

President Bush Is Taking Wrong Lessons, III

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

It appears more important than ever to follow through on that promise to present more criteria and direction for parental involvement in the education of our children; "...toward greater understanding of the role of technology in the school, workplace and community-and nurturing a 'science environment' in THE HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD." In the next paragraphs you will quickly see that a lot of 'self help' will be required.

How many readers have noticed the new educational storm clouds gathering over the education scene with frightening rapidity? Just last week the huge "San Francisco Unified School District announced that it is FILING FOR BANKRUPTCY! Unless there is an immediate infusion of funds from 'no-one-knows-where', ALL SCHOOLS WILL BE CLOSED DOWN THIS WEEK. But the ensuing disruption and chaos is anticipated to be repeated across the country, especially in those states where recent "PROPERTY TAX LIMITATIONS" have derailed the funding structure (sound familiar).

The San Francisco Unified District has been highly lauded by President Bush as a "forward looking" operation whose expensive magnet schools and 'choice' elements "are to be emulated as a national model" (he failed to mention that the superintendent who concealed the growing financial debacle had been ousted). Apparently, the president urgently needs lessons in areas other than computers. A number of major school districts across the country have announced that they may follow suit.

Compounding the growing strain on both urban and rural education budgets is the immediate and depressing need for expensive RETRAINING PROGRAMS for both late-teens and a workforce without the skills necessary to complete in a highly technical environment. Last week I examined the short sighted and politically expedient push by this administration for INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS; on-going congressional hearings revealed that the ranks of unemployed without competitive technical skills would be greatly swelled by greater imports of electronics, autos, textiles and garments.

Now the local parents who are monitoring these hearings on C-Span report that the economic impact will be much greater than previously thought. Spokepersons for America's prime agricultural sectors (which hire massive numbers of African Americans and Hispanics) testified that the rapidly lowered barriers to further importation of foreign commodities will wreak havoc upon American growers of COTTON, SUGAR AND RICE-as well as the related refiners and processors. Are you beginning to get the picture of a two-pronged disaster? More unemployed without technical training-and loss of the very industries comprising THE TAX BASE that supports education.

That scenario could pretty well assure economic disaster for fourteen southern states, California and Hawaii-but what about here in Oregon? Already reeling from the impact upon education brought about by "Proposition 5", we are now told that 11.6 million more acres of northwest timber will be set aside for "Spotted Owl

Habitat"-5 million acres in Oregon alone. Given an estimated 500 of the little varmit that works out to 10,000 acres for each owl condominium, a loss of 30,000 jobs (100,000 family members), and a 2 billion dollar loss to the economy-just the first biennium. That is 4 million dollars per owl!

Given all of these factors, it should not be too difficult for parents to realize that despite all the glowing and enthusiastic projections of a new look and structure in education (with international parity), there will not even be enough money to maintain the crippled status quo. This makes it obvious that parents will have to engage in vigorous 'self-help' projects to ensure that their children are read for that technological 'promised land' (with industry assistance). The same perception will be required of many community organizations who also must re-evaluate the gravity of the situation.

Next week's article will detail how this can be done, furnishing specific examples. I will draw from real-time experiences such as the Martin-Marietta Aluminum Company sponsored education model here in Oregon during the 1960s. There will be a list of affordable math and science books, videos, electronic and biology kits, and of companies supplying science instruments and experiments for kids. Add relevant magazines, posters. There will also be information on how to set up neighborhood science clubs with structured parent participation-and how to tie such activities into the school curriculum. It is not all that difficult; some local parents are already doing just that.

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Portland Public Schools
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Teen Parent Summer School Program

Teen Parent Magazine

Hometown USA Finalist
Cork Youth International Video and Film Festival in Cork, Ireland -
Best Film School, Best Editing

International Media Festival on Disabilities Commendation Awards

American Women in Radio and T.V. - Honorable Mention

Best of the Northwest Video competition - Honorable Mention

Teen Parent T.V.

Tenth annual Cork Youth International Video Festival - Best Photography

American Women in Radio in T.V. - First Place 1989

Special Thanks

Liz Schillenger, Joe Johnson, Nia Gray, Joe Bean Keller,
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Students of Summer School Teen Parent Program, Anna Street, PIVOT,
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Ockely Green Middle School Annual Carnival

It is time again for the Ockely Green Middle School Carnival. This annual event will be held in the school gym on May 17 from 2 to 7 pm. All proceeds go to benefit the Ockely Green Middle School Band program.

There will be many exciting and fun booths and events including: Cake walk, Dunk tank, Clowns, Games of Skill, and Great Food and Big Drinks.

Bring the whole family, support a worthy cause, and have great fun! Tickets are four for one dollar at the door. Advance purchase may be made at the school. Tickets purchased in advance are five for one dollar.

Ockely Green Middle School is located at the corner of Interstate Avenue and Ainsworth. Additional details may be obtained by calling Jim Dunlop, Band Director, at 280-5660.

Students To Raise Funds For Children Of Ex-offenders

"Every kid should be given a chance to go to the zoo. Don't you think so?" asks Chris Wilson, a Lewis & Clark College senior.

To make that and other educational opportunities possible for the children of women living at Our New Beginnings, Wilson is organizing a "Children's Fund Bike/Walk-a-Thon." The event will start at 1 p.m., Sunday, May 19, at Tryon Creek Park.

Our New Beginnings is a nationally-recognized program designed to help female ex-offenders who want to change and better their lives.

Industry or even to buy crayons and art supplies. I decided I wanted to establish a fund for the kids...to give them some kind of well to draw from.

Lewis & Clark's resident hall assistants supported the idea. The fundraiser will be a bike/walk-a-thon in and around Tryon Creek State Park.

Participants will gather as many sponsors as possible. Each sponsor will be asked to donate in increments of one dollar. Each dollar represents a chance at winning a prize in a "thank you" drawing. A rally at Lewis & Clark College with speakers and performers

"We visited both the women's and men's state prisons in Salem and found them to be pretty depressing," said Wilson. "When we visited Our New Beginnings, we came away with a feeling of relief-that someone did care. Talking with Carole Pope, the founder of the program, was an incredibly energizing and amazing experience."

Wilson, who plays the guitar and has worked as a camp counselor, volunteered to visit Our New Beginnings and to sing with the children. For more information, contact Chris Wilson, (503) 768-8527

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