

# North Americans Have Too Long Sat Back

Is there any reason for us to be uptight about the society in which we live?

What difference does it make to a university student as to what is happening in the world? Let's face it, aren't we all here in knowledge college for our degree— that small white piece of paper, and then go out into the job market and sell our specialized field of interest to whoever will take us? Aren't we in school to absorb knowledge like a sponge soaks up water only to be squeezed or utilized

when it is needed? Come on brothers and sisters, let's stop kidding ourselves! Let's ask ourselves some basic questions! What are we really doing in school? Why do we need a university? Do we have to go to school to prove to our selves and our parents that we are intelligent?

The questions I pose to all of you who are here for the degree and the supposed canadian or american dream which comes afterwards are as follows. Is what you are learning in university helping you to more clearly understand the problems

of the day? Is your college education preparing you to practically and concretely translate this knowledge you are gaining so that you can make the world a better place to live in? Is your education helping you to know yourself? Have you learned to accept yourself for what you are? Have you learned to think clearly, critically, and rationally?

If any of you read the Cadre last week, there was an article on the Canadian Bishops Labor Day Message. In my mind, this article has to be one of the most

critical stands the hierarchy of the Church, as a whole, has taken in quite a while. Throughout the whole message, there was a cry for justice, commitment, responsibility, and freedom for all those who are exploited and oppressed.

I seriously think that it's about time that we as students and North Americans take a critical look at the world in which we live and the harsh realities that we virtually tend to ignore. Let's take some time out for a minute and see what's happening in the world.

1) There is economic, political, and social injustices existing in the world at every level of society.

2) There is a fantastic amount of violence in our cities as well as legitimized violence which can be seen on T.V. in the form of Cannon, Police Story, the Rookies, Hockey and Football, etc.

3) There is abortion, insanity, suicide, population explosion, insecurity, inferiority, pollution, greed, racism, exploitation, mercy killing, neglect of old people; alienation from God, work, land, and sometimes each other; lack of communication, openness, sincerity; various physical diseases that are related to smoking, drinking, chemicalized foods, and lack of physical fitness.

4) There is crime, rape, murders, divorce, child abuse, unemployment, inflation, capital punishment, poverty, malnourishment, and starvation.

5) There are undeclared wars in Northern Ireland, the Middle East, and various portions of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The scars of Vietnam are still not healed.

6) Since 1945, western nations have spent over a trillion dollars on weapons. The 5 nuclear powers have now, conservatively, the capability of 30 times overkill— or cinderizing this planet 30 times over. Tiny, obscure nations buy arms before they undertake development or offer their people bread; they buy the arms from great powers who have special interests in seeing them underdeveloped.

7) To further complicate such appalling madness, humanity is divided along caste and racial lines; the "have" and the "have nots" polarity. The "haves", one third of mankind, are mostly North Atlantic, and

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