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Do Contemporary Universities Suffer From A Type Of Cancer

By Kadence Buchanan

Biologists and medical practitioners have proven through extensive scientific research and testing

that every living organism renews its cells as it gradually matures. If we accept Proust's metaphor that "a nation is a huge organized accumulation of individuals," then when cultural norms change so does the nation as a whole entity. Based on this assumption, a nation, a country, or generally any type of society, can be characterized by its critics as "sick" if its constituent cells change their previous status with unknown consequences. Under this realm, the crisis contemporary universities have been experiencing must be the outcome of the detected changes in people's values, norms, priorities and ideology. Thus, as the individual cells change their role, critics have denoted a new type of "sickness" in the academic environment, a new type of "cancer," which according to scholars like Miller and Miyoshi, has to be treated adequately before it completely destroys the institutions' primary educational purpose.

Like a human organism is constructed by smaller portions of matter, the contemporary university is an accumulation of students, professors, administrators and many more stakeholders, like corporations. These groups share the grounds of an institution and strive to accomplish various goals. In the past, although different views existed and dissensus was present, the unity of the overall institution was not jeopardized. Unfortunately today, due to the socioeconomic changes fostered by the capitalistic hegemony, contradictory interests have divided the various university groups threatening unity under the broad academic umbrella. But is there something wrong with corporate intervention and why has it managed to create a crisis of this magnitude? Do universities suffer from "cancer"?

Especially in counties, like the United States, where the majority of the academic institutions are private, a university is considered as another type of legal entity with similar economic interests as that of a corporation in any industry. Universities, although non-profit institutions, have not only to survive, but also to prosper, as they compete in a fierce environment using as their unique-selling-point the mere knowledge they teach. As a matter of fact, Universities today have seized to be agents of free knowledge and truth, altering their nature to that of a corporation. This is an undisputable fact, which is the route under this whole crisis. Additionally, as the individual cells of this living organism have realized the impact and the degree of the 21st century's economic changes, they have begun to invest to this new role of the contemporary university, seeing it as the adequate preparation field for highly

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trained consumers and managers.

Returning to the original question, whether contemporary universities suffer from "cancer" or not, in my opinion the answer is yes. This realization is not as provocative as it sounds. Universities have realized their power to foster change, not necessarily with a rebellion nature, the academic institutions of the West are about to step forward and propose a new type of educational mode.

This new role of the contemporary university may not be revolutionary, as neither were the interdisciplinary studies at the time that they were originally introduced, but it will be radical and forceful in nature and scale as its primary focus will be the critical judgment of its own role and its principles will be based on the fundamental value of respect and the notion of accepting and requiring diversity. Not because it better sells the new character promoted by the institution, but because through different academic backgrounds and views, true innovation can be generated.

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Women Smokers Are Different From Men Smokers

By J.R. Ferrara

Why Women Smoke

Research shows that women start smoking and quit smoking for different reasons than men. Some women smoke to control their weight. Unfortunately, smoking doesn't control weight as much as people think.

Close emotional bonding with other women is another reason why women smoke. If a woman's close friend smokes, then so will she. Quitting will make her feel distant and isolated.

The third reason women smoke is their menstrual cycle. Feeling low and irritable during their cycle makes them smoke all the more. Quitting at this period of the month is not a good idea.

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Women Suffer More from Smoking

Women who smoke regularly tend to suffer more than men do. Research shows that women lose 15 years of their lives because of smoking, whereas men lose only 13. This deadly habit is shared by 45% of women all over the world. Due to the tobacco industry's direct marketing to women, their sales have increased. The number of women who die from lung cancer has increased proportionally.

Lung cancer was the main cause of death in women in 1987. Today, more women die from lung cancer than breast cancer, ovarian cancer and uterine cancer combined. Almost 75,000 women died last year in the United States alone due to lung cancer.

Deadly Health Problems

Other deadly problem that women suffer from because of smoking is a higher risk of heart attacks. Women are more prone to die from their first heart attack, especially those women who take birth-control pills. Smoking also increases the risk of other cancers like ovarian cancer, uterine cancer, oral/mouth cancer, bladder cancer, rectal cancer and breast cancer. Women may also suffer from emphysema, colorectal polyps, osteoporosis and early menopause. Still births, miscarriages and infertility can cause further stress.

Smoking also leads to tension and stress in a woman's family life. Not only do their parents or spouse suffer from their habit, their kids face trauma at an early age as well. Pregnant women may give birth to children who have birth defects or suffer from asthma, chronic ear infections and sleeping disorders.

Women also face cosmetic ill effects from smoking. Bad breath, yellow-stained nails, fingers and teeth are an unpleasant sight. (Yuck!) The skin loses its shine and begins to look dull due to excessive smoking.

Nicotine, as the world's most addictive drug, makes it hard for women to quit smoking. A fear of weight gain from quitting is another major reason why women are hesitant to take this step, but a woman who quits smoking takes the right step toward not just a healthy body but also a healthy and fulfilled family life as well.

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