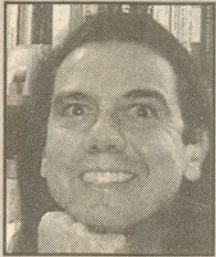


Corvallis writer's work is doubly educational



"(My book) proclaims the urgent need of education for human development in a world obsessed with technological and economic expansion."

SEBASTIAN DE ASSIS

NAME: Sebastian de Assis, Corvallis

HE WROTE: "Teachers of the World, Unite!" (Educational Center Press, P.O. Box 443, Corvallis, OR 97339-0443)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? "An education manifesto of a more humanistic education in which the hub of the educational wheel is the individual human instead of the individual laborer. It proclaims the urgent need of education for human development in a world obsessed with technological and economic expansion.

"Although it is addressed to teachers (because of their crucial role in education), it is a book for anyone concerned with the trends of education in the 21st century.

"The book has twofold purposes: to enlighten the general public regarding the so-called educational crisis that reverberates in the national media on a daily basis, and to show that the crisis is not educational per se but social in nature. It also envisions restoring some honor and appreciation for the profession that supports and sponsors all other professions in society: teaching."

WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND? "I am a naturalized American citizen originally from Rio de Janeiro. I have been living in the United States for 18 years, 10 of which I spent on Maui, Hawaii.

"I have also lived in California, New

Mexico and now in Oregon, which I consider to be one of the best places I have lived in the world. I live in Corvallis with my wife and daughter."

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING? "I'm an educator, writer and speaker with more than two decades of experience in education. My eclectic professional background ranges from teaching first grade to college level in Europe, Latin America and the United States, in both traditional and alternative educational settings.

"I am fluent in Spanish, French and Portuguese. Besides writing, I teach part time at Chemeketa Community College, at Willamette Valley Community School and at the English Language Institute at Oregon State University."

WHEN DID YOU BEGIN TO WRITE? "I have been writing throughout my teaching career, for I have always associated the craft of writing with education.

"Approximately eight years ago, I decided to combine my professional experience with my passion for writing and become an educational author.

"I have published several articles and written two books based on my philosophy of education and pedagogical methods: 'Is It Possible to Teach Peace?' (unpublished) and 'Teachers of the World, Unite!' "

WHAT ARE YOU READING? "On my bedside table lies a copy of 'Pedagogy of the Heart' by Paulo Freire, who, along with Jean Jacques Rousseau, I idolize and revere.

"Freire has greatly influenced my educational ideas and helped mold the educator and writer I am today. Since his passing in 1997, I have been more committed than ever before to propagate his vision of education as a means of liberation. 'Pedagogy of the Heart' is filled with Freire's reminiscences of his early life and meditations of one of the greatest education thinkers of the 20th century."

WHAT'S NEXT? "I am currently working on a new book on social reform through educational practices."

YOU CAN CATCH HIM AT: He will appear at 1 p.m. Saturday at Waldenbooks in Albany, at 11 a.m. Dec. 2 at Waldenbooks in Salem, at 3 p.m. Dec. 2 at Waldenbooks in Corvallis, at 1 p.m. Dec. 9 at Waldenbooks in Eugene and at noon Dec. 16 at Waldenbooks at the Lloyd Center in Portland.

Oregon Authors appears regularly on the Books page. Direct comments or suggestions to Assistant Features Editor Paul Denison, who can be reached by phone at 338-2323, or by e-mail at pdenison@guardnet.com.