

Author to discuss 'Evolution in Education'

STAFF REPORT

Local author Sebastian de Assis will discuss his book, "Evolution in Education," at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 21 at Borders, 777 N.W. Ninth St., Corvallis.

"Evolution in Education" reveals the urgent need of education for integral human development in a world obsessed with technological and economic expansion. The book argues for a new education paradigm in which the hub of the educational wheel is the individual human, instead of the individual laborer.

The book is primarily geared toward students of education, teachers and education professionals interested in a holistic approach to education and social reform.

"Evolution in Education" proposes a re-organization of educational objectives in order to narrow the existing wide gap between the highly sophisticated intellectual individual and the emotional and spiritually underdeveloped human being, De Assis says.

In order to remedy this problem, he says it becomes necessary to reevaluate the nature of the learner within an educational groundwork based on a trinity of knowledge: the concomitant development of mind (intellect), heart (emotions), and spirit (the evolving essence of the human species).

De Assis is an educator and writer. He received a bachelor of arts degree in liberal studies from University of Hawaii, a master of arts degree in humanities from California State University and a Ph.D. in education from Pacific Western University

He also is the author of "Books: Teachers of the World, Unite!"

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'Teachers of the World, Unite!' discusses education

Local author says schools should educate, civilize and humanize students.

By John Baur
Mid-Valley Sunday

Sebastian De Assis is a man on a mission.

He has written a book, "Teachers of the World, Unite," to warn of a crisis in education. That crisis has nothing to do with falling test scores. To him, the crisis in education has more to do with what is being taught rather than how it is being taught.

According to Assis, the education system has become enmeshed in the political and corporate mindset that decrees that creation of wealth is the top priority of society. Schools have become part of the economic machine that drives western civilization. They focus on providing workers who run the machine, rather than educating, civilizing or humanizing students.

"The schools' job has become to produce workers for the economy," he said, instead of producing civilized beings open to their full potential as humans.

Education can be, and should be, much more, he believes. Teachers, who in a sense have connived at their own entrapment in the system, have the power to help change things.

The encroachment of drugs and violence in schools mirror society at large, Assis said. At the root of these problems is a tendency to downgrade the humanities, those arts that bring people closer together and to an understanding of others.

Bureaucrats "worry about the competitive edge of the workforce in an increasingly globalized marketplace," Assis writes. "We, the educators for human development, embrace the possibility of rehumanizing the individual student in an increasingly mechanized society enslaved



RYAN GARDNER/MID-VALLEY SUNDAY

Author Sebastian De Assis has written "Teachers of the World, Unite!" which looks at the future of education.

by unbridled consumption."

"Teachers of the World, Unite!" outlines in a Socratic, question-and-answer style, what Assis sees as the problems with education today and points toward some solutions, but it is not his final word on the subject. He plans a series of books. The book is self-published, and has a national distributor.

Assis, born in Brazil, has lived in the United States for 18 years, 10 of them in Hawaii. He also lived in California and New Mexico before coming to Oregon.

He has taught first graders and college students in Europe, Latin America and the United States.

He teaches part-time at Chemeketa Community College, at the Willamette Valley Community School and at the English Language Institute at Oregon State University.

"Teachers of the World, Unite!" from the Educational Center Press, \$10.95 in softcover, is available at Grass Roots Books & Music and many other stores nationwide.