

critically the reasons for the increasing breakdown of family life as it shows up in the high divorce statistics, child abuse, and teen-age suicide and pregnancy rates. All of this needs to be probed, especially in relation to our growing knowledge of the character and personality formation in the critical learning years of childhood, between the ages of three and five.

When we also look at how children are exploited by television violence, pornography merchants and drug peddlars, we should be filled with shame.

By the time the average child graduates from high school, he or she will have witnessed 18,000 fictionalized violent deaths on TV. Violence has now become an accepted form of entertainment, thus giving the child a distorted view of proper moral and ethical behaviour.

How is it that a society priding itself on civilized social values allows itself to be victimized by the pornography merchants who do not even hesitate to use children in their nefarious business? Degradation of the human person is objectionable in whatever form it takes; but degradation of the person of the child is especially intolerable.

The drug culture also exploits young people. The size and youthfulness of the drug-using population is known to be growing, with children increasingly exposed to a greater variety and availability of dangerous drugs.

Readily available alcohol is another well-known trap awaiting children.

It is not easy growing up in the modern world and, as the father of five children, I salute young people for meeting head-on and, in most cases, triumphing over the obstacles we have placed in their path. It is a tribute to the resilience of today's young generation that they cope as well as they do in a culture that is only now beginning to realize that technology alone is not the answer to a more human existence.

We need more programs to relieve the harm done to those children who are dispirited, angry and withdrawn. But we need even more the full attention of society on ways to help children grow into mature, responsible and caring adults. This means nurturing their environment while they are young and surrounding them with a community of values which opens their minds and hearts to the needs of their fellow humans throughout the world.

As a measure of this opening to the needs of others...a CBC/Radio Canada television special will show young people across Canada how man's survival on our shrinking planet requires a new spirit of co-operation and collaboration. Entitled "Why Should I Care" this project, sponsored by the Canadian Red Cross and the UNICEF Committee of Canada, has also prepared audio-visual kits for 285,000 teachers and 6 million students. Two days later, on World United Nations Day, every school in Canada will focus on international understanding and development issues. This project, the largest educational one ever funded by the Canadian International Development Agency,

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