

# O F INTEREST TO TEACHERS

## Ellen White Writings Available on CD-ROM

Due to popular demand, the special price for *The Published Ellen G. White Writings on Compact Disc* (CD-ROM) (\$425 plus shipping) has been extended through December 31, 1993. This single compact disc contains the complete published works of Ellen White, including articles and pamphlets. The 75,000 pages on the disc also include the six volumes of the Ellen G. White biography, by Arthur L. White. The CD-ROM is compatible with both PC and Macintosh computers. Teachers are finding the White CD-ROM especially useful in their own personal study and devotions, as well as an innovative way to get their students to utilize the extensive writings of Ellen G. White. Complete information is available from the Ellen G. White Estate, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600; Telephone: (301) 680-6540 or (301) 680-6552.

## National Standards for U.S. Students

As the U.S. Congress and the National Education Goals Panel begin to implement the recommendations of the National Council on Education Standards and Testing, educators and policymakers are hailing the council's report as an endorsement of high national standards for student performance and a system of assessments tied to those standards.

However, many caution that the council faces daunting political and technical hurdles in realizing its vision. The council proposed substantial reliance on perfor-

mance-based assessments, even though such assessments are untested on a large scale.

Even if these hurdles can be overcome, analysts say, there is no guarantee that the new system will produce dramatic improvements in student learning.

Indeed, some critics are warning that the outcome of the process set in motion by the council may harm the schools if it leads to a greater degree of federal control over instruction.

In its recent report, the 32-member council called for national standards in five core subjects and a national system of assessments to gauge student performance against the standards. The standards could be in place in the five core subjects—English, mathematics, science, history, and geography—within 12 to 18 months, predicted Gov. Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. of South Carolina, the cochairman of the standards council.

Support from political forces at

the federal, state, and local levels is necessary to achieve the goals, according to Gordon Cawelti, the executive director of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Although standards and assessments could help point the way to improved performance, he said, schools must invest in developing the knowledge to improve teaching in all subjects to ensure that all students are able to attain the standards.

"High performance is related to adequate resources, no matter how often we may be told otherwise," Cawelti said.—Reported by *Education Week*, vol. XI, No. 20, February 5, 1992.

## Campus Job Recruiting Down, Starting Salaries Level

This year's U.S. college seniors' job offers are barely keeping pace with the three percent inflation rate, according to a College

Placement Council survey. The council's Dawn Oberman says recruitment on campuses is down from the previous year, the worst since the 1981-1982 recession.

College placement directors surveyed by the council say that they have seen a 15 to 20 percent decrease in on-campus recruiting. A record one million students earned bachelor's degrees in the spring of 1992.

"It's been a tough road overall for this year's graduates," says Oberman. "They are still competing with people who graduated last year."

Engineers continue to be in demand this year, and chemistry majors have seen the biggest increase in starting salaries—up seven percent to \$28,667. Accounting and business administration graduates are being offered increases of about two to three percent, while economics and finance majors and MBA's are getting lower offers than last year.—Reported by *U.S.A. Today*, April 7, 1992. ☞

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Joe Engelkemier

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