**President’s Report**

CCC Perspective

October 1991

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. wrote a book, first published in 1968; which he titled "***Slaughterhouse-Five.***" It also has the title "*The Children's Crusade - A Duty-Dance with Death*". In the book Vonnegut gives moral lessons. Lessons that we could take to heart today, especially in view of our very recent history.



***"I have also told my sons that they are not under any circumstances to take part in massacres, and that the news of massacres of enemies is not to fill them with satisfaction or glee."***

In his moral teachings, Vonnegut addresses the feelings we all sometimes feel regarding our efforts to make the world a better place to live.

***"***Billy had a framed prayer on his office wall which expressed his method for keeping going, even though he was unenthusiastic about living. A lot of patients who saw the prayer on Billy's wall told him that it helped them to keep going, too. It went like this***:***

*GOD GRANT ME THE SERENITY TO ACCEPT THE THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE*

*THE COURAGE TO CHANGE THE THINGS I CAN*

*AND WISDOM ALWAYS TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE.*

***Among the things Billy Pilgrim could not change were the past, the present, and the future."***

Some persons do seem capable of changing the past. History is constantly being rewritten by persons with new information or new vantage points. An African proverb that hangs on my office wall reminds me that "**Until the lions have their historians, tales of hunting will always glorify the hunter.**"

As teachers we have an obligation to tell history from many vantage points. We also have the **obligation to tell the histories of all our peoples.**

As educators we also have the possibility of changing the I present and the future for our students. We can equip them with the tools making it possible for them to take charge of their present and future lives.

*"'You know what I say to people when I hear they're writing anti-war books?'*

*`No. What do you say, Harrison Starr?'*

*I say, 'Why don't you write an anti-glacier book instead?'*

*What he meant, of course, was that there would always be wars, that they were as easy to stop as glaciers. I believe that, too.****"***

We live in a unique time in history. Wars are still a part of our national reality and culture but in the field of education, the culture is changing. **The hierarchical structure of traditional educational management is being questioned**. It is now possible for faculty, staff, and students to be part of the decision making in our colleges. We must accept the challenge and make a difference. But, we cannot let ourselves become **lockstepped into normal madness**. We must manage differently than those that have managed in the past. We must have a wider vision of what can be.

The California Federation of Teachers is embarking on The Campaign For California Education. You will read more about this in the next issue of the *Perspective*. Join the campaign by working to improve education. The Campaign is a moral, political, and educational campaign to save California education. Perhaps in saving quality education we will also be contributing to **stopping the glaciers (and our world) from melting.**