Washington Hot Line

by Congressman Ron Wyden

When Congress voted last week to override the President's veto of the Supplemental Appropriations Bill, it struck a blow for fairness and credibility.

For the first time since the Reagan Administration took office, Congress stood up and said no to a budget plan that wasn't fair. For the first time in two years, Congress went toe-to-toe with the President over the issue of fairness—and won.

In pushing for Congressional support for his veto, the President attempted to portray the Appropriations Bill as a budget-buster. The facts simply don't support this contention. The bill approved by Congress asked for \$2 billion less than the President himself had requested.

What the President really was upset about was how Congress spent the money—not how much it spent.

The bill Congress sent to the President called for some \$917 million more than the President had requested for employment programs for the elderly, education programs for the handicapped, loans for college students and extended unemployment benefits for the millions of Americans who have been thrown out of a job by a flagging economy.

It called for \$2.1 billion less in defense spending than the President wanted.

So when the President said he didn't like how much we were spending, he really meant he didn't like how we spent it. It was not really a matter of cold cash—as the President would have had the American people believe—but a matter of priorities, a matter of choices, a matter of how we allocate our resources.

As I said in a speech prepared for floor debate, the President made it clear in setting forth his request that he would rather spend for foreign aid than for elderly employment, student loans and education for the handicapped.

He made it clear that he would rather spend for exotic weaponry that does not work very well and would not give us any more security if it did, than for advances to state unemployment funds.

Congress, in rejecting the President's plea to sustain his veto, made it clear it does not agree.

Faced with a choice of whether we should spend our money to help get America back on her feet, or to continue to pay for waste, Congress said no.

That's a victory for American taxpayers. And it's a good sign for the future.

Buchanan seeks office

(Continued from page 1 column 3)

should be dumping that kind of money into El Salvador, but it has no legality and no place on the county ballot. It's a straw poll financed with county taxes to sample public sentiment on a given issue. The initiative measure requires some education on both sides of the issues. The county ballot is for county business." Buchanan uses this same logic to oppose a nuclear freeze measure on the county ballot.

With the demise of federal funds, could the county pick up the slack? "People are willing to support additional funding for essential services but not for human services programs. People are not willing to tax themselves any more."

Buchanan says the property tax limitation measure, ballot measure #3, is a terrible idea. "I'm sympathetic with people who want to limit property taxes but as the public begins to understand the consequences they will see that it is just not an acceptable solution. I'm dead set against it. A vote for this 1 1/2 percent limitation will create havoc in local government, schools, cities and counties. If it's approved, we will end up voting on a sales tax, lottery or an increase in the state's income tax."

Dennis Buchanan is also opposed to ballot measure #6, especially the clause that prevents lobbying by a county official. "I think it's a bad idea that we cannot retain someone on staff who supports county interests. We've had two big problems in the county. Historically, the legislature has said to us that we must provide certain services but they have not given us the funds to carry these services out. By going down to Salem full-time we were able to get the State to take over the court system. This saved the local property taxpayers over 15 million dollars over the next five years. You just have to have people down there who represent your point of view."

Why should the voters support

Dennis Buchanan over Gordon Shadburne? Buchanan says, "The voters should support me because of my superior performance in office. I think that I have been able to represent them better and I stay in step with the progressive traditions in Oregon. I stand for open and responsible government — one that meets the needs of the citizens. I stand for the progressive goals of equal rights and fair treatment for all our citizens. Just look at my record: Dennis Buchanan supported the ERA, the 911 system and preserving the Columbia River Gorge. My opponent opposed all these."

"Again, the record speaks for itself. I've done a better job and deserve voter's support."



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