

Ability to learn is a process, not a barrier

EDUCATION:

An Unusual Look

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Under the flag of the United States all individuals are guaranteed the right to an adequate education. Does that right to adequate education mean to be taught by rote or by using the power of the mind? Does that right mean "if you don't learn as we teach you" there is no educational development?

Education, ability to learn, has no race or sex barriers surrounding it. The ability to think is a process, not a barrier. Just as there is a chemical process to one's body so is there a chemical process to thought. When science understands this chemistry of thought a breakthrough for all kinds of learning disabilities will be understood and many of those disabilities can be

corrected and learning then can take place properly.

Learning has always been present among all peoples of the world. It should be fun and can be fun. Among indigenous America the learning process was present long before academia came along.

Learning begins when questions and curiosity become apparent at whatever age. It is strange how all youngsters at a certain age are ready to be taught.

Not so — children have different learning times. It is not necessarily true that the younger a child's learning sensors begin the better the child fits into the world. Ever hear of burn-out — young people develop that too. Let a child live in the child's world and enjoy that time in life.

If a child is deprived of this experience in this partic-

ular time in his/her life then it will crop up at a later time when a need for psychiatric counseling will be necessary to unravel why behavior is not acceptable.

Each developmental process, from egg cell to adult, plays an important aspect in the maturing of a human and that human cannot be denied this experience. It is an aspect of creation and development that is inalienable to all humans.

Deny it, — there's problems — understand and develop it, a better adjusted human being is nurtured.

There are two types of education, acquired and innate. This also could be referred to as academic and survival. The latter is not too well known. Both have to be present to complete a true education cycle. One without the other is like a bird with a broken wing and can't fly.

Academic is that which one receives in school — readin', ritin', 'rithmetic. Survival can go along with this very easily. Example: everything in the

universe is balanced and is enclosed as a circle, cycle, etc. It is well known through schooling that there are 360 degrees in a complete circle. There are "x" numbers in a cycle. The circle can be broken up into many parts thus creating fractions and so can a cycle have many parts. Instead of constantly dwelling on memorizing rules for this or that — what's wrong with helping the learner to think things through before memorizing?

One plus one equals two may be correct in academia but how do you reply to that youngster who comes from another cultural group that says — "Not so, teacher. In my cultural group we are raised to survive and we know that if you have one dog and no other dog you all of a sudden have two, three, four or many dogs. I have one mother and one father that does not always make two. Something is wrong!!!???"

How does present day education cope with that person? To me, if a youngster has dis-

played this type of thought process — that person is a genius or has genius capabilities. Not necessarily an "A" or "B" student but a thinking one.

That's what is needed to be developed. Many educators are not trained to understand this type of youngster and we do have many of these types in those groups that English is not their mother tongue.

The schools of today and from times past have drilled that one plus one is two. What's wrong with saying one, one put with it, two it will be or could be? "Is" according to the English language closes the door. "Will be or could be" leaves the door open for all kinds of possibilities.

Nothing in nature has a closed door, there are always possibilities. And if you have a bear on your tail and that door is closed — how do you expect to get to safety?

There is such a thing as reading arithmetic, writing arithmetic and talking arithme-

Silence is often a sign of wisdom

Continued from Page Twenty-Three) tic. All different learning experiences with the same end result — understanding the mathematical process. The same is true of English, reading, and a number of other subjects.

How are you going to respond to that youngster who asks, "Why do I have to stay in the lines when I color?" Who out there in the world can give a logical reply? If not, why not!!! There is an answer, you know.

Why is it necessary to teach differences in social studies? Why not, instead, dwell on the similarities? If the likes were taught all the people of the world would be standing in that same circle looking at each other in astonishment at the sudden awareness that we have

more in common than we realized.

We are not teaching amity, we are teaching separateness. Implying, differences are the standard for survival. I wish someone would remind The Creator of this. Wonder what the reaction would be?

We are all free spirits, each designed to fulfill a specific reason for being created and to carry forth an ever advancing civilization. In this time of outer space awareness and scientific advancement we desperately need the use of the mind.

In this space age cycle of man's awareness — how is man to survive? What happens to all those people who know nothing about survival but are full of degrees and educational constipation without any practical knowledge? We, as a so-

ciety, should be very concerned. Will space bring us food when it is needed? Will space provide us with shelter when there is nothing left in the world to improvise one with? Will space help us to find those needed natural food-stuffs for body survival?

What is to happen when the earth is so environmentally clean that nature cannot produce fuels for us to keep warm? What will happen if the atmosphere becomes so polluted that the sun's rays are so weakened the earth gets cooler and cooler? Where will academia be then? Think about it — it could occur in our lifetime.

We need space awareness but at a moderate rate rather than extreme. The whole aspect of education is to help

one think in an orderly fashion and to survive. It is different for everyone but the awareness for understanding is everyone's need. We each learn at a different pace and our capacities are at varying degrees and levels, so we do need each other.

We, in indigenous America, knew long ago that without the sun nothing in the world as we know it would exist. Therefore, we respect the sun and the power behind it. We also know that the most powerful existing force in the universe is WORDS.

They can justly or unjustly label a person for the rest of his/her entire life. Therefore we say, "Guard what comes out of your mouth with all your power. As long as you don't utter it you have control.

"The minute you speak you have lost control and someone else has mastery over you." Consequently . . . the silence in many instances of indigenous life. It's hard for western society to understand this — what with their noisy, oft-times, meaningless expressions.

I would like many times to tell western society to shut up and listen to yourself. This carries over into classrooms, business boardrooms, committees, government, and in all aspects of living in the modern life. Then we wonder what is happening to the education standards in America.

How many of you who are reading or listening to this have ever heard and listened to the conversation of a running stream? It's there, you know.

Are we too busy running ahead to fail to see what we left behind? What we left behind may be the key to unlock all kinds of survival situations in the future. We need both past and present, but we need them for individual development and to leave the world in a better situation than when we arrived.

We also need to leave it balanced — as it was created in the beginning. Einstein is attributed to have said, "We are spiritual gnats and scientific giants." True today as it was in his time. It's strange man is the only living thing on earth that can make a choice of yes or no, I will or I won't, and look how man has chosen to neglect the greatest commodity of all, MANKIND.

We all need to travel this life with practical feet. We need to find a median for extremes — too much or lack of. Society needs this moderation to continue to exist in all aspects of life or we will be like that bird with a broken wing. So does education need this median — too much rote and not enough mind challenge can be very crippling. There is a median, who out there will help me find it?