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ABSTRACT

As we experiment with uses of technology, we must resist a simplistic view of the venture. Technologies are more than means to ends. They change our goals, for they change our very natures as organisms. It is believed that educators cannot refrain from extensive technological innovation. In doing so, however, they must sensitize themselves to the fact that the changes will ramify in profound and unpredicted ways. P. A. Meisler herein presents an inventory of promising and as yet unassimilated educational technologies, and discusses some of the general issues and puzzles that appear to be important to a consideration of technology in education. The inventory: audiotape, overhead transparencies, slides, motion pictures, intermedia configurations, and multimedia configurations. (GO)



TECHNOLOGIES FOR LEARNING

·DO 39754

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by Richard A. Meisler*

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In the midst of a society pervaded by technology, the American educational community is in the process of assessing the ways in which it can use a variety of available technol-If technology can help to improve the quality or ogies. efficiency of our educational programs, then American education, pressed by the large number of students involved in its great experiment in mass education, can sorely use question of that help. But the forced upon us technology would be have the problems even if we did not and high costs. of many students

We do, after all, live in the most highly technological society in history. Our students have assimilated technology into their lives more fully and comfortably than any previous generation. It is therefore valid to wonder whether an educational system without radical and technological changes can effectively reach such a student population. I doubt that it can.

I would like to present an inventory of promising and as yet unassimilated educational technologies, and also to

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^{*} Richard A. Meisler is director of freshman programs, State University of New York College at Buffalo.



to be important to a in education. But with a few commen that are to be inc "educational technolo or, as I would prefer,

I wish to include tional" in a narrow deal is learned from simulation games, but in the simple ways. in lectures or edu In other words: in "technolo is to be const

discuss some of the gener Al issues and puzzles that appear consideration of technology it is appropriate to begin ts concerning the things luded under the heading of gy," "instructional technology" "technologies for learning." techniques that are not "instruc-

For example, a great sense. participation in certain the games do not instruct which certain types of cational films do.

> the "learning" gies for learning" rued broadly.

Nor do I wish to include only activities that involve For I do wish to include mechanical or electronic devices. programed instruction, even when it is not presented in a machine format. And I also believe that sensitivity training and other types of group learning experiences are parts of the new technologies for learning. Programed instruction and sensitivity training organize our energy and activities in new ways on the basis of knowledge of how we learn and grow.

CIRCLE NUMBERS

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They are therefore as much a part of our educational technology as any projector.

II. AN INVENTORY OF TECHNOLOGIES FOR LEARNING

- A. AUDI O-VISUAL MEDIA
 - 1. AUD AUD IOTAPE
 - 2. OVERH ? EAD TRANSPARENCIES
 - 3. SLIDES
 - 4. MOTION PI PROCTURES
 - 5. INTERMEDIA CONFIGURATIONS
 - 6. MULTIMEDIA CONF. STRIBURATIONS

films and overhead projecti ons are wide presentation of lectures and lessons.

well prepared and sillfully used they und instruction by conveying an expand ed ramaterials through their images and these devices did not bring new subjects into the classroom, they would be importan and excitement they add to a teacher's effor

ons are widely used in the lessons. When they are they unquestionably improve ed range of substantive sound. Even if subjects and phenomena important to the interest

Viewed as teachers' aids. This view can be limiting ting if the teacher feels that the media materials can never stand alone, that they must always be thoroughly assi milated into his own lesson. Some films and tapes are remarkably effective

There goes a very sincere individually

instructional tools as they stand, and the good teacher need feel no reluctance or guild about letting these materials Another way of stating this is that speak for themselves. unless all the activities some teachers feel that bear their personal in their classroom their students are stamp, then cheated. being νο⁶ ary, a teacher contr serve his students cases by making a film in some or tape avail able to them, and then getting out of the way.

We will use the term "intermedia configurations" to describe combinations of the common audio-visual media when they are used to present tightly programed units of instruction. A tape and slide presentation may be used, for example, to illustrate the use of a laboratory technique or to give an analysis of a textual passage. Intermedia configurations are often used to guide students through a set of activities, not only to present a body of information. These presentations can be independent and self-sufficient units of instruction, which may be used by individual students or groups without an instructor's presence. Major advantages of intermedia

Which picture best expresses the idea?, You'll decide which of these pictures best illustrates the meaning of the word "speed."



5.

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cult

such units may configurations are that levels of be prepared to very high quality in terms of visual images, oral presentation, and instruct In some cases subject matt logic. may be presented which would be diffi or impossible to exhibit without the med These presentations may also be made random? ly accessible to students, thus allowing them at the student's leisure. This characteristic becomes especially important if large numbers of intermedia presentations are available, for they may then be used in various combinations and for diverse purposes.

When they are well prepared, intermedia configurations may rival or surpass the instruction of an excellent teacher. But common audio-visual media may be employed in other less conventional ways, to exploit some of their creative and aesthetic potential, and to deal with subject matters in ways which employ less familiar instructional logics. I use the term "multi-media configurations" to refer to uses of the media whose internal structure is closer to that of an artistic event or happening than to that of an instructor's lesson.





Multi-media configurations tend to use a great deal of equipment, and to immerse participants in a complex The multi-media presentation media-created environment. may have a fairly linear and discursive message. may also be more complex; it may be a media massage, to The involvement of each member refér to McLuhan's pun. quite different and of the audience may be unique.

On students prepare presentat their work simply out of enthusiasia

The results have been very

occasion have chosen to such multi-media ions as part of in a course or for the new form. impressive from

The preparation of a presentation several points of view. turns out to be a fine means by which a student can demonstrate what he has learned in a course or seminar. It is a most effective and engaging way to share one's learning. the process of preparing a multi-media presentation is invariably an intense learning experience, for it involves asking basic questions about the subject matter as the available materials are altered, arranged and ordered. As is the case with most of our technology for learning, these media seem

to become most productive when the student rather than the teacher gains control and acts as the designer of the materials.

PROGRAMED INSTRUCTION

- BOOK FORMAT 1.
- TEACHING MACHINE FORMAT
- 3. COMPUTER-ASSISTED INSTRUCTION

COMPUTERS HAVE MAGNETIC COMPUTER **PROGRAMS** COMPUTER IS WELL ORGA-A COMPUTER'S SCOPE IS LIMITED. YOU HAVE TO PUNCH A COM-PUTER TO MAKE IT WORK. COMPUTERS ARE KEYED UP. GOVERNMENT COMPUTERS ARE TIED UP IN MAGNETIC TAPE A COMPUTER CAN'T BEAT THE

The strengths and weaknesses of programed instruction are by now well known. The engagement of the student's active response, the careful articulation of the logic of a subject matter, and the opportunity for the student to work alone and at his own rate all contribute to making *********

programed instaction an effective Many people learning technology. have found programed instruction to *Department of Philosophy, be boring and tedious. It remains to be seen whether the state of the art advances to a point at which most programed instruction will be more pleasant and interesting.

*Acknowledgment and thanks *are due to Professor Keith *McGary, Chairman of the *Antioch College. He has been* *visionary in the theories and* *practices of technologies for* *Learning. I and many others *have learned a great deal *from him. *********

There is little doubt that computer-assisted programed instruction will overcome some of these limitations. Computerized systems for programed instruction are coming progressively

closer to the ideal of handling a large number of studentconstructed responses, thus freeing programed instruction from the fairly rigid and uninspiring format of the multiplechoice question. Computerized systems can handle much more complex branching and, in general, a more sophisticated range of instructional strategies than other programed instruction formats. The computer can also respond to each student in the light of its record of the student's earlier performance. At present the computer is a medium for the communication of programed instruction. point in the future it will become a unique and complex technology for learning in its own right. It is hard to speculate on the characteristics of that learning technology, but we do know that it will be capable of presenting highly individualized instruction, it will handle large and complex bodies of information, and it will offer a wide variety of approaches to learning.

D. CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION AND VIDEOTAPE RECORDING

IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL.

Private tele
some time now in
Closed-circuit tel
offered universit weccoss
enrollments in

vision has been used for schools and universities. evision and videotape have ies a solution to large courses. One mode of use



patterns replay large absence lessons 4 these then Ó individuals. of lectures and classroom all day the programs. the 이 원 library at the beginning of groups i. he would ៧ their instructional Sometimes available to ಭ exactly lecture classrooms made behaves tapes instructor's broadcast many the instructor usually and systems it several times an is accumulated, s to record university

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better modes sophistication. this medium is that When I try to teach, sometimes, I am appalled by the results, which seem a little more than inconseb the teaching seems to succeed.

When this happens I find that

the results are damaging.

It seems to cause the individue quential, because sometimes It seems to cause the individual distrust his own experience, and to stifle significant learning. feel that the outcomes of teaching are either hurtful. or and skill television, standard ¥J O great grown favor to abandon commercially with from presentation in

significant ement ಗ 47 O Hence I have come unimportant -Carl Rogers the creat in i student television's to television results of learning in private

be to remove the teacher from the screen and to make him a member of a production team which will include writers, announcers, artists and media professionals. television offers the capability of reaching a large student population, but a this potential must be pursued simultaneously with the development of televisions characteristic strengths and styles of preentation; a great many otherwise we will be reach instruction of an obviously inferior quality. An excellent classroom lecture may well be mediocre when presented unaltered on television.

Private television offers a set of educational opportunities even more unusual than those represented by its potential as a creative medium for teacher-to-student instruction. Videotape recording permits individuals



in a wide variety of situations. or groups to observe themselves An imporTTDC TCST, tant situation, for example, is the Signifof behavior, even those that their voices on tape normal class or seminar discussion, in which the dynamicant phenomena and patterns and built upon and strengthwith when they are negative, ened when they are positive. shock and surprise of first may be understood and dealt They ics of the group may be obordinarily pass unnoticed, Many people remember the become quite chrious. served and analyzed. hearing

Videotape can offer a person or a group far more useful (and surprising) information.

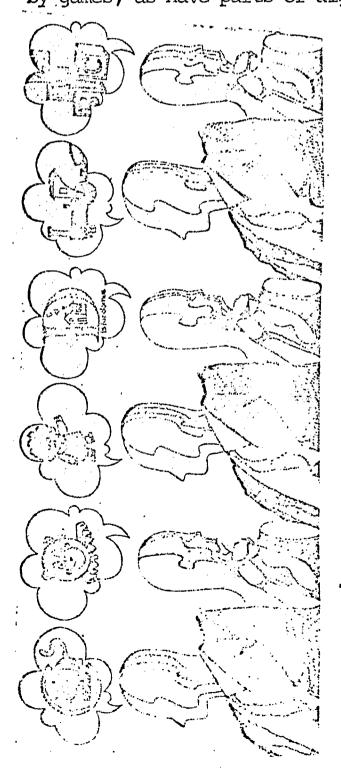
Groups that have an MCCUING THE:

explicit introspective orientation, i.e. groups that are partially or wholly committed to from their own operations, can find that an elegant and powerful resource. Videotape recording offers the

lic speakin Of MCW g, incampuses there are also movements work. Videotape is, in general, which self-understanding is the ing a specific skill (e.g. pubto explore the aesthetic poten holds enormous promise for the uations, ranging from those in an important took in many sitgoal, to those in which learntant oppostunity to criticize and improve his own classroom enrichment of a community's
[ICCIVIIOIOS] ial of video-recording; this individual teacher an imporis sought. On some college terviewing,

D. GAMES AND SIMULATIONS

This is a rapidly developing and very exciting field. The full range of subject matters that supports game or simulation. Simulation is not yet clear, Simulation in the full is not yet clear, Simulatio



It may be helpful to mention, as examples, two of the many games I have tried with college-age groups. On several occasions we have used the Inter-Nation Simulation (INS), which may be the most widely used and one of the most complex games available in the social sciences. Players in INS work on teams, each team representing a nation. Rules and responsibilities within each team are divided up among players, with special rules dealing with economics, diplomacy, military affairs, etc. The game consists of time periods during which players must make economic, military, and diplomatic decisions, the results of which

are calculated and returned to the teams according to a fairly complex mathematical model of international relations and economics. finish the game with a greater understanding of the principles of international relations, especially as postulated in the INS model, as well

as with a greater appreciation of the emotional

daughter of a University Presicant . it is a your of clock in the morning and we to our this perty to our perty to our this perty this perty to our this perty to our this perty this per and interpersonal dimensions Manaylar at a nuive sith bus

of the subject.

INS, like many other

games, elicits a tremendous

amount of enthusiasm

and excitement.

totatuco dista tota pour pour de la cincica dista tota pour pour de la cincica dista tota de la cincica de la cincica dista contra la cincica di cincica d Right! And now, we're going to play dirty rollen games for the rest of the night! Because, through these games, the author plans to dramatically strip away our facades and reveal the fulsome phantasmagoria of base rot that permeates our souls!

Another example is a RAND Corporation simulation that I used in a non-disciplinary seminar on the future. Participants played the roles of national policy-makers allocating units of resource among development projects for different types of technology. In making resource-allocation decisions students had to try to predict the social results of each set of technological developments. In another part of the simulation, groups representing different segments of the population evaluated, from their perspectives, the predicted social consequences of specific technologies. Discussions became quite intense, as assumptions concerning the future, values, and the nature of technology were challenged.

It is interesting to note that the field of educational games and a spin-off of play nuclear "catch-up" simulations is nuclear button used by the war-game techniques money, arms simulation military, of computer renewed arms race



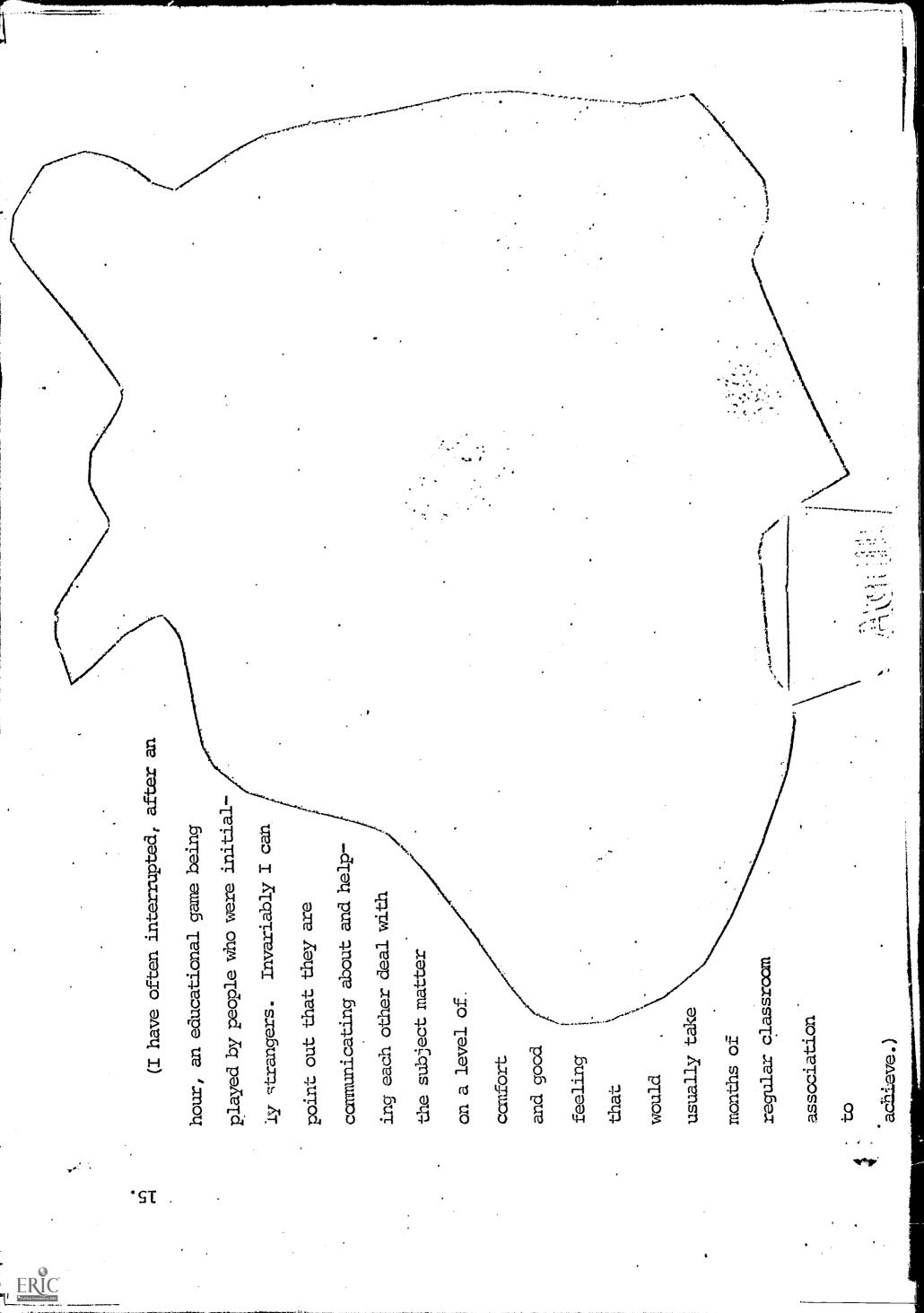
techniques used by engineers and physical scientists, and of simulation approaches to social systems used in social scientific research. One natural result is that some simulations are computer based, thus involving some very complicated and sophisticated models of the subject matter. This is one of the most promising frontiers in the use of computers in education.

Most observers are extremely impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment elicited by many educational games. Although we have little hard data on the effectiveness of these games, we have some reasonable speculations.

Simulations probably help participants to appreciate the functional meaning of theories and principles as they operate in concrete situations. Many teachers are

principles as they operate in concrete situations. Many teachers are reluctant to use simulations or games until all of the principles of the subject matter have been mastered discursively. Such caution is probably unwarranted, and may deprive students of the opportunity to arrive at general principles through induction from concrete circumstances. Another interesting aspect of games is that the resultant learning is often social in nature, i.e. students learn together as they collaborate as team members. Participants develop a real interest in the competence and understanding of their colleagues. A result is that students teach each other in a natural and enjoyable situation.





Many simulation games like INS involve students with a theoretical model of the subject matter. One of the most important stages in the use of games is the examination, after the game is over, of the characteristics and limitations of the model. Participants may approach this examination by observations of what the rules of the game did or did not let them do, how realistic these rules are, and how realistically the consequences of one's moves are determined by the game's structure.

Some individuals or groups are able to get into the activities of altering old games or constructing new ones. Such ventures amount to attempts to create functioning and "playable" theoretical models of a subject matter. It is hard to over-estimate the extent to which this involves the search for basic insights into the subject matter.

On a theoretical level we have good reason to believe that

the urge to play in young (and old) organisms

If Aming That Chickhood

is an extremely adaptive learning process.

Play has a natural attraction for all of us,
and its roots are intimately bound up with

our need to learn in order to survive.

Developments that allow us to return to and tap

this part of our nature in the formal process

of education have tremendous potential.

Considering the formal process

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E. MASS MEDIA

- 1. BROADCASTING
 - A. TELEVISION
 - B. RADIO
- 2. LONG-PLAYING RECORDS
- 3. MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS

America.

"Educational" broadcasting, whether sponsored by a university, school system, or educational

network, has generally suffered from the failure to use

the television or radio medium with imagination. As discussed earlier, there has been a stifling allegiance to traditional educational formats like lectures and panel discussiona. The educational broadcasting net-

Success, siereo and surfing O, say can you see op, pop and color TV.

works have begun to move beyond these limitations, however; and they are achieving some very notable successes.

Whereas some schools and universities make good use of the available educational broadcasting offerings, educators largely ignore commercial broadcasting. Many

of the criticism of the broadcasting "wasteland" are valid. Nevertheless, there is an important portion of television and radio programs that would enrich and be useful to almost any educational setting. Network news and special affairs programs are often excellent, "Television to the criticism of the broadcasting "wasteland" are valid. Nevertheless, there is an important portion of television and radio programs that would enrich and be useful to almost any educational setting. Network news

and many programs do have significant artistic content. Also one role of education is surely

Hear ye rock, soul, folk, rhythm and blues, and crown thy good with brotherhood, beards and burns.
America. America.

the examination and Circles criticism of popular culture in order to assist the student to probe and become aware of the cultural forces acting upon him. From this perspective it would be important to bring a wide sample of broadcasting matter into

the educational environment, including programs which one would

judge to be of low quality.

The availability and cost of both videotape and audiotape recorders make it possible for an educational institution to and according use commercial materials repeatedly It is to a convenient schedule. colleges do not unfortunate that schools and facilities for have continuing policies and making a wide range of radio and television programs routinely available to their teachers and students. How realistic is an educational system that insulates itself almost totally from the most vital and effective communications media of society? Similar comments apply to the printed mass media and longplaying records.

F. SENSITIVITY TRAINING

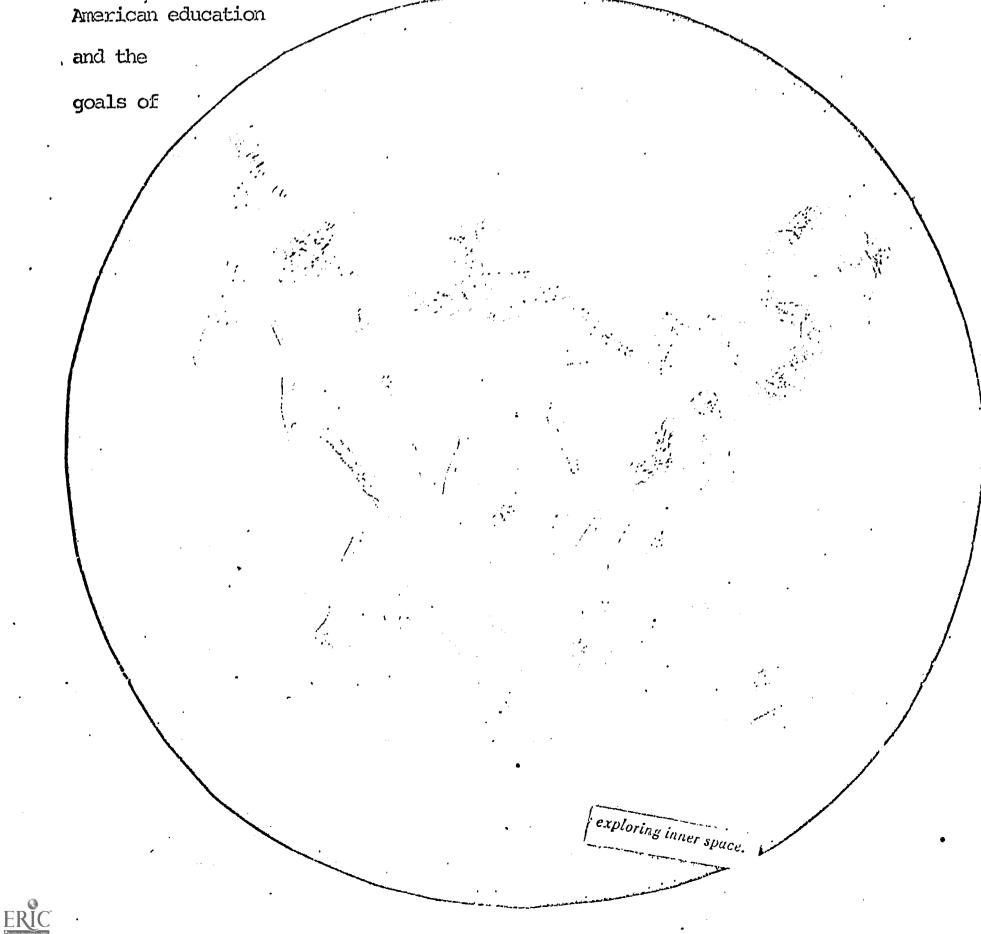
We will use "sensitivity training" as a shorthand term to refer to a range of new NEW Life Cycle or experimental techniques



designed to help people to understand themselves and to relate to
each other better. This field is remarkable for its enthusiastic
adherents and also
for its veherent critics. This is
not the

of gods
place for a review of the evidence
on either side or for an Alanguage attempt to make sense of the
controversies surrounding sensitivity

The foreign and to relate to
each other better. This field is remarkable for its enthusiastic
for its veherent critics. This is
place for a review of the evidence
on either side or for an Alanguage attempt to make sense of the
it suffice to point to a congruence between the professed aims of



All of the orts. poetry, music. the visible arts The most comprehensive humanized society its masterpiece,

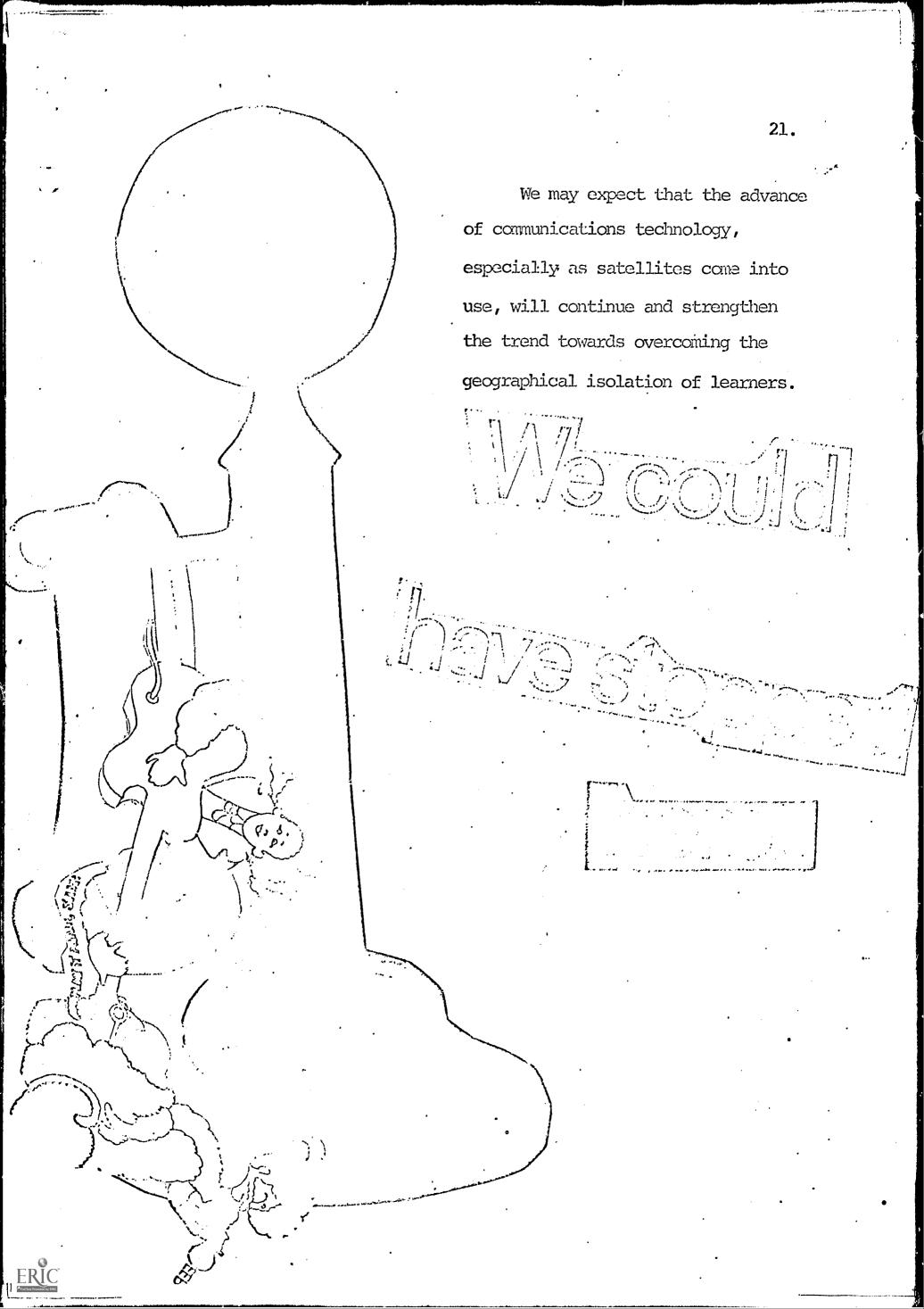
sensitivity training.

Many of our educational institutions reject a narrow definition of their mission. they are, they claim, interested in more than the development of the human intellect. are concerned with the "whole man," with the liberation of creativity, the training of moral sensibilities, the ability of an individual to understand himself and to relate to others in a productive and satisfying fashion. Sensitivity training is intended to be responsive to many of these matters. It therefore seems reasonable that those segments of the educational community professing interest in these broader constructions of the aims of education should consider sensitivity training techniques as a possibly useful technology for learning, as a set of activities and structures that might be fully integrated into the fabric of their institutions and programs.

G. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Amplified telephone and its auxiliary devices for transmitting written or visual information are quite promising. They have helped schools and colleges to overcome their physical isolation and their remoteness from the learning resources of people and events.





H. XEROGRAPHY

The advent of inexpensive means for reproducing

images

on paper offers a range of new opportunities
for teachers and students. In addition to the ease with
which original or existing printed material may be distributed,
image and print reproduction may be used as a creative medium to
stimulate learning or to exhibit its results. In a sense we have
overcome the high costs and technical expertise associated with the
publication of materials, for small and moderate numbers of people.

I. INDEPENDENT STUDY MATERIALS

There have been many projects in recent years involving the extensive use of independent study. Such projects have used a number of the techniques described above, such as independently available audio-visual units and programed instruction.

There have

also been special study guides and independent study syllabi developed. The
educational community has accumulated a
significant body of experience with
independent study. The following types
of questions have been asked: To what

Shakespeare but I like in.

extent should the student be responsible for the initial definition of the independent study project? What are the most effective manners for an instructor to

intervene and support a project, and how

ERIC

frequently should this be done? What are

the best ways to help a student explore the available human and other resources for

available human and other resources for his study? What processes are success-

ful in the evaluation of an independent study project? To what extent should the definition of an independent study be open to alteration during its execution?

Many of these questions may have valid answers. It must also be recognized, however, that attempts to systematize independent study activities can be destructive. Independent intellectual work is risky. Attempts to diminish the risks too greatly or to control independent activities too aggressively can emasculate the whole enterprise.

1. Speed Reading and Effective Study Training

There seem to have

been breakthroughs

made in recent years in both these fields.

We would be doing many of our

students a great service if we could

integrate such instruction into many or most of our educational institutions

without attaching to them the stigma

asscriated with "remedial" work.

23°

K. PHOTOGRAPHY

Still and motion picture photography have become the favored forms of artistic expression of a sizable segment of our young people.

(This is an instance of the natural way in which they make technology a part of their lives.) As an artistic medium photography provides the educational opportunities associated with other forms of

art, opportunities for the development of the creative and perceptual faculties. But photography also turns out to have a great promise as a technology for learning, even in situations in which aesthetic goals are subordinate to the goals of learning specific subject matters.

Projects in the photographic media dealing with a wide range of subject matters can yield enormously powerful

learning experiences. Let us take an example from

the social sciences—a group of students (on almost any level) studying phenomena of poverty.

Awesome

A photographic project, in which students attempted to capture the visible signs and effects of poverty, the images of the culture of poverty, could have tremendous educational rewards. One would expect such activities to sensitize the student to the sociological and economic significance of what he sees. And the photographic media would allow students to share their perceptions and thus to help each other to deal with the subject matter. The range of subjects in which such projects could be valuable



is large, including many areas in the arts and humanities as well as the sciences.

III.

PRINCIPLES AND QUESTIONS

We have made some general remarks about technology, and we have formulated a list of contemporary technologies for learning. The remaining question is obvious: How, when, and in what configurations, are these technologies to be used? There is no simple answer, and the quest for an answer leads us to a consideration of some of the most

difficult problems of educational Unlocks the Computer's Power philosophy and practice. Consider, for example, the

questions raised

by the range of possible relations between the technologies and the teacher.

Technologies for learning are often discussed as the means by which teachers are to be relieved of their petty and burdensome tasks, thus to be freed to attend to those parts of education which are truly central. The assumption is that the relationship of teacher to student is unalterably



the major locus of education. Technology therefore may attend to the peripheral tasks, allowing for more time and energy to be devoted to the heart of the educational system, the interaction between teacher and student. This view of technology and of the educational process is widely held. It has also been used, consciously or unconsciously, to try to assure teachers that neither their importance nor their roles are to be changed by technological innovations.

But it is important to consider the possibility that the role of dialogue

the teacher will change of young people is separate from the adult people may well be of what they learn and the mass media their parents and effect of rapid societal of experiences which

in its basis. The culture

increasingly culture, and young learning more from each other rather than from teachers. A major change is the production are common to

younger generations but which are quite dissimilar from the experiences These discontinuities, along with the availability of older generations. of new communications technologies for learning, suggest that we might reconsider the familiar notion of the teacher's role in education.

To argue on a general level that the teacher must remain "central" to education or that he will be "displaced" does not make much sense. Before the real issues can be joined it is necessary to articulate the full range of a teacher's activities. Teachers have many roles.

his Master Schedule is subject to change as circumtances necessitate. Please check mimeographed Master chedule addends sheets before making course elections. 'he three-digit number preceding the course title (e.g. art 100) is the catalog number. The four-digit number receding the information about meeting time and place s the call number.

'he arrangement of the schedule follows the order of i.e., alphabetically by ea, within each area, ly by division; v ch division, alphadepartment, nuetically by department-

ful. Tipe Stratt things nerically by course. ·se titles indiregulations:

The ... set titles indicate the credit whom the ... site for the urse are to be considered a ful. student is 12 semester hours.

The ... sed with the division director.

"Studen abject to possible dismissal under the Dismissal or Probation regulations may preregister. Ma-Votations in parer ate the credit ourse is ourse na stu

missal or Probation regulations may preregister, Matriculation does not take place until the student's official status has been determined by the appropriate Dean." (General Catalog. p. 40)

Rooms designated by the letters T., U. V. X. Y. Z are not actual rooms. Bacon Hall will undergo renovation luring the 1969-70 academic year, making it necessary for the College to find new classroom space which has hot yet been identified. Students and faculty will be notiin at a later date as to the rooms the letter designarepresent.

TO SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

-Required Course

-Elective Course

-8 T W F KH 110.....

14 WORLD LITERATURE II (3)

-Permission of Instructor Required

Permission of instructor Required
-9 M W F KH 313 C.E. Jauch
-11 M W Th KH 106 J.M. Keech
-12 M T Th KH 315 A.L. Bradford
-2 M W Th KH 106 J.M. Keech
3 KMEP'"'N WRITERS 1(3)
16 D.W. Landrey
16. D.W. Landrey 1. 100 F KH 110 . S.R. Diner
T'I KH 110 W KH 300 S.T. Dhondt
-12 M T Th KH 100
T W E CC E DW Landrey
-1 T W F CC E
~~ / NM 110 W F NM 313
-3 T KH 106 W KH 116 F KH 212 S.J. Searl
-3 M T W KH 212 5.1. Unonot
-3 M T W KH 212 S.T. Dhondt -4 M T F KH 300 J.S. Sherwin
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-9 W Th KH 315 9 M CC S2 B.F. Gronewold
-10 T Th KH 315 9 M CC S2 B.F. Gronewold
1 ADVANCED COMPOSITION (3) (100 or equiv.)
-9 M W Th KH 319 E J. Thomas
1 T Th KH 212 M.G. Carr
T TI VI 210
A T Th KH 319 E.I. Schoenberg
33 MODERN DRAMA (3) (Basic course in Eng., Amer., or Wild. Lit.)
T Th F KH 110 C.R. Bachman
IS WORLD LITERATURE 1/3)

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convey information and help students to learn a great variety of skills. They approve of some things and disapprove of others, thus affecting students' value systems and personalities. Teachers give advice and counsel, and they serve as adult models for many types of intellectual and emotional behavior. Teachers create social environments of various types within which their students live. This list can, no doubt, be extended.

Cultural change in general and technology in particular are bound to affect the conglomerate ... role of the teacher. New elements, e.g. the preparation of materials for further development by media experts, may be added. Old elements may be deleted, e.g. the detailed evaluation of a student's performance may pass largely from the teacher to a testing specialist. Surely emphasis will be redistributed among the various parts of a teacher's functions, e.g. training for skills and conveying information may be deemphasized while attention to the problems of human relations may become more important.

We can be fairly sure that the meaning of teaching will change and that the change will be MAIN DECISION HORM

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imately connected with the manner in which technologies for learning is that the changes will We cannot know, at present, exactly what those changes alternatives has range of One thing that we can hope, however, full be produced in a context in which a deployed. explored .1 be. are Wil

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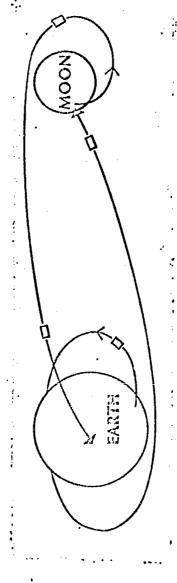
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We need to identify or create a large number of educational institutions that will use technologies and teachers in different ways. Some institutions might implement systems in which teachers



out a radical change in emphasis among parts of their role, with We are in a period in which rnative configurations of human and non-human resources in the mologies assuming some functions which traditionally have been very large range of possible oach between teacher and technologies in as many different a "symbiotic" Other schools might attempt construction of learning environments. There is a tions as possible. ed by teachers. funct serv tect appr

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there are many resources that have not been fully tested and whose promise is not completely understood. In such a situation we must encourage the deployment of our capabilities in many configurations and patterns, so that our eventual choices will be informed ones.

There are factors to consider other than the teacher's role, as we experiment with new patterns of technology. For example, it would be an elementary mistake to confuse the process of learning about technology with the process of learning by means of technology. Nevertheless, the two processes are not entirely distinct. The child who learns arithmetic through interaction with a computer has learned more than arithmetic. He has learned, at least implicitly, something about the nature and potentials of (And if computers. the medium really is the message, he may have changed in more How was Beethoven sound at 21,000 feet? The nature of our subtle ways.) society requires that we help our students relate to technology in a positive and liberating way, perceiving both the threats and the promises of the technological parts of their environment. The technologies for learning may be among the major ones with which the student is involved. As we

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experiment with different

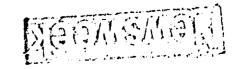
patterns of technology, therefore, we

must remember that we are serving these

broader educational goals.

If students are to be offered an environment that is both. technological and educational, that environment should probably be quite responsive to the student's initiatives, and initiatives should be easy and acceptable. Many of the technologies for learning are found to be most effective in helping students deal with subject matters when the student himself takes over and becomes the designer of materials and activities. Our usual pattern of using technology, however, is to begin with applications that assume a passive student. The technology is a medium of communication from an instructor. This is also the assumption of the people who manage the machines; the closer the student's hand is to the machine, the more uncomfortable the manager is. When this pattern is overcome we find that the specific goals of subject matter learning can be pursued more effectively, as well as the more general goal of helping students to understand and deal with technologies. (It should be noted that the force towards technological patterns which are accessible to student initiative may be opposed, in some circumstances, by the need for teachers to use the technologies in professional and highly polished ways. Compromises in equipment and costs may be especially difficult when both of these desiderata are kept in mind.)

Before we conclude, let us mention two perennial questions in educational philosophy. These issues must be dealt with in almost any





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meaningful discussion of education, and a consideration of technologies for learning is no exception. As we consider and experiment with different configurations of learning resources, we must take a position, firstly, on the extent to which education is to be directed by the learner. The second question is related: What are the appropriate contemporary curricular and subject matter categories? These two issues are related, for a position in favor of traditional or disciplinary categories will usually imply methods which are strongly teacher directed; teachers (but not students), after all, are trained in and for the most part committed to those categories. If, on the other hand, one allows for unconventional curricular categories, learner-directed processes may make more sense.

The technologies can be used to create an educational environment in which the student's behavior is carefully controlled. They can also create an environment of great choice and student self-direction.

Similarly we can use technologies in the service of standard subject matters or in programs involving other curricular categories. Our commitments in these matters will, to some extent, influence the technologies we use and the ways we use them. Programed instruction may be neutral with respect to both these issues, and can be used in many ways.

Network television, on the other hand, is not neutral with respect to curricular categories; it is not likely to support the traditional subject



matter divisions, but it would support new onew. Sensitivity training, if it is an important part of an educational system, would be likely to reinforce student direction of learning but not commitment to our normal subject matter divisions. It would be possible to try to characterize all of the available technologies for learning in the light of these and other basic questions of educational philosophy.

How's that, for talking your language?

The task that faces the educational community is the articulation, by experimentation and use, of the nature and possible uses of the available technologies. This must involve the construction of a wide range of educational environments, the deployment of human and technological resources in many configurations. And these attempts must be viewed from the perspective of all of the most basic questions that we can ask about education.

As we experiment with uses of technology, we must resist a simplistic view of the venture. Technologies are more than means to ends. They change our goals, for they change our very natures as organisms. I believe that educators can not refrain from extensive technological innovation. In doing so, however, they must sensitize themselves to the fact that the changes will ramify in profound and unpredicted ways.

