

# “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.