

Preparing Future Citizens and Producers

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School Facilities Planning and Design

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What I'll Explain

- Two primary public purposes of education
- Evidence on preparation of informed citizens
- Evidence on preparation for college and careers
- Possible implications for school design

Public Purposes of Education

- Why is education compulsory for students, and why are taxpayers compelled to pay for it?
- Preparing informed citizens is first priority
 - Jefferson, Madison, Adam Smith
 - U.S. Supreme Court: *Grutter* 2003, *Brown* 1954
 - Gallup poll
- Preparing students to be economically self-sufficient
 - Gallup poll

Evidence on Preparation for Civic Life

1. Preparation to read and analyze issues
 - Only 35% of 12th graders proficient, e.g., “making a critical judgment about a detailed document” like Voter Info Guide
2. Knowledge of government institutions
 - Only 27% of 12th graders proficient
3. Voting and volunteering
 - Only 8% of young high school graduates (not in college) engage in civic activity

Preparing Future Producers

- Predictions of future skill demands vary greatly
 - BLS: no major shifts in next 10 years
 - Stuart Elliott: 60% of jobs could be done by computers in 2030 (Nat Acad Sci 2008)
- Even current skill demands are not well understood
 - Do earnings depend on skills or years of schooling? (Hanushek, Levin, Bowles, Murnane)
 - Cognitive versus non-cognitive skills
- Emerging consensus? Prepare for unknown future by making college an option for all

Why College as an Option for All?

- About 80% of high school students expect to get at least a bachelor's degree
- College has been a consistently good investment, yielding about 10% annual return
- Since 1980s, earnings of college grads have increase faster than non-college
 - Computers have replaced some routine jobs, while making non-routine work more productive

Preparing for College *AND* Careers

- 80% of high school students expect to earn bachelor's degrees, but only 30% do so
- Career-technical education (CTE) in high schools now is intended to prepare for postsecondary education, unlike traditional 20th century vocational education
- Virtually all CTE concentrators now complete academic core courses

Career Academies as Example

- Elements of career academies
 - 30 to 60 students at each grade level take classes together
 - Curriculum combines CTE theme (e.g., health, business, engineering) with college-prep courses
 - Internships and other related experiences outside school
- California funds more than 300 “Partnership Academies”
- Evaluations have found positive impacts (MDRC)

Implications for High School Design: 1 (No more fortress)

Increase possibility for high school students to participate in settings outside school

- Internships and other forms of work-based learning (e.g. The Met schools)
- Civic engagement projects (e.g., What Kids Can Do, Y/PLAN project at Center for Cities and Schools)
- Students prepare for adult roles as citizens and producers by practicing those roles

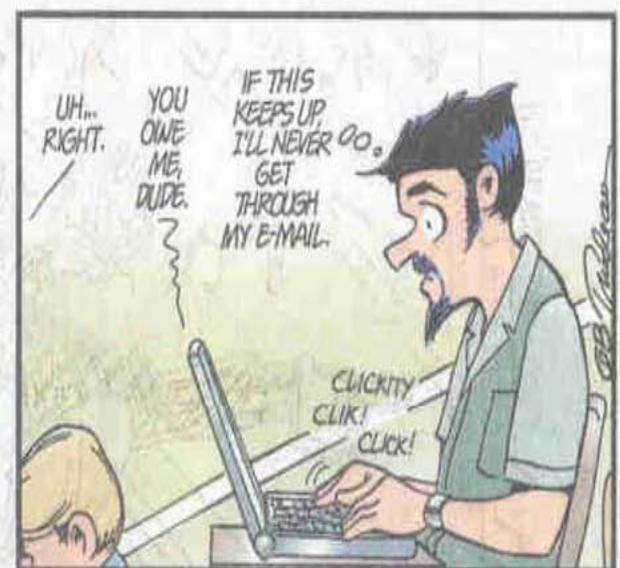
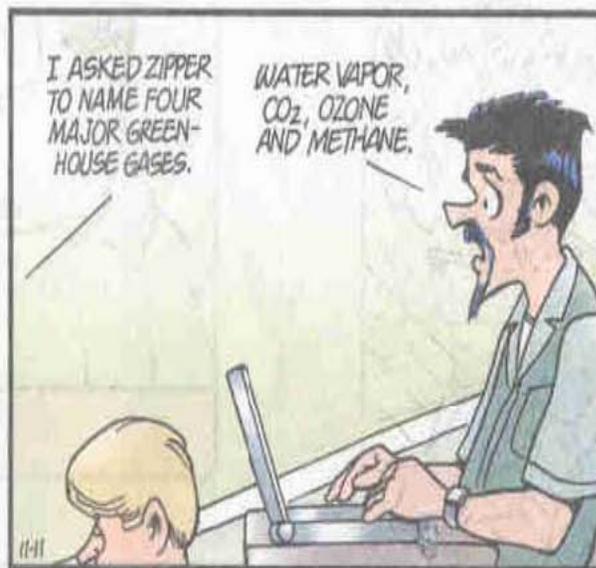
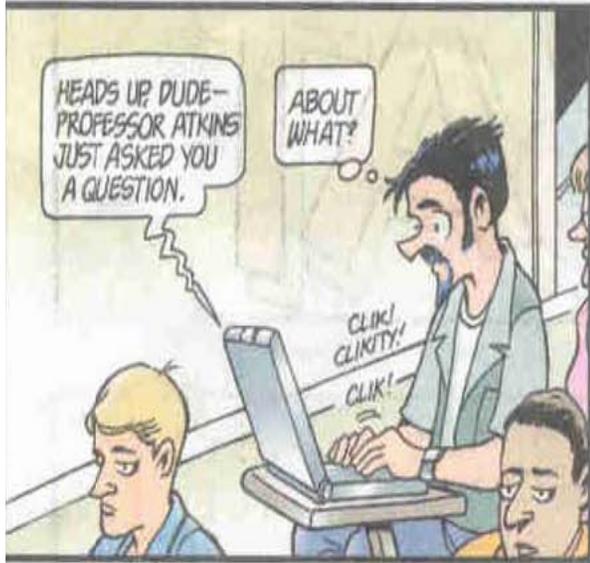
Implications for High School Design: 2

(No more egg crate)

Make better use of internet

- Increasingly available on-line courses make individualization more possible
- Accommodate students who move from place to place, which has been problematic for 20th century high school
- Recognize that classrooms are no longer the main source of information for students

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