

How To Exist In Megaworld

By KATHY MORAN

What's in store for us in the future? In just a few years, will the world be controlled by 200 "megacorporations" as some famous economists contend? Will people wake up in the morning and take a pill which controls their intellect and raises it to a certain level? Will modern medicine become so advanced that people won't die - immortality will result because science has all the answers on illness? Will the map of the world be reshaped into two or three super-empires with geographical divisions based only on homogeneous societies? Will the world become so overpopulated that children will become a rare and precious sight? Will man be controlled by the technology, he has created? The answers to these questions lie in the future - but if man wants a voice in his own destiny, he'd better begin looking more toward the future rather than just coping with the accelerated rate of change in the present. This is the premise offered by a group of scientists who have applied their knowledge

in their respective fields and are theorizing on the future based on current trends. Their study - futurology - is a relatively new field based on the assumption that man should take a breather in his hectic pace and look toward where he is moving. Recognizing that most people are too caught up in today's rapid pace to look ahead, two staff members at Schoolcraft College Newman House put together a three-day program of films and discussions designed to help people recognize the consequences of today's rapid changes. Judy Kallit and Sister Margaret Basso planned program featuring films of the future by such notable economists as Kenneth Galbraith, economist Robert Heilbroner, historian Arnold Toynbee, anthropologist Margaret Mead, and futurist Alvin Toffler. "Toffler's popular book 'Future Shock' has popularized the subject, so they included a film based on the book and narrated by Toffler. "Anyone who believes tomorrow is simply more of the same is in for a real shock," Toffler said in a filmed interview. He points out that by the year 2000, electricity may cost more than food, water

may be scarce and panic may become a norm. Sister Margaret told students and local residents who viewed the films that people must "become aware; so we can make the decisions to shape or invent our tomorrows." She and others interested in the study of the future note that technology is advancing at such a mind-boggling rate that man is inadvertently letting it control him. A suburban mother is controlled by the land developer who planned her suburban community and located recreation and shopping areas away from residential sections, Sister Margaret said. "It is said a mother first delivers biologically and then forever after by car," she said. These and other factors that shape an individual's life style can be changed if people become aware of city planning and zoning as well as other areas, she said. Heilbroner says the future hinges on "how successfully

we use these next 10 years - whether these years will be the lilt of a downward decline which could be very sharp for the next generation or whether these are years of learning to come to grips with the problems." Among the problems facing our society is the problem of the environment, Heilbroner says, "of whether the combination of people and technology is creating a by-product, a congestion, pollution, poisoning that in the end could very seriously endanger our very life itself, not to speak of our way of life." Galbraith believes that society is moving toward one which is controlled economically by 200 megacorporations and other scientists agree that this is highly likely. In fact, Heilbroner argues that big business, not the United Nations, will do more to eliminate the threat of nuclear annihilation simply because countries will be forced to cooperate if their economies hinge on multinational corporations.

The Schoolcraft program pointed out several warning signs of trends in "pre-cooked, plastic wrapped, instant society" and generally urged the students and local residents who participated to examine their personal values and priorities and become aware of trends. Miss Kallit said that just "coping" with today's rampant changes is "just playing catch up ball" because people don't get active in factors which change their life styles until it is late to be effective. She said the Newman staff will offer other programs on futurology through the year. In November, the series will cover the subject of biomedics and related areas such as euthanasia. A non-credit course on futurology is offered this fall through the community services program and may lead to offering a credit course next year. Registrations can be made by contacting the community services office or instructor William Burke.

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Medical Services Veto Opposed

An Observer Roundup complete emergency medical service system," he said. Observerland's congressional representatives joined together in an unsuccessful attempt to override President Nixon's veto of the Emergency Services Systems Act of 1972. U.S. Reps. Marvin Esch (R-Ann Arbor), Martha Griffiths (D-Detroit) and William Ford (D-Taylor) voted together in a bi-partisan effort to override which failed by five votes. The medical service systems act was designed to provide funding, train personnel and insure ambulance service for people at a reasonable cost. President Nixon indicated he vetoed the bill because of inclusion of a public health service system which he maintains has outlived its usefulness. The bill may be reconsidered. "I chose to vote to override because it is my firm conviction that a strong emergency medical service system can save the lives of between 50,000 and 100,000 Americans across the country, and that such a service is vitally needed in many areas of the country," Esch said. "The American Heart Association has predicted that a full 10 per cent of the lives that are lost each year through heart disease could be saved if there were fast service and trained persons available to take care of the situation. "An estimated 15,000 to 20,000 lives of the more than 55,000 lost annually in traffic deaths could be saved by a

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