

The Environment

Alex Molnar

"Nuclear disarmament may be only a dramatic example of a quieter, more profound concern: the nature of the relationship between human beings and the planet they inhabit."

This issue of *Educational Leadership* introduces "Contemporary Issues and the Schools," a new feature that will appear about three times each year. In part a response to the resolution on critical contemporary issues adopted by the ASCD Board of Directors March 22, 1982, "Contemporary Issues and the Schools" has five purposes:

- To provide ASCD members with expert opinions on significant social issues
- To explore the connections, actual and possible, among social issues and school programs, instructional practices, and curriculum

- To establish a forum for expert/practitioner dialogue on social issues
- To inform ASCD members about resources and events pertinent to featured social issues
- To encourage ASCD members to consider and express their positions on social issues as part of their professional responsibility.

"Social Issues and the Schools" will have no editorial "party line." We welcome a variety of views and encourage readers to submit comments, suggest new issues, and nominate potential contributors. We also would be pleased to receive information about resources and events related to our featured social issues.

Every effort will be made to identify and publicize topics well in advance of publication dates so that interested readers may submit manuscripts for review. Unsolicited manuscripts describing school programs, curricula, or instructional practices relevant to a featured social issue will generally be given first consideration. Manuscripts submitted for publication should be from three to five pages, typed double-spaced. For more detailed information potential contributors should refer to the editorial guidelines for manuscripts submitted to *Educational Leadership*. These guidelines appear on the last page of the journal.

This month's "Social Issues and the Schools" features a report to the membership on the results of the social issues survey published in October 1982. Also featured are three articles examining environmental concerns.

As you review the survey results, you will no doubt be struck more by their similarities than their differences. One cannot help but wonder whether this outcome is due primarily to the homogeneity of the respondents' attitudes or whether it reflects a generally imprecise knowledge about social issues and their potential significance for school curriculum. Regardless, there is no question

ASCD Resolution on Critical Contemporary Issues

Issues such as nuclear disarmament, environmental protection, population growth, world hunger, and human rights concern every inhabitant of our planet. Each of us is responsible individually for expressing concern and for being active in ensuring that our global future is desirable. ASCD also has a responsibility as an organization to express the beliefs and concerns of the membership and to support members' rights to this expression.

ASCD should address itself to determining and expressing the views of its members on critical contemporary issues. These views should be publicized and used as a basis for ASCD activities that address these issues.

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