

## The Fast Lane Society

Eton College, 18th March 2008

### Chapter 2: Education & Round Square

My staunch belief in a comprehensive educational system urged my wife and me and members of the Greek community to set up the Hellenic College in London, where our children were also educated. Later on, we made the school a member of the Round Square Association, of which I am Patron and President.

Round Square, is a global affiliation of some 60+ schools that spans six continents. Other Patrons of Round Square include The Duke of York, Nelson Mandela and until recently, Mrs Sonia Gandhi.

The schools strive to encourage greater understanding between young people in different countries. Pupils go on international exchanges, help with community projects both at home and in developing countries overseas, and are given a real breadth of opportunities.

One of the significant changes we witness in these students, is that they become more confident and outward-looking; they exercise the ability to communicate and collaborate on projects with people from different backgrounds and empathize with those in need around the world.

We are all part of this world, and we must participate in the solutions to the problems that surround us.

My involvement in education started as a selfless effort to enhance the application of Dr Kurt Hahn's philosophy in schooling. This philosophy and the criteria a school must meet to join Round Square can be summarized though the acronym 'IDEALS'.

I stands for International understanding  
D for Democracy  
E for Environment  
A for Adventure  
L for Leadership, and  
S for Service

Frankly, I get much more out of it than I could ever offer.

So, I had to turn elsewhere. The opportunity came, as they often do, after an ordeal...