

Education

Nation's Prison Population Growing, But Not Educationally

As prison education programs are being cut, a disturbing new study on the education and literacy of America's prisoners shows that one-third are likely to fail at simple tasks such as using a map, and two-thirds would have difficulty writing a letter to explain a billing error, threatening their ability to function in society, according to Educational Testing Service.

Captive Students: Education and Training in America's Prisons is the first comprehensive study that looks at the literacy skills of persons incarcerated in state and federal prisons, the training and education programs offered to such inmates and the impact of these efforts on recidivism.

"Most of the people in America's prisons will eventually be paroled

yet two-thirds don't have the literacy skills needed to function in society," explained Nancy Cole, president of ETS. "While studies show that training and education in prisons lead to increased post-release success in the job market, at least half of all state correctional institutions have cut their inmate education programs during the last five years. It is counterproductive to crime prevention to have people released from prison who are lacking in the most fundamental skills for employment and citizenship."

"Our study shows that a large proportion of the prisoner populations is weak in using printed materials of the kind encountered in workplaces and daily life," explained co-author Paul Barton, director of ETS's Poli-

cy Information Center. "One-third of prisoners at Level 1 (the lowest on a five-point scale) were unlikely to be able to do tasks such as finding an intersection on a map, filling out an application for a Social Security card, or calculating the cost of a purchase. Another third at Level 2 were unlikely to be able to write a letter explaining a billing error or figure out miles per gallon using information from a mileage record chart."

Other findings include:

- Only 4 to 7 percent attained the two highest literacy levels on the scales.

- One-third of all Black men in their 20s are under the supervision of the criminal justice system on any given day. Five years ago that figure was one-quarter.

- While corrections spending has grown dramatically at the state level, education budgets have not. California and Florida will each spend \$2 billion for new prisons in the next few years.

- The most common finding of 20 years of research is that inmates exposed to education programs are more likely to be employed and less likely to end up back in prison than non-participant.

- Among states who do offer education programs, New York and Texas spent the most for education (\$50 and \$40.7 million, respectively). Montana, Alaska and Wisconsin spent the least (less than \$500,000).

The findings on literacy were drawn from the National Adult Literacy Survey and were based on in-person interviews with 27,000 respondents in prisons and homes across the country and gauged the prose, document and quantitative literacy of prisoners.

"The crime rate has basically been flat over the last 20 years or so, but incarcerations are up," explained co-author Richard Coley. "As prison education approaches have waxed and waned, the flow into the prison system has changed from a steadily

rising stream to a torrent overflowing the banks of prison capacity.

"Now, cuts in education programs are leaving many prisoners unable to learn skills that would help them lead normal lives. In fact 37 states said there was a waiting list in their systems for services. With so many of our young adults incarcerated, and such a large proportion of minority youth, are we comfortable with their overall low levels of literacy?" Captive Students: Education and Training in America's Prisons is available for \$9.50 prepaid.

Make your check or money order payable to ETS Policy Information

Center. Send request to ETS Policy Information Center (04-R), Rosedale Road, Princeton, N.J. 08541-0001. For additional information, call 609-734-5694 or contact via e-mail at pic@ets.org.

ETS is the world's largest private educational measurement institution and a leader in educational research. It develops and administers achievement, occupational and admission tests, such as the SAT for the College Board, for clients in education, government and business. ETS has six regional offices and annually administers 9 million exams worldwide.

APRIL

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

- Early April: fertilize lawn, let spring rains carry the fertilizer into the soil.
- If lawns are becoming thin and sickly, consider overseeding with a mixture of perennial ryegrass and fine fescue.
- Dogwood trees, as they begin new growth, need protection against anthracnose diseases. Apply daconil or a copper fungicide.
- Help your youngsters start a garden this year with sunflowers, carrots, green beans, pumpkins, sweet corn, and peas.
- Bait for slugs, clean up hiding places for slugs, sowbugs, and millipedes.
- Do not cut foliage of spring flowering bulbs for bouquets.
- Prune and shape spring blooming shrubs and trees after blossoms fade.
- Control rose diseases such as black spot, mildew. Remove infected leaves. Prune ornamental plantings for air circulation and to help prevent fungus diseases.
- Prepare garden soil for spring planting. Incorporate organic materials and other amendments as needs are shown by soil analysis.
- Early broccoli variety for western Oregon: Green Comet.
- Use floating row covers to keep insects such as cabbage maggot adult flies and carrot rust flies away from susceptible crops, or treat soil with recommended pesticides according to label directions to control maggot when planting cabbage family, onions, and carrots.
- Spray strawberries for spittlebugs and aphids, if present.
- Cut and remove weeds from near the garden to remove sources of plant virus diseases.
- Spray for apple scab, cherry brown rot.
- Apply commercial fertilizers, manure, or compost to cane and trailing berries.
- Plant gladioli, dahlias, hardy transplants of alyssum, phlox, marigolds.
- Prepare raised beds in areas where cold soils and poor drainage are a continuing problem.
- Place compost or well decomposed manure around perennial vegetable plants.
- Check lawns for presence of crane fly larvae, and treat with Sevin or Dursban.
- Plant these vegetables:

Oregon coast: beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, slicing cucumbers, endive, leeks, lettuce, onion sets, peas, potatoes.
Western valleys, Portland, Roseburg, Medford: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, chives, endive, leeks, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, rutabagas, spinach, turnips.
Central Oregon and higher elevations of eastern Oregon (late April): peas, radishes, lettuce, spinach, turnips.
Columbia and Snake River valleys, Ontario: snap and lima beans, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, chives, sweet corn, slicing and pickling cucumbers, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, onion sets, parsnips, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, rhubarb, rutabagas, summer and winter squash, turnips.

Women's Day In May At PCC

Portland Community College will host the first Women's Day at PCC on Saturday, May 11, at all three campuses.

The event is informational college fair for the benefit of women. It is free and open to all interested women. Child care will be provided at no charge for children from 1 1/2 to 8 years of age.

Women's Day events will take place between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Sylvania Campus, 12000 S. W. 49th Ave.; the Rock Creek Campus, 17705 N. W. Springville Rd;

and the Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St.

PCC instructors will introduce their programs and conduct mini-classes on topics like "Relax, It's Only Math." A number of workshops will provide information on student support services at the college, including a workshop on "Paying for College: Where's the Money?"

Women who attend will be able to meet college staff and students, community, business and social service representatives, and obtain help in career exploration.

Ragin' Cajun Market, Inc.

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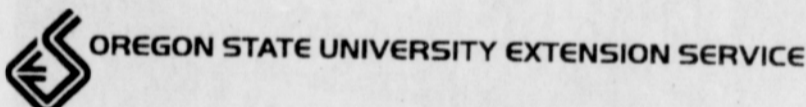
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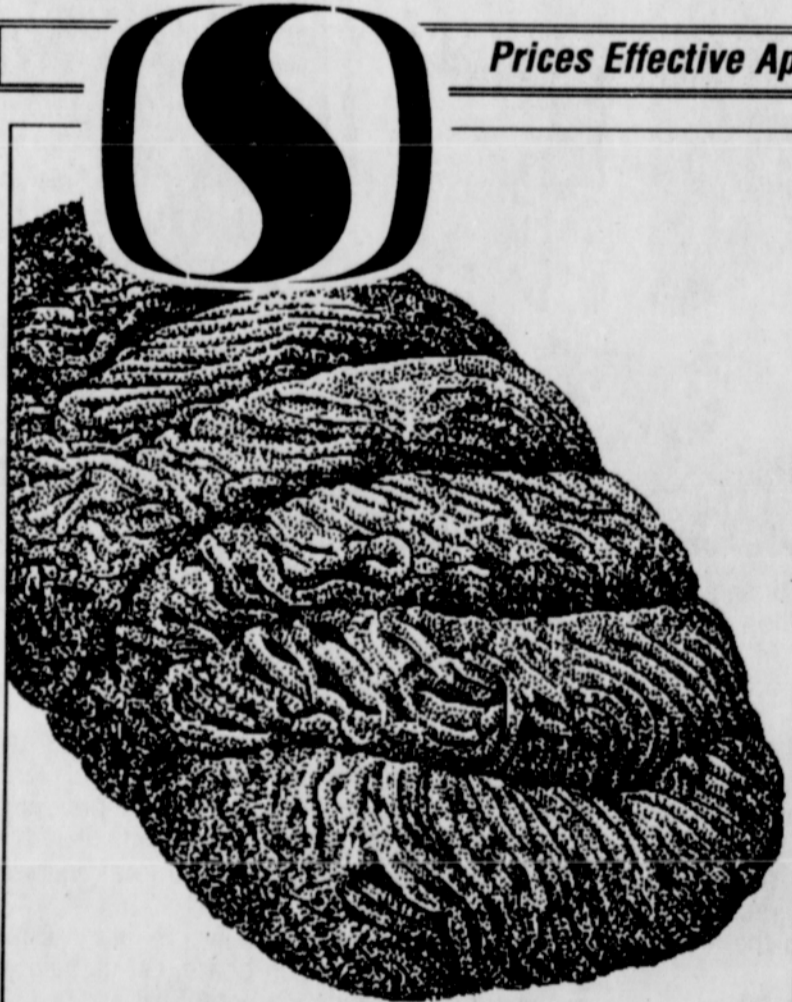
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