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# A model for an alternative degree program : especially for those now excluded from post- secondary opportunity.

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A MODEL FOR AN ALTERNATIVE DEGREE PROGRAM:  
ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE NOW EXCLUDED  
FROM POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITY

A Dissertation Presented

By

JOHN J. HIBERT, JR.

Submitted to the Graduate School of the  
University of Massachusetts in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

May 1978

Education

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## D E D I C A T I O N

This dissertation is dedicated to my wife, who preserved, and to my late father and my mother, who instilled in me a love of reading.

## A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

When I hear the word manager, I see Dr. Kenneth Blanchard and appreciate the management styles he employed, concurrently with his constant encouragement as I completed this study. Thank you Ken.

When I hear the word teacher, I see Dr. George Urch and hope that many more learners have an opportunity to work with him. Thank you George.

When I hear the words compassionate constructive critic, I see Dr. Anne Rideout and the difficult, meticulous work that we shared. Thank you Anne.

I also express a special note of thanks to Dr. Robert Sinclair and the other faculty and staff members of the School of Education with whom I worked.

Finally, my thanks go to the many professional practitioners of alternative educational programs, like Dr. Thomas Clark, who shared their time, knowledge and expertise with me.

## ABSTRACT

A Model for an Alternative Degree Program:  
Especially for Those Now Excluded  
From Post-Secondary Opportunity

May 1978

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This was a study to collect analyze and synthesize information on the options available to learners outside the usual parameters of our societies de fact eligibility requirements for access to post secondary degree programs.

The synthesis was the starting point for the design of a model which will, when implemented, allow for alternative paths toward a college degree to those who have been previously excluded from this pursuit by reason of age, socio-economic position, and/or limitations of the time and space. The model is described as the optional degree.

Another outcome of the study was the adaptation and development of four level and seven stage grids. It is a holistic model which represents the process which depicts the gestalt in which the optional degree



model will function most successfully. It was adapted for the purpose of this study from George B. Leonard.

The model for the optional degree program provides a way for educators interested in the delivery of educational opportunities to those previously excluded from this educational process to start their efforts. Formative evaluation and longitudinal studies will enhance the working of the ongoing programs and provide information to those who follow.

## Table of Contents

	Page
DEDICATION. . . . .	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. . . . .	v
ABSTRACT. . . . .	vi
LIST OF TABLES. . . . .	x
CHAPTER	
I INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
Purpose. . . . .	5
Meaning of Terms . . . . .	5
Significance . . . . .	6
Procedures . . . . .	9
A Synthesis of the Reviewed Literature . . . . .	10
II THE SCHOOLING REALITY AND THE EDUCATIONAL POSSIBILITY. . . . .	24
III A DESIGN FOR AN OPTIONAL DEGREE PROCESS. . . . .	80
Method . . . . .	84
Workshop Structure . . . . .	87
Earning Credit . . . . .	92
Admissions . . . . .	92
Curriculum . . . . .	106
Accreditation. . . . .	108

CHAPTER	Page
IV	
RECOMMENDATION OF ALTERNATIVE ROUTES IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION. . . . .	117
Summary of the Social Institution. . . . .	125
Recommendations.....	125
Summary.....	133
Prediction . . . . .	146
REFERENCES. . . . .	150
Microfiche—United States Office of Education . . . . .	157
ERIC Abstracts for Search Number 1290 SEIC, Bedford, Massachusetts. . . . .	163
APPENDICES	
A	
PROPOSED PLANNING BUDGET . . . . .	167
B	
PROPOSED BUDGET. . . . .	169
C	
SAMPLE LEARNING CONTRACT . . . . .	172

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	Page
1      Workshop Structure. . . . .	88

## C H A P T E R I

### INTRODUCTION

When George Bernard Shaw required himself to collect his thoughts on formal education during his time, he remarked,

. . . What private amateur parental enterprise cannot do may be done very effectively by organized professional enterprise in large institutions established for the purpose. And it is to such professional enterprise that parents had over their children when they can afford it. They send their children to school; and there is, on the whole, nothing on earth intended for innocent people so horrible as a school. To begin with, it is a prison. But in some respects it is more cruel than a prison. In a prison, for example, you are not forced to read books written by the warders and the governor (who of course would not be warders and governors if they could write readable books), and beaten or otherwise tormented if you cannot remember their utterly unmemorable contents. In the prison you are not forced to sit listening to turnkeys discoursing without charm or interest on subjects they don't understand and don't care about, and are therefore incapable of making you understand or care about. In a prison they may torture your body; but they do not torture your brains. . . . In a school you have none of these advantages. With the world's bookshelves loaded with fascinating and inspiring books, the very manna sent down from Heaven to feed your souls, you are forced to read a hideous imposture called a schoolbook, written

by a man who cannot write a book from which no human being can learn anything: a book which, though you may decipher it, you cannot in any fruitful sense read, though the enforced attempt will make you loathe the sight of a book all the rest of your life. With millions of acres of woods and valleys and hills and wind and air and birds and streams and fishes and all sorts of instructive and healthy things easily accessible, or with streets and shop windows and crowds and vehicles and all sorts of city delights at the door, you are forced to sit, not in a room with some human grace and comfort of furniture and decoration, but in a stalled pound with a lot of other children, beaten if you talk, beaten if you move, beaten if you cannot prove by answering idiotic questions that even when you escaped from the pound and from the eye of your goaler, you were still agonizing over his detestable sham instead of daring to live (Burton, 1965).

While few would take altogether literally Shaw's multicount indictment of education in contemporary times, the fundamental thrust of his anguished criticism is no less valid today. Education must still shift into the future tense (Toffler). One way we must move is in the direction of providing better access to a system of post-secondary education to multitudes in our society to whom it is denied. Shaw concerned himself with youngsters whom he viewed as prisoners because they were locked into an uncaring and non-creative school system.

Today, we have in America an equally intolerable condition where millions of adults and young adults locked out of a system of post-secondary education. This system has failed to take advantage of the rich potential of a people who might bring to the classroom all those life experiences which Shaw craved and yearned to have incorporated into the educational system of his time. We have measured academic worthiness on the basis of tests devised by teachers: tests contain questions intended to produce the answers the teachers have previously taught. But, in the process, we have misjudged the true educational value of what others were learning from "the world's bookshelves," as Shaw called them: from ". . . the millions of acres of woods and valleys and hills and wind and air and birds and streams and fishes and all sorts of instructive and healthy things easily accessible. . ." (Burton, 1965).

It is true that we have made considerable strides in improving the situation since 1910, when only one quarter of one percent of our population completed college (Goodman, 1962). But even though we have progressed in broadening access to post-secondary education, we have done very little to alter the learning process that takes place after opportunity is made available. We have done very little to consider the special needs of those who have been denied access.

We now have a double responsibility. We must not only rectify our shortcomings by fulfilling our duty as a society to provide educational opportunities to people who want them, but also we must assume the responsibility of supporting and encouraging these individuals to use these opportunities, even though negative past experiences may have discouraged these people and sapped them of hope or trust. We must even undertake to inspire them to take advantage of such opportunities even in cases where they appear overtly negative to the idea. Not only should education be available to all, but also it should be developed as an intrinsically worthwhile and life-long process for and by all members of the society. Until now the process of credentials has been a frightening spectre to many of our citizens, literally millions of whom have felt that age, socio-economic level, academic background, and/or the constraints of space and time precluded their access to higher education. We must change this perception. Some institutions have already realized this fact, and have begun to provide opportunities for this special student population to take advantage to post-secondary education.



### Purpose

The purposes of this study were to collect and analyze the resources available on alternatives in higher education, to determine the existing options available to the learners in colleges and universities, and to propose a design for an optional degree program in post-secondary education. This design combines the most successful alternate routes extant to the undergraduate degree and offers an expanded process for the facilitation of alternatives in post-secondary education and broadens the awareness of possibilities for atypical learners.

The objectives of this study are:

1. To collect data on available alternatives in higher education.
2. To determine existing options available to learners for undergraduate degrees in colleges and universities.
3. To create a design for a model of an optional degree program.

### Meaning of Terms

In order to clarify the communication process what follows is a brief section defining the investigators use of the terms.

Delivery system.--Ways in which society makes available opportunities in post-secondary education for its citizens..

Design.--A paradigm, especially one worthy of imitation.

Optional degree.--An alternative system of undergraduate education which brings the resources of our higher educational delivery system to those who had been previously excluded by reasons of age, socio-economic position, and/or limitations of space and time.

Education.--A process of thinking feeling and acting which enables a person to better make meaning of his own experience.

### Significance

A recent survey by Becker Associates, commissioned by the Massachusetts State College System, showed that more than one half a million residents of the Bay State are philosophical colleagues of Shaw's, all unhappy with their education for one reason or another (Becker Assoc., 1974). The litany of complaints from a disgruntled public reads like a copy of Shaw's lament for elementary education six decades ago: irrelevant and uninteresting courses, poor teachers, poor guidance, impersonal and crowded classes, too much rote, and not enough thinking and independence. These are the indictments of a group

of non-professional consumers of the state's educational offerings. One result indicated by this survey and by this criticism is that only nine percent of the 500,000 potential customers of the offerings of former Governor Francis Sargeant's proposed State Supported Open University are considered a prime market for the new offerings. In real numbers this prime market comes close to 50,000 potential students, in spite of the shortcomings of the present educational system (Becker Assoc., 1974).

If the state chose to build campuses for this number of students, it would be required to almost double the present number of colleges. Yet, we are a state that has repeatedly been in the forefront of educational offerings. Through this former governor we have indicated that we have a firm commitment to the belief that all who want education should have it.

This study examines existing delivery systems and proposes a model upon which the investigator reports. This is an action effort by which the investigator attempts to reform our basic delivery systems for post-secondary education.

The investigator believes, unlike Illich and Goodman, that the present system is the only system from which to proceed to a better system. Illich suggests that all schooling and the mentality which

accompanies it be discarded. Like all true believers, he risks throwing out the baby with the bath water. The investigator will propose a system which enhances the health and the safety of the baby and provides an educationally sound method for the disposal of the bath water.

This study is valuable because because the result will be a working design to enable those who have been denied access to post-secondary education entrance into the system and a beginning point for additional research. The design will be generalizable to state colleges. It is a starting point for any college which may be interested in improving access to its offerings, and it can also improve the services which our educational institutions provide for people. It will fill societal needs in that we need masses of educated people (Silberman, 1970).

The design, when implemented, will provide the impetus for regeneration at pilot institutions. The "spillover effect of the process, which will result from faculty and students looking at education through different glasses, can cause a new approach to education and a dialogue with other colleges. Ideas can be exchanged. It can provide a starting point for additional research.

### Procedures

Letters, telephone calls, reciprocal visits, extensive reading, and an intensive search of the ERIC file were employed in the process of completing this effort. Both public and private institutions were investigated by personal visits; printed materials were collected and read; workshops with participants from existing programs were held, the personnel from which were resource people to the investigator.

One of the objectives of this study was to collect and analyze the data on available alternatives in post-secondary education. The investigator satisfied this objective by extensive use of letters to institutions known to be providing non-traditional options to learners, by telephone calls to the people identified by the institutions as being in charge of the alternatives, and by reciprocal personal visits to some of the institutions. The investigator also read an extensive number of books, journals, periodicals, bulletins, and statements and conducted an intensive search of the ERIC file in satisfying this objective. Both public and private institutions were investigated, using one or more of the above methods.

The data gathered on the available alternatives in post-secondary education were analyzed and the most

appropriate patterns are included in the model proposed.

Constant formative evaluation took place throughout this process. The resulting paradigm served as the basis for the investigator's recommendations for an alternative pattern in post-secondary education.

#### A Synthesis of the Reviewed Literature

Books, periodicals, and journals were utilized to find references to the following subjects: University Without Walls, External Degrees, Open University, Extension Degrees, and alternatives in post-secondary education. In order to find articles written concerning these subjects, the ERIC file was searched. Abstracts of the pertinent articles were purchased and studied. Dissertation abstracts were searched for the years 1966 through 1976 to determine if any dissertations have been written on these subjects. The search of the literature brought the investigator information on the following set of paradigms which encompass the extant programs.

If a person in the United States who is not between the ages of 18 and 22 wants or needs the services of our educational community in a quest for a college education, he has been left out. We have few provisions for him/her. The processes of matriculation, instruction, evaluation, awarding the degree, and licensure to

practice a profession are not readily available to any person over the "usual" ages. Many citizens want and need the opportunity to learn. The optional degree is a different delivery system for the services of the educational community to those who have this need. Non-traditional efforts in the field of education have to consider the time and space limitations of the current delivery system and must be willing to change these limitations to accommodate the new clientele necessary to their success.

In order to accommodate the optional degree to the educational spectrum, the evolution of this concept is briefly discussed. The internal degree was first granted in the United States by and at Harvard College. It was granted for the successful completion of a course of studies by all students in the same manner and sequence, and the content was classical and religious. Henry Dunster was president of Harvard College between 1640 and 1656. During his administration between twenty and fifty resident scholars were at Harvard. "There is every evidence that Dunster taught the entire curriculum on his own" (Cremin, 1965). Yet this model of the internal degree was the paradigm for higher education until the later 1800's.

Gradual changes took place, but, unfortunately, much remained the same until Charles W. Eliot established the elective system in the last thirty years of the 19th century. By allowing students to choose the method of some of their education, Eliot caused a cassandra out-cry by many in the educational field. Even years after the inception of the elective system, many still considered it with disfavor (Cremin, 1965).

When Eliot completed these reforms, the United States' system of higher education developed a system of dividing content into specialized and refined units. Course credits, majors and minors based on departments, grade points, minimum number of credits for graduation, upper and lower division courses, and all the other academic paraphernalia have become so familiar that we approach them with a feeling, "It always was and always will be." Our delivery system for education, a degree at the completion of the process, had again solidified into dogma.

The part-time student proliferated as a result of the elective system. This student was the one who received his optional degree as a result of the internal degree process being lengthened. The degree was the same and the process was the same, but the time was increased. In the early years of the 20th century the number of



part-time students grew so greatly that a new system had to be devised. The extension degree was the response of the educational community to the demand. Because it was difficult to fit these numbers into the internal degree patterns, the effort was made to provide the wanted services through a new pattern. Late afternoon and evening courses, convenient instructional centers, weekend meetings, concentration of courses into shorter periods of time, correspondence, and later, radio and television were some of the changes brought about by the new idea. At first, these were only new ways to get the internal degree. Then some colleges and universities began a whole new process which resulted in the entire educational effort being offered by the extension method.

The hallmark of the extension degree is that the institution assumes that the adult living in the community has the same needs and wants as the adult-adolescent living on campus; the hallmark of the adult degree is that the educational efforts are focused on the lifestyle of the adult. The difference is based on stage not age. Both the extension degree and the adult degree have been based on the internal degree. The optional degree is not centered in traditional patterns of residential college or university study (Gould, 1972). This is more what it is not than what it is. Since the optional degree has had

only a few years of discussions and trial efforts, the above definition may be the clearest one possible. The primary difference between the adult degree and the optional degree is the facet of the optional degree which considers the "knowing" that the student already possesses. As we progress toward wider and wider implementation of the optional degree, it is possible to cluster the types which emerge. We will probably refer to the optional degree only as a historical benchmark, and then we will have a much clearer idea of what it is and is not. We will have categorized and synthesized to the point where we will be better able to put many more handles on the experience. New goals and processes will emerge which will alter present thinking and create new and more change-producing paradigms for further progress. The self-fulfilling prophecy will be proven.

Although we admit that present knowledge is insufficient to put handles on the whole concept of the optional degree, clarified is provided by John R. Valley, a member of a contributor to the Commission on Non-traditional Study. He identified and described six basic models of the optional degree: (1) Administrative Facilitation, (2) Modes of Learning, (3) Examination, (4) Validation, (5) Credits, and (6) Complex-Systems (Gould, 1972).

The administrative facilitation model is characterized by its adherences to established patterns of the sponsoring institution. The changes from the traditional come in the areas of time and space. The experience is constructed to serve a different clientele, who usually are the adults of the community. The best example of this type of optional degree is the evening college paradigm which is in operation at many colleges and universities throughout the world. The ways of distributing the educational opportunities are not limited to residence at the institution. Technology, from the postal services to television, is employed to facilitate the educative process. The degree patterns are adhered to strictly (Gould, 1972).

The modes of learning pattern is best illustrated by the University Without Walls example. The student in the University Without Walls is involved in a planned and continuing relationship with a residential college or university. The path to the degree is not bushels of credits, but rather a process in which students, faculty, and administrators design the program. Regular courses, internships, assistantships, field experience, independent study, individual and group projects, television, programmed learning, and travel are all part of the process. There is no fixed curriculum and no set time for the

awarding of the degree. Students in the various UWW programs vary in age from 16 to 60. Adjunct faculty who offer special expertise are used even if they do not hold faculty rank. Continuing dialogue between student and faculty is maintained by various means. The twenty institutions involved make all their resources available to all the participants in the program. Each student must produce a "major" contribution and the achievements of the graduates of the programs are researched (Carnegie Comm., 1971).

The British Open University (BOU) is another example of the modes of learning approach. It has designed a special curriculum for adults, people over 21 years of age. The pace and amount of instruction is based on the realization that the student has other responsibilities to fulfill. The instruction is divided into segments which are completed in prescribed sequence, and evaluation of the student's progress is made in each of the segments (Gould, 1972).

When a student is successful, he is credited with having completed that segment. End-of-the-course examinations are used, but credit for having completed the course is also determined by a formative evaluation of the student's work during the course. The degree will be awarded upon successful completion of the prescribed courses of the program. It is easy to measure student

progress because the courses required for the degree are known and fixed. Literature, culture and society, mathematics and science are the foundation courses in the BOU. Students are required to satisfy credits in two of these areas before going on to an advanced level. Six credits are required for the granting of the degree. The courses are divided into two segments. Each segment is a year's course, and each is worth one credit. If the student opts for a more specialized degree, he must acquire eight credits.

In the BOU the student is encouraged to take courses which do not adhere to departmental lines. Interrelatedness seems to be the hallmark. The new concept, the new faculty, the new curriculum, and the new students all work together to create a process which aims at the liberal education of adults.

The modes of learning model also employs technology and increased student services. BOU has workshops and texts especially prepared for the student working at home. Radio and television are broadcast at convenient hours for the benefit of the students. There are centers where the student can receive his instruction in a group, or if he has no receiver of his own, via television. Specially designed, inexpensive kits are available for the student to conduct scientific experiments at home. Tutors are

available at locations convenient to the student, if he wishes to use their services.

The major difference between the models of learning model and the administrative facilitation model is patterns. The former creates new patterns and the latter adheres to established patterns.

The examination model, the third model of the optional degree, is a model in which no instruction is offered. The regents degree in New York is a good example of the examination model. Credits and degrees are awarded by the sponsoring agency or institution on the basis of student performance as evidenced by examination. The first of these degrees was issued in 1972 by the New York State Education Department. In the New York program the student is able to earn the degree solely on the basis of performance on oral and written examinations. The education department began in the field of business administration and is working toward the development of examinations in all areas. The regular faculty members of other colleges and universities in the New York system create and evaluate the examinations, one method being to administer these examinations to regular students at the time they are to receive their degrees. Reasonableness is the measure for which they are searching (Houle, 1973).

Since 1858, originally as a response to its world-wide empire, the University of London has been offering an optional degree based on the examination model. The University makes this opportunity available to students who are not enrolled in the regular programs of the University. The "optional" students take the same examinations as do the regular students, and successful performance leads to a University of London degree.

Since the route to the optional degree is not an easy one, the private sector has filled a need. There are proprietary institutions which are established for the instruction of optional students in the pursuit of the degree. There are also colleges that offer separate courses leading to the University of London degree. There are different requirements for different degrees, regarding the method of preparation for the examinations, but the results of the examinations are the basis for the awarding of any of the degrees.

While both the University of London and the New York State Board of Regents are awarding degrees on the basis of examination, two differences come to mind. The London degree is awarded only to matriculated students, and the process is selective. The New York degree is awarded to anyone who applies for the successfully performs on the examination required. Another difference

is that the regents degree is awarded by an institution which does not enroll students. In the United States this aspect of the examination model deserves study.

In the fourth model, the validation model, an institution or agency evaluates a student's total learning experiences from whatever sources these experiences may have originated. The institution evaluates these learning experiences in terms of its conception of a degree and, when these conditions have been met, perhaps with the prescription of additional learning experiences added, it awards the degree. The validation model assumes that educated persons can and will recognize the attributes of education in others. The institution or agency involved in the validation model must have a clear conception of its degree requirements and must be willing to allow for a variety of means for meeting these requirements. It has to be a sophisticated, mature, and self-confident university or college with a faculty who shares the same attributes.

In the validation model the student assembles the necessary materials which constitute the record of his learning experiences; including transcripts of courses completed in regular colleges and/or universities, results of college placement examinations or college achievement examinations, transcripts of courses taken



in the military and supported by the recommendations of the Commission on Accreditation of Service Experiences, business related courses, and correspondence courses. The compilation of all these records are evaluated and compared to the degree requirements of the institution. A determination of the remaining route to the degree is prescribed by deciding which of the requirements has/ have yet to be met. The prescription for the student can include regular courses, independent study followed by examinations, correspondence courses, or any other acceptable method.

The fifth model is the credits model. Presently there is no operational model of this kind in the United States, but the closest approximation is the Commission of Accreditation of Service Experiences. This creature of the American Council of Education makes recommendations for the awarding of college credit for instruction completed in the military. This commission distributes a guide to colleges and universities, and the guide identifies the military course by title, location, and length. It presents a statement of objectives and coverage of the course and gives credit recommendations at the college level. CASE, despite its prestigious connection with the American Council on Education is only a recommending body and cannot award credit for service-connected learning experiences.

In England, the Council for National Academic Awards, established by Royal Charter in 1964, is empowered to award degrees and other awards to the students of Great Britain who are enrolled in courses outside the regular mainstream, and is closely allied with business and industry in the United Kingdom. It awards degrees from the undergraduate to the doctorate.

The final model, the complex systems model, is perhaps best to be considered as a system instead of a program. The complex system model originates when an institution reshapes its appterns of services in various ways, often by combining several or all of the models mentioned previously. This model, or system, seems the best for many reasons. The most important reason is that the colleges and universities, who are willing to experiment, are staffed by people of good will, who want to allow the prospective student the benefit of all his prior learning experiences. These people want to be fair to themselves and to their institutions. The complex systems model best serves these needs, and it is also ideally suited for the proposed National University, University Without Walls, and Open Education proposals that were made in the later part of the last decade.

Shaw's words of long ago still ring to punctuate our current situation: "Our craze for (educational)

standards of correctness, pushed as it is to make any departure from them a punishable moral delinquency, wastes years of our lives. However, many years are open before us, we refuse to move until two of them are labelled respectively right and wrong, with the right as difficult as we can make it and the wrong the shortest and easiest" (Burton, 1965).

C H A P T E R   I I  
THE SCHOOLING REALITY AND THE  
EDUCATIONAL POSSIBILITY

The purpose of this chapter is to help our citizens achieve their educational goals. We have to change some of our assumptions, and to do that we have to recognize what some of those assumptions are. The lock-step of our educational system has spawned cadres of graduates whose experience has produced nothing more than negative expectations regarding education. They have had a paucity of real success in their school experiences, and they have no faith that our social institutions can help them grow and learn.

It was the investigator's purpose to survey the current educational process and to propose changes which would brighten the expectations of secondary school graduates to the extent that they will be better able and more highly motivated to avail themselves of an optional degree process. The immediate future requires that we produce one generation of secondary school graduates with altered assumptions and expectations so that the optional degree process will have the opportunity to display its capacity to bring optimum benefits to its users.

Any definition of education we might use if futile when we simply examine what we are actually doing. In the United States of America in 1978, we are using an educational model that was created by Irish Monks in the seventh century to teach wild shepherds how to read and write. The only logical conclusion is that we remain sufficiently convinced that there are absolutely no significant differences and needs between that society of the 600's and ours of the 1900's. Paul Goodman makes a fitting plea: it is now time for us to protect our "wild shepherds" who are forced into schools by our self-designated Cardinals, because the power they bring to bear on both the willing and the unwilling postulants is terrible to behold (Goodman, 1970).

If Luther was correct in assuming that work is what justifies human beings, then we would be equally correct in assuming that our educational system frustrates the reasons for humankind's existence. Instead of helping each student find his calling, to help him analyze his world and make sense from it, we spend enormous amounts of money creating institutions that estrange the student from the real world. It would be different to find the young student, awash with enthusiasm and curiosity, who has not been chilled by the system's warning: "You are not yet ready." But "not ready" for what? His body,

his awareness, his probity, acuity, and impatience, and his intolerance of boredom and futility tell him that he is ready to move, to go forward, and to do it now. Our dreams are not the student's, nor should they be. If such were the case, there would never have been a Copernicus, a Galileo, or a Martin Luther King.

Abraham Maslow provides abundant clinical evidence to explain this phenomenon with his ingenious elaboration upon the secondary needs of people in the areas of self-esteem and self-fulfillment, matters critical to their capacity to function as healthy members of the culture (Maslow, 1971). But with all the thought and investigation that has gone into our educational processes, the dictum of centuries past still remains on the lips of every administrator and teacher: "You are not yet ready." We have invested little effort in analyzing that verdict and have not even asked of ourselves the question so often raised by children: "Ready for what?"

We must ask, and to do so, we must direct the total effort of our educational system at helping students find the answer. We must provide tangible opportunities for students to be intimately involved in the real world. To any creative mind it is repulsive to watch a stale system freight its teachers with the dull responsibility of bringing pale simulations of the real world into an

uncomfortable classroom while the silent imaginations of bored students slip through the windows and the walls and out into the rarified atmosphere of reality where untold mysteries remain to be explored and explained.

Like many great possibilities, the elements of this enterprise are remarkably simple. We could start with the very bodies of the young and subvert centuries of obstructionism by plainly teaching that the organs of human life are not objects of shame, that they are the physical manifestations of the highest form of life yet to evolve on this planet in billions of years, and that the only hope for the solution of the imperfections that infuriate the young in the world around them rests within the bodies they inhabit.

To be sure, there will be cries of "Sensualist," "Dirty Old Man," and similar epithets when this is read by some. This is understandable. We all have been taught to think that the human body is something of which to be ashamed. How many hours does each of us spend in a lifetime in contemplation of our bodies and their functions with no chance for mutuality of concern with other humans who are also wondering what the answers to these questions are? The only reason for these rationales is their constant use and consequent familiarity. The *Sabre Toothed Curriculum* does a better job than the investigator

can do in exposing the curriculum champions for what they are (Peddiwell, 1939).

Children want to learn. They want to make sense out of the world that we have given them. They all love to learn, when it involves something that they really care about. The investigator recommends that all teachers and parents reflect upon the activity of youth when they are preparing for the "freedom rite" of getting their driver's license. This time in their lives is as meaningful to them as was the first kill of a Watusi warrior. "Now I am a man/woman," is the feeling a young adult gets with the license.

The investigator has worked with functional illiterates who learned to read well enough to answer the questions on the state driver examination. They sought help from the investigator, welcomed it, and used their newly developed skill to their immediate benefit. Probably these individuals are not reading for pleasure in their spare time, but they did read when necessary and probably are able to read simple directions and road signs now. These children had had ten or eleven years of unsuccessful school experience. They had resisted all efforts to cause them to learn. They refused to play the game called school. However, when the time came for them to employ tools they had previously rejected,



they were acute enough to satisfy their needs. These individuals were "professional seventh graders." They were waiting for their 16th birthdays so that they could "quit" school. Think of the life of constant failure that our system of education had caused them to lead. Failure was reinforced by failure. One of these individuals was an expert operator of heavy, earth moving equipment. He had learned to make bulldozers and backhoes, lulls, and ten-wheelers do his bidding. Yet we as a system of education, in our mindless way, have labelled him as a "failure."

There are things that children want to know, however. They want to know these things when they want to know them. If we would consider alternatives to our present system, we could help these young people to develop skills to make meaning out of their world.

Those seventh-century Irish Monks have really gotten to us even if they failed to get to the wild shepherds. We cannot conceptualize a way of aiding education except for the way it has been done for 1300 years. Our methods have changed, our materials have changed, and our physical structures have become more sophisticated, but we still retain the same context, and here lies the hub of the problem. From here extend the symptoms that we all worry about and try to treat, while we never get to

the root, context. How? Why? When? Where? Whom? If we were to append the words, "do we educate" to the questions above and really think about them, perhaps with a "should" component, we would come to grips with the problems facing us. This is where we fail as a society. We have not learned to ask the right questions. We soon find in school that the only questions which are worthy of being asked or answered are those in the book or those which the teacher formulates. Our own questions are either treated with scorn or derision or, even worse, ignored completely.

The only profession with which all citizens of the United States have actual experience is public school teaching. Much criticism is brought to bear on this profession because of this experience. Lawyers and doctors have the protective cloak of lay ignorance in which to wrap themselves. Teachers do not. But even here the society is dealing with schooling as it is and was. The society has to give these educators a chance to aid in the clients' education. They also have to remove the "Institutional Press" from the system before they can castigate their efforts.

Public schools do some things extremely well, yet, they cannot be considered successful. Successful means gaining, or terminating in, success, or a favorable

termination. The society cannot claim a favorable termination for a process that it has not even recognized. The society does not know where it is so we cannot even guess where it is going. But many of the things done in the name of education in our public schools have results or outcomes. If our success were based on the attainment of these outcomes, the society would be among the most successful institutions extant. Among these outcomes are tracking, sorting, labelling, dehumanizing, depersonalizing, and protection of things as they are (or never were).

If we were to place all the American public schools on a continuum, some would fall at the end where the greatest amount of this inhumane behavior takes place, and some would fall at the opposite end. Not all schools are equally guilty, but all American public schools have components from the above list. Think of yourself as a visitor from another world. One of the first things that the investigator would like to know if he were observing another culture is how does this culture treat its children and its old people. It is easier for us to see how we treat our children and only slightly less painful.

Our visitor is invisible to us so that he does not intrude upon the situation nor change the reality of it. He would see some of the best fed, best clothed, healthiest, and happiest children that our world has ever

known in the hours between 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. An interesting sensitivity module for anyone, but especially for anyone not actively engaged with the activities of the public schools, is to go to the bus stop in front of each school twice a day. Watch the expressions and the manner of the children as they embark in the morning and compare them to the ways they react when they are actively engaged in a process that really turns them on. Watch them as they come out of the school and board the bus. The changes one can observe are amazing. Younger children do not show as pronounced a difference. They are still resilient. They still want to learn, and they still think that it is possible in school. From fourth grade on to twelfth, however, we can find a really noticeable difference. Apathy, submission, and a dullness not associated with learning is the morning feeling, but a liberated questing alertness begins to take shape as these children head for their bus on the way home. Somehow we have created a system that defeats its own purpose. There are American public schools where children want to go on Saturday, where real learning takes place, where requests are made by parents for the child(ren) to be allowed to come earlier to school because there is so much that he (they) wants to do and cannot do within the limits of the school day. Unfortunately, this is not the case in all schools.

The visitor watches the daily activity of the children and sees them leave their loving homes and board a big, yellow school bus which takes them to a joyless place where they sit in rows of specified numbers for at least five hours a day. In many cases they are not allowed to talk to each other, and they must ask permission of an adult in order to urinate or get a drink of water. These children are all presented with the same material at the same time so that they might "learn" it. They are told that it is good for them. Their own interests and questions are of so little worth that they soon decide that the best way to earn the system's approval and rewards is to sublimate their own natural curiosity and lust for learning to the mores of the classroom. Psychologists have proved that no two human beings learn at the same rate or in the same way. Public schools write "Individual Differences" on the cover pages of their curriculum, but this is the extent of the concept.

Some of the things that happen in the public schools are happy things in that they help children to "make meaning." But when these things happen, they usually are not in the lesson plan. They do not fit into the curriculum. There is a vague sense of guilt which pervades the room when the teacher knows that the children are getting him "off the track." This has been a contest between

teacher and student for as long as a repressive school system has been in operation. "Let's get him off the track," is heard in the hall of a junior high school as the students are on their way to a class. (They have just violated the rules in many junior highs: they have talked while passing.) "O.K.," comes the reply, "He's easy to get off anyway." Why is it that we have developed or allowed to develop a system where there is such a dichotomy between what is allegedly a process of helping a learner to learn, and what the learners actually are interested in learning? There is a competition between pupils and teachers. "Teach me, I dare you," is the attitude of many of the older students. "I'll make them learn," is the battle cry of the "dedicated" teacher. This does not have to be. We can change the situation, as it has been changed in many classrooms even in the most repressive schools. But even where one classroom has been changed, we do not have the optimum situation. The pupil leaves this one classroom and enters one of the other kind and, at best, spends a neuter fifty minutes of his life. Do we as adults have a right to coerce our children into using their valuable time in nothingness? Some teachers have the "it" which makes the classroom alive and real. One of our jobs is to find out what "it" is and help other teachers to develop it.

"Boxes, little boxes" is a line from a song of the mid 1960's. This applies to our schools. They are all shiny and clean and new (and woe to him who marks the pristine condition with a sign of human habitation), or old and dirty and dull. But the schools are, for the most part, little boxes within big boxes. It is as if we have a belief that by putting these children into these boxes for seven hours a day for thirteen years, they will emerge on graduation day as fully educated adults. (They have seldom been allowed to practice or handle any responsibility, but we ignore this fact.)

Some schools are experimenting with alternative plans, some of which have been pirated from England who pirated them from the United States. The English school people are quite surprised that their schools are serving as models for our new ones, when our "progressive" schools served as the English models. The climate in these experimental schools is not dehumanizing and is conducive to learning. Yet even these are not the answer to all our questions, assuming that we ever ask the right questions. One must differentiate between education and schooling. Two of the most significant and least subjective criticisms of schools, which are contained in "High School," a film produced by Frederick Wiseman, and *Crisis in the Classroom* (Silberman, 1970).

"High School" deals with the concept that our schools are failing both the rich and the poor in equal parts. Equality should be encouraging, but, in this case, it is appalling. When one sees the film, he becomes convinced of the cliché, "Education is too important to be left to the educators." It bears out the investigator's earlier statement that the institution has subverted itself and is working only for its own continuation. There is a real feeling of hopelessness which pervades the whole gestalt of the film. Telling people about the dehumanization and boredom is not as effective as seeing it. Children are sitting, glassy-eyed, enduring, not caring. Is this the end result of our educational process? What we are talking about is a condition of the spirit, and that condition is hard to cure. What single reform of our schools can cure this spiritlessness? perhaps none, yet we continually "tinker with the machine" instead of making changes which have a chance to work.

Sadness and futility is a message that comes from a situation that should produce anger and righteous indignation. The participants in this film seem hopeless. The camera eye is not unkind. There is little editorial comment, and there is little sympathy. The film is what it claims to be, a portrayal of life within the box of Northeast High in Philadelphia. What the viewer sees



are scenes and dialogues like this one: "When you are being addressed by someone older than you or in a seat of authority, it's your job to respect and listen. She didn't ask you to jump from the Empire State Building. . . .What you should have done is shown some character. We are out to establish that you are a man and can take orders." This was a one-way dialogue, or conversation, between a very large dean of discipline and a young growing male of the species who was trying on his manhood and ideals in a real situation. One of the things he learned, to be sure, is that he had better have "clout" before doing anything that resembles being himself. The rule, "don't talk, just listen," was made clear by this incident and by all the other disciplinary activities that went on. This is one of the categories where the public schools have the success mentioned earlier.

In another scene a girl is told that by wearing a short dress to the prom she has insulted "her" school. She must learn to abide by the standards of the majority. Individualism is fine in its place, but we have to make sure of the place. The girl, really crushed, tearfully replied, "I didn't mean to be individualistic." What are we doing to our children? Do we care about them, or do we really hate them for their youth and their dreams? The snuffing out of dreams and visions seemed to be

another place where great stress was placed in the informal curriculum of Northeast.

Perhaps the focus of the problems between teachers and students is that the teachers grew up in an ear of scarcity, and the students are growing up in one of affluence. The sex education lecturer in the film ended his pitch with the words, "You have learned by now that you can't have what you want when you want it." And to think that this came from a duly credentialed representative of the same society that pitches "instant" solutions to passive television viewers watching commercials is incredible. Children see the school as a phony institution. The whole message in the "party line" of Northeast is one of denial. Is this the reason that we have schools? If it is, we should admit it and allow someone else a chance to deal with it. If it is not, then we should decide what our reasons are.

If Northeast is a fairly typical high school, and it is believed to be, then we are teaching our children to endure, to survive incredible boredom, to expect little and to forget any help they might need or get from adults in making sense out of the world they have been given. Those students who do vary from the imposed norms in any way are grouped into a "human relations society," not to help them adjust to themselves nor explore their world

nor develop strategies to deal with their experiences, but rather to "adjust" them to the school as it exists. This is one more example of the institution taking precedence over the needs of the individuals over whom it has power. The student finishes last.

Because the institutions have done things like this to their clients, we find that when attacks do come they come on the people in the institutions and not on the institutions themselves. But the people in the institutions are trapped and are seemingly powerless to change them. Attacking teachers, administrators, and policies is denying the basic humanity of these people. This is not what education or humanity or humaneness is all about. The lessons at Northeast seem to be serving an anti-ethical purpose to what the curriculum guides say. The actual learning seems to place the students in a position where they realize they are just bodies. The emphasis is on getting through. "I won't bug you. Don't bug me. Give me my diploma and let me out," seems to be an apt summary of many of the students' thoughts. This occurs in one of the better high schools, one that has a good record of getting its graduates into college.

After three and one half years of a study funded by the Carnegie Corporation, Charles Silberman describes the American public schools as being "grim and joyless" and as failures in educating our children (Silberman,

1970). *Crisis in the Classroom* is the most fair of all the critical books that have been published in the recent past. Silberman uses facts gathered from actual observation to tell what the schools are and are not doing. This is no *Why Can't Johnny Read* type of publication. This is a fact-filled book which should cause those in public education to be questioned by those served by public education. In other words, this book can and will give "accountability" crusaders something to ask the schools to be accountable for, something that means something, humaneness in the school (Silberman, 1970).

Silberman says, "Education should prepare people not just to earn a living, but to live a life, a creative, humane, and sensitive life. This means that the schools must provide a liberal humanizing education. And the purpose of liberal education must be and indeed always has been to educate educators, to turn out men and women who are capable of educating their families, their friends, their communities, and most importantly themselves" (Silberman, 1970). How many of our schools are even approaching this ideal? This is nothing new. It has been here since the allegory of the cave. Education should be liberating. It should stress humanity. It should equip the student with skills and strategies which will enable him to be a life-long learner and teacher. This is how

education should be, and not as it is in the schools where the goals for the day are often "survival."

With the most constant variable in the world being change, what more could be asked of the school than to equip learners with skills to deal in new ways with new problems? It is painfully obvious that we are not doing this now. Educators have to take their lead from the humanistic psychologists who have been important contributors to the educational scene and targets for those who are defending the status quo. They must help learners to develop skills to exist in a world that may be difficult to imagine. Some of these skills that should be seriously considered are perceiving, communicating, loving, knowing, decision-making, patterning, creating, and valuing (Berman, 1968). Many will reply, "But I already do that." Perhaps they do. If so, good, but everyone concerned must admit that the development of even these few skills is of equal importance with the curriculum as it exists. Then there is the "it's always been done this way" syndrome to contend with. The changes and innovations of the recent past have done little more than make efforts to teach what we are teaching now a little better, and resulted in more "tinkering with the machine." People involved in education must consider context for the new education.

Silberman claims,

Schools can be humane and still educate well. They can be genuinely concerned with gaiety and joy and individual growth and fulfillment without sacrificing concern for intellectual discipline and development. They can be simultaneously child-centered and subject- or knowledge-centered. They can stress aesthetic and moral education without weakening the three R's. They can do all these things if their structure, content, and objectives are transformed (Silberman, 1970).

Since the 1950's, people have been taking schools more and more seriously, something most of us claim to want. When the Silberman book was reported in headlines in the upper left hand quarter on the front page of the *New York Times*, education as a legitimate public concern was assured. Education is being taken seriously. Now, educators have to do something about it, since no one seems to be happy with the way it is. Everyone wants to make changes but only in someone else's domain, because our own is sacrosanct. Those in education need a short hard look at what they are doing. Being familiar with what critics, both constructive and otherwise, have suggested is necessary. Planning, implementing, and preparing for some plans to fail and be reimplemented with the necessary changes are mandatory. Instruments and methods to evaluate results must be developed, since inappropriate forms to evaluate completely new approaches

cannot be used. The evaluation must be formative in order to give planners and implementers useful feedback during the process and not at the end when such information is useless. Educators have to shed their fears and begin seeking aid from such men as Dwight Allen, Vito Perronne, Allen Glines, George Van Hielschiemer, Paul Nash, A. S. Neill, John Dewey, "J. Abner Peddiwell," Donald Oliver and Frederick Neumann, who have thought about and written about these problems.

The goal of an institution should be the fulfillment of its function so that its existence no longer is necessary. Aware people know this to be true. It is also known that this is not the way it works in the real world. The American public schools are one of the institutions which should work its way out of existence, but armies of teachers and administrators do not see this as a real goal in their careers.

As with most institutions the school has forgotten the rationale for its existence. The school could not exist without learners, but educators have negated their basic function as facilitators of learning for their clients. The school has become paramount and the role and function of learners are secondary, if not tertiary, in the present structure of American education.

No matter what rationale is accepted as the reason for the existence of public education, we will find, on the basis of newly proposed evaluations by men like Joseph J. Schwab, that the schools are not being successful at what they think they are doing. Even more frightening is the fact that many, if not all, of us do not have a clear idea of what is supposed to be done. "Mindlessness" is Silberman's apt term to describe this state. Teachers and principals are people of good will, yet they have forgotten, if they ever knew, what their proper roles should be.

If we were to place education on a continuum with the behaviorists at one end and the self-actualizers at the other and go to places where the practitioners of each of these methods are in operation, we would find that the answers to the question, "What the hell are you doing here?" would be emotional but not really based on any kind of self-awareness or definable goals. The investigator finds this situation to be intolerable. While he is at the opposite end of the spectrum from a behaviorist, and investigator believes that a competent behaviorist is better for the client than a well-meaning but philosophically neuter, mindless practitioner. Before we can decide where we are going, we first have to know where we are.



Too many people in education base their modus operandi on the rationale that, "It requires almost no risk-taking." "This is safe." "It is rewarded." "It is highly praised by others who hold the same, safe views." This is what the new teacher, who is full of idealism, has to contend with when (s)he is placed in the first teaching assignment and is left to "succeed" or "fail." Success or failure is a relative measure and can be interpreted differently by as many people as are involved. The problem in the public schools is that there are limited measures of success and failure, and perhaps the most important is that the new teacher sends few or no pupils to the office for disciplinary reasons. If he is successful as a policeperson or babysitter or is effective at concealing the real problems he is having, he "makes tenure" and generations of children are saddled with this possibly incompetent teacher, who is judged successful by the criteria which are mindlessly accepted by the administrators, school committees, and teachers' union. It is wrong to expect all teachers to be effective in all situations and it is wrong to reward the lowest possible function of a present day teacher as if it were the final fulfillment of the highest possible function, that of helping children to make sense out of their world. The situation described is working toward the heart of

"institutional press" which can be felt when the institution, which was set up to serve the clients' needs, has subverted itself and has come to serve itself at the expense of its clients.

The public school is not the only institution which is guilty, but it is the one of primary concern here. If one were to ask a sample of administrators and teachers from any section of this country, in any kind of community "What is your purpose here?" the investigator posits that one would get answers ranging from, "I am teaching algebra," to "I am teaching zoology." Almost nowhere would one find a teacher who replied, "I am trying to help kids make sense out of their world. I am trying to help them develop strategies to sort out and deal with experience. I am trying to help each child to grow into all he is capable of growing into. I am working with each student where he is and not where he might be or has been." If the public schools are to remain as viable institutions in this country, we have to free up teachers. We have to enlighten administrators. We have to release all those in control of public education from their conceptual straightjackets and lead the leaders into positions where differential thinking is rewarded. Perhaps the most dangerous administrators are those who think they are the most open-minded. They often say things like, "I

always look at both sides of the question." This kind of remark frightens many of us because people who divide every situation into opposite polarities are those who are leading children into conceptual straightjackets. A choice between this or that is hardly a choice. It is not possible to conceptualize many options instead of an either/or dichotomy?

If one is dealing with the subject, public schools, people assume one is dealing with education. But this is not necessarily so. Over the years the public school people have done an effective job of selling this idea. But the schools, although they are set up as places where the young go to learn, have a poor track record when they are compared with the learning which comes from the other areas of the children's education. Education occurs when people come together in a structured situation for dialogue and debate, exploration, and meaning making. Yet, if instruments were available which could qualitatively or quantitatively measure the learning in school as opposed to the learning from other parts of the students' environment, school people would probably finish at least second. The only place where the school would probably finish first would be the results obtained from a category called "playing school" where the honor students would shine. The reason they are honor students is that they have

developed a successful technique, or bag of techniques, which rewards them with success for seven hours a day. If they have learned anything else as a result of this "bag of tricks," it is concomitant not primary.

Perhaps it is not right, but it is understandable, that those who have been rewarded by the system, administrators, and teachers are likely to protect and support the system that has rewarded them. For them to do anything else would be a total negation of the work of their lives. Education, in its most powerful form, must be brought to these people, who must become aware of the possibility that there are alternatives to the way things are done. Change agents must be aware of the sensibilities of and the protectiveness that these people feel toward what they have been doing. These people must be converted not coerced. This is not an impossible task because they are individuals who are doing what they think is right. They will also do what they think is right if we as change agents introduce them to the possibilities which exist for children in this world. Perhaps this sounds optimistic. It may be, but the investigator believes that in this world teaching is the function that serves the greatest purpose. It is more real than any other professional function. People who go into teaching need only the role model of a humane person to replace the

authoritarian concept they have grown with, and perhaps into, in order for them to try alternative approaches.

Some of the oft repeated goals of education are transmission of culture, socialization, self-education ala Dewey, self-actualization, i.e., Maslow et al., practical education, i.e., J. Schwab, and to this list the investigator adds, education for change and community.

All the above goals have their adherants, and for each of them a good case, or several cases, has been made. It is difficult to quarrel with the facts that have been brought out in favor of any one of these aims.

Because the world is changing at an exponential rate, society is finding it more and more difficult to deal with its problems on the basis of answers that have been arrived at in the past. We have donned our conceptual straightjackets, our blinders, and "are entering the future using a rear-view mirror." The investigator advocates the removal of our cognitive impediments and the trying on of new effective possibilities. Change is upon us. Those who are most ill-equipped to deal with it and those who have the greatest perceptual impediments regard change as "bad." When one cannot deal with something new on the basis of some past experience and one is not equipped with alternative strategies to take the place of past answers, one is ignorant and consequently afraid.

Those who are willing to try for new solutions and deal with the reality of the moment as they perceive it are the ones who feel the least helplessness and alienation, the least loss of identity, and the most aware of self and potentiality of self. If we continue trying to make our children conform to outmoded and consequently untrue concepts that have guided public education for decades, we are not helping them to confront and deal with the world as it exists for them. The children who enter the public schools in 1978 are going to be fully functioning adults, active in their society, in 2028. What are we, as the adults with the power in 1978, doing to help them meet and cope with the problems they will encounter in a life we have difficulty conceptualizing? For example, the first generation of Americans who did not follow the life style of their parents is now alive and in positions of power. If one considers that this generation is doing jobs which did not even exist when it was born, the chance that the children of this generation will be like their parents is even more remote.

Technology exists for itself at the moment. It is a technological axiom that "if it can be built, it will be built." People now in power have seldom questioned the need for the control of technology and of its direction by the people whom it is expected to serve. The

practitioners of technological works will not be able to afford this luxury in the years to come. The youth of this country is beginning to ask the right questions, but it is to the discredit of the schools that they did not learn to ask these questions nor to develop strategies to take part in the decisions which have great effect on their lives in the schools. These individuals are managing by their own human uniqueness to take action. Yet many of them do not dare take any action to effect their lives. They have been conditioned by a public school system which rewards conformity and punishes diversity, which extols the revolutionary paradigm of the individual but discourages individuality, which speaks of things creative but reinforces regurgitation of information, which speaks of great men who brought about change but discourages talk of any real changes in the pupil's life. Jesus could not have obtained a position in one of these public schools, nor could Jefferson, Hamilton, or Franklin. All of their refusals would have been for different reasons. If, however, they had been hired, they would have soon been on the outside not looking in. Their revolutionary thinking would be out of place in the school. Yet, no one is faulted for extolling the virtues of these men as long as he does not act like them.

Humans have to put their faith somewhere, and the investigator believes that the answers that we have arrived at in the past have to be replaced with a belief in processes we can arrive at now. Skills, methods, and knowledge are all outdated almost as soon as they are developed. Many know and agree with this, but we continue in education as if we did not. Educators have to develop the uniqueness of each child in the way that is appropriate to the child. In this case educators should help him to become his own "meaning maker" and reward him for the process of making meaning. This is not done now. Learners must be allowed to develop their capacities for confronting and understanding their experience. Educators have to stop "playing" school and get into the real process of education. They should help develop individuals who are not only open to change and equipped with the human skills to handle it but also who are fully functioning participants in human intercourse, which results in the making of change. Passivity and alienation are seldom seen or heard of when human beings are engaged in a task or pursuit which has meaning for them. If we are to develop this type of fully functioning men and women, we must provide alternative forms of education. We must free the process from the structures we have placed on it in the name of administrative convenience. We have to develop or find teachers who not only can conserve and



convey the essential knowledge of the past but also will eagerly welcome and implement and actively seek and initiate change which improves the human condition.

Humanist Erich Fromm explains much of the destructive and self-destructive activity of American youth in a process that begins with simple boredom. Outlining the failure of our basic institutions to provide stimulating direction and guidance to a youthful population in search of its own identity, Fromm traces a tragic progression which goes from boredom to helplessness, from helplessness to a sense of total futility, and from futility to a feeling of complete powerlessness over one's own life. Because no human being can long endure the numbing effects of powerlessness over his personal existence, Fromm contends that the individual is compelled by his nature to do "something." His choices are to do something creative to alter the situation or to do something destructive to alter the situation. Because our institutions, education foremost among them, have so pitifully failed to provide youth with an understanding of creative alternatives and the will to employ them, according to Fromm, vast numbers of American children are turning to sadism, masochism, vandalism, alcoholism, drug addiction, and necrophelia as replacements for the productive orientations our educational system never provided (Fromm, 1968).

Rallo May touches on the same subject in *The Courage to Create* when he concerns himself with the level of moral courage we are fostering in our young:

. . . If you do not express your own original ideas, if you do not listen to your own being, you will have betrayed yourself. And also you will have betrayed our community in failing to make your contribution to the whole. A chief characteristic of this courage is that it requires a centeredness within our own being, without which we would feel ourselves to be a vacuum. The 'emptiness' within corresponds to an apathy without, and apathy adds up, in the long run, to cowardice. That is why we must always base our commitment in the center of our own being, or else no commitment will be ultimately authentic (May, 1975).

We do not provide the type of education that helps our students develop the capacity for commitment centered within themselves and anchored to a set of beliefs they have developed through genuine examination and acceptance. In May's sense we have a system that breeds cowards.

One is reminded throughout all of this of the plaintive lament of Lara Jefferson, a hospitalized schizophrenic in grave danger of lifetime commitment to the backwaters of an archaic institution because she could not live up to her doctor's expectations. In a last frantic effort to forestall shipment to the hospital's hopeless ward, Ms. Jefferson one night grabbed a stub

of a pencil and began writing her shattered hopes and pressing fears on a scrap of paper. A nurse watched her for a while, and then, miraculously, did a totally non-bureaucratic things—she kept supplying Ms. Jefferson with more and more paper. Listen to this "insane" woman's scribblings on the world she sees:

They have endless ideas and theories, but when it comes down to the actual performance of making an insane person sane, they are helpless. . . . All this crooked philosophizing is not solving my problem. Let those who think they know the causes that lie back of disintegration set themselves to the task of evolving an effective treatment in freeing the victim. . . . All (my doctor) does is go prowling around among my phobias, knocking them over. When he finds an extra fine specimen he is as thrilled with the discovery as some be-spectacled bug hunter who captures a rare type of beetle. . . . After he has found it, he does not know what to do with it. He cannot take it out and mount it or preserve it in alcohol. All he has in proof of his discovery is a long-handled word to paste in his album. And I wish—Oh, how I wish, that I had the genius to take some of the smug self-complacency out of him (Jefferson, 1948).

Perhaps Ms. Jefferson has a message here for education, as well as for psychiatry. If so, it is only fitting, for her education in English literature served her well while in the institution: "A nurse just now picked up one of the sheets I have written. She read it—looked at me oddly—and asked what the hell I though I was doing. And because she expected an answer in keeping with my strange

occupation—I did not have the heart to disappoint her. So I gave her an answer that fitted. I told her that I was Shakespeare, the reincarnation of Shakespeare, trying to side-step a straightjacket" (Jefferson, 1948).

We must see to it that students in our other institutions no longer perceive that we expect answers that fit. We must see to it that they need not pretend to be someone they are not in order to side-step our straight-jackets.

The mindset which accompanies public education in the United States is based on the assumption shared by more and more people since the time of Comenius. That assumption is that education is a commodity. Comenius was an alchemist. In the last quarter of the twentieth century should his assumptions be the benchmarks which guide the learning and growth process?

Schooling is made necessary by education. The institutionalization of both concepts has solidified, and it needs changing. In order for society to provide for learning and growth opportunities for all citizens, we as a society must change our assumptions about present practices. We must observe, evaluate, and change the processes.

The uniformity in public education is not caused by a cabal of nefarious people, whose aim in life is to

create plastic models of some ideal American citizen, but by the prevailing social and economic climate in this country. Mass production of goods and services calls for mass production of consumers for these goods and services. The "plastic" hamburgers, served by the chains of restaurants across the country, need a group of eaters whose discrimination is not acute but rather uniformly dulled by the lack of quality in food. These hamburgers are relatively inexpensive and are better than no food at all, but they are mass-produced for mass consumption. The chains of motels and resorts, which are springing up to fill those newly found leisure hours of the mass consumer, could all be made on a production line by a computer. Their identical lines and services are an atrocity to behold. If society were to encourage diversity in the educative process, perhaps individuals would find some much welcomed diversity in their increasingly homogenized lives.

The schools now promote competition between and among the people involved in the same things. There is no provision for being different. There is no provision made for measuring a person against his own potential. The questions asked are similar to the ones reported by Margaret Mead in *Kepp Your Powder Dry*: "How does John compare with the other children, Miss Jones?" That is

the question not, "Has my son the tongue of a poet, or the eye of a painter, or the voice of a leader?" (Mead, 1970). This "one-up" thinking is not shared by all cultures. It need not be shared by this one. Society needs excellence, and the investigator is not against effort or striving. Society is in favor of diversity. He wants to see people have a chance to achieve excellence on their own terms and in their own ways.

The people involved in American education are operating under the assumption that teaching is nothing more than the process of transmitting knowledge and factual material from one person to another. The investigator likes to think of teaching as much more. The model under which the public schools are working has been described by Professor Maurice Belanger, formerly of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, as follows: K - A - C - S, where "K" stands for knowledge, "C" for curriculum, "A" for agent, and "S" for student (Belanger, 1968). This model assumes that there is an accumulated body of knowledge which must be culled for the proper segments to be presented to the students. And this knowledge must be transmitted as efficiently as possible by the teacher and must be assimilated as efficiently as possible by the student.

The "C" in the model, the curriculum, is the "stuff" that must be transmitted and assimilated. The "A" is the

model in the agent of the curriculum planners and is usually the teacher, whose function is to transmit the "C". The "S" is the student, whose function is the assimilation of the "C" transmitted by the "A", and the process is evaluated on the basis of how fast and with how much success actual acquisition has been carried on. In order for this system to be effective, it is necessary to operate under certain assumptions about how people learn and about the nature of knowledge:

### Knowledge

1. The ultimate purpose of education is the acquisition of knowledge.
2. Knowledge is what has been learned by human beings and recorded over the ages. It is categorized into disciplines, such as mathematics, chemistry, or history, each of which has a content which can be taught and learned.
3. There is a minimum body of knowledge, the curriculum, which is essential for everyone to know before leaving school (Belanger, 1968).

### Learning

1. Important choices concerning what children should learn are best made by adults—parents, teachers, administrators.

2. Children learn by being taught by adults through symbols—written and spoken words, numerals.
3. To the extent that children are given choice in their learning, they will depart from the best path of knowledge.
4. Children are not drawn to academic work and, therefore, must be motivated by external sources.
5. Play is what a child does on his own time, out of school. Work is what he does during school time.
6. If a child is enjoying himself, he cannot be learning very much; if learning is painful, it is likely to be good for him.
7. Children learn best in a setting where all external sources of distraction have been removed.
8. When children share a common learning experience, they may be cheating.
9. Some children are bright, some average, some slow.
10. There are individual differences among children, but, if we group them by ability, they will all have an equal opportunity to learn equally well (Belanger, 1968).



## Evaluation

1. If an individual knows something, he can display it publicly at the request of the teacher. If the child cannot display what he knows, he does not know it.
2. Errors are mistakes; mistakes are bad and must be eliminated or avoided.
3. The most important aspect of the student, his acquisition of knowledge, can be accurately measured.
4. The best way of evaluating the effect of the school experience on the child is to administer a thorough examination.
5. The best measure of a child's work is the teacher's evaluation of it.

Most innovations in American education are rooted in these assumptions. Most of what educators call "new" is merely a "tinkering" with these assumptions. The new curriculum is merely a new "C" component in the model; the team-teaching approach is merely changing the numbers of "A"; instructional television and the computer, for example, are merely replacing a breathing "A" with an intimate "A". Nongrading or ability grouping merely rearranges the "S" component to better receive knowledge. Education has tried many of these things and, yet, it

still has the resentment and hostility which characterize the schools. Anxiety and fragmentation of experience are some results, as well as hallmarks of the schools. If the conventional wisdom is to be believed, that children retain about five percent of what they are told and about ten percent of what they hear and see, public education had better explore some real alternatives to the "Transmission of Knowledge" model.

The model here proposed for the school experience is not a linear one. Its components are the child, the real world, and the teacher. The advocates of this model believe that the child learns best from direct personal exploration of his environment. Knowledge in this model is looked upon as being personal and unique to each child. The real world may be any activity in which the child is engaged, up to and including no measurable activity. The teacher is on the periphery of this model, and the teacher's role is to provide a rich and stimulating environment from which the learner creates his own "RW" component. Involved here are certain assumptions about knowledge, learning in children, and evaluation.

### Knowledge

1. Because the quality of being is more important than the quality of knowing, knowledge is a means of education, not its end. The final

test of a person is what he is, not what he knows.

2. Knowledge is one part of an individual's personal experience and cannot be divided into neatly separated categories and disciplines.
3. The structure of knowledge is personal and idiosyncratic and is formed by each individual's experience with the world.
4. It is questionable whether or not there is a minimum body of knowledge which is essential for everyone to know.
5. It is possible, even likely, that a person may learn and possess knowledge and yet be unable to display it publicly. Knowledge resides in the knower and not in its public expression.

### Learning

1. Children are innately curious and display exploratory behavior quite independent of adult intervention.
2. If a child is engaged in active exploration, important learning is taking place.
3. A rich environment, which offers a wide array of manipulative materials, encourages exploration and facilitates learning.

4. Play is not distinguished from work as the predominant mode of learning in early childhood.
5. Children have both the competence and the right to make significant choices about their learning.
6. Children will be likely to learn if they are given significant choices in selecting the materials they wish to pursue.
7. When children are interested in exploring the same materials or the same problems, they will often choose to collaborate in some way.
8. Children learn and develop intellectually not only at their own rate but also in their own style.
9. Children pass through similar stages of intellectual growth, but each in his own way, at his own rate, and in his own time.
10. Intellectual growth and development occur through a sequence of concrete experiences followed by abstractions.

### Evaluation

1. The preferred source of verification of a child's solution to a problem comes from the materials with which he is working.

2. Errors are necessarily a part of the learning process. They are to be expected and are often desired, for they contain information essential to further learning.
3. Those qualities of a person's learning which are most easily measured are not necessarily the most important.
4. Objective measures of performance may have a negative effect upon learning.
5. The best way to judge the effect of the school experience on a child is to observe him over a long period of time.
6. The best measure of a child's work is his work.

As with the transmission model, these assumptions effect the life of the child and the teacher in the school. If educators were to act in ways consistent with these assumptions, there would be a revolution in the ways of educating.

The teacher would become the "adult in the educative process" or the "facilitator of learning." The child would become the "learner" or the "client." The facilitator would be accessible to each client and would make appropriate responses to each overture of the child, including no response when that was appropriate. In

most classes today, the teacher is the independent variable upon whom the children depend; in this proposed model, the facilitator becomes the dependent variable and responds to the initiatives taken by the children.

This model is the "open," "integrated," or "free" pattern so recently brought to the United States from Great Britain. It is often mistakenly attributed to John Dewey, perhaps because it is based on some of his thoughts. But it has had a successful fifty-year evolution in Great Britain. For example, the schools of Oxfordshire, Leistershire, Bristol, and London have developed this approach to a high degree of sophistication (Featherstone, 1971). This is the model that the investigator chooses to use in his proposal for, what he believes to be, the ideal of educational possibilities.

The model for ideal education that the investigator proposes is based on work done by Donald Oliver and Frederick Neuman of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, as well as the work being done by Gerald Weinstein and Sidney Simon at the University of Massachusetts, Graduate School of Education.

There are four contexts for education in the proposed model: school, laboratory-studio-work, community seminar, and psychological education. Since more educators seldom do more than tinker with the machine in

their approach to educational innovations, the investigator proposes to deal with completely different contexts in which education can take place. He proposes to assign credit and legitimacy to varying educational experiences.

In the school context, the investigator proposes that educators deal with all the things dealt with in the present schools, i.e., systematic instruction in the basic literacy skills, health, hygiene, driver education, physical education, and any other "fundamental," such as visual literacy, that the specialists feel is necessary for the education of their clients. In visual literacy, for instance, educators would expose the learners to the three "C's" of the new media experts: create, communicate, change. In present day terms, there could be a whole curriculum based on these concepts.

In the school context, the process to be explored would be based on preplanned instruction and would have clearcut, formalized objectives. Terminal behaviors would be sought. Educators would employ the new technology to help achieve the ends. The students could work alone, with a teacher, with a machine, in small groups, in large groups, or in and/or with any combination of the above patterns. The learning here does not have to be didactic but can be aimed toward powerful

learnings and understandings. The investigator wants to start his proposal with the school context being this structured in order to deal with the objections which may be raised by the parents, educators, and perhaps the students themselves, as a result of the newness of the approach. This section of the model would be staffed with people who are skilled in the techniques and methods proposed earlier in this work. In the course of this process, when it is no longer perceived as threatening the learning could become self-directed. This context has no arbitrary age limits placed upon it and would be available and of help to any citizen, young or old, who wanted to acquire any skill dealt with here.

In the laboratory-studio-work, context education occurs as a result of the completion of a significant task. This is the context that would appeal to Paul Goodman and Ivan Illich, and it is the one that Silvia Ashton Warner would seek as the place to teach reading. This context, in which most of American education took place prior to 1900, would be described by Goodman as incidental education. Because the completion of a significant task is the objective here, and because the educational by-products are of secondary importance in this context, one is dealing with the RW component of



the earlier model. Perhaps the schools could have a teacher available to the learner to discuss with him his efforts. The activities would be governed by the developing nature of the task itself. Instead of simulation games which bring a synthetic reality into the classrooms, educators would bring the learner to the real world and to its tasks. The natural human interaction which would take place in the completion of these tasks could bring many disparate groups of a community into close and real contact with each other. The learners would be young and old, rich and poor, bright and dull, and many other modes of polarity. This is the way things are in the world for which society is allegedly preparing children in today's schools.

Some of the activities that could be engaged in are painting pictures, rebuilding autos, writing essays, promoting concerts, organizing protest demonstrations, lobbying for legislation, selling insurance, living for a time on the amount of money a welfare recipient receives, programming a computer, acting in a play, running a raffle, nursing in a hospital, competing in a sport, participating in an ecology project, caring for children, planning and participating in a church service, broadcasting on radio or television, making a dress, publishing a newspaper, doing physical and chemical

experiments, and creating instructional materials for use in the school context. Since this context is one for learning in the midst of action, the charge of "irrelevant" could not be brought against it unless the person making the charge thought that all life was irrelevant.

Learning occurs here as the by-product of genuine participation in problem- and task-oriented activities. This is not an apprenticeship program nor a preparation for a lifetime job but a process which is a recognized learning activity, a paradigm for education in the matrix of real life doing.

Society has much the same thing occurring now, but it places an age requirement on admission to the program, referring, of course, to adult jobs. Society as a community assigns no educational credit or significance to them, but, in actuality, much learning occurs in these occupational contexts every day. Therefore, society should recognize the educational aspects of these jobs and should remove from them on both ends of the continuum the artificial age barriers for both the young and the elderly.

The problem is merely to recognize incidental learning as a legitimate way towards education. Society has to adopt a new perspective and look in a new way at

what it is doing. Too often workers in the communities have a closed system approach to education. They have completed formal schooling to some degree and have resigned themselves to the idea that their education is over. But learning goes on as long as life goes on. In this context, the societal recognition of the worth of incidental education could give all the participants a new appreciation of their roles as workers and learners. The young who take part in this process would be able to meet and interact with people other than their peers and members of their nuclear families. This interaction would allow them opportunities to test their ideas and values in a manner which is not provided for in the present post industrial society in this country.

The people in the resource places would love to see learners come to them because they would like to be considered of worth. These resource people would enjoy the new status imposed upon them as a result of being seriously considered fully worthwhile members of their community dealing in a process of more value than the weekly paycheck. Perhaps the celebrated generation gap could be negated by real interaction on the basis recommended. Thus, the investigator sees the learning here best described as serendipitous.

Because of the projected multi-career direction toward which society is headed, this kind of context would help the learner to know for what types of careers he is best suited and might lead him to more training in any particular field of interest. This training could cause a reversion to the school context with systematic instruction and clear objectives leading to the result desired by the learner. These are only the immediate, easily catalogued probable outcomes. The possibilities, like the learning paradigms in this context, are limited only by a person's imagination. Therefore, opportunities are boundless.

The community seminar context provides for reflective exploration of community issues, which is a luxury for most people. Too few people get a chance to deal either with things they are interested in or with individuals with interests similar to their own. People seldom explore those basics which identify humanity as human.

Therefore, in the community seminar, people would get together to discuss those things which would illuminate meanings in human existence and would discover the mutuality which underlies even the most disparate of human positions. They would come to understand that, while they are unique, they also share a commonality of

concern and anxiety with others. It is a comforting feeling to find that one is not alone in his feelings on a particular issue and that others share his interests.

Seminars in areas such as the meaning of productive work would include the unemployed, the retired, and the people dissatisfied with their jobs as participants in this seminar. The changes that would come about in society as a result of the airing of ideas in seminars like this one are beautiful to contemplate. Similar to the folk school, which was set up in the Appalachian Mountains in the 30's to train union organizers and which evolved into a school which helped plan the marches and sit-ins of the Civil Rights movement, the impact of seminars like this could not be easily measured. The human power of ideas and the resulting action on these ideas would be something to behold and something of which to be a part.

Because the rules would be new to many, the seminars would originally be staffed by an outside provocateur, gadfly, or devil's advocate, who would serve this function as long as the group wanted or needed him. The tenure of the group would be determined by the group's needs, and membership in the group would be decided by the group. The provocateur would have a staff to handle the details, such as, research, typing handouts,

making illustrations, and providing resources. This staff would come from the laboratory-studio-work context participants and from the school context with someone, who was learning to type or to do research, being actively engaged in this process in that role. Films, trips, readings, and discussions of direction would all be part of the support services provided by the organization representative.

The participants' question for discussion would be confined only by the limitation of their imaginations and the staff's imaginations. "To what kind of working conditions is one entitled?", and "How should the community be zoned?", would be possibilities, as would aesthetic, ethical, and economic questions. The conflicts between youth and adults would be examined in groups which contained members of both, because, here again, age is not a deciding factor for this educational opportunity. "What is the changing function of the family?", might be a valuable question for parents, children prospective parents, and grandparents to discuss. How should children be reared? How is society to handle the promised increase in leisure? How does society handle population control? Can selective breeding be an answer to some social problems? What new professions are needed? Should society turn

outward toward space or should it settle its immediate problems first? These and many more questions like them could be dealt with. Significant ideas could be openly discussed for the first time, and people could have a place to go for aid in their quest for truth. There would be no specific problems to be solved. The participants would raise questions, investigate possible answers to them, and discuss the results of the process. They would follow the question in the manner of Scott Buchanan and Buchannan/Wofford to see where it leads.

Children in this society are so busy with their school work that they do not get chance to engage in this type of activity; nor do adults because of their jobs; nor do the elderly because they have little reason, since they are waiting to die and have been told by society that they are useless. People of all ages could benefit from this process which could lead to the betterment of the society or of the community of which they are a part.

The process is valuable in itself, but it needs an opportunity to succeed. It needs legitimization by those in the present seats of authority in the educational establishment. It needs a chance to become a powerful and real forum for the ideas of people who feel

powerless in their lives today. It is approaching the status which the Greeks and Romans had attained when they discussed the ideas current in their lives. Society is approaching an era where unemployment will be called "increased leisure" and where work for which one is paid will not be as important as what one is. This preparation for that kind of world is certainly a serendipitous by-product of a powerful process.

Maslow, with his hierarchy of needs, spoke of the problem of alienation and identity in this society (Goble, 1970). A human being was able, until very recently, to measure himself on the scale of success that was fostered by the Puritan ethic. Some people still measure themselves that way, and some refuse to do so. The young are rejecting the accoutrements of a society that uses that measure. There are conflicts and problems between parents and their children, because the parents have satisfied the security requirements on Maslow's hierarchy and the children have never known a lack of security and do not think much of the accomplishments of their parents. Both Bruno Bettelheim, in *Children of the Dream* (Bettelheim, 1969), and Margaret Mead, in *Culture and Commitment* (Mead, 1970), deal with the problem of the missing sense of shared expectations in two populations, geographically and culturally



separated, yet sharing a similar problem. The youth do not recognize as significant the accomplishments of their elders. The Jews who wrested a living from the barren, arid soil of Israel in less than forty years are seeing their children and grandchildren renouncing interest in the confining society of the Kibbutz. The society was never confining to the original Kibbutzim, because they had their Camelot to build. Perhaps their biggest failure was their undoubted success. The young see nothing left for them to do and are consequently looking for new worlds to conquer.

The American parent who was a child during the depression also has a problem. He has a house in the suburbs and his multiple cars, a weight problem from overeating, and wherewithal to give his children "everything he did not have," including a college education, and yet there is a vague feeling of discontent when he examines his life. This feeling becomes much less vague when his offspring rejects the results of his thirty years of efforts. The parents say, "They don't appreciate anything." The youth says, "They don't understand." There is truth in both statements. This communication problem is now handled on a good-bad continuum because society has not developed any strategies to deal with human interaction or with negotiations with one another.

People do not know how to measure their own worth, and consequently, individuals are in the process of not knowing who or what they are. The measuring sticks of past years do not seem to do the job. Society never tries to develop new ones but merely tries to fit new behaviors into old categories. According to Caleb Gattegno, self and will are synonymous. If this is so, people certainly do not spend enough time on the exploration of either of these concepts.

Psychological, or humanistic education, is trying to deal with the process of education using the client as a data source. The curriculum is the client, who is encouraged to explore three aspects of his experience-- identity, connectedness, power: Who am I? How do I relate to my world? Do I have any power to change my life? "Shoulds" and "oughts" are left out of the exploration in the manner of Gestalt psychology, because the interaction takes place in the here and now. The world of Gerald Weinstein in the course, Education of the Self (Fantini, 1968), and the work of Sidney Simon in value clarification will be two important components of the psychological education context (Simon, 1966).

The investigator sees the psychological education context as a separate effort in the new approach but also as being woven into the whole fabric of all these

contexts. It will become the womb of self-understanding from which the success of the other contexts' efforts will be born.

## C H A P T E R   I I I

### A DESIGN FOR AN OPTIONAL DEGREE PROCESS

This chapter contains a proposal for a response by higher education to the challenge of providing alternate routes to a bachelor's degree. Specifically, the proposal presents evidence of a college's eagerness to investigate the concept known as the "optional degree," or, as it is called in some institutions, the "university without walls." The proposal also identifies those aspects of this development which offer attractive implications to institutions in positions of educational leadership.

Phase one of the planning stage should be a search for a funding source to finance an effective planning process. Federal and private sources of funding should be investigated. If funded, this proposal would provide the model for such a program.

The sponsoring institution must assume that implementation of the optional degree program would involve several fundamental changes of deep significance to the college community. To maximize the lasting effect of the program's best elements and to achieve the greatest possible impact, the institution proposes to follow a

model of carefully plotted change. For this reason, this proposal requests a planning grant to enable faculty, students, and administrators, as well as people from surrounding communities, to thoroughly examine the benefits of the optional degree program to the college and to the college and to the citizens of the area. The planning grant will also provide a gestation period during which administrators may systematically study the implications of offering such a new program and satisfy themselves more fully about how to achieve successful implementation.

The planning process acknowledges the need for an alternative method of obtaining an undergraduate college degree. But beyond that, the proposal recognizes that such a plan is virtually boundless and may well transcend not only the classroom but also the campus as well. The model proposes to reach students wherever they are—at work, at home, in internship placements, doing independent study, participating in field experiences, laboring within areas of social conflict, attending other schools, or travelling or serving in the armed forces. It may abandon the tradition of the fixed age group (18-22) and realize that chronological age is irrelevant to much of education.

But above all, the optional degree program will give up the traditional classroom as the principle means of instruction and will surrender the prescribed curriculum, grades, and credit points as the major means of exchange on the student market. It may enlarge the concept of faculty to include knowledgeable people from outside the narrow confines of the academic world, and it may seek to make use of many new technological techniques for data storage and retrieval, and for the facilitation of communication and the acquisition of knowledge. While maintaining close ties between teaching and learning, it may place strong emphasis on student self-direction. Ultimately, the program intends to produce people who continue to learn throughout life rather than stunt their intellects with the notion that education has been completed once a certain amount of credits have been accumulated.

The overall question, one which may be addressed through the medium of a planning grant, is plain: "What kinds of things must be done differently in order to move from the present program to one which offers an alternative plan?" The investigator believes that a planning period, sufficiently well funded, can yield the answer to this question.

The objectives of the planning phase are:

1. To assess the need and demand for alternative methods of acquiring a bachelor's degree in the service area of the sponsoring institution.
2. To identify the sources of potential students in this type of program and to collect data relative to numbers of students, their needs, and their interests.
3. To identify and appraise the implications of an optional degree program for the curriculum and calendar structure of the sponsoring institution.
4. To specify the initial areas of study suitable at the institution, as well as methods by which the degree may be earned.
5. To identify resources presently existing at the institution.
6. To identify existing programs and to become familiar with them.
7. To identify agencies within the community which might become involved with the implementation of an optional degree program and to develop working relationships with them.

8. To identify and develop lines of communication and cooperation between the sponsoring institution and other institutions of higher education relative to the implementation of the optional degree program.
9. To investigate the impact on the role of the faculty.
10. To analyze the implications for the college budget, physical plant, and equipment.
11. To analyze the impact on the present program of continuing education.
12. To identify legal and technical problems associated with the optional degree program.
13. To develop and implement a program of information dissemination relative to the optional degree program at the sponsoring institution.

#### Method

The sponsoring agency should adopt the well-known three-stage model of change developed by Kurt Lewin(1958). This process consists of periods of unfreezing, moving, and refreezing. It is a dynamic expanded upon by Lippett (1958), who points out that resistance may be more easily reversed in people when they feel that they themselves are responsible for the changes in their circumstances. As has been pointed out, the optional degree



program will constitute a major change in people, institutions, and attitudes, and it is most prudent to assume that some strong resistance will emerge.

There is also a strong justification for the employment of a temporary subsystem device similar to the one proposed by Matthew Miles. Attacks upon the planning process as an activity apart from the college's norm is likely to produce a more lasting end product, since the isolation of the temporary system helps remove barriers to change within the participants themselves. Planning, therefore, must not take place within the regular college committee process and decision-making structure, even though the final authority for implementation will rest with the regular institutional heads. More effective results will accrue if discussion, planning, and idea building take place outside the framework that tends to force people into stereotyped roles and patterned thinking. Based on such a rationale, the workshop approach is the one proposed for setting objectives.

The workshops would be organized around specific themes suggested by the division of objectives into broad categories. The workshops would be held during the late afternoons, weekends, and evenings in order that administrators, faculty, staff, students, agency

personnel, resource people, and optional degree program participants could all meet to share their varied views and experiences. The only limitation on workshop members would result from the fact that participants would receive a stipend and enrollment would have to be cut off when the budget was exhausted.

Each workshop would be headed by a coordinator whose duties would include planning the workshop, selecting the personnel, providing resources, inviting outside participants, evaluating the results, and offering conclusions and recommendations. A project director would select workshop coordinators and would be responsible during the planning phase for all the program's activities. The project director would report to the appropriate executive in the college. Two staff assistants, a secretary, and the workshop coordinators, serving as an advisory committee, would aid the director.

Each workshop would have a separate budget to be used in a fashion determined by the director and the workshop coordinators. Separate budgets would insure the flexibility necessary to meet the divergent needs of different workshops and keep monetary and ideological matters relevant to the problem at hand.

The budget developed by each workshop coordinator must, however, be consistent with relevant federal fiscal

regulations as spelled out in the planning grant and with the financial regulations and requirements of the college's fiscal officer.

Each workshop would produce a detailed report containing conclusions and recommendations developed through its activities. The various workshop reports would be blended by the director and his staff into a detailed implementation plan for presentation to the appropriate college officers and committees.

#### Workshop Structure

Based upon the broad categories of objectives, workshops would be organized according to the plan outlined in Table 1.

Following the planning phase, the investigator recommends a specific design for an optional degree process—a complex-systems model—providing an alternative route to the bachelor's degree individually tailored for each student. In line with this design, the center of the program is the individual student. The overall route to the degree is non-traditional, but this does not preclude more common components becoming involved in the learning process. The student can, and in many instances will, choose some traditional means as his way of learning.

Table 1

Workshop Structure

Workshop Theme	Participants	# of Participants	Meetings	Budget
Optional Degree: What It's All About	Entire faculty, students, and administrators	75-100	4/semester	\$500
Student and Curriculum: The Center of It All	Selected faculty, administrators, consultants, and students	12-15	4/semester	\$2000
The following workshops, divided into two general groups, share these characteristics:	Selected faculty, administrators, consultants, and students	12-15	4/semester	\$2000

While the program is open to all as a method of obtaining a bachelor's degree, the primary thrust of the process is to make educational opportunities available to those who have been unable in the past—for reasons of time, space, age, and/or socio-economic conditions—to avail themselves of the offerings of post-secondary degree education.

The optional degree process differs from the traditional avenue in many ways. To begin with, it recognizes that all significant learning does not take place in the classroom, and it backs that realization by offering college credit for nonformal learning and life experiences. Students are helped to analyze, categorize, and draw significance from their separate experiences and to present them to a faculty committee to be evaluated and assigned the appropriate amount of credit.

This is a process which the investigator views as an "ex post facto" learning contract. Contemporary independent study projects involve the concluding of an agreement between teacher and student regarding the terms of the learning experience before any work is begun. The optional degree process, by contrast, can credit prior life experiences and award points for learning which took place at an earlier time under non-negotiated

circumstances. One is thus able to recognize the educated elements of persons not the products of formal training, and one is able to appreciate the fact that a plethora of circumstances are the basis of true education.

An incoming student can be awarded credit for suitable experiences he is able to demonstrate and validate. The crediting process will account for documentation, a biographical VITA, the breadth and quality of the life experiences, the amount of specific growth that resulted from the ventures, and demonstrated maturity and judgment which have come about as a consequence of the experiences under scrutiny.

The likely candidate for this process is a student with a strong commitment to self-directed learning, a keen desire for a degree for personal and/or professional growth, limited alternatives for the satisfaction of his educational needs, ability to work effectively in a low-structured program, individualized plans for continuing his education, and an understanding of the scope of the program and an acceptance of its limitations.

Because the process is built upon an independent study theme, a student in this program is not required to spend large amounts of time on campus. While he is working closely with a faculty member, the student is still able to fulfill his various other commitments in

a fashion compatible with educational growth. The student is obliged to complete the core requirements of the sponsoring institution, but beyond this he is able to do in-depth work in fields which hold the most interest for him and in which he and his advisor consider exposure will profit him most.

For students who have not, for any one of a multitude of reasons, availed themselves of more formal avenues of education, the optional degree process can provide new and exciting opportunities to earn a degree without interrupting their normal behavior patterns.

Behavioral theorists and the practitioners of the third force in psychology contend, "Man's potentials and capabilities are his needs" (Goble, 1970). If these potentials are left unsatisfied, a person is not centered, and while humans may never become entirely anchored at some central point within themselves, the on-going process of becoming all that one is capable of becoming is the basis of life. Many students confess a feeling of emptiness, of boredom and futility, and they complain that they feel unfulfilled. Some are stymied in their jobs because they have no degree, others are untracked intellectually because they have no avenue to further academic stimulation.

The problem of human beings living at a level of existence beneath that of which they are capable is the major problem which education should address. To become

all that he is capable of becoming is the goal the learner should set for himself. The combined efforts of the institution and the student result in the enhanced capacity of the student to take meaning from his own experiences. There is no single way to accomplish this since the possibilities vary in direct proportion to the number of learners, but the goal remains the same. Once a student improves his ability to draw meaning from his own experiences, he is prepared to become a lifelong learner. That is the desired outcome of the optional degree program.

#### Earning Credit

Ways to earn credits may be developed by the student, his mentor, and the advisory committee. Some but not all the ways a student may earn credits are work experience, community service, military service, travel, regular college courses, independent study, correspondence courses, instruction by technology, non-credit educational experiences, and/or CLEP or other proficiency examinations.

#### Admissions

The applicant is required to furnish evidence of a high school diploma or of an equivalency certificate, of maturity, motivation, ability to work independently,



and an all-embracing attitude toward living and life-long learning. The procedure in which the applicant must involve himself is as follows:

1. Submit an application form with the appropriate fee.
2. Submit his high school record.
3. Interview for one hour with the director of the Department of Education or his surrogate.
4. Upon acceptance, submit
  - a. complete transcripts beyond high school,
  - b. resume forms for all experience that may be creditable,
  - c. any supportive letters and/or documents requested and the evaluation and advising fee,
  - d. interact in a four-hour interview, advisement, and crediting session with the advisory committee.

At this time final agreement would be reached regarding a starting point, a learning prescription, and a list of mentors, which would include name, address, and telephone number of the mentors and a brief statement of their strengths and interests. The student would then meet with the mentors and arrange a mutually acceptable program with the one he chooses.

Once he is accepted into the program, the student would work out the residency requirement, which is flexible, with his mentor and the advisory committee. Also,

experiences measured by validating units (V.U.), which occur after the student is accepted, would be graded on a pass/no record basis. However, course work for which semester hours are awarded would be recorded on a letter grade basis. Transfer credit would be granted to the student by his mentor and the advisory committee for work which was satisfactory to the transferring institution.

Thus, in planning for and arriving at proposals for an optional degree program, one is faced with the basic question of what changes should be made in the present structured form of college education in order to create a truly alternative program. The plan designed should incorporate those features of the open college concept which can best provide the flexibility and accessibility that characterize all such alternative approaches to college education. Surveys and analyses of other alternative programs identify some common features:

- A program designed cooperatively by students, faculty, and administrators.
- Students with a broad age-range, 16-60.
- The absence of a fixed curriculum and fixed time for awarding the degree.
- A variety of learning resources to be used, including internships, work experience, regular

- courses, independent study, individual and group projects, and/or programmed instruction.
- The use of adjunct faculty, such as artists, writers, public officials, businesspeople, scientists, and educators.
  - The use of seminars to develop the students' skills for independent study.
  - Emphasis on a continuing dialogue between students and faculty in the form of student-advisor meetings, seminars, tele-conferences, and/or correspondence.
  - The requirements of a final project which may be a research study, a work of art, a collection of poetry, a publishable article, and/or any other acceptable work.
  - A planned evaluation of all graduates' achievements.

The above listing does not, of course, include the many variations and modifications of existing programs, nor does it suggest any rigid standards to which to adhere.

The proposed program, the optional degree program, should be able to provide a more open alternative to traditional educational structures while containing to maintain the standards of excellence which characterize our academic ideals and which serve as the guiding principles of the best institutions.

The goals and objectives of the optional degree program should be consonant with those of the sponsoring institution. The optional degree program may differ substantially from a formalized process in terms of its method of implementation. Halmarks of four-year study—extensive residency, prescribed courses, and fixed formats of study—are all modified. But while there is a discontinuity of method between the optional degree program, or process, and its traditional counterpart, there is a strict continuity of purpose.

The most critical aspect of the optional degree process is the student-advisor relationship—one that requires frequent and sustained contact throughout the individual's degree program. The quality of the learning experience fostered by this relationship is at the heart of the program. Regardless of how efficacious the learning experience might appear on paper, it would suffer immeasurably if the working liaison between student and advisor was not of a sustained and high quality.

Because the student, in concern with an advisor who is fine-tuned to his needs and goals, can participate in structuring his own course of studies, there is a great deal of added flexibility allowing significant contributions from the learner to the entire experience. His multiplicity of lifetime ventures, when brought to

the program, are an asset to his academic progress. The quality of the on-going, consultative relationship can insure the overall integrity of the program.

If successfully implemented, the optional degree program can infuse the academic community with a greater variety of students. Such heterogeneity can only benefit the academic community as a whole by allowing for the exchange and criticism of a wide variety of ideas, a process not always attainable in a more formal structure. The maturity and advanced judgment of candidates for the optional degree can compliment and give scope to the student body and produce healthy results not only in the academic sphere but also in the social climate of the campus as well. Additionally, optional degree students would form a natural bond to the reaches beyond the campus, leading to increased understanding and cooperation between the institution and the general community. This can be accomplished while still preserving for the student an atmosphere of curiosity, criticism, and the wonderment essential for the life of ideas.

The proposed optional degree program itself, an alternative route to the baccalaureate, is designed to provide a method by which the student can obtain a degree in an innovative and nontraditional manner. This program differs from a traditional course of studies in

several ways. First of all, the program offers credit for nonformal learning, or life experience, the breadth and quality of which are necessary but not sufficient conditions for becoming a truly "educated" person. These experiences enable a student to better cope with the sharing of knowledge and the critical exchange of ideas which can occur in an academic community. Therefore, it is unlikely that a candidate would fulfill all formal requirements for the degree on the basis of life experience alone. Obviously, since evaluation of this nonformal learning is of the utmost importance, documentation and demonstration of nonformal, as well as formal, learning is a prerequisite for granting college credits. Appropriate credits are awarded, therefore, at the discretion of a faculty advisory committee.

A second major difference is that the student is involved in independent learning opportunities as a major portion of his work in the program. Operating on a learning contract basis (Appendix C), he can work closely with an advisor, yet independently. Such a program enables the student to augment his education at times and places which do not interfere with his other obligations. He is freed, for example, for spending large amounts of time at any one college campus.

The program is designed for maximum flexibility. A student may wish to elect a specific major, e.g., English, philosophy, or history, and can, under such circumstances, work with both his optional degree advisor and the relevant department chairperson, or his designee. The student may, instead, choose to enter the general studies program which allows greater flexibility than a specific major. However, one major limitation to this flexibility is that the student in the optional degree program is subject to the same core and major requirements as other students, although these requirements may be met in a variety of ways as determined in each case by the student and his advisor.

Therefore, the optional degree program, designed to appeal to a broad range of prospective students who have the personal discipline and maturity necessary for pursuing independent study, should attract three groups in particular: individuals who have not, for a variety of reasons, had an opportunity to pursue a traditional college program, senior citizens with the leisure and/or the desire to pursue a college degree, and currently enrolled students dissatisfied with the traditional pattern of academic work.

For the first group, those students who for reasons of distance, time, and/or financial problems have heretofore been unable to avail themselves of a traditional

college career, the optional degree offers the opportunity to earn a college degree while remaining at their jobs. Moreover, the optional degree offers the prospect of granting credit for experience and/or knowledge already attained.

For senior citizens, the possibility of receiving credit for experience and/or knowledge already attained can be encouraged to pursue educational opportunities previously limited or closed to them.

For the regularly enrolled student who is dissatisfied with traditional academic formats, the optional degree program provides an opportunity for him to contribute significantly to his education by having him participate in the design of his own program of studies.

In general, therefore, the optional degree program opens opportunities to a variety of individuals by removing barriers which have previously frustrated their desires to continue in higher education or to obtain the kind of higher education they desired. It is assumed that the prospective student in this program will display the maturity and responsibility necessary to make the project successful.

It should be noted that the optional degree student would be distinctly different from the typical undergraduate. Instead of a student body in the 18 to 22 years



of age-range, for example, the program may have students with an age-range from 16 to 60 years, with the mean age in the mid to late 20's. As with ages, the socio-economic backgrounds may differ widely, and the students may be unable to devote full time to the program because of occupational and/or familial commitments. These students could, however, have varied interests and capabilities, strengths and weaknesses, upon which educators can draw for learning opportunities for other students and for themselves. The task with these students is to ascertain where they are in their education and where they intend to go. Success in this task can also be a learning opportunity to all involved.

Since the survey of programs at other institutions indicates that the geographical area serviced may be replete with potential students of this description, the need is present. The basic objective, therefore, is to meet this need.

Since the degree of rapport between the student and the advisor is critical to the successful attainment of the goals and objectives of the optimal degree program, it is essential that a harmonious, productive relationship between the two be established and maintained throughout.

Upon admission the student would be given a list of those faculty members with interests similar to his own. The student will select from among them, although his initial choice may not be his eventual permanent one. Subsequent changes in faculty advisors may be anticipated and arranged for pending the notification of such switches to the director. In order to insure high quality guidance and intensive supervision, a faculty advisor would be limited to a maximum of five students. Any special circumstances indicating a departure from this rule would require the approval of the director.

The immediate first task of both student and advisor is to draw up a contract spelling out in a formal sense the goals, objectives, college requirements, and operational methodology that both will adhere to in fulfilling the optional degree program. Contained in the contract, as well, will be stipulations regarding the responsibilities of both student and advisor in the learning process. Once the contract is completed, it is signed by the student, his advisor, the major department chairperson in instances where this is applicable, and the director of the optional degree program. It should be noted that special conditions which arise after the signing of the contract may make it necessary to negotiate some of its terms. The contract, which is a

learning prescription, along with the initial assignment of credits by the advisory committee, would serve as the definitive program for the student and would be the foundation upon which his program would be evaluated.

Simply citing the formal duties of the advisor does not, however, adequately describe the full responsibility of the position. Because optional degree students are, in many instances, likely to be people who have never been comfortable or confident in the general arena of formal education, a major skill of the advisor will be to impart a sense of competence and security to the diffident. To maximize the student's learning experience, the advisor must extend himself to the utmost, taking sufficient precautions against the overwhelming tendency of allowing inconsequential "busy work" to clutter the student's program or preclude him from devoting as much time as he should to the effort. Because he must recognize and understand the student's learning objectives and design opportunities leading toward their fulfillment, the advisor must be imaginative in his analysis and in his synthesis of all factors.

Because he must have a command of all faculty resources on campus, the advisor must also prize tact and show enthusiasm. As the student's primary liaison with the larger college community, he must be able to identify

and provide the student with those resources and help develop access for the student to faculty members in other departments.

The advisor must realize, too, that the human resources useful to the student are not confined to the campus. They range throughout the entire area and include businessmen, journalists, artists, writers, social service professionals, civil servants, and others who may be willing to lend some time and effort to the program. The advisor must acquaint himself with these experts, many of whom might be called adjunct faculty, and solicit and secure their contributions to the student's education.

These are but a few of the rigorous demands that will be made upon advisors. Consequently, it is essential that teachers applying for these positions not only possess those superlative qualities of personality and character necessary for a bold undertaking, but also demonstrate a willingness and a physical ability to spend great sums of time and energy beyond the written expectations of the position. The selection of the advisors is a crucial process for the director and his advisors, one upon which the ultimate success of the project may hinge.

The advisor will help the student to convene an advisory committee composed of faculty members who represent the following major curricular divisions: humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences-mathematics. In the event that a student wishes to major in a specific discipline available under the optional degree program, the advisory committee would be supplemented by an additional member representing that discipline. After an examination of the candidate's submitted documentation and after the extended interview, the advisory committee would make specific assignments of life experience credits, previous formal education credits, and a learning prescription.

Wherever possible, credit for life experiences would be first applied to core requirements, as determined by the college, and then, upon determination of a program of studies, the remainder of credits for life experiences would be assigned where applicable. In cases where students select an academic major available under the optional degree program, those credits would be assigned in conjunction with a representative of the major department concerned. All such assignments would be by consensus.

The results of the advisory committee's determination would be immediately communicated to the candidate.

If the assignment of credits is agreeable to him, he would then choose an advisor in order to devise a specific program of studies. If, on the other hand, the assignment of credits is not agreeable to the candidate, he may appeal the determination of the advisory committee to the director of the optional degree program. However, the director, who would decide whether or not the advisory committee should review its determination, may not override that determination. If, after appeal, the candidate is still dissatisfied with the assignment of life experience credits, he may withdraw his candidacy or may continue with whatever credits may have been assigned to him.

#### Curriculum

The curriculum committee, or the group serving the same function at the institution, would adopt a common core, with flexibility components built in, to be used as a pattern for the curriculum of the optional degree. Thus, one would have the flexibility to work with the regular day curriculum, as well as the evening or continuing education curriculum, but, most importantly, the actual curricular offerings would come as a result of student-advisor conferences. Thus, the curricular offerings would be as flexible as would be the student-advisor groupings.

The primary responsibility of the optional degree staff, consequently, is to act as a liaison between the student and the degree-granting major to which the student aspires. The director must reach agreements with as many departments as are willing for acceptance of "optional" students. Those department agreeing would be listed as degree options under the optional degree program. But, because of the nature of the optional degree, the majority of the degrees granted would probably be in general studies.

The content of the optional degree program may affect the curriculum of the internal degree. Since this is a changing society, education must also be a continuously changing process. If educators can contribute to this change, while bringing to it the rigor and self-discipline which has always characterized academic ideals, they can make invaluable contributions to the sponsoring institution.

It should be noted that, unless otherwise specified, grades in each learning experience are determined by whomever is responsible for the direct supervision of the student's work, and that the residency requirement consists of a minimum of thirty credits earned in the degree-granting institution. The actual number of credits for a given student is determined by the advisory

committee in consultation with the student. The conditions for fulfilling the residency requirement, as determined by the advisory committee, are to be negotiated in a contract between the student and his chosen advisor.

### Accreditation

A major concern in planning for the optional degree is the eventual accreditation of such a program. The literature available provides a source of encouragement because of its realistic methods of assessment, which include:

1. Accreditation procedures should encourage innovative and imaginative approaches.
2. The accrediting process should move toward assessment of the results of education rather than of its processes.
3. At this early stage, the principles, policies, and procedures specified for accreditation should be flexible and of an interim nature.
4. As experience is gained, accrediting policies should be adjusted.
5. Accreditation should be considered only when a number of individuals have been graduated.
6. Evaluation committees should include persons with experience in nontraditional programs.



7. Evidence should be required that the degrees are granted on the basis of definite criteria and demonstrated competence.
8. Publicity statements to prospective students should be factual.
9. The conditions and circumstances of subcontracts with adjunct faculty, museums, and other agencies should be explicit and conform to policies and standards of the sponsoring institution (Gould, 1972).

As these statements indicate, a program to be accredited may be very innovative but must, eventually, conform in standard to the sponsoring, parent institution.

Since it is obvious that optional degree programs presuppose an unusual degree of highly personalized, individual contact between the student and the sponsoring institution, the focus of any program of this nature, therefore, must be on ways to make this kind of contact workable. It mandates flexible administrative practices, programs, and budgetary consideration. Although the clientele of the optional degree program operates independently, to a large degree, the individual contact hours with faculty, which plan for independent work, cost much more than large group instruction in regular classes. However, the independently functioning student in this

program needs much less of this more expensive individual instruction.

The budgetary task of anyone trying to service large numbers of these students is to regulate these two variables rationally, efficiently, and humanely. The investigator suggests that the approach outlined would accomplish this task at a cost comparable to present overall instructional costs. A self-sustaining program is not being proposed because it would create a program which functions as if it were a private school within the subsidized public school system.

The proposal optional degree program requires a special budget allotment which would allow the open college concept to be immediately operational for the entire sponsoring institution, whose programs would be open to any student. The institution, therefore, could accommodate as many optional students at the budgetary allotment allows.

For the first year of operation, an arbitrary figure of one hundred (100) students is being used. The proposed budget, its rationale, and the manner in which it is to be disbursed are based on certain arbitrary, yet realistic, figures. The investigator has not attempted to categorize and estimate every cost because, given the variables in cost which are listed later, he suggests that no such estimate could be made. Thus, he

firmly believes that flexibility in the initial budget is necessary for the adequate assessment of the program. The figures which follow are replete with averages and approximations, but the central concept is, nevertheless, firm.

As a benchmark for approximating the cost of regular class instruction, the investigator used a faculty salary of \$12,000 and a student load of 125. Figuring three semester hours per student, one sees 375 class units of approximately one hour each. Sliding up and down the scale, individual instruction would range from a cost of 75¢ through \$2 per hour depending on salary and load, averaging about \$1 per hour. A cost of \$15 per hour is estimated for individual instruction, guidance, and evaluation needed for an optional student. This is based on a figure of 100 optional students working in exclusively individual situations and allotted eight hours of individual contact with faculty per three semester hours of credit. Using fifteen semester hours of earned credit per year per student, the investigator arrived at a figure of forty such contact hours, or a total of four thousand (4,000) hours. At a cost of \$15 per hour, the total instructional cost would be \$60,000 for 100 students. Using a tuition rate of \$10 per semester hour as the student's portion of

this cost, or \$15,000 tuition, the investigator subtracted this figure from the \$60,000 and arrived at a cost of \$45,000 for instructional time for optional students in primarily independent study.

Variables which may affect the budget quoted include the following:

1. Some optional students may need less than eight hours contact.
2. Some may do a unit of six or even nine hours with eight hours contact or a little more.
3. Two or three students may work a project on the same eight hours contact time.
4. Many optional students may take less than fifteen semester hours and some may take more.
5. Some may take proficiency examinations with a minimum of contact.
6. Some may work on a tutorial trade-off with other proficient students.
7. Some may take regular courses, perhaps on a marginal attendance basis, to complete course requirements.
8. Some may take part on the course load at another institution.
9. Some may organize their own seminars for mutual support.

10. Some faculty may, as they always have, work with students in projects which have mutual, special interest to them at no special charge to the sponsoring institution.

Certainly, the above listing does not exhaust all the possibilities, and there must be some point at which the amount of expensive, individualized contact time allotted to a student becomes prohibitive. This and many comparable problems can only be solved within a very flexible budget.

Another budget item deals with ways in which the efficiency of this individualized instructional time can be improved and, thereby, reduce cost and/or allow for more students. To the cost of instruction other costs must be added.

- \$45,000     Individualized instructional time.
- \$20,000     Director—a capable, very autonomous ombudsman-like person to continuously negotiate and renegotiate with all segments of the college community.
- \$10,000     Staff—expertise from outside the sponsoring institution. The \$10,000 would be a carefully monitored, flexible account and available to the director. Advisement and admission would be included.

- \$10,000     Secretarial and clerical—proficient  
to provide administrative assistance  
to the director.
- \$10,000     Adjunct Learning Facilitation Center—  
the establishment of which is a speci-  
fic charge to the director. The money  
so budgeted is to be spent for:
1. designing and improving learning con-  
tracts,
  2. studying student problems and progress,
  3. creating proficiency examinations,
  4. diagnosing individualized instructional  
methods,
  5. organizing an established individual  
learning seminar,
  6. appraising and attracting adjunct  
faculty,
  7. structuring annotated reading lists,
  8. assessing, procuring, modifying, and  
adapting correspondence and other  
packaged learning material(s),
  9. establishing close relationships with  
other optional programs,
  10. designing optional components for  
extant courses,
  11. designing cooperative units of 6-9-12-15  
semester hours in various disciplin-  
ary forms,
  12. designing cooperative units of 6-9-12-15  
or more hours of interdisciplinary  
work,

13. helping in the assessment and validation of nonformal learning experiences,
14. comparing efficiency of all kinds of instruction,
15. involving the local community and its resources with the academic community,
16. finally, and in general, establishing an atmosphere of commitment to life-long, individualized learning for optional and internal students.

TOTAL COST: \$115,000 minus \$15,000 tuition, or \$100,000.

Perhaps, more than one hundred students could be accommodated in the initial program, thereby lowering the cost per student. The credit assigned by the evaluating committee would also have to be included in the cost per credit equation. Also, to be considered is the fact that the Learning Facilitation Center could increase the options for learning opportunities in subsequent segments of the program and "spill over" into the regular day program. Admissions would be "rolling," and people would be accepted into the program at all times, which, in itself, could alter the process.

Because of the rolling admissions concept, the first group admitted would be available as advisors to the newly accepted groups, thus, employing the concept of "geographical cluster." With this concept the people who live in proximity to other students could get together to form support groups, a concept which could

enrich learning and allow for a reduction in the number of hours spent with faculty advisors.

As the director and his staff become more familiar with the program, more group advisement would be possible, which could also diminish the amount of time spent per student. He would have broad authority but would apportion the larger fee for professional services only when the learning activity involving student and advisor closely approximated the traditional faculty function. The program could channel creative abilities toward improvement of all instructional modes and challenge students and faculty to deal with learning in all its facets. It would clearly identify goals and objectives. The optional degree process would give the academic community a new challenge.



C H A P T E R   I V  
RECOMMENDATION OF ALTERNATIVE ROUTES IN  
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

In order to get from "here" to "there" we must know where we are and where we want to go. The investigator is recommending changes to get to "there" and hence needs to state what he believes our educational climate to be.

The practitioner, when building curriculum, should first look to society to determine needs (Tyler, 1949). The investigator believes that the practitioner should also examine society to determine the milieu in which the educational delivery system operates. In 1957, Sputnik circled the earth. Americans were amazed—they were afraid and embarrassed; they wondered why the United States had been surpassed. Conventional wisdom led them to believe that the schools had failed. Education was in for a trying period. Criticism flew in all directions: "Johnny can't read, add, respect his elders. Teachers aren't what they were when I was a boy." These uniform outcries were rampant, and this nation salved its injured pride by blaming its second place finish on the schools.

Professionals educators used this current wisdom to admit that the educative process was not all it could or should be. They then used this admission as a springboard to start vast amounts of governmental and private funding for educational efforts at all levels—an example of turning a problem into an opportunity. Instead of defending the status quo, educators received approbation and money to change it. They tried. Some efforts were successful; many failed; many have yet to be evaluated.

The prime difference between the climate surrounding education in the mid 70's as opposed to the mid 60's is the "taxpayers' revolt." A scant ten years ago money was readily available. But in 1978 the honeymoon is over. Because citizens have been so subjected to adverse criticism of the educational process and have seen a definite lack of results from it, they are unwilling to spend more money on its maintenance. Foundation money is disappearing, perhaps as a result of the social climate. New priorities are coming to the fore. Education is no longer seen as the "open sesame" to all of mankind's locked doors. And, rightly or wrongly, this is a fact.

The result of this lack-of-funds syndrome is that administrators of the educational process are trying to

get results from their resources in a climate where resources are fixed and their monetary value is declining because of inflation. The same amount of money is buying less. One specific reason for more-buying-less is that teachers at all levels are no longer willing to provide the hidden subsidy by working for less than the fair cost of their services. They have moved away from the "tea-and-cookies" teachers' associations to the hard-line union position, which now admits to little difference between the A.F.T. and the N.E.A. The members of both organizations are cognizant of their need to protect what they have won. The administrators have difficulty dealing with the reality of collective bargaining agreements, and, hence, conflicts are widely publicized. This situation is caused by the lack of sophistication and the immaturity of the people representing both sides of the issue. And sophistication and maturity can only come with time. In the interval the public is aware of the discord and is less likely to favor the spending of more money. The public wants to ask questions: "Did we get what we paid for?" "Did we want what we got?" "Did we pay more than it was worth?"

Since education is lumped into the whole economic anathema of rising taxes and since all people disapprove of high taxes, an attack on taxes gives a person a handle

on the current, bewildering reality of his life. If education, as a process, cannot answer the citizen's questions of worth, the citizen will not fund it. The citizen finds himself assailed by all manner of emerging social priorities. He is warned by the pessimistic environmentalists that it is already too late to save himself and his world. He is told by the optimistic ecologists that he must save his world, and, in order to do so, he must tax himself to pay the hidden costs of environmental protection. He is told by the media, and more concretely by his health insurance problems and the concomitant bills for health care, that he is paying more than he should for substandard service. He is assailed by the local educational establishment with calls for money and concern for his children. In short, post-secondary education is not about to regain its favored position of the 1960's unless there is some kind of national catastrophe which is perceived by the citizens as one which can be countered only by the resources available in higher education.

Another aspect of the problem is the inability of the federal government to support higher education as opposed to research. The Brookings Institute in a 1972 report, stated that in post-peacetime years the economy has always generated a sufficient increase in tax revenue

to cover increasing government costs (Schultze, 1972). That is not the case now. They also reported that the national debt would increase \$15 to \$20 billion per year until 1975 even if the country showed full employment prosperity, which it did not. Revenues would catch up in 1977 if no new spending programs were started. Evidence of their prescience is now apparent. And inflation is more important to the citizen than higher education.

The federal government is also disbursing already allocated money resources to individual students rather than to institutions. Research institutions are losing more resources than others, and gaining are the proprietary, trade, or technical institutions which students are choosing to attend.

Some states, including Georgia and Ohio, are asking for acceptance of a plan which calls for the student to pay back the full cost of his education after he has graduated, thus indicating a trend toward redistribution of the cost of education. This proposal is similar in form to deferred tuition employed by some pretigious private colleges. The question being asked is basic: "Who shall pay for public, post-secondary education?" No matter how it is phrased, that is the question. The private colleges are pressuring government to increase

tuition at public colleges and universities to competitive levels, an occurrence which would create a more open market. However, even if it did not, the open-market syndrome would be in operation.

The student of the 70's is an education consumer. He is shopping for the educational opportunities which are most economical and most appropriate for his perceived needs. The crediting-credentialing monopoly is being removed from the hands of the established educational institutions. Despite the shift in the direction to the students' side of the balance sheet, more and more potential students in the traditional college age group are choosing not to attend college. Presently, the attendance level of 18 to 19 year old males in college has dropped to the 1962 level of this same group, a trend which started before the ending of the draft. Enrollment of women in the 18 to 19 age group leveled off at about 34% in 1969, and that of the 20 to 21 age group seems to have leveled off at about 25% in the last four years. This situation exists despite the fact that colleges and universities are expending many resources in the quest for more women students. It is important to note that, in the past two years, 85% of the increase in first-time freshmen entry into post-secondary education was recorded in community colleges.

The birth rate is at its lowest point in history, a rate below zero population growth (ZPG), and not yet stabilized. Between 1960 and 1970 the actual number of five-year-olds decreased 15%. These are the potential freshmen, or college entrants, of the 70's and beyond. The actual number of births decreased 3% between 1970 and 1971 and 9% between 1971 and 1972. These are the potential freshmen of 1988 through 1990. The census bureau estimates a sharp drop in college age youth after 1982, almost paralleling the sharp rise during the 1960's.

Non-traditional and non-institutional education is providing unsought after and unwanted competition for the established colleges and universities. When these institutions had the crediting and credentialing process "sewed up," students as a rite of passage sought or endured their ministrations. Now that options are open and opening up even more, students are not enduring — they are choosing.

Business institutions, like International Business Machines and General Electric, offer bachelor's degrees; the state of Massachusetts has authorized Arthur D. Little Company to grant a master's degree in management; profit-making proprietary schools are enjoying increasing enrollments. The National Center for Educational Statistics

estimates that over two million persons are enrolled in institutions like these. Adult and continuing education programs are presently booming with twelve to thirteen million students enrolled nationally. The programs for which students are opting are career and occupational training rather than the liberal arts (which, according to students, are successfully training academicians for a society that has no need for such great numbers of them). These students are seeking tangible benefits as soon after entry into the post-secondary system as is possible. Perhaps, after their shorter training for occupations or careers, they may wish to return for further general or liberal education, but, at the outset, they want immediate results and the promise of a job.

Because of the previously mentioned Labor Department prediction that only twenty percent of the jobs in the 1970's and beyond will require a college degree, the expectations of the graduating high school seniors have changed. About fifty percent of them are going to college, some for education, some to find a secure role for their present, and many to seek a career opportunity.



### Summary of the Social Institution

Since 1957 education at all levels, but especially at the post-secondary level, has been taken seriously. The outcomes of this regard have been found wanting. Money has been thrown at problems, but results are not perceived as commensurate with cost. The people paying are questioning the prices. The institutions are suffering from reduced revenue resources. The unions are causing less flexibility. Calls for accountability are increasing. Other social priorities have risen, causing education to lose its favored position. Federal funds have been reduced dramatically, and the question, "Who shall pay?", is being asked. There is an open market for educational consumers, because college enrollments are decreasing. Community college and proprietary schools enrollments are increasing dramatically. The birth rate is at less than ZPG. The credentialing process is no longer as closely controlled by the colleges because some large companies are now granting degrees. Continuing and adult education programs are booming, but the liberal arts are perceived by students as not satisfying their personal needs.

### Recommendations

"What is becoming increasingly apparent is that to solve social problems by changing people is more

expensive and usually less productive than approaches that accept people as they are and seek to mend not them but the circumstances around them" (Etzioni, 1973).

If educators continue to enter the future looking in the rear-view mirror, they will be contracting for more problems than they care to confront. If they merely "tinker with the machine," they will only postpone confrontation of the issues listed in the summary. Educators have to cease their chauvenistic approach to education by recognizing that elitism is not the goal. They have to stop the pursuit of "Let's pretend," and deal with the real issues, problems, and phenomena of life, as did the liberal arts at their inception. Educators have to realize that there is no one best way to learn or to teach. They have to embrace a holistic view of education, a process which begins at birth and ends only with death. They have to look at the artificial restraints of space, time, and appropriations which have been imposed on the formal process and decide whom they serve. Educators must look at the whole picture with "imaginative glasses."

In 1900 only six percent of the population had the opportunity to pursue post-secondary education. Something magical was perceived to be the result of that education by people who did not receive one. "He's

a college man." was the statement made, well into the 1940's, by awed, envious, non-college people to describe and explain a person's obvious success in the community. This statement is seldom heard in the 1970's and, if it is, it stems from the early or mid-century thinking of a person in his 60's or 70's.

The influx of returning veterans, followed by the children of families who had never had the resources or the temerity to consider college, followed by the children of these veterans have changed the college-man mystique. Many in academia still yearn for the "good old days," (which did or did not exist). Those were the days when they were elite by reason of their association with a select group whose functions were to become the protectors of the status quo—which, in trun, would preserve these elites. Others are in the lifeboats. The "old days" are history.

Citizens are looking at the results of the typical college experience and are asking questions about it. Even though they are aware of the fact that there is no "laying on of hands" as if something magical occurs in a college career, they have a desire for the benefits of this process for their children and, in some cases, for themselves. The expectations of these people are rising. They are the same individuals who are involved

in the taxpayer's revolt. They want and need more from the educational establishment than they recognize or how to request. And one of the functions of the professional educator is to help them recognize and formulate requests for the service they want and need.

Citizens of this country are assailed by problems, and Toffler has stated many of them. Many citizens not only have never identified the forces which are causing the anomie or alienation they feel but also have never even identified an/or named the feelings. Because of the linear mode of thinking employed in this country, it is difficult to confront anything which is not named. Psychiatrists (and witch doctors) perhaps perform their greatest service by helping clients name, and hence, understand the problem confronting them.

If government is used as an example of the increasingly complex problems faced by citizens, perhaps the people can comprehend the situation. Government allegedly provides services that the citizen cannot provide for himself. Like any institution set up to complete specific services, government grows beyond its specific charge and begins to exist for itself.

In 1929 one in ten American people worked for the government; in 1947 one in six worked for the government and in 1971, one in four. Since 1954 the size of the

federal government has tripled, and the state and local governments have increased in size sixfold during the same period of time. It is not surprising, therefore, that forty percent of the national income is spent by and for government (U.S. Bureau of Census).

Despite this increase in the size of government, people are asking, "Why isn't the government doing the job?" These people do not articulate the question, "Can government do the job?" Public transit, the environment, consumer protection, legal services, public safety, and education are all looked upon as expenses, which somehow should disappear, rather than services, which have to be ranked in order of priority.

Change has been rampant in both its numbers and its speed. Little but change is constant. The old benchmarks are not serving to stabilize situations. Generations are being compressed in time. Conventional wisdom has a truncated life and is placed in the "idea compactor" before it is widely disseminated or agreed upon. Because people need something from which to build in order to make meaning from their confusing experiences, education, in its most powerful sense, it is hope to fill this need.

As with most organization, the educational establishment is more willing to penealize bad performance

than it is willing to reward, or even recognize, good performance. Because of this syndrome, many institutions are much more willing to engage in behavior which avoids failure than they are to engage in behavior which might result in the achievement of success. The people in most educational organizations are risk avoiders because our social system rewards this behavior. It does not reward risk-taking and sometimes even punishes it. (One of Edward Banfield's warnings about the danger of potentially delinquent youths is that they are "high risk takers", 1974).

If society is to provide new educational services, it has to recongize risk-taking behavior as desirable and expected on the part of educational institutions and the people in these institutions. Productivity, a word closely aligned with last year's catch phrase, accountability, is implicit in the performance of any real professional. The real pro does his job, is engrossed in it, tells people about it, becomes more adept at it, improves it methodology, shares his findings with anyone who will listen, appreciates recognition of his accomplishments, but does not need approbation in order to continue his growth. And he takes risks. The structure of educational institutions militates against this risk-taking behavior. Perhaps this militance

provides motivation for the behavior as the ban on pornography in Germany caused Germans to but in Denmark while the Danes, smiling knowingly profitted. Maybe bootlegging, risk-taking behavior is necessary.

Also, society needs to recognize the clear enunciation of public objectives which are perceived as worthy of attainment by all concerned. This is a risk-taking behavior. In most educational organizations, the practitioners are able to sit and hide behind a "business as usual" facade, and few are ever asked what it is they are doing. They are rewarded for this behavior by the system of which they are a part. It is important to create a climate in which the pursuit of success, rather than the avoidance of failure, is the mode. In order to do this, society must be willing to risk commitment to long-term rather than short-term gains, and it must constantly renew this process.

Education, like many institutions, is operating in a reactive manner. Whenever some crisis arises, all segments of education react to that crisis in one way or another, because crisis management is the standard operating procedure. If society defines goals, obtains commitment to them, and proceeds toward them with formative evaluation providing input into the process, crisis can be defined as a problem turned into opportunity.

This change is a difficult one to implement, and its results are difficult to measure. Educationalists favor processes which are easy to measure. Real people with real problems wish to be spoken to in real words. They will be able to accept the difficulty of measurement and deal with the ambiguities of this emergent process, but, first, they must be made aware of the issue(s). In order for people to deal with ideas, these ideas must be disseminated. Ideas do not necessarily have to be new to be good, but they must be in wide circulation.

If the taxpayers are confident that a public agency can deliver on its promises, they are willing to support higher taxes for any proposed service. As stated earlier, the public is buffeted with problems. Individuals are asking for accountability in its true sense. But educationalists are smokescreening and measuring the old in new ways. Because the low man in the hierarchy is threatened and frightened, he protects himself with his union membership. Thus, flexibility, adaptability, and genuine change for the better of all concerned are stymied or, at least, slowed.

The poison in this syndrome is fear and distrust, and the antidote is realism and candor on the part of all those concerned. There must be agreement as to what education thinks it is and should be doing and how



this is going to be measured. Education has to agree on the needs and desires of the clients concerning the services offered. Education has to provide as fear-free a base as possible for all engaged in the process.

### Summary

Circumstances, not people, must be changed. It is no longer possible to merely tinker with the machine. Society must abhor illusion and deal with the real issues. There is no one best way to teach and/or to learn. Education is a life-long process, but artificial restraints are placed on it. We must ask, "Who is to be served?" Only 6% of the population had the college opportunity at the century's turn, but new populations are being served now. Taxpayers question the results of the education process because they have rising expectations, and they have unarticulated needs. Professionals in education should aid the process of articulation. What is needed is a real, all-embracing definition of education.

Citizens have uncounted problems—government growth being an example. Needs have to be placed in order of priority. Since change is rampant, handles are needed, and education is a place to start. Educators must regard good performance rather than merely penalize bad performance. They must develop a bent for success-oriented

behavior instead of failure-avoidance behavior. Real professionals have these qualities, and therefore, society must aid in the development of more real professionals.

Clear objectives and long-term goals are needed. Commitment to the goals by all concerned should be sought. Because education is managed from crisis to crisis, it is now a reactive institution. Clear goals and formative evaluation can change the crisis syndrome. Problems can be changed to opportunities. Although this process will be difficult to measure, taxpayers will accept the difficulty of measurement and will support this effort if they believe that the system can deliver. Therefore, ideas must be spread. Fear and distrust are the hallmarks of the present system, and unions are the result of this fear. It is mandatory to create a fear-free base from which to ask the simple questions: "What are educators going to do? How are they going to do it? How are they going to evaluate it?"

The preceding is an overview of the current social milieu as the investigator perceives it along with some general recommendations for dealing with it. The following are some more specific recommendations.

If one accepts that education is a process which is life-long, one which helps a person make meaning of

his experience and aids him in becoming all that he is capable of becoming, one can look at the dynamics of it in a new way. By looking at the change process differently, one can alter it. A person often asks and wonders how by conscious human design change occurs. This society is comprised of pragmatic, activist people who want sets of cookbook instructions describing the change process just as they want the same type of instructions for bread and butter pickles. Change agents are often asked, "What do I do Monday?" This is a difficult question, but it is also a fair one. There is no easy answer. No stamped plastic blueprint can fit every situation, yet some guidelines are needed. Symptoms are the basis of syndromes; guidelines are the basis of paradigms. Rigid sets of instructions, which usually lead to disappointment and/or failure, are not needed.

Humane, constructive change is multidimensional, and springs from rational thinking and the results of art, religion, and dreams. It is difficult to comprehend the processes or results of any of the change sources. Even if society has difficulty in dealing with these sources of change, it can attempt to identify the process through which change occurs by using the following four elements: (1) new perceptions, (2) positive vision, myth "story," (3) new theory, and (4) specific model or example.

New perceptions by significant people in a society can turn a culture around without the majority of people even recognizing it. . . Before the Copernician revolution, assumptions were solidly earth based. Earth was the center of all. After Copernicus, however, western astronomers saw myriad changes in the night sky. "The very ease and rapidity with which astronomers saw new things when looking at old objects with old instruments may make us wish to say that, after Copernicus, astronomers lived in a different world." Not only astronomy changed, but the western world as well.

This society is at a similar point in its evolution. It is experiencing "revolutions" of the young, black, women, third world, elderly, students, consumers, and many other groups. "Revolution" is a word coined by journalists to describe a syndrome where business as usual is no longer being carried on by the groups they describe. Assumptions are being questioned, and new mind sets are being adopted. The rate at which these changes are taking place is mind boggling. "No exaggeration, no hyperbole, no outrage can realistically describe the extent and pace of change. . . .In fact, only the exaggerations appear to be true" (Bennis).

Social critics are placing old assumptions and values under the societal microscope. But before they

have finished their preliminary explorations, the values and assumptions have changed for significant numbers of people. Widely held beliefs about natural aggression, competition, necessary expansion, and separate and distinct life roles for men and women are all being examined and, while they are being analyzed, they are being changed by significant numbers of people. One example is the warrior mentality inculcated in American youth a mere ten to twenty years ago. Sportsmanship was mentioned, but winning was worshipped. Young men were indoctrinated with ideas of manliness and were taught to dehumanize their competition in order to "beat" them with less trauma. Young men today are less likely to succumb to this sort of teaching, and coaches are less likely to try to indoctrinate them into doing so. The late Vince Lombardi was the best and the last of a long succession of surrogate "Life-with-Father" types who controlled every aspect of the players' lives. Since athletes at all stages of development are now operating on new sets of assumptions, they are perceiving their worlds and their roles in it in new ways.

The "hole" that is left in the universe when a bushman kills a giraffe in Africa is recognized by all the bushmen, who engage in ceremonial activities to honor the departed beast. They know that the absence in

the order of things created by the passing of such a great creature changes the structure of their world. This society can take chart from the bushmen's ceremony and look to the "hole" that has been left in the universe by the disappearance of the warrior mentality, the Wild-west Syndrome, or the Horatio Alger ladder of success. "Where there is no vision the people perish." is Biblical wisdom. It is also fact. A myth, a story, or positive vision is necessary. Society has spent years and uncounted millions of dollars in stamping out racism, poverty, and drug abuse but, instead of being eradicated, they are all "alive and well and living" under different guises in the world of the 1970's. Purely reactive and corrective reform is not enough. If a people do not have a vision, a dream, a quest, then civil libertarianism and rationalism are merely analgesics which make the pain of a bursting society more bearable. A sense of destiny appropriate to the times is needed.

If society develops this vision, it must have a theory to implement its positive attributes. If social action is to flow from this theory, parameters which would become new starting points are necessary. People need handles on concepts and ideas. The most valuable ideas and experiments are of little value if they are kept "in house" in a cabalistic attempt at conservation

instead of dissemination. Society does not need a new priest-class who would handle the lives of the people. But it does need a facilitator class who would help with lives when help was needed. Because it gives meaning to individual facts and serves as a guide to action, the theory is necessary.

The fourth stage is a specific model, which makes the general precise. By using a model, a seed from which a new paradigm can grow, one can make better meaning from experience and the general ideas.

Having moved through the four stages of the elements of change and from the general to the specific, the investigator now begins a process of moving from the specific to the general through: stage 5, political application; stage 6, mores, values, myth, story; and stage 7, new institution.

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Level I	1 New Perceptions	7 New Institution
Level II	2 Positive Vision, Myth, Story	6 Mores, Myth, Story, Values, Legislation
Level III	3 New Theory	5 Politics, Application
Level IV	Specific Model	

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This grid was developed by cosmologist Arthur M. Young and adapted by George B. Leonard and its present form is an adaptation for the purposes of this dissertation

(Leonard, 1971). The sequence shown here is from the general to the specific back to the general, and it proceeds through seven stages and four levels. The sequence is not absolute, and activity may be going on at several levels simultaneously. All the models should be viewed not as linear but as dually gyroscopic because every aspect of the change process is affected by every other aspect of it.

Education in the United States offers an example of this model's use. For the last seventy to eighty years, education in the United States has scored triumph after triumph: it successfully provided the first step "up" for the children of immigrants; it perpetuated, if it did not start, the myth of the melting pot; it achieved one of the highest national literacy rates in the world; it "disciplined" people who were usually undisciplinable. The school was the intellectual and cultural center of many communities: it created the goal of "more is better" in education; it slowly responded to an increasing and differing clientele and set of goals and objectives; it has "innovated" since the late 1950's. But despite all its obvious successes, public education is the target for major reform in the United States. It has been and is being criticized for being expensive and impersonal. The clients of the institution have doubts about its



purpose and about their purpose in being part of the process. Many of these clients perceive education as a "game called school," with steps in the ceremonial dance successfully performed which results in less discomfort, but not in more comfort. At best, many clients merely endure their compulsory educational experience.

Many practitioners in the educational process have doubts about its value. They are being paid for their endurance and are also rewarded by the process for their complimentary steps in the ceremonial dance by less discomfort from the hierarchy. Consequently, public education has become an institution marked by mindlessness, anomie, alienation, time serving, game playing, vandalism, hate mail directed at the institutions and the people who work in them, low expectations, and the concomitant self-fulfilling prophesy—failure on all fronts. The administrators, teachers, or professors are no longer looked upon as the infallible dispensers of information, wisdom, and/or miracles. The Jehovian gestalt of the school no longer exists. Ex cathedra pronouncements made by anyone in the system are as often ignored as they are taken seriously because these edicts seldom make any impact on the clients. If the schools did not retain their credentialing function in society, how many clients would be left to them?

The situation described above is an example of stage one in the change model, where the clients are still expanding on the new perceptions they have developed. Perhaps it is the very success of the system which has made it a target, but, for whatever reason, vision, myth, or story, is bound to appear during the next several years. A prototype of the educated person will be developed. Society is now operating in a milieu which defines being educated as being less ignorant, which was a successful, positive vision in an information poor society. However, it is less than valuable in an information rich society. While the quest of professional educators has been to eliminate ignorance, they have been unaware of what issues people are ignorant. They have been blinded by their quest to the possibilities of their clients' growth. Public education has to redefine itself positively and begin the process of helping people to become all that they are capable of becoming. Artificial beginning and ending times for education have to be examined and eliminated. Places where education occurs have to be examined and imaginatively expanded. Educated people have to be studied, and their common characteristics have to be identified and then set up as goals for the uneducated to achieve. The ways that these goals are achieved have to be consonant with

the latest theories of learning because learning, not teaching, has to become central to the process. The client has to become awakened to his potential and be aided to take advantage of new opportunities for growth in the mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional realms of his life. If educators succeed in helping individuals become all that they are capable of becoming, society will be aided in becoming all that it is capable of becoming. A society with a new style of life would develop and emerge.

Stage three, with holistic and differential thinking and perceiving as its hallmark, would emerge here. In a society that had actualized itself, one would seek and find a new theory which would transcend the plebian and work toward knowing what is now considered to be unknowable. The present truncated and divisive disciplines would exist as tools for knowing, if they existed at all. This was the function of these disciplines before they took on a life of their own, before their reason to be became their very existence. Individuals would be communicating in ways which all could understand, instead of using the cabalistic jargon with which too many alleged professionals mask their dealings with each other. They communicate only with each other as a means toward advanced status and under the guise of

scholarship in order to prove their worth to the masses and to themselves. They are much like the Egyptian priests who perpetuated themselves by their exclusivity. This is not an anti-intellectual statement, but a pro-human statement. The discrete disciplines have to become tools for further understanding, and communication is necessary for this to occur.

Stage four would be reached when a number of institutions and learning networks became devoted to a holistic approach to education. The experiences and reflections which would occur in these new places of education would be aimed at personal growth. The age-old questions, Who am I? What am I doing here? Where am I going?, would be given more than lip service. Identity, connectedness, and power would be the vehicles through which each learner would make his own negotiations with his own existence. These working models would effect stage three. Formative evaluation would be employed in order to improve the process while it was in progress. This stage is not a polished and wrapped product ready to be ice-tonged into every situation, but it is a process which is always changing and growing toward what is best for individual learners.

As new ideas are wont to do, the specific models or examples gain recognition. As the ideas are disseminated, people become aware of them and begin to use

them. The faction of society which is effected by the new idea reacts to it. There are strategies and tactics by interested parties to either encourage or impede the progress of the idea based on the perceived self-interest of the contending persons or groups. Cherished beliefs are shaken by new approaches. Because change is a frightening phenomenon to many people, the reality of this situation requires that the change agent be aware of the problem and allay as many of the unnecessary fears as he is capable of handling. He must also point up as many advantages to the people concerned as he can. When self-interest and the aims of the program are in close proximity, the success of the program is guaranteed.

In stage six the dissemination of the theory is wide, and mores and values emanate from it. A significant number of concerned people widely accept it. The practice becomes legitimated by its wide acceptance. The larger society within which it exists becomes interested in it, and it becomes the nexus for legislation. The benefits from the theory accrue to all concerned.

In stage seven a new culture, or subculture, arises from the theory and the practice of the theory becomes an accepted part of the life of the society. The change process has occurred. Like the Hegelian Triad,

this model for change sows the seed of its own change. When stage seven is reached, using input from the prior process, fertile ground is ready for the seeds for a new stage one. New perceptions are generated by the process, new visions occur, new theories emerge, new models are created, the models are widely accepted, new values and mores emerge, and new cultures or subcultures are born.

This last step is where change agents fail. They have invested so much of themselves in a change process that they often become protective of the status quo. Because they become much like the people and institutions they originally set out to change, they become the protectors of self-interest. In short, they become institutionalized.

Perhaps the change model described here could be expanded into a three dimensional model for change. If change agents perceived change as an on-going process where their work is being built upon and not being negated, their perceived needs and self-interest would be brought into close proximity with the goals of the organization, thus ensuring success.

#### Prediction

Although some of the stages in the change model act alone, none are independent of the others, and none are sacrosanct or all-inclusive. The stages and levels

comprise a model that has helped the investigator make meaning from his experience and has enabled him to look at future prospects and risk a prediction. Schools, teachers, and students, as they are known today, will not exist for everyone in the proximate future. To de-school society is a revolutionary move which would serve little purpose, since the tradeoffs necessary would not be cost effective from any immediate viewpoint. To set in motion a process of change that recognizes education as a facet of personal growth which helps the "consumer" of education to become all he is capable of becoming is the goal. Education will no longer be the same number of hours spent in the same places to attain the same number of credits. It will be as pluralistic as is society. It will be a life-long process. It will be ad hoc in some cases pertaining to a need for skill or knowledge. It will be many things to all people.

This is an optimistic and hope-filled prediction. In order for this to occur, therefore, it will be necessary for the larger society to become involved because education cannot and will not be left solely in the hands of professional educators. In today's "spaceship earth" or "lifeboat earth," chauvinism in all forms must end. People must be aware of the holistic process of life on earth. Society must work for the development

of adventurous spirits with increased powers of intuition and empathy. The dedication to learning, growing, and becoming might become the positive vision component in the change process.

Flexibility and willingness to experiment would be the hallmarks of the people in the new culture. They would not be trapped by a single educational formula toward which they felt protective. They would recognize the comic side of life as well as the tragic. One might look upon the comic as being closely allied with redemption and rebirth and the tragic as being closely allied with death and civilization. These individuals would not be afraid of failure—they would be success and growth oriented not failure avoidant. Equilibrium, harmony, centeredness, openness to experience, and a sense of oneness with all existence would be qualities that would be the springboard for moral actions. These people would not use phrases like "my body" because they would be aware that spirit, mind, and body are one.

The idea that education is not merely the lessening of ignorance but rather a process which results in a positive state of being leading toward more growth would yield a society characterized by the results of people leading fascinating lives in the process of learning and growing. The exploitation of energy, individuals,



and nature, which characterizes the milieu in which civilization has reached its current position, would either be greatly reduced or completely eradicated.

The cries of "Idealist" can be heard as the investigator writes this. "You have to be realistic," is advice he is sure to receive. "Realism" is the mindset that has led the United States to Vietnam, Watergate, inflation, the energy crisis, and inequality. This society and its people need a vision to lead them to a new way of life.

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 Northeastern Illinois State University, Chicago, IL  
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APPENDIX A  
PROPOSED PLANNING BUDGET

PROPOSED PLANNING BUDGET  
(one semester)

A. Personnel	
1. Director . . . . .	\$3,000.
(20 hrs/week @ \$10/hr, 15 weeks)	
2. Staff Assistants (2) . . . . .	2,250.
(15 hrs/week @ \$5/hr, 15 weeks)	
3. Secretarial . . . . .	2,200.
(20 weeks @ \$110/week)	
4. Workshop Participants . . . . .	4,750.
(\$25/workshop session/participant)	
5. Consultants . . . . .	3,750.
(50/workshop session)	
B. Travel	
1. Staff . . . . .	1,500.
2. Consultant . . . . .	1,000.
C. Supplies, Telephone, and Postage	
1. Office Supplies . . . . .	250.
2. Duplicating and Printing . . . . .	750.
3. Telephone . . . . .	150.
4. Postage . . . . .	100.
D. Educational Materials	
1. Library Reference Books and Materials . . . . .	250.
E. Total . . . . .	\$19,950.

APPENDIX B  
PROPOSED BUDGET

PROPOSED BUDGET  
(based on 100 students for an academic year)

## A. Personnel

1. Director . . . . .	\$20,000.
2. Staff . . . . .	10,000.
a. 500 hours @ \$10/hour to be disbursed for staff assistance as needed . . . . .	(5,000.)
b. 200 hours @ \$10/hour for consultants . . . . .	(2,000.)
c. 200 hours @ \$15/hour for faculty functions specifically . . . . .	(3,000.)

(The director will have the discretionary authority to use a disbursement rate of \$15/hour for the essentially humanistic services and functions which involve his staff in the intensive, supportive interaction with students which is mandated by the highly individualized optional approach.)

## 3. Secretarial

a. 40 hours/week @ \$4/hour . . . . .	8,000.
b. 800 hours @ \$2.50/hour for clerical assistance . . . . .	2,000.

4. Participation in Adjunct Learning  
Facilitation Center—750 hours @ \$10/hr . . . . . 7,500.5. Instructional personnel  
4,000 hours @ \$15/hr . . . . . 60,000.

## B. Travel—staff and consultant travel . . . . . 600.

## C. Supplies, Telephone, and Postage

1. Office Supplies . . . . .	900.
2. Duplicating and Printing . . . . .	2,800.
3. Telephone . . . . .	400.
4. Postage . . . . .	300.

D.	Educational Materials—any and all materials necessary for the production of learning faciliation center. . . . .	\$2,500.
E.	Total. . . . .	\$115,000.
	Less \$15,000 tuition. . . . .	-15,000.
	Total Budget Allotment . . . . .	\$100,000.

APPENDIX C  
SAMPLE LEARNING CONTRACT



SAMPLE LEARNING CONTRACT  
Chicago State

This Educational Contract is made among the following parties:

(1) \_\_\_\_\_, UWW student at Chicago State University; (2) Attorney Alderman William Cousins, Jr.; (3) Assistant Professor of Political Science Peter Diaconoff; (4) Dr. William Charland, Director of the University Without Walls program.

\_\_\_\_\_, as part of his educational goals toward a Bachelor's Degree at Chicago State University, agrees to:

1. Work at the law office of Attorney William Cousins, Jr., doing legal research, filing, and assisting in the fact finding, preparation, and organization of legal work, in general, and other duties as assigned.
2. Work at the Ward 8 Aldermanic office of William Cousins, Jr., acting in the role of administrative assistant. This would include duties such as:
  - (a) assisting in the problem solving and regular duties of an alderman;
  - (b) attending political functions in connection with Alderman Cousins;

- (c) working with Ward 8 community organizations;
  - (d) assisting in the preparation of proposals to be presented to the city council.
3. Complete and submit a series of three (3) articles based on social or political issues affecting either Alderman Cousins' members of the 8th Ward or the city of Chicago as a whole. The articles are to be submitted at the end of each month, beginning with the month of October.
  4. Serving in part as background material for said articles mentioned in Section 3 of this contract shall be portions of the following books:
    - A. Somerville, John, and Santoni, Ronald E., *Social and Political Philosophy* (Doubleday and Co., Inc.) 1963.
    - B. Alinsky, Saul D., *Rules for Radicals* (Random House, Vintage) 1971.
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5. In addition to those things mentioned in sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this learning agreement, \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ agrees to:

- A. Attend a course at Chicago State University in State Government, meeting once a week (Political Science 351).
- \*B. Attend a music theory course at Chicago State University meeting four times a week.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ also agrees to meet with his faculty advisor, Peter Diaconoff, twice monthly to confer with him on matters relating to politics.

\*Class represented being dropped as of 9/28/76.

_____	_____
	Date
_____	_____
Attorney William Cousins	Date
_____	_____
Peter Diaconoff	Date
_____	_____
Dr. William Charland	Date



