CALL ME A PROGRESSIVE EDUCATOR

Columns and Articles

WILLIAM VAN TIL
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During the 1960s he was elected president of the National Society of Teachers of Education, the John Dewey Society and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Throughout his teaching and administration career he was a prolific writer of books, pamphlets, columns, and articles on education. He was named a Kappa Delta Pi laureate in 1980 and was named to the Hall of Fame of Ohio State University in 1989.

For further information see his autobiography, *My Way of Looking at It*, expanded 2nd edition, 1996 (Caddo Gap Press), and the article by Daniel Perlstein titled “William Van Til and the Nashville Story: Curriculum, Supervision, and Civil Rights.”

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WILLIAM VAN TIL
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Credo

William Van Til

After many years as a professional educator, these things I do believe:

➢ that the over-all purpose of American education is to develop the understanding and practice of democracy as a way of life

➢ that the salient characteristic of democracy as a way of life is faith in the method of intelligence

➢ that the best learning experiences are those which begin with the needs of the learner, illuminate the social realities of the time, and contrast competing ways of living

➢ that teacher-pupil planning is desirable and feasible

➢ that controversial issues are the life blood of general education learning experiences

➢ that indoctrination of set answers to controversial issues, such as indoctrination for laissez-faire or for socialism, indoctrination for isolation or for world government, is an abuse of the method of intelligence and thus undemocratic

➢ that by thinking through using facts, and applying values, students can reach conclusions for themselves; they need not and must not be innocuous neutrals on human issues

➢ that, if men are to act, young men and women must learn to act.