Positive Steps Taken for Education Policy Reform

Column by Michael K. Chung

Educational policy seems to have taken a turn for the better recently. On Thursday, President Bill Clinton passed the long-awaited Goals 2000 school reform bill. This bill will provide federal funds to states and school districts which adopt standards to meet federal guidelines regarding students’ progress and achievement throughout their education. Also becoming prominent in the issue of education is the feasibility of morals and values education — an editorial in The Boston Sunday Globe claims that schools should emphasize “community building and what Alexis de Tocqueville called the habits of heart: neighbor caring for neighbor, personal responsibility, personal respect, and respect for others” in a worthwhile lesson for citizens regardless of age.”[Lessons in character," The Boston Sunday Globe, April 3].

The synthesis of the Goals 2000 program and the ideology of providing students with a strong moral base is an extremely potent reform measure not only for education, but also for helping to combat some of the problems social issues that America faces today — teenage pregnancy, and drug and alcohol abuse, among others. However, it is absolutely essential that such moral issues are not neglected in the school curriculum. It is true that many students live in broken homes and tell people how to live or how to raise their kids. Nevertheless, it appears favorable and commendable to integrate themes such as positive interaction with others, obedience to elders, and not harming people.

The school is not necessarily the proper place to heavily emphasize moral values, but it is a reasonable place to sound out a student’s education, since everyone has to go to school while young. The apparent lack of values and moral guidance across the nation can be partially blamed for some social issues and problems — drug-related crime, to mention a few examples. The government cannot (and should not) go into the homes and tell people how to live or how to raise their kids.

Of course, implementation of such potentially powerful policies will result in high expectations of the general public. If, after implementation of such “character building” programs, social problems among youngsters persists, or worsen, fingers will inevitably be pointed at the educational system and the government that administers the changes. Nevertheless, it appears favorable and commendable to integrate these themes because the positive interaction with others, obedience to elders, and not harming people.

One of the goals by the year 2000, and the upcoming moral building would only help matter. To use the allocated money effectively, several issues in addition to those outlined in the Goals 2000 plan ought to be considered. For example, perhaps teachers’ salaries should be raised to provide monetary incentive and reward to teachers, and so that potentially good teachers may be more attracted to the profession.

Parents are not actively involved with their children’s education, which should be motivated and encouraged to become more involved. The possibility of longer school days or a longer school year to cover the moral education in addition to conventional material should be considered as well.

The passage of the Goals 2000 program is an important step forward in education. It establishes goals for the students of this nation. The additional focus on moral and ethical development is certainly worthy of consideration and implementation within the present school system. By providing revenue, Goals 2000 can effect its goals by adopting such a program of encouraging moral virtue. Whatever the case, parents must ultimately assume responsibility of their children, and do whatever is necessary for their proper development and maturity.

C Programmers:

Every day 66,233 callers would be looking for ways to beat your code!

Opus Telecom is a small, growing telecommunications company that specializes in integrating hardware and software products to control telephone calls in the national inmate corrections market. Our products incorporate the use of PCs and mini-computers, telephone circuit management devices, innovative voice and data networks, and local and long distance phone services.

We are looking for an individual whose primary responsibility will be maintaining and extending the C programs which help make up our system. You will also help maintain and grow the TCP/IP network. You should be thoroughly comfortable with programming in C, and have some experience with distributed applications using Berkeley sockets. Knowledge of TCL, TK, or X, TCP/IP network managed and related databases is desirable.

Our system is implemented as a set of C programs that run on a variety of UNIX systems and in custom, standalone micro controllers. Some of the C programs include embedded SQL that is used to interface face with an Oracle database. System components are connected by a private Cisco-based TCP/IP WAN. We’ve recently added TCL to the system, and are considering using TK for some new X-based user Interface applications.

Send Resumes to: OPUS TELECOM INC
119 Herbert Street, Framingham, MA 01701
Attention: Personnel Director.
Send E Mail to: job@opuscom.com

Cris T. Williams