Fifty million students head back to school

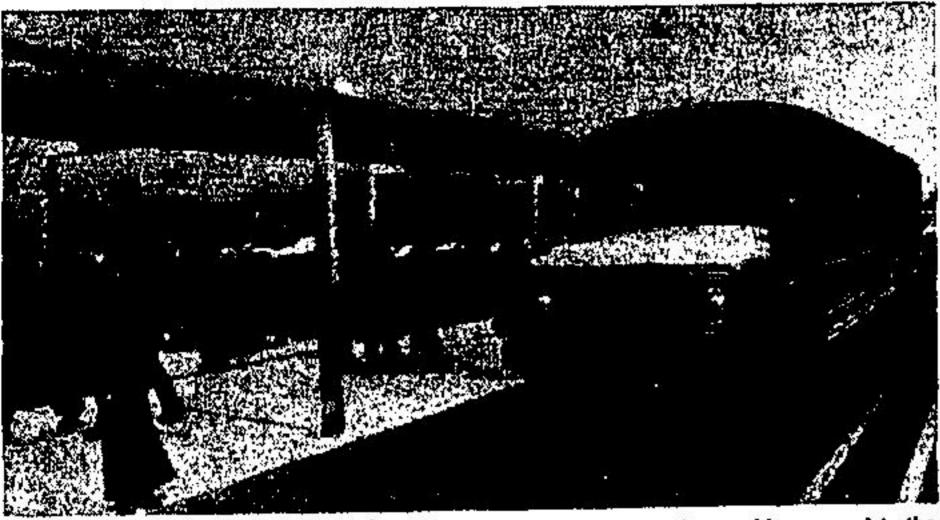
Education: a changing field in our technological society

The signs are everywhere. Curbside lemonade stands close down for the season. Long-forgotten reading lists reappear. Family cars

compensate parents for their financial sacrifices in paying tuition," tax credits can hardly replace the existing system of grant, loan and work-study programs which enables millions of needy students to continue their education beyond the high

school level. The debate in education continues. Should upper-income families benefit from the same tax credits as middle and lowerincome families?

Should teaching colleges restrict admissions as the schoolage population declines?



THOSE DEAR OLD GOLDEN RULE DAYS are in session once again, marking an end to the fun-filled, carefree days of summer recess. This year, some 50 million students will return to North America's sophisticated system of public and private schoolhouses, colleges and universities for yet another semester's instructions. Scenes such as this are repeated daily in countiess school districts, now that snother semester is underway.

END OF SUMMER

marbles, skipping ropes, yo-yos, batons, balls croquet sets, sand toys, etc.

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are filled with a student's "necessities"-stereo, bicycle, maybe even a book or two-and take to the highways towards a new semester at college.

Yes, it's back to business for the nation's more than 50 million students. It's also back to business for millions of educatorsteachers, administrators, guidance counselors, librarians-whose job it is to guide America's youth through an extensive and ever more sophisticated educational system.

The simple ABC's of grand- age of Americans show compemother's generation, while still recognizable in modern-day curricula, have evolved to keep pace with our increasingly technological society.

A modern curriculum

The subjects of reading and writing, for example, now fall into the learning category of "Communications Skills." Physical education stresses the value of motor coordination, as well as biological awareness. Nothing is simple any longer.

Computers, too, have made their way into the classroom at both the primary and secondary level. In the case of elementary education, computers are being used as an aid to instruction.

Various mathematical and language ,"games" have been designed to reinforce lessons taught in a more fraditional manner.

At the secondary level, computers themselves have become the focus of a student's study. A growing number of high schools now offer classes in computer language and theory, adding "Fortran" and "Cobol" to the ranks of high school language study.

Language requirement

On the other hand, the longstanding foreign language requirement has gone the way of slide rules and ink wells in a significant number of high schools and colleges.

A distressingly low percent-

tency in foreign language ability, a development which has placed the United States at the lowest level of foreign language ability among industrial nations.

Tradition, however, does prevail in other areas of study. At both the junior high school and high school levels, almost every school system requires that students follow a program of study in English, science, mathematics and physical education.

In addition, electives are offered in fine arts, instrumental and vocal music, home economics and vocational educa-

Language classes are also offered as electives in many school systems, as are agricultural studies and industrial arts programs.

In 1981, more than II million students will be enrolled in post-secondary institutions, according to forecasts made by the American Council on Educa-

Tultions a strain

In recent years, however, the challenge of meeting ever-increasing tuition costs has put a tremendous strain on middleand lower-class families.

Recent budget cuts by the Reagan Administration will lead to significant reductions in both grant and loan programs available to needy students.

White the administration has pledged to support tax credit legislation. "that will in part

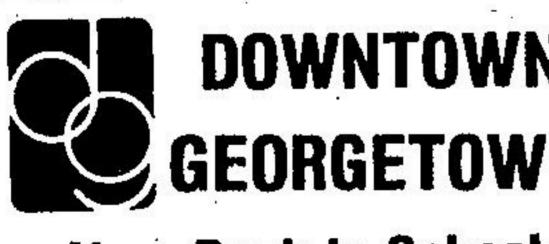


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