

# GLOBAL CONCEPTS



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G.A.M.E. NEWSLETTER

Vol. 22 no.3

FALL 2004

## MANNY'S CORNER

### State of Global and Multicultural Education for 2004

Year 2004 has been a good and enriching year for G.A.M.E

\* First our proposal to hire a grant writer/officer manager was funded by the Ewing M.Kauffman Fund for Greater Kansas City. This was wonderful news for the organization that had to rely on its board members and directors to perform all the organization's tasks. The search for a grant writer produced a long list of highly qualified individuals. As it was reported (Spring 2004 issue), the selection committee was extremely pleased to select a candidate we felt was able to meet our grant objectives and to provide an opportunity for our diverse activities for classroom teachers and the community at large. However, the grant money was for a short period of one year and without sufficient benefits, and our staff person departed for a more lucrative position. We are pleased to report that Scott Eggleston, who was recommended by a member and friend of G.A.M.E., was hired to serve as office manager. Scott is a senior at UMKC with a political science major. In addition, he is a member of the Kansas Army National Guard and he served as an intern for the Kerry/Edwards campaign and the Missouri Democratic Party in Eastern Jackson County. Scott performs many diverse tasks, including making a database for our resource books and publications at the Center.

\* Secondly, Sara Pedram was nominated and agreed to serve as co-director, to give Manny more time to focus on educational aspects of the organization

\* The third biennial Conference on the Rights of the Child at the Kauffman Foundation

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN Gregory Brown, Ph.D.

G.A.M.E. Members, Friends and Colleagues:

Writing this after November 2, it would be easy to agree with a commentator I heard just before the election who claimed that because Americans are so ignorant about the rest of the world, they are easily deceived.

The mission of G.A.M.E. is to try to dispel some of that ignorance. One of the ways we do that is by sponsoring conferences like the recent biennial Conference on the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC).

More details about the conference are available elsewhere in this newsletter. I just want to take a moment to share with you some of the flavor of the Conference as expressed by the high school students who were able to attend.

A number of students were genuinely surprised, astonished even, by the idea that children actually have rights...

"The very idea that children actually had rights was a novelty to me."

Many students expressed indignation upon learning that the U.S. has not yet ratified the CRC, joining Somalia as the only other country not to have done so yet.

A key aspect of the CRC is that children and youth have the right to be informed about their rights. And the Conference made a modest contribution in this respect. This experience was most gratifying because it showed me that I could make a difference. Another student said that "the Conference was most likely the best use of a school day we had in a long time."

Comments like these are extremely encouraging to those of us who still have faith in the power of education to lead to positive change in our world.



## Book Review

Joseph Derbolav and Daisaku Ikeda, *Search for A New Humanity*. Weatherhill, New York. First edition 1992.

At the end of the conference on Building A World Fit for Children, I had the honor of receiving a copy of *Search for a New Humanity* from Soka Gakkai International (SGI).

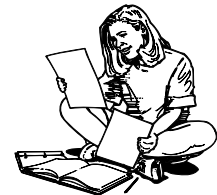
The interesting title and curiosity to learn about new humanity immediately attracted my attention. I was afraid I could not do justice to the author's true interpretation of events and issues, a dialogue book with constant change in movement, a change from one topic to the next from one view to another.

The book is a compilation of a series of major issues from tradition, modernization, ethics and religion to education and future. There are variety of sub-topics ranging from family, community, love, violence and delinquency, to absenteeism, vanishing forests, life-technology, war and peace. It is a dialogue between East and West, between the late Joseph Derbolav, a German author, and Daisaku Ikeda, President of Soka Gakkai International.

The dialogue demonstrates the cultural diversity and the conflicts arising between tradition and modernization and between western productivity and wealth. It focuses upon the contrast between eastern and western humanism, Christianity and Buddhism. The diversity of human attitudes in the east and the west, search for functionalism in the west and communal and traditional life are difficult to reconcile. In their dialogue, the two authors agree on some elements of similarity, such as agreement that ethics in general are based on religion, although there are variations even on this from one culture to the next. They both view ethics in practice, from politics and medical practice to judicial positions; the diversity of Buddhism and Christianity, similarity and differences. Both authors examine man's search for personal salvation, love in Christian religion and compassion in Buddhist

belief system, Christian dogma in the West and Incarnation doctrine of Buddhist societies. Education is viewed as "the formation of the individual being." They agree on "over emphasis" on acquiring knowledge through history "at the expense of moral and ethical training." Ikeda stresses the fact that the modern rapid scientific advances have placed even greater emphasis on acquiring knowledge. The final chapter is focused on the future, and the future is defined as "all the generations who will come after us," the future of mankind" and "life on earth," the human interdependence and natural world, the ecological issues and all other technological advances that have brought both advantages and disadvantages. There appears to be agreement that the unchecked growth in population, the urbanization and increase in pollution, loss of forests due to demand for lumber, contaminated waste and a host of other problems have created a dangerous atmosphere. People everywhere particularly in industrial societies are "playing fast and loose with the limited stocks of available resources." Mankind is "like a child playing with fire," Akeda proclaims.

They both agree on the need for a new sense of community, "a correct understanding of true relations between humanity and environment." In brief, the new humanity requires critical examination, self-control, inner examination, and a true human evolution by finding universal whole in everything we do



In 2003 UN Secretary-General KofiAnnan established the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change to investigate the fundamental question of whether the United Nations has\_\_or can be given\_\_the capacity to confront modern-day threats with an effective system of collective security.

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Conference Center was a marvelous event. Marty Scherr, with his long experience in Child Welfare League International and now as Senior Associate of Child Rights and Protection, was invited to provide a leading role in the conference. He also has taken a lead role in organizing a coalition in Washington, DC with which we are proudly working in pushing for the ratification of children's human rights. Other conference speakers included Mr. Lewis Duguid with the Kansas City Star, Vice-President and member of the editorial Board, and Dr. Janice Ellis, President of the Partnership for Children, who focused on the state of children in Kansas City.

Martin Rendon, Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy with UNICEF, provided an excellent overview and direction for the children of the world. The full text of Mr. Rendon's speech, as well as Mr. Duguid's, is located on our web site. The Soka Gakkai International (SGI) Exhibit, **Building a Culture of Peace for the Children of the World**, and participation of SGI members during the conference, provided a success story of cooperation and support. We only wished a hundred or more had the opportunity to come and visit this exhibit and participate actively in the conference. Thirty-six students, teachers from Shawnee Mission East, and Park College were present and made an enormous contribution with their ideas, views and involvement in the conference. The winner of the essay contest was Rachel Findley and her teacher was Mr. Paul DeBarthe.

We were delighted to receive **Governor Holden's proclamation** for our three conferences to educate, promote and sensitize the public and students for the need to ratify this human rights treaty for children.

\* A number of volunteers organized by Terri Chu and SGI facilitated the registration, and made the conference run smoothly



\* A group of UMKC students have chosen G.A.M.E. for their Community Day volunteer activity. In April and again in October, they contributed many hours of organizing the center's resource materials, making banners and assisting with various tasks.

\* **Sincere thanks to the financial support** from the following organizations for the CRC Conference

**American Century  
Irwin and Rita Blitt  
Buttonwood Financial Group  
Children International  
Congregation AMI of KC ( Dr. Bob Meneilly)  
Greater KC Community Foundation, Dr.  
Bob and Shirley Meneilly  
Karen Herman  
Physicians for Social Responsibility,  
Dr. Yolanda Huet-Vaughn  
Dr. Bob and Shirley Meneilly**

\* Looking to the future, in November we submitted an extensive proposal to the Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA Region VII) for educating teachers, students and



the public regarding the **"Myth and Reality of Global Warming"**.



\* Manny's desire to use the CRC selected articles as a measurement in evaluating local, regional laws, codes and legal acts as a university course for next summer as a part of UMKC Continuing Education is in the planning stage.

\* Finally, G.A.M.E. president, Dr. Gregory Brown, the board of directors and CRC steering committee must receive much credit for their dedication and support.

Sara and I, as co-directors wish to express our gratitude to everyone and extend an *invitation to you as members and friends of G.A.M.E. to join us for our annual Yuleboeck celebration and membership appreciation on Saturday, December 11, 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.*

*2005 is the International Year of Sport and Physical Education*

**GLOBAL CONCEPTS**  
**Newsletter of the Global**  
**and Multicultural Education**  
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**A non-profit organization**  
**3009 Holmes**  
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**Join the World: Become a member of G.A.M.E**

The strength of any organization depends upon the level of support and financial resources provided by its members and friends. G.A.M.E. is no exception. Please use this form to join us today.

**Membership Form**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Patrons ..... \$ 30.00 \_\_\_\_  
 Family ..... \$ 15.00 \_\_\_\_  
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I would like to contribute an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for educational use of the organization.

Your membership and contributions are tax exempt.

We thank you for your support.

Our Mission Statement: \_\_\_\_\_  
 G.A.M.E. assists in the enhancement of knowledge of  
 global interdependence and awareness and appreciation of our common humanity.