

You and I ... The Ripple Effect

by Gary Fisher

We live in a world of complex interrelationships and interdependencies. We have been told by our teachers and politicians that we cannot isolate ourselves from the rest of the world; we must face the same economic, social, and political problems as every other nation and people on this earth.

We live in a time when two men running for the head of state (our neighbours to the south) can go on national television and calmly discuss the apparent weakness in their military over-kill capability. After all, they must be able to destroy the earth and its inhabitants fifty times over, not just thirty or forty. We live in a time when both the Soviet Union and the United States are each providing the other with the opportunity to enter into a limited war. It is a time when the United States is increasing military aid to El Salvador by providing military consultants, and are seriously discussing a re-introduction of the draft - although in a somewhat different form - not even ten years after their non-war in Vietnam cost the lives of millions of people. We inhabit a time when our media is telling the world that the United States has to deploy the neutron bomb in Europe in order to ensure the lives of our allies. At the same time the Foreign Affairs Bulletin, published by the Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic, described the use and reason for the possible introduction of the neutron bomb in Europe in this manner:

"The neutron bomb is a weapon typically designed for use in wars of aggression and conquest. Its radiation, as its protagonists cynically maintain, 'only' kills people while leaving buildings and machinery intact" U.S. scientists gave a much more vivid description: people will be "juiced" when exposed to radiation from a detonated neutron bomb - in other words, they will die a slow and most painful death.

"The neutron bomb is, so to say, made to measure, for imperialism and its military-industrial complex: the zones 'freed' of humans by this satonic device, and the entire productive capacity they hold will be fully re-

usable for the benefit of monopoly capitalists rubbing their hands in glee at safe 'rear echelon' locations beyond the Atlantic Ocean".

How can people begin to trust each other, if they are continually told by their governments or their representatives (the media) that the "other" side is constantly preparing to destroy them?

We live in a time when, if we believe the people who say that an individual cannot change the world, there is a good chance that many of you reading this will be fighting in a war that you played no role in causing and can find no way of justifying.

We will continue to live in a world where, if we accept without question what we are being told by our representatives, we will continually be led either by our government or big business (whatever you want to call them they are both the same) along the path that they choose.

But if we begin to ask questions, to take control over our own lives, to believe in the value of human life, then as an individual we have created a small ripple in the sea of madness. As that ripple expands, it will have an effect on the sea, and during its expansion it will cause other ripples. Therefore, the results of the action taken by one individual are infinite.

But where do we begin? The following quotation by Theodore Roszak from his book Person/Planet, will give us a place to start from. If we begin here, then each of us will have started a ripple, and the results of our individual action is indeed limitless.

"You and I..."

We meet as strangers, each carrying a mystery within us. I cannot say who you are; I may never know you completely. But I trust that you are a person in your own right, possessed of a beauty and value that are the Earth's richest treasures. So I make this promise to you: I will impose no identities upon you, but will invite you to become yourself without shame or fear. I will hold open a space for you in the world and defend your right to fill it with an authentic vocation. For as long as your search takes, you have my loyalty."

It's all just a matter of treating people with respect and dignity.....

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(ZNS) -- The syntonic software company of Houston reports it has sold more than 10,000 copies of an x-rated program for small home computers.

The program, called "interlude", asks whatever combination of consenting adults is in the room a series of very personal questions. The replies are punched into the keyboard.

"Interlude" then prints out detailed instructions describing - on the basis

of the answers it has received - what the people present should do to each other. These instructions, the company says, range "from basic foreplay to light bondage".

Syntonic president David Brown notes the computer can be very beneficial when - in his words - "the man and woman are already feeling warmly toward each other, but do not have an exact format in mind for the evening."



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