



*What an organization does*

is the best indication of what it is. And the various activities described in this catalog give, perhaps, the clearest picture of what the Midpeninsula Free University is all about. Yet since what we are doing falls short of what we hope to do it has been felt that some statement of our intentions is necessary. We feel that the American educational establishment has proven incapable of meeting the needs of our society. It often discourages students from thinking critically, and does not afford them meaningful training to help them understand the crucial issues confronting mankind today. Bound to the existing power structure, and handicapped by modes of thought fostered by big business, by the military establishment, by consensus politics, and by the mass media, it is unable to consider freely and objectively the cultural, economic, and political forces so rapidly transforming the modern world. The present educational system in fact defends the status quo, perpetuating its evils and perils. The system has become rigid; it is no longer receptive to meaningful change. A revolution in American education is required to meet today's needs, and a new type of education--a free university--must provide the impetus for change.

*therefore we affirm:*

- That freedom of inquiry is the cornerstone of education.
- That each individual must generate his own most vital questions and program his own education, free from central control by administrative bureaucracies and disciplinary oligarchies.
- That the class character of age in our society subverts education, and that the young are not too young to teach, nor the old too old to learn.
- That education is not a commodity, and should not be measured out in units, grade points, and degrees.
- That education aims at generality rather than specialization, and should supply the glue which cements together our fragmented lives.
- That education is a process involving the total environment, which can only occur in a total community, in which each individual participates equally in making the decisions which importantly affect his life.
- That education which has no consequences for social action or personal growth is empty.
- That action which does not raise our level of consciousness is futile.
- That the ultimate politics will be based on knowledge, liberty, and community, rather than on hate, fear, or guilt.
- That the most revolutionary thing we can do is think for ourselves, and regain contact with our vital centers.
- That the most important questions which confront us must be asked again and again and answered again and again, until the millenium comes.

*that the natural state of man is ecstatic wonder.*

*that we should not settle for less.*