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Professor questions President's public education overhaul plan

Continued from page 1

that by the time the plan gets through Congress, the initiative will be drastically different.

"If it gets through, it won't be recognizable," he said. "I can't even speculate what it will look like."

Dr. John Hoyle, a professor of educational administration, said Bush's plan offers nothing new.

"Everything in it has already been discussed by education professors," he said.

Hoyle said he is glad Bush is taking a broad stance on educa-

tion because America is falling further behind in this area. The question is whether Bush will find the money to make the changes, he said.

"It's naive to think we'll be No. 1 in education within 10 years," he said. "Education is a low priority financially."

Hoyle said the United States ranks 13th in educational spending among the world's developed nations.

School choice sounds good because it addresses Americans' "capitalistic spirit," and because

people want to make their own decisions, Hoyle said.

"But children aren't objects to sell in a marketplace," he said. "They are lives, and they need special care."

Hoyle said school choice creates a social system even more divided than the present system.

A gap between rich and poor students will grow because more privileged children will have an advantage over underprivileged students who might be forced to attend lower quality schools, he said.

"The ideal is for the poor schools to be forced out by rich schools," he said. "But this isn't going to happen."

Hoyle said when students come from privileged families and attend higher quality schools, they will make higher test scores. He said parents often do even not know where to send their children to school.

Hoyle said he believes another bureaucracy will have to be created to decide where underprivileged children will go to school when all the "good" schools fill up.

Dr. Patricia Alexander, associate professor of curriculum and instruction, described Bush's plan as "innovative, but not very expensive."

The total cost of the plan is less than \$1 billion.

"That's how much was spent in a day during the Gulf War," she said.

National testing is not necessarily bad because it might allow for innovative assessments of students, Alexander said.

Essays and other creative tests could be used in place of present standardized tests, she said.

"If it's just another test, it won't be of much value," Alexander said.

School choice might have a positive effect because schools would want to improve to attract students, she said. But if schools are allowed to decide which students to take, they would want only the best students, and the underprivileged would be at a disadvantage, she said.

Part of classroom problems is that students do not understand how they will use what they learn after they get out of school, Alexander said.

She said she wants businesses not only to provide funding in education research but to provide internships for students.

Even at the high school level, students should be allowed to work and learn, she said.

Alexander calls Bush's plan "kernel of an idea" and said it is a good starting place for improving education.

"It's got to grow and expand," she said. "This is a good step forward. It's not bad. It's just not good enough."

Speaker says nations must work together

Continued from page 1

cord of seasonal temperatures, their growth rings, Preining said. The data found in tree rings also shows the average temperature oscillates over the centuries.

Man-made generation of carbon dioxide has increased since the last century, and the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere will double by the year 2030 unless nations reduce CO₂ emissions, Preining said.

However, that much change in the atmospheric system may upset a delicate balance, he said.

"To change one component of the system that dramatically something we should not do," he said.

The United States has the world's highest carbon dioxide emissions, but it has not yet decided what to do about global warming, Preining said.

"In the U.S., the attitude is wait and see how (global warming) develops and what the consequences are," he said. "We can make the decision very early."

Global warming is a political issue, Preining said. Governments and industries must work together to develop ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

However, all nations must work together to reduce emissions. Transferring carbon dioxide reduction technology to developing countries may be giving them capital as well as knowledge, Preining said.

"It is mixed between science, politics and public interest," Preining said.

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