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TWENTY-NINTH YEAR

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Not Taught to Think.

American youth does not know how to think!

This and more trenchant criticism of American education principles and methods comes quite recently from a professor speaking before the Babson statistical organization meeting at Wellealeay.

"Young people today," said the educator, "are interested in application, not principles. They have had, in school at least, no fundamental instruction in the problems of ethics and conduct, in the problems of society and government, in genuine science as opposed to tinkering.

"Above all they have been taught not to criticize or analyze. They come to higher education in life with the settled conviction that the only allowable criticism is 'constructive' criticism—as if one could construct without first clearing the ground. The trouble? They are not taught to think."

True it is that the fountain of knowledge at American universities flows easily and freely. "Tis no well students have to dig to secure their glistening drops of thought, their sparkling fresh ideas. The student has little real thinking to do. Knowledge, ideas, facts—all come to him on a platter. He has only to help himself. Genuine mental labor involved is at a minimum.

Even the term "student" has become an acrimonious malapropism applied to those who go to school. Few pupils are students. Few really study. They read tomorrow's lesson and assimilate it in as short a time as is possible. To go on and read the text for the next day—that, they would exhort at the suggestion, is awfully foolish.

The difficulty in education might be said to rest in two courses, the student and the professor. The average student does not have the proper attitude in regard to study. Instead of being captivated by a spirit of learning to prepare himself better for a full and rich life, his chief interests, headonistic in nature, center on present pleasures of college life.

The instructor, on the other hand, perhaps may be blamed for passing out knowledge too freely. The pupil must think for himself to get the maximum good from a course. He needs to grapple with ideas, to wrestle with problems—economic, political, social. It is better to solve them to his own satisfaction than to accept the perhaps better but possibly dogmatic opinion of his teacher.

There are too many purely memory courses. Fundamental facts, of course, must be learned and retained. Details which for practical purposes need not be remembered, should not be emphasized.

As the speaker referred to above says, it is principles of living that youth must discover.

And it is ethics and problems of human conduct, government and society in a more complex world than ever before greeted a boy entering manhood, over which youth must ponder.

Church and College.

Heartening indeed was the report that over 600 students attended the Presbyterian, Lutheran and First Christian church receptions last week and countless others attended parties in smaller groups at various churches. Such an account makes us question the authority of extremists who contend that 50 percent of the students in American colleges are atheists. Without a doubt this is gross exaggeration and we feel certain that such a calamitous condition does not exist at the University of Nebraska.

Church attendance is not requisite at our university. Many students may think that they have no need for religion, but when times of grief and sorrow comes, and every student gets his quota sooner or later, when loneliness, illness, tragedy and death enter into our lives then we feel the need of religion.

It will benefit every freshman and newcomer at the university to get acquainted with his church at once if he has not done so before now. Here he will find no class distinction, no rating, no snobbishness, only friendliness, kindness, a desire on the part of others to be of service and a congenial group of educated people who want to help the college student make the most of his opportunities.

Echoes of the Campus.

Letters from readers are cordially welcomed in this department, and will be printed in all cases subject to the common newspaper practice of keeping out of all libelous matter and attacks against individuals and religions. For the benefit of readers a limit of 250 words has been set. The name of the author must accompany each letter, but the full name will not be published unless so desired by the contributor.

Why 'Disconcerted' Is Misinformed.

To the Editor of The Daily Nebraskan: Knowing that you are well acquainted with the article written by Disconcerted in Monday's issue of The Daily Nebraskan, I would suggest that he write under the pen name of Misinformed. It is indeed discouraging to ethical journalism to read such a biased, unfair article written for the edification of Nebraska students.

Each fraternity, according to ruling made by the Student council in the fall of 1928, is to have one active member, who is to be an eligible junior and one sophomore pledge, who is also eligible. This ruling is upheld and enforced by the active organization of Corn Cobs. To further prove my claims to the truth, an excerpt from The Daily Nebraskan, Sept. 26, 1929, is as follows: "Each fraternity on the campus is granted one active and one pledge member of Corn Cobs. A further list of eligible men will appear at a later date."

A partial list of pledges was published because, altho the meeting was called and announced previously as devoted to the voting on new members, some of the fraternity representatives were not prepared to nominate their pledges. Each fraternity was notified three times thru The Nebraskan that it was entitled to equal representation, two members from each. And now when Disconcerted gripes over the issue I cannot wonder why legislators opposed to proper university appropriations should use as one of their main arguments the continual mismanagement and unrest among student activities of which a few "misinformed" so eloquently speak.

Disconcerted disparages the fact that one of the leading athletic fraternities has no representation in Corn Cobs. If this fraternity was interested enough in the pep organization, it would find that equal representation is denied no one and that, it need not be begged for. Corn Cobs is desirous of having representatives from each of the fraternities on the Nebraska campus, and it should not, as a selective organization be forced to plead with each fraternity not represented at the present time, to send their candidates to meetings.

FAIR PLAY.

Between the Lines.

By LABALLE GILMAN.

LET us one and all face the fact. One week of school has been put behind us. That leaves us seventy-two shopping days till Christmas and about thirty-seven weeks before the next May Queen does her well known stuff. What a rosy future! Several inmates are already looking for the board of pardons.

Warwick Deeping is rapidly gaining fame. "Sorrell and Son" started his march, though he has been writing for years. (We happened on one of his books put out in 1902—one's style changes marvelously in twenty-six years.) Having just finished "Old Pybus" which shifts us from one English family that we found in "Sorrell and Son" to another English family, we are impressed, as students, with the similarity between Old Pybus himself and some of our esteemed instructors.

The story centers about Grandfather Pybus and Grandson Pybus, who are separated by a generation of worthless rotters for fathers and uncles, but who find much in common and build up a friendship between themselves. Old Pybus, disowned by his sons, is discovered working as a hotel "boots" by his literary grandson. It is evident that here are possibilities, and for those followers of Deeping, his latest novel, out this fall, is "Roper's Row" and by all reports it is infinitely better than either "Old Pybus" or "Sorrell and Son."

Nebraskan editorials and student opinions have been kicking up typewriter dust lately over the advice given to a graduating class by Prof. Robert E. Rogers, of the Massachusetts institute of technology. The trouble seems to be over the fact that the word "snob" was used. In part, Professor Rogers said:

"Every one of you has the ability to belong to a small aristocracy, an aristocracy that college men ought to be. . . . You cannot go on the assumption that you are as good as the rest of the folks. . . . You should take the attitude that you are a damned sight better. . . . You have got to take the rule

away from the bootlegger, the politician, and the man who came up from one suspender button."

Three lousy cheers for Rogers! What's all the turmoil over "snob"? There isn't a university student in America who isn't a would be snob, so why attempt to "defend" ourselves? If we didn't take the attitude that we are better than most folks, we wouldn't be collegians. Jeeves, shut the window on all that noise from the proletariat without, and turn on my bath.

A fellow named Thames Williamson thought he'd do something startling, so he wrote a book called "Hunky" and he succeeded in starting the Book-of-the-Month club into putting it onto the blue list. The Book-of-the-Month club must have been off its guard. We'll say that, anyway, to be generous.

"Hunky" deals with a Slav named Jencio and his friend Kru-sack and his girl Teena. They work in a bakery. They don't do anything. They mix bread and get drunk and have children. It's a book of one syllable words which tries to bring this ignorant, slow-moving, oxlike hero closer to the reader. But we didn't want him close. He smelled.

For heroes and heroines, we like people who are a little bit wittier than ourselves, in order that we may enjoy them. If we can anticipate every word and move of the characters, we're bored. In other words, these peasant stories with their "strong, simple, not-very-bright" characters give us a slight sensation of discomfort in the region just back and a little below our ears.

Hurray! Harold Jay Graham, a student at the University of California, expresses our sentiments, stranger. This young man was winner of the New Republic's essay contest, and he says of students:

"Culture is vague and foreign to the majority of us (students), brought up on Sunday comics, movies, and Saturday Evening Posts, in drab and smug middle class homes. . . . yet the present liberal arts college endeavors to transform us into scholars and gentlemen. . . . We are exposed to four years of lectures on Plato and popular astronomy, Roman history, and contemporary poetry.

Consequently most of us are stricken with a sort of intellectual paralysis. . . .

And we mustn't forget the courses in china painting and the Greek drama. What would we ever do without them!

Back in the prehistoric times of a couple of years ago, a contemporary of ours, conducting the Spectator column in this daily, started a noble experiment which met no slight success. The great thought behind the experiment should not be allowed to die.

Herewith, Between the Lines offers a first prize of eight castoff neckties and a second prize of a very slightly tarnished shoe horn for the most beautiful poem expressing the minimum of thought and intelligence. The poems will be published in this column, and the judges will consist of two students who read it. (The copy-reader and the defendant.) Two years ago, the winner dashed off a dilly about cows on railway trestles and a red sunset. Others concerned hippopotami and cigarette stubs in front of Social Sciences. Bong! Round one!

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, Oct. 2.

Iota Sigma Pi tea for girls, Chemistry hall 310, 3:30 to 5:30 o'clock.

Thursday, Oct. 3.

Sigma Delta Chi, University hall 106, 7 o'clock.

Friday, Oct. 4.

Chancellor's faculty reception, Ellen Smith hall, 8 to 11 o'clock.  
Alpha Delta Pi house party.  
Kappa Alpha Theta tea for Mrs. Sargent, 3:30 to 5:30 o'clock.  
Kappa Epsilon mixer, armory, 8:30 to 11:30 o'clock.  
Phi Kappa house party.  
Theta Chi house party.

Saturday, Oct. 5.

AN University party, Barb

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Beta Theta Pi house party.  
Delta Upsilon house party.  
Farm House house party.  
Kappa Psi house party.  
Phi Kappa Phi house party.  
Phi Sigma Kappa house party.  
Phi Delta Theta house party.  
Pi Kappa Phi fall party, Lib. coln.  
Sigma Kappa house party.  
Y. M. C. A.-Y. W. A. A. party, Ellen Smith hall.

Mortar Board Recommend Freshmen Have Buttons

Green buttons for freshman women are still available at Rudge & Guenzel's. Many girls have already obtained them and the Mortar Boards recommend that freshman women get a button and wear it.

M. A. STEELE

Publishers Representative  
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ATTENTION, STUDENTS

For self-supporting students desiring fascinating remunerative work either temporary or permanent, may I suggest that many students of both sexes have earned scholarships and cash sufficient to defray all college expenses representing national magazine publishers. If interested write or wire for details—M. A. Steele, National Organizer, 5 Columbus Circle, New York, N. Y.

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A Student Looks at Public Affairs.

By DAVID FELLMAN.

The revision of the tariff schedules is the major political problem in the country today. It is just that it is a political problem that complicates the situation. In the hands of skilled economists and administrative experts, the tariff rates could be nicely readjusted from time to time. But, subjected to the tender mercies of sectional politicians, tariff revision becomes a hazardous undertaking of calamitous confusion.

Instead of supplying the needs of a unified economic system the tariff is the instrument of special interests. A host of lobbyists is maintained in Washington to keep the fear of the ballot in the hearts of the legislators. As a result, the tariff is not drawn up systematically, but is the negation of system. It is a crazy quilt, without rhyme or reason.

The new tariff rates, as embodied in the Hawley-Smoot bill, call for upward revision all along the line. It will set up the rates to the highest point ever attained in the history of our country. This bill has passed the house, has the approval, evidently of President Hoover. It is now hanging fire in the senate. The major consideration is: Do conditions in this country justify higher customs duty?

The underlying principle of our whole tariff scheme has been that of protection for American industry, and, of late, for agriculture as well. The tariff has been the instrument whereby American enterprises were able to expand, unhampered by a cheap foreign com-

petition. But as the tariff rates go up, so do the prices on countless commodities which the American people consume. Tariff rates should, therefore, be levied only where and when protection is necessary, and only to the extent which the exigencies of the situation demand.

We doubt very much whether a general upward revision of the tariff rates is justifiable at the present time. The condition of American industry, which will be the principal beneficiary of the new bill, is such that further protection is unnecessary. The facts of the American industrial situation are carefully and succinctly presented by Sumner H. Slichter in a recent issue of the New Republic. Mr. Slichter is professor of economics at Cornell, and a member of the staff of the institute of economics at Washington, D. C. His statistical analysis makes out a strong case against the Hawley-Smoot bill.

Professor Slichter shows that American investors have so much confidence in the future of business that the average price of 338 industrial stocks is 95 percent above the average of 1926. In 1928, American manufacturing and mining corporations issued new security issues, exclusive of refunding issues to the amount of \$1,453,200,000 16 percent above 1923.

Furthermore, the profits of a group of 403 corporations were 88 percent greater in 1928 than in 1923. The earnings of 375 industrial corporations, according to a report of the National City bank, during the first quarter of 1929, were 37 percent above the corresponding period in 1928.

In the field of foreign trade our position is no less favorable. The value of our imports was less last year than in any year since 1924. Our imports dropped 9 percent in

the past two years. "No indications of a foreign threat here." On the other hand, our exports were greater in 1928 than in any year since 1920. The value of our exports has jumped 39 percent over the figures for 1923.

Surely the United States has no reason to worry about an unfavorable balance of trade. We are importing less and less, and exporting more and more. We are extraordinarily prosperous, so far as our industries are concerned. Why put up higher barriers?

"Here then in brief," concludes the economist, "is the situation of American manufacturing: Labor costs shrinking, physical output is greater than ever, profits higher than ever, the home market already 97 percent in the hands of domestic manufacturers, exports increasing rapidly, especially the exports of finished manufactures, imports (especially imports of finished manufactures) decreasing in value during the last several years our share in the trade of the world greater than ever. Surely this situation justifies no general upward revision of the tariff.

This is not the only desideratum which is involved in the tariff struggle. There are many other important issues at stake: Considerations of international policy, the flexible clause, the balance between industry and agriculture, the sugar rates and Cuban interests. These matters are of vast political, economic and diplomatic importance back of space, however, prevents our discussing them at this time.

Sigma Tau.

A contribution to the university loan fund was made in 1924 by Sigma Tau, honorary engineering fraternity, of \$640, which is restricted to engineering students