

A WORLD SYSTEM OF UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

Colleges and Universities as we have known them gobble up young people and process them into specialized servants of civilization. Young people are trained (to confine their thinking to established disciplines and restrict their behavior to established patterns) by older people who are themselves quite confined and restricted. But, since the glories/tyrannies of civilization are incompatible with our continued survival on Spaceship Earth, it is necessary to transform these institutions.

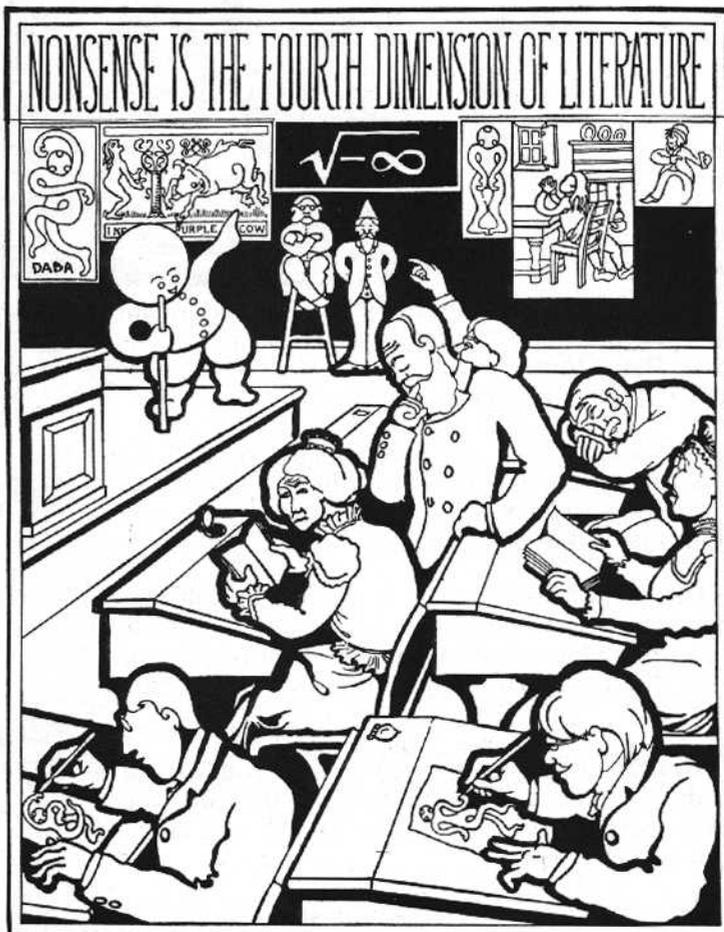
The word "university" implies an institution concerned with the universe, an institution concerned with individuals as whole human beings in relation to their whole environments. So let's imagine a university system which includes all people as members and which is designed to enable us to continually learn a better living in the universe. This would be a general organization, conterminous with "society," which would enable us to cooperatively integrate our lives, formulate basic policy decisions, and share the joys and struggles of sentient existence. Through this university, we would have access to the accumulated wisdom and technology of humanity.

Let's begin by recognizing that each person is a self-organizing system and constitutes a university in her (sic) own right. Individual universities can form family universities, family universities can form neighborhood universities, and so on. Within family universities, we can learn to be loving and healthful in the primary activities of living. Within neighborhood universities, we can provide for kindergartens, seminar and information facilities, suitable homes and gardens, a transportation pool, etc. At the community scale, we could support a cooperative store, a basic health care team, a small research and development group focusing on housing, food production, waste management and communications, an exchange program with other communities around the world, and such other facilities as may be appropriate for seventeen hundred self-actualizing persons. At each degree of scale, there might be a university council with responsibility for orchestration of living/learning so as to achieve optimum synergy. The university councils would work to insure that we do not lose sight of whole human beings and communities as we move to develop and apply our knowledge and technologies. Concurrently, the colleges would work to insure that our concern for the well-being of all human beings everywhere will not bog down in mere good intentions but will be supported by a surge of creative activity, each person being enabled to make his or her special contributions.

GRASP, Group Research and Articulation Systems Project
Don Benson, Mud Creek Road, RR 1
Murphysboro, Illinois 62966



This program is to give people from 14-18 an alternative to learning in the conventional schools. We want to help provide contact between apprentice and master, student and mentor, learners and teachers all over the country. "Apprenticeships" have traditionally been the way of teaching crafts and trades. We think that trading some work for learning from and with someone is a good way of learning ANYTHING. A distinction that has to be made is that in some fields the apprentice may actually be qualified to do the work after the apprenticeship is over, for instance, be a weaver. But in some fields, though he may learn a lot, he will still have to go through qualifying or licensing procedures to actually be able to practice. The point of the apprenticeship in these fields, like medicine or law, is that the apprentice will have a better idea of what it is like, and have some realistic basis on which to decide whether he wants to go on.



THE NONSENSE SCHOOL