

Test Concerns At Middle School

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would like to administer. The district, which has the last say, usually concurs with the school.

Another point of interest is that the math methodology used varies at Portsmouth from the district wide practice. With the help of a Ford Foundation grant Portsmouth has spearheaded a teaching technique that visualizes algebra for the past three years.

According to principal Tom Pickett there is a thrust at the school to heighten the proficiency level of students in algebra. This would appear to invite problems with regard to developing basic math skills as outlined by the national standards adopted by the district.

The issue was further shrouded in confusion by the fact that only a segment of the students were re-tested.

According to Gage Kingsberry who is in charge of testing and evaluation, this occurred because the students who were selected for retesting had not met the score of 222 minimum competency. These students then became vulnerable to a requirement to make up classes in high school.

Others were selected because they were construed to have the potential to post a score that would pass the test without actually having the mathematical knowledge, Kingsberry said.

Kingsberry said the computer program that was supposed to identify students with chance scores, or those student who could correctly guess the answers, did not perform as it was designed.

He said Monday's re-testing could also have been done in a more timely fashion, if the students in question had been identified earlier.

The debate will probably continue both in the academia and the lay community regarding the importance of algebra as opposed to basic math and the manner and weight given to these two areas of math.

However, as Portsmouth Principal Tom Pickett suggested, vesting a child's academic career with a lone test is somewhat channel vision.

There are other gauges of student development such as student portfolio and performance outcomes.

Pickett stated that dialogue and input from concerned citizens is one of the most viable means to protect a child's progress in school and monitor the mechanisms of the academic process.

Summer Lunches Go Out For Kids

Portland public schools will provide tasty answers to the question "What's for lunch?" for an estimated 4,900 youngsters from June 19 through Aug. 17 in a federally funded Summer Food Service Program.

Free lunches and snacks for children under age 19 will be provided at 51 youth centers and parks in the Portland area.

The program, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides meals to children enrolled in summer educational enrichment programs, recreation and craft programs and field trips.

Portland Public Schools has 26 years' experience in the program, according to director Dorothea Fleskes.

More information may be obtained from the Portland Park Bureau or the Portland public schools nutrition services department.

Coalition Fights Nuclear Port

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of entry are listed which include Portland and Tacoma.

Energy Department EIS Project Manager Charles Head told the Portland Observer that comments have been predominantly negative from the west coast. He said the draft statement received mix reactions in the east coast.

On the safety of the shipments, Head said the Portland coalition should not be concerned.

"The mechanisms used in transporting the spent fuel is

very safe," the project manager stated.

The department has not chosen a preferred alternative at the moment, pending a decision in September when a final environmental impact statement is scheduled to be released.

But the department has dropped a proposal to include Hanford in Washington State as among five potential storage sites for the waste.

Knight, who heads the Hanford Watch organization has serious doubts.

"We are not satisfied with DOE'S presumptions and con-

clusions," she said.

Knight argues that the proposal to manage foreign reactors' spent fuel is based on the notion that we could manage our own spent fuel in this country, which she said was not true.

"We could extend open house discussions until doomsday, none of us will change our mind" Lynn Sims a member of the coalition testified recently.

The energy department has continued to hold public meetings over the proposals.

More On Electronic Communications: A New "Net" May Get Us All

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

I remember when it all seemed so simple; thirty-years ago when I was 'growing' crystals for members of The Dalles, Oregon ham radio club. Having just transferred from the accounting department to the electrical engineering division at the huge Harvey Aluminum Company, I found myself with the electronic controls crew, a gold mine of science information and relevant instrumentation. Much learned is still relevant.

Who would have thought, among all those "analog" systems we were servicing and building for industrial controls and communications, that today the world would be "digital" - and that today's technicians (like the public) would be touching bases through systems that have gone beyond just "cellular phones", and promise a new imaginative "Personal Communications Spectrum" (PCS)?

This is the new "wireless network" I referred to only briefly in last week's article. However, the concerns I expressed throughout were applicable (at present) to the conventional and escalating overload of information appearing now on our computer screens and fax machines. I put it that it would require for each household an on-line operator working 24 hours a day to "register, sort, file, collate and archive all the megabytes

of information already promised by the industry". Of course, those who are experienced at information retrieval will be drawing down no more data than they need from the "data bank."

Not to panic, though, just to be aware. Actually, I think the "Wall Street Journal" has been following this wireless personal communications spectrum as well if not better than the communications media. And certainly with a more penetrating financial analysis -- the controlling dictum where the pace of new technology must be evaluated. In these pages, of course, my job is to extract what is relevant to you, the reader, not to bankers. I especially like the "Journal's" article of May 11, 1995, "A Lot of Little Hassles Slow Spread of Wireless Network."

A telecommunications experts writes, "PCS promises to transform the way America communicates, beaming phone calls and data to millions of Dick Tracy gizmos. But as the spats suggest, this transformation will take a lot longer, cost a lot more and prove far trickier than many people believe. It could get snarled in dozens of pesky, low-tech hassles."

So, much of the scenario has to be transformed before our wrist watches and dashboards become multi-screen auditoriums for MTV, Stock Market reports, sportscasts from anywhere in the world, remote mon-

itoring of industrial processes, geologic disasters, crime-in-progress, and other type 'beam-me-up-Scotty' phenomena.

We can breathe fairly easily. We are told that "to compete with cellular phones, PCS pioneers must build 11,500 cell sites in the first year or two -- a task that took cellular rivals a decade to complete... it will be five to six years before the companies break even in PCS." I talked to an old friend in The Dalles, Oregon and he agreed with the "Journal" columnist: "The radio spectrum that will be devoted to PCS most first be cleared of present users. These utilities, fire departments, police, emergency vehicles, loggers and the like must move to new channels.

All of these will not be that easily persuaded to move over and it is speculated that some big bucks will be required to smooth the transition. What many of us fear is that in that old tried-and-true American way the costs will be passed on to us little guys, just like taxes! And it can be done in sneaky ways, for come to think of it, we are all still paying for that Washington State Nuclear Power fiasco. That's where the public utilities bonds did an "Oregon County" thing. When Bonneville Power pays its part of the tab for that planning disaster, we all pay indirectly - right on our electric bill.

FCC Pioneer DeBernardis Honored

Dr. Amo DeBernardis, the founding president of Portland Community College, will be honored with a formal dedication of the Amo DeBernardis College Center.

The ceremony will take place June 20 at 7 p.m. at the college's Sylvania Campus, 12000 S.W. 49th. "He Put Students First," is the theme of the event, the first building dedication in the college's 34 year history.

Sponsored by the PDC Foundation with an honorary committee chaired by Gwyneth Gamble Booth, the dedication honors the man who pioneered accessible college education for thousands and thousands of individuals in the Portland metropolitan area.

PCC now serves more than 83,000 students a year and is the largest post-secondary institution in the state. Its district covers 1,500 square miles in five counties.

DeBernardis served as president of PCC from its beginning in 1961 until his retirement in 1979. He guided the college through its

formative years in the 60s and through the rapid expansion of the 70s.

Many civic leaders give credit to DeBernardis for the creation of the college's Sylvania Campus in southwest Portland, the Rock Creek campus in Washington County and the Cascade College in north Portland.

He foresaw the role community colleges would play in economic development and work force training and developed strong partnerships between the college and business community.

Former Gov. Victor Atiyeh said, "I have no doubt that the providence of Portland Community College is attributed to him. He built the identity and it became quite important... he was one of my all-time favorites among educators."

Atiyeh also noted the DeBernardis intensity and said the "he knew education, what had to be done and he didn't tolerate those who wanted to have things as they were."

Program Gives Glimpse Of College Life

Summer vacation plans for some Portland students will include a visit to a college campus.

Portland's "I Have A Dream" students will attend a residential program at Whitman College that is designed to stretch their geographic as well as emotional and mental boundaries.

Some of these youngsters will be leaving their homes and the city for the first time to participate in the third-annual summer session on the Walla Walla, Wash. campus.

Groups of middle school and

early high school-age students will visit the college throughout summer.

In addition to the classes and an introduction to life on a college campus, students will participate in an exchange with students from the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The students are the only "Dreamers" in the country that travel to a college campus for a summer program.

The effort has won the praise of Eugene Lang of New York, national founder of the "I Have A Dream" program.

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