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How Do U.S. Pupils Rank?

THE National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has been sharing results and methods with the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). Summarizing the data from a recent IEA study, NAEP reports that U.S. pupils at age 14 ranked third among their compeers in 15 developed nations in reading comprehension. However, although NAEP tests reveal that U.S. blacks as a group attain scores ranging from 15 to 19 percentage points below the national level (primarily due to socioeconomic disadvantage), the NAEP report on the international study failed to separate this group from the American pupil population when comparing their reading achievement against pupils of other nations.

It was also reported that the IEA study found that educational opportunity does provide an opening for social equality, contrary to the much publicized findings of the Jencks study. IEA results also reveal that in European na-

tions, only 20 to 30 percent of the pupil population attains a secondary education, as compared with 80 percent of U.S. youngsters.

The IEA study also indicated that nutrition is related to educational attainment and that low-protein consumption has a retarding effect on learning.

Summerhill

The Summerhill School, established in Leiston, England, in 1924, gained a worldwide reputation for its radically progressive methods, largely through the writings of its founder—the late A. S. Neill. However, the school's enrollment includes only 45 to 60 pupils, most of whom are Americans.

College Crisis

A four-day conference of the Council on the University Emergency, held last fall in Venice, Italy, was attended by professors from 14 free-world nations. The Council was

formed last spring in response to recent trends allowing "militant student groups to exercise influence over academic decisions far in excess of their real following"—according to a statement issued by the Council.

In the opening address of the conference, Alexander Bickel of Yale University's Law School criticized the growing student influences on faculty appointments and academic standards as threatening faculty autonomy and academic freedom.

Professor Bickel also attacked the procedures whereby American colleges and universities have sought compliance with federal statutes against discrimination in the hiring of faculty from minority groups. Bickel termed the procedures as "a political concession" leading to the lowering of standards "in deference to race or sex."

The 32-member American delegation included Nobel Laureates Isidor Rabi of Columbia and Charles Townes of Berkeley. Other leading par-

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ticipants were Nathan Glazer of Harvard, Sidney Hook, professor emeritus, New York University, Burke Marshall of Yale Law School, and President Matina Horner of Radcliffe.

Journals in Mathematics Education

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) has compiled a listing of "Foreign and Domestic Journals in Mathematics Education." The listing gives titles and addresses for various foreign and domestic journals as well as, where possible, an indication of educational levels dealt with in the journal articles. The listing is available upon request from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, 1906 Association Drive, Reston, Virginia 22091.

Parents Become Pupils

The classrooms were the same, the teachers were the same, but there was something different about the pupils. On a recent evening, parents of the Grant School in St. Louis reversed roles with their children and took their places in the classrooms. This gave parents a chance not only to see what their children do during the school day, but to try their hand at a few assignments.

Interdisciplinary Curriculum Materials

A progress report of the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS) reveals that BSCS has begun to produce materials that cross subject matter lines, bridging many interfaces of science and society.

Available for the 1974-75 school year will be a BSCS environmental module for high school students, *Investigating Your Environment*. This curriculum package is designed to provide an in-depth experience in scientific inquiry through pupil commitment to a problem of interest. The package includes a Student's Handbook, a paperback series of Student Resource Papers, and a Teacher's Handbook. A chapter in the Student's Handbook includes techniques from the social sciences for investigating social and psychological problems. The materials were field tested in a number of Colorado classrooms last summer when students investigated such topics as noise pollution, water and air pollution, child abuse, population control, changes in farm life styles, venereal disease, wildlife extinction, mental illness, effects of marijuana and alcohol, and how people's opinions are changed. Two students investigated the problem, "Is the Funeral Business a Racket?"

General Education in Higher Education

The neglect of general education in colleges and universities over the past decade was criticized in a recent report by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education. According to the Commission, "general education has now collapsed into neglect exemplified by the introductory departmental courses which ignore the needs of nonmajors and by survey courses which whisk through large amounts of material with too little depth. The oft-publicized solution—to let students take anything they want—amounts to

the abandonment of undergraduates by the faculty."

As a result of the large attendance at the general education session at last year's national meeting of the American Association for Higher Education, the Association for General and Liberal Studies has launched a membership drive for the first time in nearly a decade. Membership is \$10 annually and includes subscriptions to *Perspectives*, a publication on general and liberal education, and *The University College Quarterly*, a journal of general education. Write to: Dr. Ollin J. Drennan, College of General Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001.

Evaluation of Educational Materials

How good are the educational materials purchased by schools with U.S. Office of Education funds? Panel members in the Project to Evaluate Products (PEP) investigated 190 sets of educational materials submitted by 50 agencies and gave favorable ratings to only 23 of these products. PEP is funded by USOE.

Headcount Needed

Three years ago, Haaren High School, an "all-boys" high school in Manhattan with an enrollment of over 2,000, reorganized into minischools with the assistance of the New York Urban Coalition. There are now 12 minischools at Haaren. In an effort to evaluate the impact of the minischool structure on the pupils, school officials engaged a private consulting firm headed by David Fox of CCNY. The evaluation study consisted of

questionnaires administered to students and faculty.

Although almost half of the student respondents indicated that attendance at Haaren had improved as a result of the minischools, most of the students were absent on the day the questionnaires were distributed, and only 60 percent of those who received questionnaires bothered to fill them out. The report of the study's findings fails to indicate the actual attendance data over the time period since the minischool organization was adopted.

Diffusion of Innovations

Innovations have been advocated and adopted by educators and school systems over the years without an adequate base of research and evaluation to connect the innovations with the improvement of education.

A new publication, *A Conceptual Framework for the Diffusion of Innovations in Vocational and Technical Education*, issued by the Center for Vocational and Technical Education at Ohio State University, focuses on formulating rational strategies for the diffusion and evaluation of educational innovations. The report is the first of a series planned as part of a three-year project.

For information regarding the report, write to: Center for Vocational and Technical Education, Ohio State University, Columbus 43210.

School-University Program

The University of Minnesota—Minneapolis Public Schools Teacher Center, located on the University of Minnesota campus, provides

consulting services, materials, workshops, and courses for Minneapolis teachers. The Center, which opened last year, also administers the University of Minnesota's field experience programs for prospective teachers and administrators and trains paraprofessionals and volunteers working in the schools.

Bargain Prices

When former New Jersey governor William T. Cahill was campaigning for office in 1969, he promised public funds in support of the state's parochial and private schools. Through the Aid to Non-Public Schools Act, approximately \$3 million in school materials was distributed to New Jersey's parochial and private schools during Cahill's administration.

However, the act was challenged in the courts and, as a result of a federal court ruling, upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, the materials were removed from the schools for open sale. As expected, most of these materials were purchased by these same parochial and private schools under open bidding last fall at prices amounting to only 29 percent of the original cost of \$3 million.

Reading Drive in Buffalo

This is "the Year of Reading" in Buffalo. Three successive years of low scores on state achievement tests have not dampened the spirit of the Buffalo School Department; there are new reading plans afoot.

"The Year of Reading" involves monthly themes, with activities focused on the fun (rather than the work) of

reading. For example, in March the theme is "Read-a-Thon." Members of the Buffalo Common Council and the Board of Education will receive letters from the schools inviting them to come and hear the children read. Those pupils who do the job well will receive a button proclaiming "I'm a Reader."

In June ("Summertime Reading Fun"), "summer activity bags" will be distributed to all primary children and "activity books" to children in grades 4 through 8.

Curriculum Unit on Contraception

The Montgomery County (Maryland) Board of Education has approved a senior high school unit on contraception to be offered as an elective course. The course was developed by the district's curriculum staff with the cooperation of a Citizens Advisory Committee on Family Life and Human Development.

In order to take the course, a student must have the written approval of his or her parent or guardian. The board also directed the preparation of alternative units on "noncontroversial aspects" of family life and human development for students who do not elect the contraception unit.

Board of Education Ethics

A member of the New York State Board of Regents, Kenneth Clark, has called for an investigation into the "excessive" per diem payments to members of New York City's central Board of Education. Clark has pointed out that some of the board members were drawing \$25,000 annually

in per diem payments (calculated at the rate of \$100 per seven-hour day) while they were engaged in full-time employment elsewhere. Clark has questioned the ethics of those board members whose per diem payments indicate that they are devoting full-time to board duties while they are engaged in full-time private employment.

An audit by the State Controller's office last fall found that the per diem vouchers submitted by the board members "contained no details showing what the board members did on the days for which payment was claimed." The Controller's office also raised questions concerning the use of city cars and chauffeurs by board members for nonboard business and the crediting of pension benefits to board members through the city's Teachers' Retirement System.

Prior to the enactment of the school decentralization law in 1969, board members served without salary. Although the decentralization law allowed per diem payments, it was not anticipated that the board members would draw full-time pay.

What's New at the New School?

Among the courses being offered this semester by the Adult Division of the New School for Social Research in New York City are: Strategies for Coping with New York City; Marriage and Its Alternatives; Reincarnation: The Belief in the After-Life; Pornography Uncovered, Eroticism Exposed; The Abortion Revolution—A Strategy for Sexual Politics; Sexual Politics in Modern Asia; Dionysus and Woodstock; Anarchism and the

Society of the Future; Zen Meditation in Action; Graphology; The Developmental Psychology of Handwriting; and Sixty Years of Animation: From Krazy Kat to Fritz the Cat. Another course, Problems and Perspectives of New York Schools, is taught by a local newspaper reporter.

The Graduate Division of New School offers programs leading to the M.A., Ph.D., and Doctor of Social Science degrees.

Social Responsibility in San Francisco

The ninth grade metal shop class at A. P. Giannini Junior High School in San Francisco has designed and produced 40 adjustable wheelchair trays for use by handicapped individuals at the Fleishhaker Recreation Center. Their teacher, John Lindner, is (understandably) highly pleased with the creativeness and dedication of the Giannini students.

School Vandalism Decreases in Portland

Portland Public Schools show a decrease of approximately 50 percent in the incidence of vandalism for the fiscal year ending last July 30, 1973, compared with the previous fiscal year.

Pupils Refuse To Be Cowed

In Portland, Oregon, seventh graders at Jason Lee Elementary are celebrating the sweet taste of victory. Two years of research in doctors' and dentists' offices, letter writing, and lobbying in the halls of the state capitol have opened the door to chocolate

milk in Oregon school cafeterias.

The campaign began in the fall of 1971. Pupils conducted surveys of milk wastage in Lee School's cafeteria. They found that 50 percent of the children wasted the milk and 75 percent of the physicians and dentists surveyed said that chocolate milk was "better than no milk."

Legislators put a good-natured arm on Dale Parnell, state superintendent of public instruction, who then endorsed chocolate milk as his personal favorite. As a result of his recommendation, the Oregon Board of Education scrapped its 27-year-old ban on chocolate milk, subject to the approval of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The USDA clarified its regulations on nutritional standards, and Lee School children now have a choice of unflavored and chocolate milk in the school cafeteria. A luncheon of celebration, held in the cafeteria, was attended by representatives of the school district, state department of education, and the legislature.

New Social Studies Course in Milwaukee

With the lowering of the legal age of adulthood to 18, youth must begin earlier to think about their legal responsibilities as adults. To help youth prepare for adulthood, a new course, "Justice and You," is being offered at five Milwaukee high schools—Lincoln, Riverside, South Division, Washington, and West Division.

Students learn about law and the court system via the case study approach, particularly those cases involving

young adults as reported in textbooks and the newspapers. They also visit courts and correctional agencies. Teachers report particular interest in contracts because students get involved in such transactions as automobile purchases and phonograph record subscriptions.

The one-year course is an elective.

Urbanists

A program is under way in Los Angeles to certify and appropriately recognize teachers who have made outstanding contributions to programs at urban-impacted schools. Guidelines for establishing the Urban Teacher Specialist certificate are being developed by a study group. The board of education has set aside \$999,000 this year to fund the program.

State-Supported Kindergartens in North Carolina

Legislation passed by the 1973 North Carolina General Assembly mandates a state-supported kindergarten system in North Carolina by 1978. Kindergartens are now being phased in. This year, not less than 16 percent of the five-year-olds were enrolled statewide; by September 1974, not less than 25 percent will be enrolled; by 1975, not less than 45 percent; by 1976, not less than 65 percent; by 1977, not less than 85 percent; and by 1978, not less than 100 percent.

Ecology Project Pays Off

In a week-long drive to clean up the environment, pupils at Fairfield Court Elementary School in Richmond,

Virginia, collected over 12,000 cans in their neighborhoods. Reynolds Metals mobile recycling unit picked up the cans and paid pupils 10 cents per pound for the aluminum cans, which Reynolds will recycle. The children were present in full force to watch the cans being weighed.

However, according to Violet Mills, outdoor education teacher, "the money was second in the project." Far more exciting was the collection as a learning experience. In addition to the satisfaction derived from a cleaner environment, the children learned the difference between steel and aluminum cans and what would happen to the cans they had collected. The school will use the money "for something that reminds the children of ecology," Mrs. Mills said.

Wanted: Mathematics Teachers

The Peace Corps reports that the demand for teachers of mathematics is exceeding the supply. Developing countries continue to request experienced personnel to introduce the concept of new mathematics. For more information, call toll-free (800) 424-8580, or write Action, Washington, D.C. 20525.

Cooperative Career Program in Ann Arbor

Interested Ann Arbor (Michigan) Public School students are getting to know the home building industry from the ground up. Student Building Industry, Inc., a nonprofit corporation formed by representatives of local business and industry, assumes total financial and legal responsi-

bility for home building projects involving Ann Arbor students. The school district provides the instructor and basic instructional supplies. The corporation purchases the site, finances construction costs, provides technical assistance and supervision, and sells the houses.

Alternative Programs for Anchorage Students

In an effort to meet the educational needs of every individual, the Greater Anchorage (Alaska) Area Borough School District offers an evening and Saturday high school program for students who wish to enroll for less than a half day, have only a course or two left to complete, or wish to work during the day.

The district also offers a program—Specialized Academic Vocational Education (SAVE) for dropouts and potential dropouts. Students spend half a day in the classroom and the other half on the job in the community. They contract with their teachers for the amount of work they think they can handle in a given period of time. The program is now in its third year.

More than 500 students are enrolled in the district's career education program. Offerings include auto mechanics, carpentry, commercial art, cosmetology, drafting, food service, health occupations, legal and medical secretarial, and surveying.

Math "Topics" Available in Spanish and French

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) series *Topics in*

Mathematics for Elementary Teachers has been translated into Spanish and French. To order or request further information concerning the Spanish translation, contact Editorial F. Trellas, S.A., Av. 5 de Mayo 43-105, Apartado Postal 10534, Mexico City, Mexico 1, D.F. For the French translation, contact Andre Joyal, President, Association Mathematique du Quebec, 4342 Bourbonniere, Montreal 406, Province of Quebec, Canada.

International Journal

A new international journal, *Studies in Educational Administration and Organization*, is being published at the University of Haifa, Israel. The journal features articles representative of international thought and research on educational administration. Appended to the articles are abstracts in English. Prospective contributors should write to: Dr. Joseph Goldstein, Cen-

ter for Education Administration, University of Haifa, Mount Carmel, Israel.

Seminar on Year-Round Education

The Sixth National Seminar on Year-Round Education will be held April 30-May 3 in Chicago at the Pick-Congress Hotel. The seminar will feature simulations involving ten phases of installing year-round education and an examination of various program models. For registration materials and a copy of the seminar program, write to: Dr. Earl Patton, Seminar on Year-Round Education, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Springfield, Illinois 62706.

Radio Broadcasting Course in Memphis

The Memphis City Schools now have an FM radio station to serve as a lab-

oratory for high school students preparing for careers in broadcasting. In addition to announcing, students receive instruction in control board and equipment operation, FCC license preparation, programming, control room procedure, newswriting and newscasting, sports announcing, broadcast time sales, and station promotion and administration.

Students get their practical experience during weekday evening hours and Sundays.

Films and Publications

The Institute for Development of Educational Activities, Inc. (I/D/E/A), the educational affiliate of the Charles F. Kettering Foundation, publishes a catalog of films and publications which have been produced for distribution under the Foundation's auspices. For a copy of the latest edition of *Films & Publications*, write to: I/D/E/A, P.O. Box 628, Far Hills Branch, Dayton, Ohio 45419. □

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