

As you go on into fields of less elementary knowledge and in pursuit of greater detail of information and more understanding of history, human thought, or nature you will be faced with difficult decisions on how to circumscribe - how to limit - your choice of an area of knowledge in which you would like to become competent. No one today can possibly approach even the comprehension of total ^{one of} human knowledge. Not even within the broad categories named is it possible to become conversant with more than a tiny fraction of accumulated information. You will soon discover that you will be forced to, whether you wish to or not, choose a narrow field of endeavor. That is, this course will be forced upon you provided the pursuit of knowledge, scholarship, ^{or} artistic ~~appreciation~~ - creativity - is your goal. No matter how broad ~~you~~ and genuine your curiosity and eagerness for knowledge is you will discover that you cannot be omniscient, ^{Not can you do everything} that for greatest self-satisfaction you will have to concentrate your efforts in some particular direction. This does not mean that you will forego wide interests; on the contrary I hope you will, throughout your lives, ~~XXXXXX~~ concern yourselves with the affairs of people, their preoccupations and their goals. But unless you merely wander through life as a detached observer, ^m uncommitted and unparticipating, you will probably find that dedication to a particular interest and striving along a definite course of activity will best fulfill your aspirations.

The underlying difficulty in making this choice is to discover your ~~talent or~~ talents and to coordinate them with a way of life which will ~~best~~ most fully your choices of a design of living - usually materialistically called a career - which will best fit your personality and ^{and} idiosyncracies to promise the greatest chance for satisfying your fulfillment.

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A few of you perhaps think you already know what pursuit you want to make your life work, and for a smaller number this choice may be followed happily throughout your lives. But for the majority, if your experience proves to be like that of most young people today, you do not know, you do not even have a basis for making the choice, you do not even know what the choices are. You~~y~~ are like the little boy who wants to be a fireman because he has seen the exciting side of a fireman's life and has accumulated no framework of experience ~~in which~~ for evaluating it. There is nothing wrong about this predicament - it ^{the} actually has ~~great~~ advantages of open-minded detachment from premature commitment. As you go on into higher fields of education and the doors of knowledge swing open to reveal the vast unexplored and unknown realms available for exploration, you will probably experience that anguish of indecision caused by too many opportunities, too many choices. In order to reduce your bewilderment and confusion you may make quick decisions as to the direction you wish to go based on the apparent attractiveness of one course as opposed to another.

What I want to caution you against is the making ~~of~~ too quick decisions, ~~too~~ too facile commitments. But if you do, be not dismayed should you find that you have made a wrong choice. When you know this do not hesitate to go into reverse or change your direction. There is nothing worse than leading a life for years and years that you know deep inside has been founded on a mistaken decision in your youth. ^(As a high school student) I, for instance, ~~thought~~ thought I wanted to be a chemist. I was influenced by a ^{my} inspired teacher. In college chemistry became biochemistry and then medicine. In medical school, under the influence again of a great teacher, biochemistry became channelled into the field of bacteriology and immunology and after graduating from medical school I continued to teach and work in this field. But I could not live up

to the expectations of my mentor who had great hopes for me as a researcher in biological sciences. He was a romantic as well as a great man and I had enough romantic fantasy in me too ^{to} carry me along for ten years in the belief that I would make some great discovery. But the discovery never materialized so that gradually the realization that I was not cut out for this kind of a career became inescapable certainty. Fortunately, I had for years been interested in photography which I had pursued as an avocation and hobby. From time to time I would show my work to Alfred Stieglitz who criticized it mercilessly but always with the faintly encouraging comment that to become a successful creative photographer - by which he meant an artist - required a lot of hard work and dedication. And so instead of being discouraged I tried harder, I bought better and bigger cameras. Then one fall day when I was showing him my latest pictures he suddenly announced that he wanted to show them. This was the impetus that made me realize that I had been working all along on the wrong endeavor. I had been too much influenced and flattered by the scientists in my young life. Now I saw that creativity lay as deeply in the practice of art as it did in the beauty and precision and constraints of science. It was my own life I had to lead, not the lives of my teachers or of those who had gotten used to thinking of me in a certain category, and I determined to follow my ^{better judgement} ~~instinct~~ in the direction that held out the greatest promise for satisfaction and fulfillment ^{accomplishment}.

At first my practice of photography was rather dispersed, it had no direction, it was simply photography for photography's sake with the single exception of a long ^{established} ~~lasting~~ fascination with bird photography. But even this interest was bird photography for its own sake. I am not saying that pure photography is not valid - it is - but it is more difficult to make a career of it than by ~~relating~~ ^{relating} photography to some other purpose. In my case, under the influence of

those closest to me, I began to see photography associated with my other ^{purposes} interests, using it not simply as an art medium, but for its potential as an instrument of revelation to others, or propaganda, or to undermine accepted ^{Wrong} points of view, in other words as a means of persuasion to make people change their beliefs and conduct. This task is not easy, people are not readily persuaded. They resist and erect barriers against even the ^{presentation} ~~contemplation~~ of arguments that attack their convictions. Some, however, will succumb to persuasion and they will influence others ~~xxxx~~ to entertain alternatives to ingrained beliefs.

The uses of photography that I have more or less drifted into are to support the cause of conservation. But this is only one use of photography: it can be used, as well as for a multiplicity of technical purposes, to alerting people to social situations and to promoting social improvement as it has been used to expose the injustices and degradation in the condition of the lives of share-croppers, and ^{and the victims of war.} the inhabitants of urban slums. In its most forceful and persuasive use photography need only record the evidence. Of course photography will be accused of distortion and lying, but in its depiction of the human predicament the emphasis and selection, as in photographs of ^{rather than exaggerates} war and poverty, almost always unintentionally softens ~~the~~ unpleasant aspects of the conditions it attempts to dramatize most forcefully. The same is true when photography is used to show the devastations produced by man's works. The utter desolation visible on the scene of operation is almost impossible to reveal in photographs. It can merely be suggested in the same way that the beauty of a place can hardly more than be implied by selected subjects.

To learn from the experience of others is the most difficult of all lessons simply because we possess no infallible measuring rod for determining which experiences are founded on sound premises. and which are expressions of unmitigated prejudice. The majority of us want +

If you should go into the field of photography don't become a stereotype. Don't follow one school or group; be open minded and critical and try all techniques . Try to find out for ypurself which processes and methods are the most valid means of exploiting your individual tastes and talents. By this advice I do not mean that you should avoid the influence of other photographers or artists. Influence is unavoidable since originality rarely springs full blown from the mind and sensibilities of any one person. All our ideas are to a large extent derivative from the ideas and experience of those who have preceeded us; we can hope to add only a little of our own. But at the same time don't allow yourself to become a slave to the point of view of him who influenced you most and whom you admire.

This advice - if I may presume to advise - is applicable also generally to all other activities. The^e bureaucrats fearful of making decisions on their own, who refer always to higher authority, lead humdrum safe pedestrian/lives. They never are fired and they never advance; they don't even qualify for Thoreau's categorization of men who lead lives of quiet desperation. To question authority is becoming almost a requirement today for those who long for a more livable world than

the one they have inherited. Authority is so often allied with prejudicial interest that it cannot be trusted to give an impartial opinion. We have become so accustomed to deferring to the expert in matters that involve foreign and domestic policy that we almost forget our ~~XXXXXX~~ deep concern with ~~and~~ right to a quality of life commensurate with the potential of nature, which is being destroyed under our very gaze by selfish ^{and ignorant} interests.

The burdens of the world created by the mismanagement of past generations, ~~still accumulating and escalating~~, have been thrust upon you, the young, ~~to face up to and to remedy~~. At the same time that you have been handed, without ^{asking for it} consultation, a great responsibility you have been offered an equally great opportunity to redesign and rebuild the human society ^{including} with all its ramifications and interrelationships with the total living environment. This is a task that every coming generation has to face, although today it is a more difficult task than ever before, because never have the problems that man must solve been so interwoven with his very survival. The youth of all countries confronts the necessity to reappraise the role of mankind in a world troubled by the profligate spending of its finite and shrinking reserves. And you the representatives of ~~XX~~ the most serious and dedicated and capable of your generation stand at the spear head of this confrontation. The hope of mankind has always been in its youth, but the young have not always accepted the challenge. Today the situation is changing as a result of the failure of your parents and grandparents, the elder statesmen, the administrators and legislators, the policy makers and executives who are the old men who send you to war, who make the short sighted decisions as to the disposal of your birthright, and think ~~XXXX~~ in terms of temporary materialistic ^{advantage} gain, not the health and happiness of posterity. Youth today is manifesting its concern for

