

Of Interest to Teachers

CIRCLE—A Resource for You!

Have you ever wished you could find Adventist curriculum materials when you need them most? CIRCLE, the North American Division (NAD)-sponsored Curriculum and Instruction Resource Center Linking Educators, is a growing database accessible online at <http://circle.adventist.org/>.

CIRCLE already includes:

- Order information for a downloadable copy of all NAD curriculum guides and recommended materials;

- Lesson and unit plans;
- Webquests;
- Course outlines including bibliographies;
- Forms, manuals, and administrative helps;
- Selected *Journal of Adventist Education* articles, downloadable at a click;
- Links to services like the Adventist Education Forum, NAD job listings, and conference newsletters online;
- Links to the South Pacific Division frameworks for integrating faith and learning in a variety of subjects;
- Links to many other online Adventist education resources.

Connecting Adventist educators to quality resources anytime, anywhere is the goal. You are invited to both access and share materials at CIRCLE. Your contributions to CIRCLE will help Adventist educators worldwide who, like you, are committed to continuing the teaching ministry of Jesus Christ.

Resource queries and submissions are always welcome:

- Online: <http://circle.adventist.org/submit/>
- E-mail: webmaster@circle.adventist.org/
- Fax: CIRCLE Project, c/o USA (616) 471-6374
- Mail: CIRCLE Project, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0118, U.S.A.

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Art Contest

A Gift of Prophecy youth art contest is being cosponsored by the Ellen G. White Estate and Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas. Nearly \$5,000 in prizes will be awarded in three categories: children (ages 4-12); youth (ages 13-17) and young adult (ages 18-30).

Submissions must depict a subject the artist has researched from the writings of Ellen White. The contest is limited to visual media, including painting, sculpture, and drawing.

Each entry must be accompanied by a paragraph explaining the artist's interpretation of a specific (cited) paragraph or concept from the writings of Ellen White. Entries must be submitted to Southwestern Adventist University, 100 W. Hillcrest, Keene, TX 76059 U.S.A. by March 11, 2002. All entries will become the property of Southwestern Adventist University and may be used for promotional purposes.

For more information, E-mail egwhite@swau.edu or visit their Web site at <http://gopac.swau.edu/>.

U.S. College Enrollment

U.S. college enrollment in fall 2000 was 15.1 million. Of the students enrolled at that time, 6.5 million were men; 8.7 million were women. More than nine million of them were enrolled in four-year schools; while nearly six million attended two-year institutions. The proportion of minority students increased from 16.5 percent in 1980 to 26.8 percent in 1997. Much of the change can be attributed to rising proportions of Hispanic and Asian students. The proportion of students enrolled in American colleges who are black has fluctuated over the past 15 years, and was 11.0 percent in 1997, an increase from the 1980 level of 9.4 percent.—From *Mini-Digest of Education Statistics 2000*, U.S. Department of Education Office of Educational Research and Improvement.

Percentage of Teens and Young Adults in College Rises

The percentage of 18- and 19-year-olds attending a U.S. high school or college rose from 56 percent in 1989 to 61 percent in 1999. Enrollment rates for those in their early 20s also increased.

The percentage of high school graduates who went on to earn a bachelor's degree or higher in-

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creased to an all-time high of 33 percent in 2000, up from 26 percent in 1980. Among black, non-Hispanic high school graduates, this percentage increased from 17 percent in 1999 to 21 percent in 2000.—From *Mini-Digest of Education Statistics 2000 and America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2001*.

More Graduate Students in U.S. Institutions

U.S. graduate school enrollment rose 20 percent between 1988 and 1998, to a total of 1,770,000 million, with 755,000 of them being male and 1,015,000 million being female, compared to a total of 1,031,000 students in 1970, of whom 630,000 were male and 400,000 were female.—From *Mini-Digest of Education Statistics 2000*, U.S. Department of Education Office of Educational Research and Improvement.

Pupil/Teacher Ratios in U.S. Public and Private Schools

An estimated 3.3 million elementary and secondary school teachers were engaged in classroom instruction across the U.S. in the fall of 1999. About 2.9 million were in public schools, while 0.4 million of them taught in private schools. The number of U.S. elementary and secondary teachers has risen in recent years, up about 29 percent between fall 1985 and fall 1999. The number of public school teachers has risen slightly faster than the number of students during that time, resulting in small decreases in pupil/teacher ratio.

In fall 1999, there were 16.2 public school pupils per teacher, compared with 17.9 per teacher in 1985. During the same period, the pupil/teacher ratio in private schools was 16.2 in fall 1984 and 15.0 per teacher in fall 1999.—From *Mini-Digest of Education Statistics 2000*, U.S. Department of Education Office of Educational Research and Improvement.

Detecting Plagiarism

Plagiarism has been around since the dawn of education, but it seems to be more widespread and blatant nowadays. Researchers think that perhaps 30 percent of all students may be plagiarizing on every written assignment they complete. The Internet has made "cut and paste" much eas-


ier and some sites even offer whole term papers available for sale. Learn how to use online technologies to create a "fingerprint" of every student assignment, then create custom originality reports for each paper. Sign up for a free trial to learn more. See <http://i.bigchalk.com/U/8-01340103/&Userid/>.

Tobacco and Health

The impact of nicotine addiction in terms of morbidity, mortality, and economic costs to society is staggering. Tobacco kills more than 430,000 U.S. citizens each year—more than alcohol, cocaine, heroin, homicide, suicide, car accidents, fire, and AIDS combined. Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States.

Economically, an estimated \$80 billion of total U.S. health care costs each year is attributable to smoking. However, this cost is well below the total cost to society because it does not include burn care from smoking-related fires, perinatal care for low-birth-weight infants of mothers who smoke,

and medical care costs associated with disease caused by secondhand smoke. Taken together, the direct and indirect costs of smoking are estimated at \$138 billion per year.

According to the 1999 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, an estimated 57.0 million Americans were current smokers and 7.6 million used smokeless tobacco, which means that nicotine is one of the most widely abused substances. In addition, in 1998 each day in the United States, more than 2,000 people under the age of 18 began daily smoking. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the prevalence of cigarette smoking among U.S. high school students increased from 27.5 percent in 1991 to 36.4 percent in 1997 before declining to 34.8 percent in 1999.—From "Nicotine Addiction," a report prepared by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the principal biomedical and behavioral research agency of the U.S. Government. For additional information, please E-mail Information@lists.nida.nih.gov. The complete report is available on the Internet at: <http://165.112.78.61/researchreports/nicotine/nicotine2.html/>. 

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