



New College of California

Education for a Just, Sacred & Sustainable World



To: The beloved New College community

Posted At : August 3, 2007 3:35 PM | Posted By : Martin Hamilton

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It is with much sadness that I announce my resignation as president of New College as of September 15, 2007. The current political and financial challenges have made it impossible for me to continue in this role.

Having had no time to reflect on or to celebrate my 30th anniversary at the school, I would like, however, to state my purpose in being here. I wanted to be a part of a social-change organization, a part of a spiritually liberating process that would help me to reconcile my own self-development with the suffering world in which we live. To that purpose, New College has been a great teacher, though sometimes I have been a reluctant student.

I regret nothing. I take responsibility for everything. As one of the co-creators of this present moment, I remain true to myself. As I move toward the next stage in my life, I continue to see New College as a beacon for the hopes and dreams of all who come here, and who stay, and who work

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I regret nothing. I take responsibility for everything. As one of the co-creators of this present moment, I remain true to myself. As I move toward the next stage in my life, I continue to see New College as a beacon for the hopes and dreams of all who come here, and who stay, and who work for its betterment. I hope that I have governed with the deepest reverence for the poetic nature of our reality. Always, I have tried to honor what is essential and sacred in each person I encountered.

I am not – nor do I ever want to be – the manager of an organization. I took on this leadership responsibility because at the time I wanted to save and develop our little community. The joys of these thirty years far outweigh the work and stress because the totality was beautiful.

This is a symbolic death of everything I have fought so hard to represent. I hope and pray that New College will pull together and overcome these most serious of self-inflicted wounds. As many of you know, I have taken great inspiration from T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* as well as the mythic figure of Don Quixote.

Signing off, a verse from the *Four Quartets*:

O voyagers, O seamen,
You who came to port, and you whose bodies
Will suffer the trial and judgment of the sea,
Or whatever event, this is your real destination.
So Krishna, as when he admonished Arjuna
On the field of battle.
Not fare well,
But fare forward, voyagers.

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Martin-you endeared yourself to me in 1978 when I first attended New College. The school was struggling then and everyone pulled together to get us through that crisis. Had it not been for you, Milly, John, Mary, Kush and so many others I never would have finished college.

Over the years I've come back to New College just to see how it's grown. It's always a joy to run into you, Kathy and Milly and see all the faces that are a part of the community.

From my heart to yours please know that my thoughts and good vibes are with you and I am proud to call you a mentor and a friend.

Namaste,

Toni

Posted By Toni Kiss | 8/8/07 5:00 PM

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