

## BREAKING THE IMAGE

Mr. Smith explains that Nova's vocational program is not designed to serve just the employment needs of Fort Lauderdale. Instead, he sees Nova as a pilot study and showcase for the entire United States, demonstrating an integrated or organic curriculum to fit the needs of all students.

Nova, therefore, will not teach barbering, or cosmetology, or restaurant cooking, or auto mechanics. The six areas to be covered in technical science are: graphic arts, drafting, mechanical technology, home science, electronics, and business education.

Nova is trying valiantly to break the image of girls only taking typing and shorthand, sewing and cooking. The world of work is wide open to women, and Nova is asking all its students, not just the boys, to take a thorough program of technical education.

Each year business and industry demand skilled workers at the technical-assistant level. Research laboratories, test laboratories, drafting studios—none can find enough trained workers. These are areas in which girls could make a significant contribution, but vocational-education critics charge that most high-school counselors fail to point this out to the noncollege-bound girls in the student body.

Statistics available from the State of Wyoming tell that, of 35,895 students in Grades 7-12 in the public schools this year, 13,158 were enrolled in typing, book-keeping, and secretarial courses. No Wyoming girls were offered cosmetology, graphic arts, printing occupations, or laboratory-technician programs.

Even where a broad range of vocational training is available to girls, few ever take advantage of it. A study of nine school systems by a team of vocational-education researchers at Pennsylvania State University revealed that the schools themselves have compounded the problem by giving girls a bad image of vocational education in general and of themselves as part of the labor force in particular.

## MORE ELBOW ROOM

The conventional notions hold that: there are few occupations appropriate for girls; girls should only plan on working until they get married; girls should not prepare themselves for important jobs because they will marry and waste their training.

Nova High School is taking the leadership in destroying these notions, and the Pennsylvania State University study team urges the rest of the academic community to follow suit. According to the study, intertwining vocational with academic schooling would solve the problem of vocational training for girls.

Nova is not only pioneering a vocational-technical program which includes girls in the technical areas, and boys in the business-education curriculum, but in a broader concept of occupational training which will allow graduates more elbow room in the working world. A recent government study predicts that adults living in the latter half of the 20th century will change occupations at least three times.

Already automation of skilled and semi-skilled jobs is dramatically showing up the shortcomings of too specific training in job skills. The worker of tomorrow needs to have a broad enough background in vocational-technical education to move from one skill area to another without requiring massive retraining.

This is what the organic curriculum seeks to achieve. This is the sort of vocational training Nova is proud to offer its students.

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[From the Christian Science Monitor, July 25, 1967]

## DEMAND FOR SKILLED WORKERS ESCALATING

Contrary to what most United States citizens may believe, there will be more, not less, need for skilled workers in the near future. Government economists predict that by 1975 the total number of jobs will increase by 18 percent. Here is how these economists forecast the needs:

Professional-technical workers, up 54 percent; clerical workers, up 37 percent; service workers (gas-station, attendants, etc.), up 35 percent.

To meet these demands, public schools are having to reverse themselves on vocational training. Schooling for skills is experiencing a renaissance.