

Education

Finalists Honored at "America's Smithsonian"

Oregon Students Invent The Future As Part Of Intel Contest

A device that helps adults to walk again after a debilitating accident, a mobile power plant that harnesses the energy generated by the ocean's currents and a machine that chills beverages in mere seconds. These are among the inventions submitted by the 10 finalists from middle schools in Oregon as part of Intel Corporation's "Invention of the Future" contest.

The "Invention of the Future" contest is designed to encourage creativity and innovation, as well as strengthen students' math and science skills. Organized for students in grades five through nine, the competition challenges today's youth to invent something that will improve their future. The 10 finalists were honored guests at Intel's reception April 9th and were recognized during the awards ceremony. Their artwork and descriptions of their inventions was on display at the "America's Smithsonian" exhibition throughout the evening. The grand prize winner was the lucky recipient of a 200 MHz Pentium processor-based system with MMX technology; with an identical system also being sent to the winner's school. The grand prize winner's invention will be on display at the exhibition and on Intel's World Wide Web home page. It will then travel with the "America's Smithsonian" exhibition for the remainder of the tour.

The grand prize winner is Jennifer Stonewall, 12, of Beaverton, Ore. Jennifer's entry, "Smart Alarm," is a smoke detector system

which, in the event of a fire, provides all members of a household with the peace of mind of knowing that everyone has safely exited the burning building.

The three-part system consists of a smoke detector, individual "Smart Buddy" units, and a "Smart Master" parent unit. The smoke detector has been modified so that someone's cry for help can be heard between intermittent beeps. The individual "Smart Buddy" units, in the form of a bracelet, watch, pet's collar, or vibrating unit for the hearing-impaired, emit different sound tones for each person so it is easy to identify which member of the household is missing. Only the "Smart Master" parent unit has the ability to deactivate the "Smart Buddy" units.

"I was very moved by a recent story in the news about a woman who died in a house fire when she went back into the house to save her dog," said Stonewall. "I realized that most of the people who die in fires die when they run back into a burning house because that are not sure if everyone is out. The 'Smart Alarm' allows you to take back control over your home and not risk your life by trying to save other people when you do not have to."

All of the entries demonstrated the students' creativity and understanding of the patent and invention process. Perhaps as significant are the social issues touched on by students who participated in the contest. Generating more than 275 entries within a four-week period, stu-



Molly Edmunds, 10, of Portland, OR is one of the finalists of Intel Corp.'s "Invention of the Future" Contest in Oregon. Here, she poses with her invention at the "America's Smithsonian" exhibit at the Portland Expo Center. Jennifer Stonewall, 12, of Beaverton, OR is the grand prize winner of Intel Corp.'s "Invention of the Future" Contest in Or. Here, she poses with her teacher, Sherri Roberti, and her grand prize, a 200 MHz Pentium processor-based computer system with MMX technology, at the "America's Smithsonian" exhibit at the Portland Expo Center.

dents and teachers rallied to propose solutions to such social concerns as natural energy conservation, tree preservation and traffic safety. The entries remind us that our children are well aware of the social issues that affect their everyday lives. Their thoughtfulness demonstrates a welcome dedication to changing things for the better.

"Intel's 'Invention of the Future' contest was a great medium to spur the students' problem solving and critical-thinking skill, while reinforcing the need to be concerned about other people's welfare," said Sherri Roberti, Jennifer's teacher from Conestoga Middle School. "On the whole, the students seem optimistic about their future, as was reflected in their creativity with their contest entries."

As a Corporate Partner of the Smithsonian's 150th anniversary celebration, Intel has a unique opportunity to reach a diverse national audience with its commitment to helping people understand and enjoy technology. As the world's largest chip maker, Intel has played a significant role in the information revolution and in the development of today's computer. In fact, Intel also had something to celebrate in 1996: the 25th anniversary of Intel's introduction of the microprocessor, the "brain" of the computer.

In addition to its "Invention of the Future" contest, Intel has organized a number of technology literacy programs for Portland and surrounding areas. On display at "Americas

Smithsonian" exhibition is Intel's very own 3,000 square-foot technology exhibit, complete with a 14-foot tall walk-in computer, live computer stations where visitors can experiment with Intel Video Phone, as well as a movie called "More Than You Ever Imagined," starring a talking microprocessor named Chip.

Intel also sponsored a "Field Trip of Dreams" in which 3,000 students from 25 Portland-area schools will receive an all-expense paid trip to the "America's Smithsonian" exhibition and an overnight "camp-in" at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), including the "Giants of Gobi" exhibit. The students, whose schools were selected in a random drawing, will receive meals, T-shirts, snacks and bus rides to and from the exhibits.

In each of the stops along the "America's Smithsonian" tour, Intel's PC Dads have been teaching people about the joys of computing in a down-home and engaging way. Without using any techno-talk, the PC Dads guide the non-techie in all of us through the "PC Frontier," while providing tips on buying computers, raising computer-savvy children, safely going online and choosing children's educational software. In Portland, which is also the PC Dad's hometown, they appeared at the OMSI on March 25.

All of these illustrate the values that Intel shares with the Smithsonian Institution: a common commitment to learning and discovery, to innovation and progress.

A Partnership for Public Education

BY KWEISI MFUME
AND CAROLE SHIELDS

Across all racial and gender lines and transcending the ideological borders of our political parties, one belief should unite us as Americans: that public education should be a consistent, national commitment to every child. As long as we commit to keeping our strong schools strong and making our weak schools better, we know that our children can do anything.

But now, our nation's covenant with our children is in question. That is why two organizations committed to strong public schools—the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and People For the American Way—are proud to announce a Partnership for Public Education. This partnership seeks to ensure that public education will remain a fundamental guarantee for all of our children.

What threatens our children and what threatens our children's schools? A pernicious, steal-from-the-poor-and-give-to-the-rich scheme known as vouchers.

Voucher proposals now pending

in both house of Congress as well as nearly two dozen state legislatures would take money away from our public school students and give it to private schools. And abandon many of our children in the process.

These proposals represent a dire threat to public education in this nation.

What is wrong with vouchers? Plenty—but our foremost objection is this: They leave children behind. There aren't enough classrooms and there aren't enough desks in private schools to hold all of the children who might want to be included. And, private schools are selective. Unlike our public schools, they are not required, nor are they inclined many times, to regard children as equally desirable to their school when it comes to race, gender, faith, national origin, disability, educational challenge. Vouchers take us to a world in which private schools cherry-pick the best and the brightest, leaving the other children behind to languish in schools that are robbed of precious funds.

Skin color, religion, economic class, language group, need for re-

medial work—all of these things would be barriers to acceptance and success in a system designed around the choices of the private schools, not the choices of the parents and students. And what happens when private schools do let economically disadvantaged kids in? In the few places where voucher programs exist—Milwaukee and Cleveland, for example—vouchers pay only part of the tuition bills. Parents pay the rest. Transportation costs? Parents pay. Extracurricular activities, such as sports or band? Parents pay. Books for learning? You guessed it—parents pay.

Although none is so pressing as the attack they represent on our children's future, other problems exist with respect to voucher proposals. Vouchers would assuredly result in many Americans paying more in property taxes—either directly or through higher rents.

Urban school districts, faced with an even greater exodus of students and dollars, would be forced to prevail upon state legislatures for multimillion-dollar bailouts, or they would disintegrate altogether. And

last but not never least: Let us not forget that the U.S. Constitution expressly precludes spending public funds on the advancement of religion—and that is exactly what would happen if public tax dollars are funneled to private schools, including sectarian ones.

Voucher proponents argue that the public schools are like sinking ships. But they are trying to throw life preservers to a few, select children. We know that it's better to make our public education ship seaworthy and safe. We can do this by taking an interest in our schools, by attending school board meetings and parent-teacher conferences, by asking our kids what they did at school that day—and listening closely to their answer.

The NAACP and People For the American Way formed a Partnership for Public Education because we feel it is time to reclaim our public schools, and our national commitment to the opportunity of every child. Every child counts. All children need free and open access to quality education. And not one child must be left behind.

South Africa discussed during annual Africa Symposium

Economist George Ayittey, currently president of the Free Africa Foundation and an associate professor at American University in Washington, D.C., is the featured speaker at the Third Annual Symposium on Africa taking place Saturday, May 3, at Portland State University.

This year's symposium considers "South Africa's New Role as a Model for Economic



George Ayittey

Recovery in Africa," and continues from 5 to 10 p.m. in the Nordic Room (Room 26) in PSU's Smith Center, 1825 SW Broadway. Cost of the symposium is \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door; includes dinner. Call 279-8822. Sponsors include Portland State's Association of African Students (AAS) and the Society of Africans, Residents of North America (SARNA).

PSU salutes alumni, faculty and friends

Each year Portland State University honors outstanding alumni, faculty and friends during its annual awards ceremony, PSU Salutes, which takes place this year on Thursday, May 1, from 5 to 7 p.m. in PSU's Harrison Hall, 1833 SW 11th. Outstanding Alumni awards go to northeast Portland resident Lee Jenkins, recreation supervisor at the University Park Community Center, and to Clackamas, Ore., resi-

dent Keren Brown Wilson, president and CEO of Assisted Living Concepts, Inc. The Distinguished Faculty Service Award goes to Portland State biology Professor Richard Forbes of Portland.

Friends of the University Awards recognize support given to PSU The Clark Foundation, Sue Stafford Remy of The Hasson Company Realtors, U.S. Bank, the PSU Advocates, and PSU President Judith A.



Lee Jenkins

Ramaley.

The public is welcome to attend to celebrate the accomplishment of these community and faculty members and organizations and the success of the University. Admission is \$15 and includes complimentary parking (with permit), hors d'oeuvres by Ron Paul Charcuterie, beer and wine, and musical performances. For information, call 725-5073.

Charter School legislation passed

The Oregon State Senate passed legislation allowing the creation of charter schools within the public school system. Sponsors of SB628 believe it will offer flexibility to teachers and increased educational opportunities to Oregon's children.

"This bill will improve a system that is failing many of our children," said Senator Hartung (R-Portland). "This collaborative effort will pro-

tect local schools and give families more choices. Charter schools will finally provide the opportunities our communities and our children deserve."

Senate Majority Leader Gene Derfler (R-Salem) added, "With this bill the Senate will introduce competition into our school system. Educators will be free from burdensome regulations and will have the flex-

ibility to effectively educate students. SB628 opens the door for independent schools to receive public funds for operation. These schools can be sponsored by local school boards, community colleges, higher education, education service districts, or school boards from adjoining districts. Charter schools must have at least 25 students in attendance and no more than 20 percent

of the student population from each school district. At least 50 percent of the teachers in charter schools must be certified.

"Our children are important contributors to tomorrow's successes and charter schools can help them reach their full potential," stated Sen. Hartung. "This is one way we can help give our children the quality education they all deserve."

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AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Category: Documentary **Title:** "Death in the Hood"
Producer: Lanita Duke, Grassroot News
Clients: Dept. of Juvenile Justice; Self-Enhancement, Inc.; Yaun Youth Care; Private Industry Council; Multnomah County Violence Prevention; Portland's House of Umoja

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Category: Informational **Title:** "Girls in the Hood"
Producer: Lanita Duke, Grassroot News
Clients: Multnomah County Violence Prevention; Delauney Family of Services; Gift Family Services

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Category: Cultural Diversity **Title:** "Kwanzaa - The First Fruit"
Producer: Lanita Duke, Grassroot News
Clients: Grassroot News

Grassroot News would like to thank our clients, talent and our community for supporting and believing in us.