

Technical schools develop skills

United Press International
The help wanted ads of the nation's newspapers describe job openings for skilled persons. The key word: skilled. For college graduates without a marketable skill, for high school graduates hoping for a good job and for middle-aged persons with obsolete skills there's common puzzle: how to qualify for one of the promising jobs in the want ads. Where do you go for "skill training?" Tom Hebert and John Coyne, education consultants based in Washington, D.C., recommend looking over private trade and technical schools.

The guide is meant to be flipped through and thumbed. It contains a complete listing of schools accredited by the National Association of Trade and Technical Schools. The listings are arranged two ways. In the first, schools are listed by the training they offer; in the second, by the states in which they are located. "In the early stages of researching for the guide, we talked to Marshall Palley, Director of the New Vocations Center of the American Friends Service Committee in San Francisco," Hebert said. "Marshall told us what he tells young persons these days. 'Pick a vocation and stick with it. Generalization will come naturally, as you feel the need to expand the job to keep it from becoming dead. If you don't specialize, it's difficult for you to do anything.'"

their students that we rarely encountered on college campuses." At an auto repair school, Hebert was told by the owner: "We get them to do things they have never done before... we just keep a wrench in their hands. A kid comes back every day if he's learning. And a welding school president said: "One feature of our admissions policy is what we call our Bad News Sheet. "This is given to every applicant and it lists all the negative aspects of this career. Our first goal with every man is to put him in touch with reality."

and career plans and more labor market-oriented than other college students. —Proprietary students view themselves as less likely to change their field of study or career choice or to seek vocational counseling. They are more confident of finding a job in their preferred field. —In choosing a career, the market-oriented concepts of high earning, available jobs and career advancement are more important to proprietary students than to college freshmen. —The trade school students have higher self ratings on academic, artistic and writing abilities, as well as cheerfulness, attractiveness, popularity, drive to achieve, self confidence and understanding, than do community college students. —Life goals are similar for proprietary and other college students. The proprietary students, however, place a slightly higher value on raising a family and being financially successful.

The guide is based on interviews with students and parents, recent graduates, school owners and businessmen, and reports from the Federal Trade Commission and the Better Business Bureau.

The schools tend to be small. Hebert estimated average enrollment is fewer than 300. "As a result, these schools are friendly, personal places. They are student-centered. We found the trade school owners have a belief in

Highlights: —Proprietary school students are more confident of their educational

Businessman beats weather problem

United Press International
CHICAGO — As Ohioans sit shivering through another bitterly cold week and contemplate the disastrous effects the natural gas shortage is having on the economy, a Dallas businessman says he has answers to their problems. Paul J. Venus, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, told officials in the Statehouse last week that he has a little white box which, he says, through a secret process, produces synthetic natural gas. "You may say that dog won't eat, but if I tell a man I can heat his boiler, and he'll pay me when I tell him I can't understand any skepticism," says Venus, the chairman of the World Energy Corp. of Dallas. He says Free World, a business created by six former military officers, has formulated a nonpetroleum liquid fuel that burns without odor or pollution. The liquid fuel is converted by Venus' "white box" an equally simple, but potent, synthetic gas. "You can inhale this stuff all day long and it won't hurt you," he says. Venus claims the liquid has more than twice the heat value of gasoline and, when gasified, burns hotter than propane.

Free World can produce its liquid fuel for about 30 cents a gallon, he says, cheaper than gasoline. The regulated interstate price is a maximum \$1.42 per thousand cubic feet for natural gas this winter and unregulated, intrastate market, gas is selling for \$2 or more per thousand cubic feet. Venus says his gas would sell for \$2.75 a thousand cubic feet, but his company would give clients a 10-year guarantee the fuel cost couldn't increase. But you first have to buy a \$50,000 converter, which Venus says makes the system practical now only for business and industry. He says Free World is just concluding its research and development, having spent \$268,000 to come up with the pilot plant capable of making a half dozen gallons of liquid fuel a day and small-scale demonstration conversion units. It's so simple it would rock your mind," he says. "Somebody else has got to be working on the process. Maybe they have got it and don't want to put it on the market. I know we're going to market it someplace."

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