

SASKATOON UNSCHOOLERS

The Saskatoon Unschoolers present
III CELEBRATION OF SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING

Saturday September 30th, 2006
Cosmopolitan Seniors Center
614 - 11th Street East

Keynote speaker: Matt Hern
editor of “Deschooling our lives” and author of “Field Day”

Workshop with Elizabeth Harms: “Releasing true potential”

Teen panel

Family dance in the evening with live old time music

Cost:

Early Bird before August 15th:

Conference: \$20 per person

Dance: \$10 per person, children free

Combo: \$25 per person

After August 15th:

Conference: \$25 per person

Dance: \$10

Combo: \$30

You can write a cheque to Saskatoon Unschoolers and send it to:

512 - 9th Street East

Saskatoon, SK S7N 0B1

For more information, e-mail: elisabet@rafols.net

SASKATOON UNSCHOOLERS

REGISTRATION

III CELEBRATION OF SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING

Saturday September 30th, 2006
Cosmopolitan Seniors Center
614 - 11th Street East

Doors open at 9:30 am
Conference: 10 am to 4:30 pm
Dance: 6:30 pm

NAME (S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Cost:

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Combo: \$25 per person

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To register, fill out this form and send it along with a cheque written to
Saskatoon Unschoolers to:

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Matt Hern will talk about: Possibility in the Face of Probability

“Public schools attempt to eliminate poverty by educating the children of the poor so that they can function within the existing social structure. Radical education would attempt to change the social attitudes which support this social structure.”

- Joel Spring

Schools both reflect and construct the world we live in, and if we are hoping for a radically undemocratic and hierarchical society, then we have exactly the right kinds of schools.

Matt Hern suggests that pedagogical freedom and political freedom are closely intertwined: one depends on the other. The practice of freedom however, has to be interpreted as a social freedom to, rather than merely an individual freedom from. It infers an educational freedom that state authorities are by definition incapable of delivering.

The rise of state authority and the rise of public schooling have mirrored one another, each relying on a vision of governmentality supported by an explosion of statistical data, identifying 'normal' populations and nurturing a bureaucracy of experts and professional knowledge to manage these populations.

Current conceptions of public education rely on canonical beliefs about what children need to know to grow up right, but kids are not stock portfolios and cannot be handled as such. We need to be asking what the children in front of us need to thrive. And that's a constantly shifting, fluid question that can only be answered locally and in community: that is to say, commonly.

It is an imperative that suggests a radical reconfiguration of public schooling: its intentions, its structure and its everyday function.

Bio:

Matt lives in East Vancouver with his partner and daughters where he runs the Purple Thistle Centre (www.purplethistle.ca). He holds a PhD. in Urban Studies and writes and lectures widely. He has edited *Deschooling Our Lives*, authored *Field Day* and his new book is *Watch Yourself; Why Safer isn't always Better*.

See www.mightymatthern.com for more.