



# Round Square Schools (1966)

## Six Pillars (IDEALS):

- Internationalism
- Democracy
- Environment
- Adventure
- Leadership
- Service

A person in a red jacket and black pants is rappelling down a dark, textured rock face. A rope is visible extending from the top left. The background shows a vast mountain range under a blue sky with some clouds. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking up at the climber and down into the valley.

Hahn's Philosophy Values?  
Legacy Philosophy Values?

Recent Personal Journey...







# Life Magazine (USA) 7 August 1964



Members of K&K Carson patrol, with Mike Kobulnicky second from left, put on best human facades. They have finished survival test—each one three days alone in woods, living off land.

A rough new school makes over a bumbling boy

## MARSHMALLOW BECOMES A MAN

Mike Kobulnicky was a marshmallow—and it was written over every flaccid fold of him—when, early in June, he turned up at the Colorado Outward Bound School, deep in the Rocky Mountains. He carried 220 pounds on a 5-foot-8-inch frame, waddled uncertainly and apologized constantly. Back home at Bulger, Pa., he was so cautious that when he came downstairs he paused on each step. And though he had a driver's license he was afraid to drive. A polite, self-effacing 17-year-old, he was a good student in high school, but at any physical challenge he quit cold.

Outward Bound's program was made for boys like

him. It originated in wartime England, when strapping young men were giving up and dying in lifeboats while old salts survived by sheer force of will. Schools were opened to teach courage, self-confidence and stamina. There are presently 14 abroad and two in the U.S., in Colorado and Minnesota. At these schools boys are pitted against punishing physical challenges—more punishing than they think they can endure. Faced with the prospect of climbing 14,000-foot mountains, plunging each morning into a glacial pool and making a six-mile run mostly uphill, Mike was sure the odds were 10 to 1 against his staying the course.

Photographed  
for LIFE  
by Bill Eppridge

There were times," said Mike, "when I thought I'd die." As he hiked, his pack moving top-heavy on his back, he huffed up a 14,000-foot mountain, where the patrol spent a rainy night camped on the snow. At right, a whistled Mike rises his cup for soup after a killing day—4:30 a.m. reveille, a climb up a mountain, a cross-country hike until 11 p.m., all with only cold snacks to eat.





## ALMOST LICKED BY A LOG, MIKE BECOMES A TIGER



**B**y the last week of the course Mike had finally decided that perhaps he *could* survive it. He even joked a little about it. "I've learned one thing," he said. "This is a darn good place to send your enemies."

Then, suddenly, his fragile new

coiling contest he finished sixth out of 11—the first time in his life that he had ever beaten anybody in anything physical. Watching another patrol member still thrashing with his rope, Mike said, "Oh, boy, I know how the poor guy

## FAMILY GETS A STREAMLINED SON WITH MUSCLES AND COWBOY HAT



**A**fter rope-coiling contest, Mike rel-



*S. Hood*

THE PRIVATE SPHERE  
IN EDUCATION

*by*  
E. MEISSNER

An address to the staffs  
of Gordonstoun, Altyre,  
Aberlour and Wester  
Elchies

November 1954



# Purpose...

What has happened? Have we school masters killed the spirit of enterprise by providing an appropriate framework and organization... *by making achievement compulsory?* (p. 15)





## Private Sphere

- That part of a boy's life which is not the object or target of education and does not legitimately come under any sort of educational control. It is the province which is to be left to the boy himself.

## The *Grande Passion*

- A powerful urge which leads to achievement and may even lead (if high talents come into play) to great and masterly work later in life.

The private sphere is an important, contributory source of mental vigour, emotional health and personal independence.

Gordonstoun projects ... organized hobbies

Plan ... tradition ... badges ... becomes a school activity.

Killed the spirit of enterprise by providing an appropriate framework and organization.





- Projects as over organized ... curriculum ... over crowded
- Only on Saturdays ... like protestant churches
- Space for leisure ... space for creativity and imagination
- Grande Passions ... the guardian angels of adolescence



# The Grande Passion ... ignited ...

- Step back
- We are trespassing
- Leave them alone
- The school recedes







It is not our task or duty to repeat, like parrots, what Hahn said. We must see with our own eyes in order to carry on and to develop what he began. (p. 18)

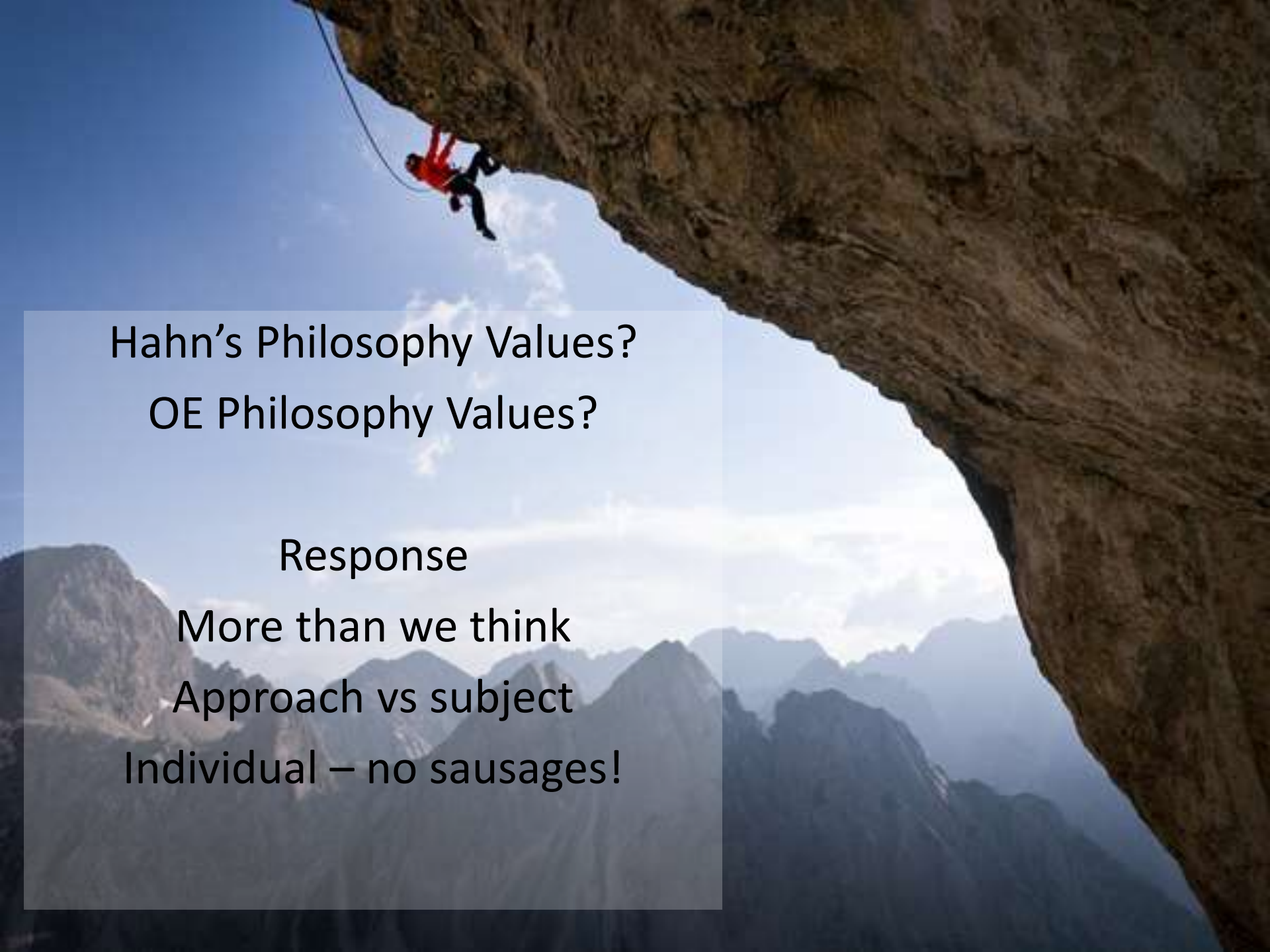
# Two Examples...

- Outward Bound Oman – Connecting Cultures
- Outward Bound Peacebuilding





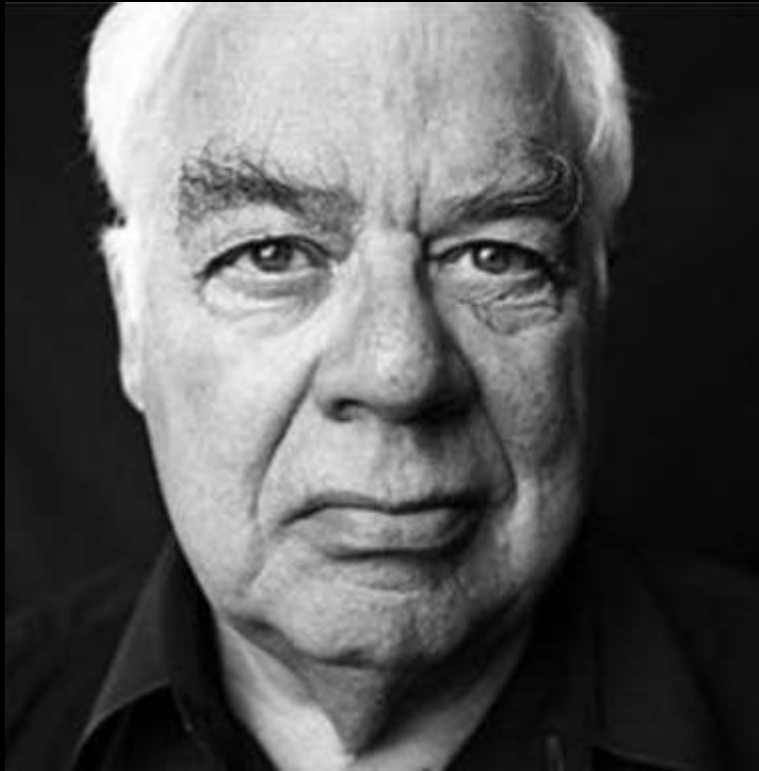


A person in a red jacket and black pants is rappelling down a dark, textured rock face. A rope is visible extending from the top left. The background shows a vast mountain range under a blue sky with some clouds. A semi-transparent grey box contains text on the left side of the image.

Hahn's Philosophy Values?  
OE Philosophy Values?

Response

More than we think  
Approach vs subject  
Individual – no sausages!



Rorty

... we shall see all three attempts [moral philosophy, social sciences and literature] to find **ways of describing our relationships to our fellows which help us to figure out what to do** ... we shall think of universal truths as nice to have, if we can get them, but as something which we know how to get along without. ... we shall see this as having made us able to **talk in less reductive and condescending terms** about people very different from ourselves ... we shall see them as ... having made us morally better.

(1983, p. 175).



# Questions

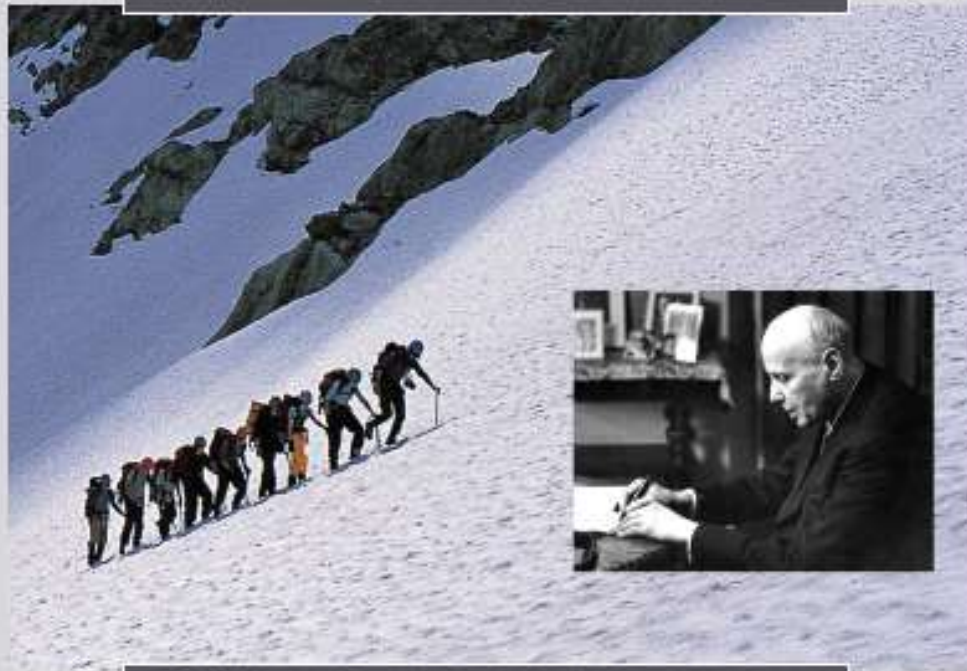
- What is the need?
- *The Young and the Outcome of the War* (1965)
- What are the structures for *grande passion*?
- An *Aristocracy of Service*? Rescue?
- Opportunities for integration?



# Kurt Hahn

Inspirational, Visionary, Outdoor  
and Experiential Educator

Nick Veevers and Pete Allison



*SensePublishers*

# Revisiting Philosophical Underpinnings ... Looking back ... Looking forwards

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