

# Don't Stop the World-I Want To Stay On

When I look at the world, it fills me with sorrow, who really cares! Who will take time out to save a world that is destined to die if we continue to remain passive & apathetic? But wait a minute; STOP, LOOK, LISTEN! Yeah, listen to your world here what it's saying. It is imperative that we immediately begin to identify with the plight of our less fortunate fellows on Spaceship Earth, if we are to help both themselves and ourselves survive. Is it still possible after all of these years in a repressive, stifling education system, to make creative and active our presently dormant critical and analytical perspective in terms of understanding the many social problems we are all confronted with? Are we here in Academia aware of the fantastic implications and consequences that are entailed in the problems and yes, the solutions of the day. Locally, do we need development plans, consolidated schools & more big business? What is being done globally about starvation, poverty, maldistribution of the wealth and resources, class conflict, pollution, & overpopulation? Is what we are learning in the classroom educating us in terms of making us more aware of social injustice, oppression, exploitation and manipulation that exists here on Campus as well as P.E.I. and the rest of the world?

How are we using our time and resources here at Knowledge College? Do we know why we are here; teachers and students alike! If one seriously looks at the economic, political and social situations in North America as well as Europe,, on a local as well as federal basis, from the everyday Watergate of Politics to the list of Crises; doesn't this make us alarmed and want to find out why this is happening?

How much longer can we as human beings afford to play the role of teacher and student and continue to think this institution of higher learning is a job training and preparation factory? Get good grades - go to grad school - become really educated. This leads to

a good secure job & great benefits, if you know the right person. If you don't know the right guy, unemployment, substitute teaching are the in things if you're in arts, and if you're in business, monotony & boredom will hit you sooner or later. After all is said and done, what have we really learned? Does a heavy course load & a degree mean we learned a lot? Do we really know who we are and what we want out of life when and if we graduate? Let's stop playing games with ourselves and ask ourselves deep within, fundamental questions concerned with what we are doing with our life! Are we developing our potential? Are we educating ourselves to the real problems confronting man?

We desperately need to find meaning, direction & purpose in our life! If we have an ultimate goal to strive for, we don't go through life aimlessly and directionless! Apathy alienation, boredom & selfishness will continue to permeate our lives until we find what we want out of life. It is vital that we as individuals find out who we are, what we

want, and where we are going in life. Peace of mind with oneself is a prerequisite for bringing peace to others. We only get out of life what we put into it! If the above can be achieved, we must then begin to seek the truth and see beyond the superficial facade that politicians and multi-national corporations blind us with. We must begin to pinpoint the contradictions & paradoxes entailed in a world Capitalist System whereby oppressor continues to exploit the oppressed. We must make ourselves aware as to why underdeveloped countries can't become developed for example. Or we can see why there is suicide, insanity, crime, nervous breakdowns, alcoholism, etc. We can also understand why a lot of people think it's more important to attend class rather than go to a Focus on Objectives meeting to find out why we are going to class in the first place!

Let's get serious & confront the problem at hand, and it is us! I urge all of you in Academia, student as well as teacher, to take upon yourselves the responsib-

ility to concern yourselves and recognize, inside as well as outside of the classroom, man's basic inalienable rights and to actively promote an awareness to strive towards achieving and sustaining the right to life, liberty & the pursuit of happiness. Let us make these inalienable rights practical and possible not only on this campus and the Island but for the rest of the world as well. We can start making ourselves more aware of these rights by taking seriously the Ten Days for World Development sponsored by the World Council of Churches Feb. 1-11. Let these 10 days be the catalyst for re-educating ourselves as to what the real root problems of the world are & hope fully work together in the classroom to find some solutions.

An optimistically-pessimistic, critically-analytical North American and fellow human being who has hope.

Art Laffin



Delegates at the Ten Days for World Development conference.

Photo by Gordon Pierce

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