

Masters Manipulate Searching Souls

By Lisa McDowell

It is strange that someone can be so influential as to persuade hundreds of people to kill themselves. There are many preachers, teachers, and other professionals who cannot reach that many people in a positive way, yet somehow a single man was able to develop a cult of people, mold their beliefs, and control their actions to the extent of having them commit suicide.

One wonders if the Reverend Jim Jones gained much satisfaction from this manipulation of other human beings.

Everyone experiences times of doubting and questioning their religion, standards, values, and morals. With so many different ways to look at life, it is sometimes difficult for people to decide what they believe in and what they will use as a basis for living their lives. Even when these decisions are made, one will always wonder why he feels the way he does. It is in the search for this answer that one becomes vulnerable to the ideas of others and may accept the first ones they happen to encounter.

A system of beliefs is like a security blanket. It serves as a foundation upon which to build one's life. We know that in the cult of The Peoples' Temple over 900 members killed themselves. They thought their church was in danger of being abolished, and they had been led to believe that death was preferable to living without the kind of religion they were accustomed to practicing. They had developed such a strong security in their beliefs that there was no desire for change. Those few who did want to change, to leave the cult, were wasting their time; for, in light of what we now know, freedom from the group was unquestionable.

One of man's most vital needs is happiness. After basic needs such as food and physical security are met, love and acceptance seem to be the next most important needs. Love is as different to each person as is religion. Perhaps it is in the knowledge that these cult members found such security in sharing common beliefs and in finding acceptance within the cult that we can begin to find some possible explanation for the mass suicides in Guyana.

Life would be easier to understand if everyone felt the same about everything, but it would also be dull. People are told to be individuals, to do their own thing, whatever feels good and makes you happy as long as it doesn't hurt others. No matter how different we may seem to be, we all have one thing in common -- we all believe in something.

Most of us have a god of some kind. What God is to each individual cannot ever be summarized, yet we all are searching, and forever learning, and forever astonished.

Brief Farewell

The editing of a newspaper is more of a task than many people ever imagine, but I have loved every minute that I have been on the HIGH LIFE staff.

I began as a sports reporter in the second semester of my sophomore year, advanced to Sports Editor my junior year, and finally to Editor-in-Chief this semester. I say with no hesitation that it is the most rewarding learning exper-

ience I have had at Grimsley. I have learned much about myself from the articles and editorials I have written, but more importantly, I have learned about other people.

There are so many things that have to be done in order to put out a paper, and it is not possible without a totally cooperative staff. I am happy to say that no matter how many mistakes are made and how many deadlines are missed,

Soccer Team Upset To the Editor:

In the past issues I have noticed that the sports section of HIGH LIFE has not had any or little coverage of the soccer team or games. Soccer is as much a part of Grimsley athletics as is football or basketball. How could anyone be so low as to totally ignore the fastest growing sport in America. Even though the team came through with a less than satisfying record (3-10-1), they still deserve as much advertisement and recognition as any of the other sports at Grimsley. Soccer is much like football when it comes to fan support. When fans are screaming it gets the team psychologically ready to play. But how, may I ask, can we get fans to come out and support soccer when nobody even knows when the games are played. The so-called newspaper did not even publish a schedule of when the games were played! The season is now over. The damage is done. Soccer does not even raise enough money to buy balls too practice with. The students enjoy soccer as much as football. But the team got hardly any mention in the news paper or on the announcements. An announcement was written for the first game of the season. The first time it was said was the only time it was said in its entirety. My opinion is that

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the HIGH LIFE staff has always come through with one of the best high school newspapers in the nation. Compliments could continue, but I will stop here to give a big THANKS! to everyone who is responsible in any way in the making of this paper. To the staff -- I know that my leaving will not hinder the production you are capable of, and I'll be around for a while because journalism is in my blood. To Kathy Sroog, former advisor, I will always be grateful for the independence and responsibility forced upon me. To Lynn Tanner -- I am sorry I do not have more time to work with you. Thank you for all your organization. It is helping and will continue to help the staff more than you know.

Finally, I extend my deepest gratitude to all the folks at Stone Printing Company who have been so patient with our late copy, crooked pictures, and ignorance about printing. I have learned more about journalism from Stone than from anywhere else.

I will miss my associations with all these people, but new doors are opening. Thanks to you for reading.

Lisa McDowell
Editor-in-Chief

Opinions

To The Editor

ICT Survey Results

The Industrial Cooperative Training II class, taught by Mr. Musselwhite, has just completed a survey of students at Grimsley. A total of 153 students were interviewed concerning their attitudes on energy conservation.

A hypothetical situation, in which it was necessary to cut use of energy substantially, was presented to each interviewee. Sixteen proposals were geared toward the high school age person. The interviewee was instructed to rate each proposal on a scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The following is the survey as it was presented to the students:

Energy Conservation Survey

Let us assume that it is necessary to cut back our use of energy substantially. The following are proposals to accomplish this task. Rate each proposal as follows:

- A. I strongly agree with the proposal.
- B. I agree with the proposal.
- C. I can't make up my mind on it.
- D. I disagree with the proposal.
- E. I strongly disagree with the proposal.

WE SHOULD:

- 1. Increase the price of gasoline by 50 cents a gallon to cut down on gasoline use.
- 2. Increase the age at which a person can get a driver's license from 16 to 18.
- 3. Lower air pollution standards so industries can burn high sulfur coal rather than oil or natural gas.
- 4. Ban all students from driving to school if bus transportation is available.
- 5. Ban all driving of private cars on Sunday.
- 6. Ration gasoline so every driver can obtain only a certain amount.
- 7. Ban the use of recreational vehicles such as campers, minibikes, snowmobiles, and pleasure motorboats.

8. Reduce city streetlights by at least 25 percent.

9. Ban auto racing to save fuel.

10. Ban the use of all nonessential household appliances such as electric garage-door openers, electric can openers, color TV's, electric toothbrushes, garbage disposals, blenders, and stereo systems.

11. Double the price of electricity and natural gas to discourage household use.

12. Require all schools to have a three-month winter break rather than a three-month summer break to save fuel.

13. Ban the use of air conditioners in all buildings with windows.

14. Reduce oil imports by 20 percent.

15. Reduce oil and natural gas supplies to all industries by 20 percent.

16. Lower pollution standards on new cars so they can get better mileage.

Some of the results of the survey were quite telling. The proposals meeting with greatest opposition were the banning of driving of private cars on Sunday, with 90.2% opposed; doubling the price of electricity and natural gas to discourage household use, 88.4% opposed; and banning the use of all nonessential household appliances such as electric garage door openers, electric can openers, color TV's, electric tooth brushes, garbage disposals, blenders, and stereo systems, 84.2% opposed.

The proposals receiving most support, though below 50%, were lowering pollution standards on new cars so they can get better mileage, 44.5% in favor; reducing oil and natural gas supplies to all industries by 20%, 31.5% in favor; and reducing city street lights by at least 25%, 25.9% in favor.

The proposals generating the greatest amount of uncertainty

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Just A Thought

Have you ever thought how lucky you are to be living where you do?

Do you ever wonder about life midst the horror of nobody caring for you?

Have you ever been thankful for being alive even when times are rough?

With the thought that things will have to get better 'cause they couldn't be any more tough.

The next time you find yourself climbing the walls, wondering what's going on,

Just slow yourself down and don't you worry, this feeling won't last too long.

Just tell yourself calmly that things will get better, repeat this each day and each night.

Think of your future and the good things to come, then you will feel all right.

-Lisa McDowell



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