

# A Student View— The American Dream

(Continued from page 2)

society. Because we fear the changes technology demands we make in basic social constructs such as the work ethic, we relegate our technology to an enforced impotence. We embrace technology only so far as it serves existing structures and concepts. But when technology begins demanding that we rethink the validity of tradition, we begin to run scared. We ignore the lesson of a true technology — that it, in its best sense, functions always to continuously incorporate an ever-changing reality. By helping us to live within the constant flux of contemporary life, technology can humanize and make visible and less frightening the forces of change.

There is an incredible beauty about a technology which can represent all the possible choices one has in dealing with reality and the continual conscious effort one must make to incorporate change into even the most basic life patterns. We must learn to apply, in a technological sense, the idea of working with all possibilities, all elements, all truth, all reality if we are to survive our expanded, intensified, mindblowing

environment.

We live in a world that offers us no illusions about our role in

again at 11 and feel nothing. A lot of people talk about Vietnam and poverty and air pollution in a strange, detached, uncaring way that seems more horrible to me than any college student calling a policeman a "pig."

I care. I care so much about what happens in this crazy global village of ours that I find it incredibly ridiculous that I be expected to sublimate my concern for some very real problems to a tradition that happens to have been around longer than I.



Our task is to see and to see what is, not what we want to see or what we have been told we should see there.

Our world is an imperative. In order to answer that imperative, we must have a hard, clear vision of the reality of that world — a vision apart from an illusionary heritage or the concept of an improbable American dream. Our task is to see or what we have been told we should see there.

This vision does demand a revolution. But revolution is neither an obscenity nor an epiphany but a fact of life. We are constantly a part of a world that is changing, moving, yes, revolving during every split second of time. The changes that wrench many of us are merely the natural movements of this revolving life force. Our technology is no monster but merely the manifestation of this same life force. And we are no strangers in a strange land but creatures of the living revolution of an imperative world.

society; we must either take the responsibility for what we have created or become the victims of our own creation. Either we confront change or the dragon Change will devour us. We no longer have even Santayana's option of repeating the mistakes of history, for we in this nuclear age risk eliminating history altogether.

I know a lot of people — the president of my college and the governor of my state, for example — who would much rather I concentrate on something safe like the good-looking guy in my junior seminar than on something as risky as the future of the world. But the future of the world happens to be my future too. I'm getting a little nervous now that we seem not to have made the world safe for democracy or even for ourselves after all.

I do worry too much but mostly because a lot of people don't worry enough. A lot of people watch the news at 6 and

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Copies of this message available from Scotts, the grass people, Marysville, Ohio 43040. No reprint permission necessary.

... AND ALL THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE EAT AT HARRY'S, AND THE PLACE TO GET YOUR CLOTHES IS THE GOOD WILL; THAT'S A GAS. NOW FOR CHICKS, AND YOU LISTEN TO ME BABY, 'CAUSE I'M HIP, YOU GO TO THE ART CLASSES. THOSE BIRDS BLOW THEIR MINDS ON THE POETRY-WINE-WOODS SCENE. NOW YOUR BEST MAJOR, SWEETIE, IS PSYCH 'CAUSE WITH ALL THAT INTER-RELATING AND ALL, THEY SWING MAN, I MEAN, THEY SWING! AND LOOK, KID, ABOUT BREAD: DON'T FOOL AROUND. KEEP A HUNDRED DOLLARS IN NCNB AND WRITE FREE CHECKS. NO SERVICE CHARGES AND ALL THAT JAZZ. IT GIVES YOU A FEW EXTRA BILLS A MONTH TO...



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