

Falling behind?

Foundation claims other nations lead U.S. in math, science

By Carol Azizian
staff writer

Science educators and industrialists should team up to pave the way for future Thomas Alva Edisons.

Although both groups have shed light on the impending crisis in science education, they haven't come to grips with the problem, according to James G. Cook, president and chief operating officer of the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation.

"We are teaching less and less science at a time when science knowledge that needs to be taught is doubling every 10 years," the Birmingham resident said.

"The race (for science education in public schools) is being lost to the Soviet Union as well as Japan, Germany and France. And the result, according

to scientists, could be second-class world status for American technology by the end of the century."

As president of the Southfield-based international foundation, Cook has delivered this message to educators and industry leaders since 1978.

But, the public paid little attention until the White House released its scathing report, "A Nation at Risk," he said.

"I no longer need to spend my time crying crisis and criticizing science teachers — everyone is doing that. Now I try to convince everyone who will listen that the problem is solvable."

His solutions include: merit pay programs and tax credits for science teachers; low cost loans for college students; teacher-exchange programs; shared appointments between public

schools and local colleges and universities; and industry loans to public schools.

COOK TREES more than 100,000 each year, setting up programs for schools and corporations and encouraging young people to follow in Edison's footsteps by pursuing careers in science and engineering.

Cook, who has served the organization for nearly 18 years, is heir to a "throne" established by Charles "Boss" Kettering, the noted inventor. Kettering worked with many of America's capitalists of industry, including Ford and Firestone, to get his foundation off the ground in 1948. When he died in 1958, Walker L. Ciesler, former board chairman and chief executive officer of the Detroit Edison Company, took over as its second president.

Nearly four decades later, Cook continues the tradition of acting as a mediator between educators and some 300 corporations worldwide. He coordinates conferences for teachers, engineering youth day programs and numerous other efforts in 48 states and 23

countries. (The foundation does not give grants.)

At a recent regional meeting of the National Science Teachers Association, Cook discussed the effects of a demise of science education on technology. He reiterated a few "chilling statistics" noted in the National Commission on Excellence in Education report:

- Fifty percent of the nation's high schools don't even offer a basic course in physics.
- Of the 17-million children in grades 8-12 this school year, 8.3 million are not taking science and 6.4 million are not taking math.
- In 36 states (Michigan is among them), high schools require only one science course. The class doesn't have to be a basic science such as chemistry or biology. Earth science 101 would qualify.
- Only one student in six now takes a math or science course after the 10th grade. A recent national study showed that science gets about 20 minutes of attention a day in the average elementary school. In most school districts, the subject is not required past the

eighth or ninth grade.

The magnitude of the problem is made clear by the results of achievement tests in science, given to children ages 10-14 in 19 countries, Cook noted. The tests were administered by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, an offshoot of the United Nations.

"It didn't surprise me that Japanese children ranked No. 1 in overall scores or that German students finished second across the board."

"However, it did surprise and dismay me to learn that the U.S. ranked 15th, dead last among the 15 industrial countries. The only countries we topped were Chile, India, Iran and Thailand."

"One of the reasons for this widening educational gap is that the U.S. keeps lowering education standards so that even poor achievers can meet them, while the Japanese keep the standards



James G. Cook

Please turn to Page 6

recreation news

Each week the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department will present a synopsis of upcoming activities in this column. For further information regarding our programs, contact our office at 474-8115.

CHRISTMAS ON THE RIVERFRONTS — Enjoy the Christmas festivities when you travel to shop the city of Detroit and Windsor by deluxe motorcoach on Tuesday, Dec. 13. A visit to the Belle Isle Conservatory to view the breathtaking flower displays of Christmas and dinner at the Summit Restaurant will complete the day. Registration fee of \$28/\$25 senior adults should be made by Friday, Dec. 2.

WINTER SPORTS EQUIPMENT SALE — If you need skates, skis, boots, clothes or would like to sell your winter equipment, then come to East Middle School, 2500 Middlebelt. Site has been changed from Farmington High School. Consignment of equipment can be done on Friday, Dec. 2, 5:30-8:30 p.m. or Saturday, Dec. 3, 8:30-11 a.m. Sale of winter equipment will be Saturday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the school's cafeteria.

YOUTH BASKETBALL — Registration is being accepted for this team sport until Friday, Dec. 9, at the Parks and Recreation office for the following divisions: boys 6th, 7th and 8th grades and girls 7th and 8th grades. Three clinics will be held in December with games on Saturdays, starting Jan. 7. The fee is \$15 per person.

HOLIDAY FESTIVAL — The holiday spirit will be in the air for mentally impaired individuals ages 8 and older on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m. at the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion, 28000 Evergreen. Registration is limited to the first 700 participants. Registration forms may be obtained by contacting the Parks and Recreation office. Pre-registration fee is \$1, at the door \$2.

GIFT CERTIFICATES — The Parks and Recreation Department offers the opportunity to present your loved ones with a gift certificate that may be used for any of the activities offered through the Parks and Recreation office. Gift certificates may be obtained at the Parks and Recreation office during office hours.

ONE MONTH FREE TANNING

JOIN OUR TANNING FAMILY ON A 2 WEEK CRUISE. April 6-9, 1984 and get 2 WEEKS BEFORE AND 2 WEEKS AFTER FREE TANNING. CALL PAT AT SUNGLLO TO SET UP YOUR TANNING SCHEDULE. PAT 777-0650 AND CALL DIANA AT IMACON TRAVEL/AMERICAN EXPRESS TO SET UP YOUR CRUISE 648-2200.

SUNGLLO TANNING CENTER
The Suntan Specialists

Imacon

PERMS
New Customer Special

ULTRA BODY
warm wave
35 45 55

ULTRA BODY
cold wave
25 35 45

London Room
15430 Merriman • Livonia
427-4264

TOYS THAT ENCHANT!
Reasonable Prices
The Doll Specialist
& Toy Soldier Shop

DURHAM/DURHAM 444-5200
290 W. Maple at Detroit
J.C. & S. 777-150-8
BERKLEY 543-2520
(E. of Greenfield)
M-10 to 57th St. 10-8

Men's Slip-On Dress Loafer

- 100% Leather Uppers & Soles
- 2 Styles
- 3 Colors: Black, Brown and Burgundy

\$29.95
(while they last)

NAME BRANDS DISCOUNT PRICES

27210 W. Eight Mile
Just E. of Grand River

356-2869

DISCOUNT POP & BEER

COKE • TAB • 7-UP SPRITE • SUNKIST • DECAFS 1/2 Liter Bottles 8/\$1.99 plus dep.	7-UP, LIKE CRUSH 2 Lit. 5 Lit. \$1.19 plus dep.	Schweppes Vernors 1 Liter 5 Lit. 2/99c plus dep.
--	--	--

No Coupons Necessary • No Limit • Good Dec. 1-7, 1983

POP CANS FOR OFFICE OR SHOP — CALL FOR INFO

3348 GRAND RIVER MIDDLEBELT W. of Powers 477-6479	2454 TELEGRAPH N. of 5 Mile 421-6870	2460 FORD RD. S. of Michigan 277-3060	2560 PONTIAC RD. W. of Middlebelt 421-9150	2560 ROCHESTER W. of Middlebelt 532-2554
--	---	--	---	---

Clip and Save

QUALITY CLOTHES CO.
Ladies, Men & Children

FACTORY OUTLET DIRECT TO YOU
No Middleman • Below Wholesale

Save 55% and more!

MEN & LADIES PULLOVER SWEATERS
Solid colors at \$2.99
WITH THIS AD THRU 12-6-83
\$9.95

Winter Jackets • Sweaters
18768 Middlebelt
South of 7 Mile
478-7911

Designer Blue Jeans
\$7.95-\$9.50-\$11.50
Ladies' Stretch, Mens & Childrens
Everyday Low Price

LADIES QUILTED COAT
Suits XS, S, M, L, XL
5 Colors
While Supplies Last
\$39.99

MIDDLEBELT
OPEN EVERYDAY
10-9
SUN. 10-5

Haverhill Farms
FALL SPECIAL Indoor Ring

4 Riding Lessons
New Students
\$30

Open 7 Days

40965 14 Mile West of Haggerty
Call Now
624-5554

executive custom shirtmakers inc.

Custom Made Shirts for Executives
A UNIQUE GIFT IDEA FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Gift Certificates for Custom Made Shirts
201 S. Woodward • Birmingham
424-2400
Mon-Fri 9:30-6:30 Sat 11-5 PM

ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES

Trade In Your Old Tree Today
America's Best Artificial Christmas Trees

MOUNTAIN KING

52 Trees on Display
TRADE IN YOUR OLD ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE
IT IS WORTH UP TO \$20

*5 year warranty • Flame Resistant • Stand Included

MIAMI POOL & TREE CO.
Our 26th year
15116 Telegraph
1 Blk. S. of Fenwick
1 Mile N. of I-65

BERGSTROM'S BARGAINS SERVICE

Bergstrom's Since 1857
where service is coupled with unsurpassed technical expertise

25429 W. Five Mile
Redford Twp.
532-5848

HEATING, HEAT PUMPS
Store Hours
9-8 Monday-Friday
9-5 Saturday
12-4 Sunday

EXPIRES DEC. 18

ameri-therm
THERMALLY ACTUATED VENT DAMPER

3"	T300	49.95	29.95
4"	T400	59.95	39.95
5"	T500	69.95	49.95
6"	T600	79.95	59.95

Limit 1 • Expires Dec. 18, 1983

Coupon

Honeywell
CHRONOTHERM FUEL SAVER THERMOSTAT
Reg. 79.95
\$59.95
Limit 1 • Expires Dec. 18, 1983

Coupon

STEAMIN' HOT
HOT WATER DISPENSER BY IN-SINK-ERATOR
Now steaming hot water... always on top!
Reg. 79.95
\$54.95
Expires Dec. 18, 1983

Coupon

In Sinkerator Disposal
Reg. 49.94
\$38.95
Badger 1-1/2 H.P.
Expires Dec. 18, 1983

Coupon

Washerless Delta KITCHEN FAUCET
Reg. 46.75
\$31.95
WITH SPRAY
Model 100
Expires Dec. 18, 1983

Coupon

Nautilus BATH FAN
Reg. 14.94
\$22.95
#N073 60 CFM
Expires Dec. 18, 1983

Coupon

Valley II Washerless Faucet
3 Year Warranty
Reg. 39.95
\$27.95
TC 830
Expires Dec. 18, 1983

Coupon

Bradford White 40 GAL. WATER HEATER
Reg. 169.95
\$139.95
5 year warranty • Glass Lined
Same Day Installation Available
Expires Dec. 18, 1983

Pre-Christmas Sale

30-50% OFF Everything
NOTHING HELD BACK

Men's Levi's Action Slacks	Were \$25.00	Now \$17.00
Men's Zip-Off Sleeve Winter Jackets	23.00	12.00
Men's Wrangler Corduroy Jeans	23.00	10.00
Gal's Levi's Bendover Slacks	26.00	18.00
Gal's Levi's Bendover Blazers	64.00	28.00
Gal's Present Company Sweaters	18.00	9.00

Hurry in for Best Selection
Sale Ends Wed., Dec. 7

Jeansville Fashion Centers

- 33878 Dequindre Sterling Hts. MI 48077 Phone: 977-0540
- 45057 Pontiac Trail Walled Lake, MI 48086 Phone: 624-1812
- 33292 W. 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 48018 Phone: 553-4340