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Letter to the Editor - More Support for Saturday Classes

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EDITOR'S CORNER

More Support For Saturday Classes

Dear Editor:

The letter from Richard Wilson in the Winter '83-84 ISTJ not only gives me an opportunity to endorse the scheduling of science/math classes on Saturdays and during the evenings with part-time teachers but also as another ex-math/science teacher, to voice opinions in several other aspects of teaching. In the '50's at St. Ambrose College we initiated Saturday Science Seminars for secondary school students which were highly successful. With the assist of professional societies such as ASME, AIEE, ARS, area industrial professionals and science teachers and the Iowa Academy Visiting Scientist program, speakers were presented which attracted sizeable audiences and I feel were influential in encouraging at least some of those attending to pursue science/math oriented careers.

The Palmer Junior College classes, in the '60s and '70s, were all [taught] evenings and Saturdays with part-time instructors in math/science/engineering who had day-time jobs as engineers and scientists. We did open these college level science/math classes to high school students who had the background and interest. . . .

I, like Richard Wilson, still have the desire to do some teaching however with my full time job as an engineer with the Federal Government this would have to be part time or after I retire in the not too distant future. The desire is inherent in many of us ex-teachers not necessarily for the monetary returns but for the rapport with the young people who are this country's future scientists, mathematicians, physicians, engineers, etc. and for the delightfully rewarding companionship of the community of science and math teachers in our primary and secondary schools and colleges.

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