

Students Try To Improve Society By Volunteering

(P)—A new kind of student activism, involving hundreds of thousands of young people, has quietly taken root in many U.S. high school and college campuses. Students say they're out to improve society and themselves, not by protesting or confrontation, but by volunteering their time and talents to social service agencies and community groups.

"Volunteering is the 'in' thing to do now at school," says Marla White, a Boston University sophomore who works with retarded children.

Examples of the surge of student volunteerism are:

- The number of students—elementary through college—involvement in Red Cross volunteer activities has increased by 600,000 in the last two years.
- At Furman University in Greenville, S.C., more than half the 2,000 students participate in 55 volunteer projects. In one, students teach college janitors and maintenance men how to read and write.
- At Boston University, the number of students volunteering for community programs has more than doubled in the past two years. "We've been flooded by students," says Carol Moore, director of student volunteer services.
- At Franklin High School in Livonia, Mich., 300 students put in thousands of hours each week on several projects, including the

presentation of anti-drug seminars to parents and the tutoring of elementary school pupils. When the program started five years ago, only 18 students were involved.

In the last 10 years, the number of college student volunteers has skyrocketed from 5,000 on about 30 campuses to about 400,000 at more than 80 per cent of the nation's colleges and universities, according to figures compiled by the federal National Student Volunteer Program NSVP.

About 600 schools have organized volunteer programs. About 200 offer credit for volunteer work, NSVP officials say. They say the number is growing steadily.

No figures are available for high school pupils, but there seems to be a similar explosion of interest in volunteering, says Jeanne Carney, NSVP director. She says more than 500 high schools have organized volunteer programs, with many giving credit.

Students say they're volunteering to help people as well as meet their own needs for relevance, personal involvement and career testing.

"Young people are turning inward in this country. They're developing a greater interest in other people. And they're more concerned about the quality of life in the United States," says Nicholas W. Craw, head of recruiting for

ACTION, the government volunteer agency.

ACTION is in charge of the Peace Corps and VISTA programs. Craw says applications for both, declining in recent years, are now shooting up dramatically.

Peace Corps applications, he says, are running 37 per cent higher than last year, and VISTA applications are up 46 per cent. Most are from persons under 25.

Several students, school administrators and government officials said they thought a number of young people who were involved in social protests, particularly those against the Vietnam war, have turned to volunteering.

"The young people who lived through demonstrations wanted to do something concrete, something they could see and feel, as opposed to abstract protests," says Bob Cooney, an ACTION spokesman. "They wanted to feel they could make a difference."

Jeff Warren, an official of the private National Center for Voluntary Action in Washington, D.C., sees another stimulus for volunteering. "Some of the other movements of the '60s—civil rights, consumer, women's lib—showed students that individuals could indeed change things. They didn't need to feel helpless."

Blood Flow Discussed By Ohio Teacher

The measurement of blood flow, another significant activity of biomedical research engineers, was discussed by Dr. P. K. Bhagat, research associate in the Department of Engineering Mechanics and instructor, in veterinary physiology and pharmacology at Ohio State University in a bioengineering seminar recently.

"Considering that it has been established that the animal system's absorption of protein is related to blood flow parameters and that vascular diseases are related to blood flow, research on methods of measurement is highly pertinent," Dr. Bhagat said.

"An unlimited scope of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures will open in human medicine if we can successfully establish the blood requirements of various organs and, should an abnormality exist, be able to quantify that impairment," the biomedical engineer emphasized.

The researcher traced the development of work in blood flow measurement, showing the undesirable characteristics of early methods which depended upon entrance into the body or the actual invasion of the vessel.

"At Ohio State University, we are exploring the use of ultrasonic or high frequency sound techniques in blood flow measurement," Dr. Bhagat said.

The biomedical engineer showed slides of various measurement techniques and included diagrams illustrating findings on the velocity in the canine thoracic aorta and the equine left coronary artery.

"The design of instrumentation used in ultrasonic measurement of blood flow depends upon the species it shall be used upon," he said.

"This type of research becomes very unique in efforts to not only measure the direction and speed of blood flow but to measure the dimension of the vessel, itself; we have utilized ultrasonic techniques in measuring flow velocities in vessels ranging from one millimeter to 25 millimeters in size," he said.

Know the seven warning signals that may mean cancer.

1. Unusual bleeding or discharge.
 2. A lump or thickening in the breast or elsewhere.
 3. A sore that does not heal.
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