

Oregon Educators and Utilities Team-Up To Make Oregon Students 'Energy Smart'

In an unprecedented cooperative effort, Portland General Electric (PGE), Northwest Natural Gas (NNG) and the state department of energy and education kicked off Energy Smarts, a classroom curriculum for grades K through 12. The program will encourage students and their parents to learn how to use energy more efficiently at home.

Energy Smarts is the second phase of the previously announced Energy Efficiency in Oregon Schools (EEOS) program. The first phase of the program deals with retrofitting school facilities with energy efficient equipment.

Originally developed by Portland General Electric and the state, EEOS has been enhanced by the addition of Northwest Natural Gas as a full partner on the project. Through this partnership, the program may now be initiated statewide.

Pacific Power is also contributing to the effort by bringing Energy Smarts to schools in its northeast Portland service territory. Pacific Power plans a December kick-off in the Madison school cluster.

Those participating in the announcement at Lincoln High School included: Norma Paulus, State superintendent of public instruction; Kay Stepp, president of PGE; Bruce Sampson, senior vice president of public affairs and general counsel, Northwest Natural Gas; and Tom Imeson, vice president of government and public affairs, Pacific Power.

"We developed this program not only because we want to help Oregon schools get the most out of their limited funds," said Stepp, "but also because we truly committed to environmental responsibility. Energy efficiency is the resource with the least economic and environmental cost. We must begin

today to build energy awareness in tomorrow's adults and to draw a strong relationship between energy and the environment.

Different Energy Smart programs have been developed for each grade. The eighth and ninth grade curriculum puts the students in three separate roles--investigator, computer technician and home energy expert. In the investigator role, the student works through a study guide in which he or she reads about energy efficiency and the environment and then does an energy audit in his or her home. The audit includes questions on home heating and cooling, water use, kitchen appliances, lighting and home electronics.

In the role of computer technician, the student takes the information from his or her audit and enters it into a computer, following specific formatting instructions. The participating utility then transfers that information to a computer at the utility and, using historic energy billing data, makes recommendations and dollar saving estimates for each child's home.

Armed with the utility report, the student becomes a home energy expert and shows his or her parents what needs to be done and how much money can be saved. The report will include special utility programs, a free energy efficient shower head and recommendations on everything from energy efficient lighting to recycling. Students are encouraged to compete for who can save the most power in their home.

The eighth and ninth grade Energy Smarts program, called "In Concert with the Environment," was developed by EcoGroup of Tempe, Arizona and was first tested in three Phoenix-area high schools by Arizona Public Service, that area's largest utility.

Arizona Public Service has now extended the program statewide.

Portland General Electric, Northwest Natural Gas and Pacific Power, in association with Oregon Schools, are developing the Energy Smarts curriculum for grades K through seven. The program consists of 32 different modules with six student activities and information on a specific energy efficient project. For example, in The Battle of the Bulbs, students learn that incandescent bulbs give off 90 percent of their energy as heat instead of light.

They are asked to count the bulbs in their home and note the different types. Other module topics include: Curtain Caper, The Lawn Ranger, Watt's It All About?, and Let's Grow Green. The K through seven program begins in the first quarter of 1992.

Grades ten through 12 are offered a grant program in which students and teachers are encouraged to develop their own programs on energy efficiency. Grants of up to \$500 are offered.

The EEOS program, including the Energy Smarts component, is being tested in eleven Oregon schools this fall. If the pilot is successful, it will then be extended to the rest of the state.

The first phase of the EEOS program, announced earlier, concentrates on facilities and can save schools 15 to 30 percent on energy bills through energy audits, maintenance training and installations of new energy-efficient equipment such as timers to automatically start heating systems, high efficiency lighting and new energy efficiency equipment regardless of the energy source. Over the next five years, these measures could mean a savings of \$15 million to \$20 million, in addition to delaying the need to construct new power and plants, keep energy costs down and protect the environment.

perspectives

by Professor McKinley Burt

Don't Give Up The Ship

May I take this opportunity to thank my readers for their strong and favorable response to last week's article. Though I should have known, it was interesting to learn how many others have experienced the same unpleasantness. As I said in my front page article, "vigilance" is what it is all about. Also, thank you teachers for requests for my presentations during the coming year.

Back on the ranch, we find the education scene about where we left it. There are some things I don't like being right about and certainly one of them is the lack of progress of the president's "Education 2000" program announced last spring. My less-than-favorable assessment seems to have been right on target as the reports come in from education circles around the country. The Education Association says it quite well:

"While there is little that is not admirable about the six National Education Goals adopted by George Bush and the nation's governors, the Bush Administration's 'America 2000: An Education Strategy' plan has been called a scam (Gordon K. Davies, 'The President's Bold Educational Reform' Is a Scam, 'The Chronicle of Higher Education, May 15, 1991) and a crusade' (George R. Kaplan, 'Watch Out for America 2000: It Really Is a Crudade, 'Education Week, Sept. 2, 1991).

As Kaplan observes, 'For a conservative administration in panting need of a domestic agenda, America 2000

offers exciting prospects; a shot at preempting a powerful Democratic Party issue 18 months before the 1992 national elections...'

Like I always say, "you read it here first," but I would much rather be right about horse races. Some were not pleased with my cogent remarks last spring but, now, some of my evaluations are being quoted verbatim. It was in the July 25, 1990 edition of this newspaper that I presented a two-page layout reflecting the critical state of the education process in Oregon. It included a recount of my experience before an education committee of the Oregon State Legislature. My testimony was at the request of state senator Vera Katz, a leading proponent for education reform in the state of Oregon.

This appearance before the "Teacher Standards" body was right in line with my long recognition that the CLASSROOM TEACHER is the key and essential component of the education process. On the page facing my report, I presented a wealth of material on minority contributions to the culture and technology of the country -- and how the classroom teacher could be supported in an integration of this material into the curriculum or lesson plan. But is Oregon's "Education Plan" faing any better than the national? Again, I quote from the November Oregon Education Journal.

"Davies argues that 'The President and his new Secretary of Educa-

tion, Lamar Alexander, have proposed a reform package that simply changes the subject. Rather than deal with how and why children so not learn, they propose two initiatives that merely confuse the issue: testing and choice.'

Have Oregon leaders fallen onto the rhetoric bandwagon? One wonders when State superintendent Norma Paulus remarks that she is not happy "to be leading a parade that is marching backwards." One wonders about legislative leaders who so willingly passed such an extensive education reform package as The Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century in the near-absence of research, costing, or input from the public. One also wonders whether our state leaders, like the Bush Administration, are simply trying to change the subject.

In their zeal to implement the new reform act, state department staff, when asked where the funding will come from to implement the act, have simply stated that 'the act will not fail because of lack of funding, rather because of people's unwillingness to change.'

The reader can well understand if I opt for a continued close support of the teacher, student and parent--rather than lose time engaging a confused bureaucracy in combat. All three have become increasingly aware of the nature of the problem, and of THEIR OWN POWER TO IMPACT THE PROCESS--from governmental bodies to the polling place to the schoolhouse. I wouldn't give up yet!

'We've Come A Long Way But We Still Have A Long Way To Go'

Dear Friends:

On October 20, 1991, the Portland Branch NAACP launched an all-out Fall Membership Drive to fun through the month of November.

The NAACP is a membership organization. The more members we have, the louder we can speak. We need YOUR membership to increase our strength. We are seeking to increase our membership by 500 new members in our Portland Branch. The problems we face in Portland as well as the rest of the country require a strong NAACP. You can make a difference.

If your organizations has funds to donate to organizations like the NAACP, it would be greatly appreciated if you could use those funds to enroll ALL YOUR MEMBERS who are not currently NAACP members. This would be a financial help as well as increase our membership. All we would need would be a check to cover the cost of all memberships and the names and addresses of persons to whom the memberships will go. Regular or contributing memberships would be appreciated.

Another idea, of course, is to donate the money and give memberships as Christmas gifts to Senior Citizens.

Regular Memberships are \$100.00; Contributing memberships are \$15, \$20, \$25; Youth memberships are: Up to 21 with Crisis Magazine - \$5.00 Up to 21 without Crisis - \$3.00.

Thank You For Your Memberships and Support
Sincerely,
Ed Washington
President

Oregon Liquor Control Commission Proposes Restrictions

To the Editor:

My name is Pil Jun Chung. I bought the Alberta Street Market located on 9th and Alberta in 1986 and another market on 14th and Prescott in 1989. I have 7-10 employees in my stores. My concern is with the Oregon Liquor Control Commission's proposal to restrict the store's liquor license.

I have voluntarily pulled all wines out of the stores and have stopped selling fortified alcohol as of October 29, 1991. During my six years at the location on 9th and Alberta I have never violated any City or government regulations. I have never had any warning letters, nor citations. The OLCC feels

that restricting my license and other stores around the area will reduce the problems in the neighborhood. I would agree if they would justify it by doing the same to all the stores that they say are in the impact area (about 22 stores), instead of individual stores.

If I should be punished I think it should be for a violation involving my stores. I don't think that I am being treated fairly by being compared to the other stores in the neighborhood, and because of the neighborhood itself. I feel as if I am being harassed because of the high incidents involving gang activities in the neighborhood. I do my best to prevent any drinking around the

store's vicinity, and my employees and I monitor whom we sell alcoholic beverages to.

I employ people living in the community. I try to reciprocate the neighborhood, and I make several contributions to the community. I have written St. Andrews Catholic Church regarding their views about Alberta Street Market and the kind of impact they think we make on the neighborhood, and I have the support of the King Neighborhood Association and Stay Clean.

Sincerely,
Pil Jun Chung

Portland Observer encourages our readers to write letters to the editor in response to any articles we publish.

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Reinvestments in the Community

Golden Opportunities

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Multnomah County has many golden opportunities for persons 60 and over who want to participate in a meaningful way to help the community. By signing up with RSVP, partial transportation reimbursement, free supplemental accident, personal liability, and excess auto liability are available to its volunteers. RSVP is an ACTION program sponsored by Legacy Health System at Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center. The following volunteer positions are available now, so call Helen Wahl at 229-7787 for more information:

Refreshment Cart Servers: Serve elderly residents on two floors at Portland Adventist Convalescent Center in SE Portland. Hours are from 2:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Thursday. Or push ice water cart from room to room, visiting with residents, any weekday from 10 a.m. to noon. Also needed are teachers' assistants working with severely handicapped children; no experience required.

Literacy Line Volunteers: Answer phones, make calls, maintain records relative to calls for Literacy Line in SE Portland. Any weekday, or part of weekday, six months' time commitment preferred. Training provided.

Banking Assistants: Assist March of Dimes staff with depositing of funds

that are mailed to bank each week until June '92. times are flexible, but best in early afternoon any weekday, 6-12 hours per month. Training provided. 6th & Morrison, Downtown Portland.

Pet Therapy Volunteers: Do you have a lovable pet you'd like to share with someone who loves pets but can't have one? Join the Oregon Humane Society's Pet Facilitated Therapy Volunteer Program. You will visit an assigned facility on the average of twice a month. A general orientation and special pet therapy workshop is available at the shelter in North Portland. You must be able to provide your own transportation.

Neighborhood Accountability Board Members: Provide individual meaningful consequences on a 3-member board citizens panel to youth referred for minor law violation. 6-9 p.m. once monthly with a 3 hour orientation; one year time commitment. East County YMCA.

Substitute House Mothers: Needed at Bethany House, a residential facility for single expectant mothers, located in the Gresham area, on Wednesdays and every other Friday or on weekends. Must have solid Christian background; oversee home operations, maintain house-hold rules and policies. Meals and training provided.

"Reinvestments in the Community" is a weekly column appearing in API publications through out the USA