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Breaking Down A Barrier

RECENT developments in the educational world show that at last steps are being taken to tear down the traditional barrier existing between student and instructor.

A group of students in one of the residence halls at Syracuse university, under the direction of a head proctor and an especially selected group of graduate advisors, have raised their scholarship averages more than 20 percent over a year ago.

Through the closer personal contact between the student and his professor thus brought about, more than 66 percent earned better than C averages while less than 45 percent attained that rating last year.

Another school that is striving for this personal contact is Russell Sage college for women, where the old style grading system has been eliminated and a conference system substituted.

This problem is one that has confronted colleges and universities for a long time. It has been recognized by educators that students were not receiving the full benefits of a college education under the present plan whereby they attend classes so many times a week, listen to coldly impersonal lectures, do so much assigned reading, and are graded according to what is shown on an examination paper.

Under such a system, the main idea in the student's mind is to get through with a passing grade and eventually receive a degree, which in itself means nothing. His curiosity or thinking faculties are not stimulated in the least degree. His courses are like so many dead fish, something to be disposed of as rapidly as possible.

In this way the prime objective of a university, the development of an intellectual curiosity and of the thinking process, is defeated. The degree which the student receives at the end of his four years indicates that he has completed a required number of hours, but nothing remains to him from those hours except a few cut and dried facts.

The professor undoubtedly has more to offer than the dry accumulation of data he offers for class consumption, but how to get that extra something across to the student presents a question. There is a minimum of time allotted for class and in this small group of minutes it is hard to do more than is usually done. In addition there is always a group of dullards in every class whom the instructor, try as he might, could never interest in something more than getting by.

The only answer to this question is the establishment of closer personal relations between the two. The means of accomplishing this is not as important as the end, and need not present too great a problem. It is indisputable, however, that in order to keep up with the enlarging demands upon the educational system this relationship must be established, and it is encouraging to see more colleges falling into line with the movement.

'Un-American,' Says Hoover. AT almost the same time the United States senate was acting favorably on the administration's public works and relief appropriations bill, former

President Hoover, who is more and more getting back into the political spotlight, was taking a nasty slap at President Roosevelt and his cohorts.

Many defects of the present administrative policy were enumerated by Hoover in his diatribe against the "un-American" course he claims is being taken by the administration. Among them he points out that the government has become centralized under an enormous bureaucracy and that small business men have been disabled and crushed.

Our ex-president, however, seems to forget that under his "constitutionally organized" government when men and women were masters of the government, the small business man was being crushed just as badly by the expansion of large industries which were aided and abetted by government policies.

An appeal is made to the young republicans to rejuvenate the republican party so that it can crush this democratic ogre in the next election. To do this would be to go back to the old system under which the country was operating when this great depression came upon us. The old republican ideals which originated in the time of Abraham Lincoln have long past been outmoded. If to go back to them is progress, then let the nation remain at a standstill.

Browsing Among The Books

By Maurice Johnson

EFT-WING authors and critics must have a good idea of deciding just what is proletarian literature. They exclude Albert Halper in their brotherhood because in his "The Foundry" he gave almost as much space and consideration to the bosses as to the workers. They exclude the poet Archibald MacLeish because although he does express his dislike for J. P. Morgan, he also laughs at the left-wingers themselves: "Ain't you read in d'books you are all brudders?" Indeed, those upon whom the champions of proletarian literature do put their approving stamp are few.

Among the major voices chanting on social themes are the two young English poets, W. H. Auden and Stephen Spender. Neither of them doubts that the economic system is responsible for all our selfishness, emptiness, and general bad taste.

Both Auden and Spender are remarkably adept in the handling of contemporary subject matter. They do not resort to conventional figures and rhythms, but they speak of cigaret ends, motorcycles, wires, "the black statement of pistons," and plate glass windows. And they plead with us of the younger generation to put aside the old ways for new.

Listen to Stephen Spender: "oh young men oh young comrades it is too late now to stay in those houses your fathers built where they built you to build to breed money on money"

W. H. Auden is even more persuasive, for he expresses the futility and frustration of our lives: "It wasn't always like this? Perhaps it wasn't, but it is. Put the car away: when life fails, What's the good of going to Wales? Here am I, here are you: But what does it mean? What are we going to do?"

Whether or not you are in sympathy with these young Englishmen's social philosophy, you must agree that their writing is effective stuff. Even when Auden writes that "Financier, leaving your little room. . . . The game is up for you and for the others," he does it so factually that one admires him, no matter what he may be saying.

The new collected poems of Auden and Spender have been popular volumes in the United States. Almost everyone agrees that these young men are versifiers of an ability not to be found in every year, and a good many people are willing to agree with them in their damning of the financiers and the empty life engendered by the economic system.

Here is proof, then, that poetry is, after all, a fitting medium for the expression of our chaotic times.

Editors Outline Objectives of '35

Recently an outline by various college presidents of the duties and objectives of college newspapers was compiled by the associated collegiate press. Here is presented the opinions of editors themselves concerning their duties.

Maintain Free Press Rights.

By William Ferris, Editor, University of Michigan Daily.

The most important objective of the college newspaper in 1935 is the maintenance of its right to express free criticism of campus and national institutions. Under no circumstances should the college press become controlled by either faculty or student groups who have no knowledge of newspapers and whose interests are not in sympathy with the journalistic profession. Campus political institutions are eternally endeavoring to influence (they call it "co-operation") the college paper for the benefit of their own ideas or functions. No paper can maintain the respect of the majority of the members of its community if it appears to be the branch of any other campus group or organization. Once this right is established beyond question, I would suggest the following as objectives:

1. Honest news reporting. It is easy to favor one group in reporting campus controversies. This should not be done by an intelligent and conscientious newspaper.

2. A liberal editorial policy. Most metropolitan newspapers are owned by wealthy men. They reflect the opinions of their owners. College papers can be a far more honest expression of general public opinion on national matters than can class controlled metropolitan newspapers.

3. College newspapers are in the unique position of having a large number of men in the faculty, experts in their own fields, who may be interviewed on important issues of the day. I believe that college papers should place more emphasis on educational interviews of this type and less on circulated comic strips and other so called feature services.

Use Editorial Power Wisely.

By Tom A. Dozier, Editor, University of Georgia Red and Black.

I think that the principal theme of college editorial policy should be conservatism. Not the conservatism of the indifferent, the narrow and the backward, but the conservatism that marks the really great newspapers of the United States. For too long, the college press has been prone to fly off into a frenzy about things which, after a little weighty deliberation, may be worked out sanely and wisely.

College editors have placed in their hands a power the potentiality of which few of them realize. To use this power wisely then should be the main editorial objective of 1935.

Wake Up Conservatives and Liberals.

By Albert Kosek, Editor, University of Minnesota Daily.

What should be the objectives of the college newspaper in 1935? Here is my answer. Purposely I make them only two in the hope that by limiting their number we may better assure their fulfillment.

1. To poke a finger into the ribs of conservatives and liberals (who, after all, predominate at least in numbers and somehow, somehow, prod them into activity. The radicals have made themselves heard, and those cheers to them for doing so. But—for those of us who are not looking to soviet Russia—let us shake those in the middle and on the right loose from their dangerous apathy.

2. To cry out vigorously when freedom of assemblage, expression and of the press are impinged upon. With Hitlers here and with Huey Longs on the way up, it might be wise to keep one eye to our liberties lest we look around some day and find them gone. And let's not forget Mr. Hearst—

Don't Be a Camp Follower.

By Ames Landman, Editor, Brown University Daily Herald.

The notion that the college newspaper should "reflect" campus opinion belongs to the collegiate era of gin bottles, gals, and five-day week ends, as depicted by the late lamented College Humor of the 1920's and by the movies. Campus opinion, unfortunately, is too much concerned with the next date or dance or class president or rushing party. Undoubtedly those matters are of a certain interest and local significance, but the college newspaper's editorial page is not going to be worth reading if it confines itself to such petty affairs. The truth is, it seems to me, that if the newspaper is going to lounge about, complacently playing the part of a mirror, the opinion it reflects will be unbearably insipid.

The college paper must be in the van; it dare not linger as a camp follower. It must adopt a set of objectives, a platform if you please, and a set of principles by which to go. There must be some point to its editorials.

The paper can crusade for some definite improvement in the campus situation by intelligent, constructive, and helpful criticism. By persistent efforts it can bring about that improvement, for the college paper is usually the best and most powerful medium on the college campus, if it is intelligently used. The goal may be an innovation in the curriculum, or any one of a host of judicious changes.

Second, the paper can use its editorial columns profitably by working for some less tangible goal, but one which is none the less of the greatest significance. Many editors are doing just that by their attacks on Hearst and by their devotion to the cause of peace. The immediate result of such editorial comment is perhaps negligible, but it is of definite importance in helping to mold thoughtful and considered public opinion.

There is no reason why the college paper should refrain from comment on national and international affairs, for if the editorial writer is up on current events, as he should be, and if he is careful and thoughtful in what he writes, his views are valid in themselves. His editorials are also significant as an expression of the opinion of the rising generation. A balance, however, should be struck between editorials commenting on local events and conditions and situations beyond the campus.

But the diversity of suitable topics should not cause him to permit unconnected and aimless editorials. And, as a parting shot, the editor should never lose his sense of humor.

Stimulate Reader Thought.

By Charles H. Bernhard, Editor, University of Wisconsin Daily Cardinal.

The editorial objective of a college newspaper, not only in 1935, but every year, ought to be the stimulation of thought on the part of the readers. If people agree with you, you will have a pretty dead newspaper. But you will also avoid controversies which may become unpleasant. In other words, if it is your aim to end your administration as editor with nothing but happy memories of the complimentary tickets received it is far better to stay away from subjects which might lead to challenging letters from readers and possibly a few broken friendships.

It is the duty if not the privilege of editors to raise a little polite hell with the sacred shibboleths of readers. Question the value of military training. You may get quite a kick-back, but you will also get a stimulating discussion and an awareness that you have been responsible for some thinking on the part of your subscribers. The objective of the 1935 newspaper editorial page ought to be first, reader-stimulation and, second, self-stimulation. Perhaps that last objective ought to be ranked first.

STUDENT ATHLETES TAKE PART IN MEET

Represent 100 Activities at Physical Education Demonstration.

One of the highlights of the Central District Convention of the American Physical Education association, which opened at the Fontenelle hotel in Omaha last Wednesday and which ends today, was the athletic demonstration, held Friday, March 22, at the Ak-Sar-Ben coliseum. Approximately 100 students and faculty members of the university took part.

Over 100 different activities were shown and participated in by delegates from the University of Nebraska, Creighton university, Nebraska Wesleyan, State Teachers' colleges at Wayne, Peru, and Chadron, and the Omaha and Council Bluffs high schools.

Coach Schulte's tracksters demonstrated several of the fine points in track technique and Coach Bible used several football men for demonstration.

Crittendon, Andrews and Wimberly took part in fencing demonstrations, while Herman, Bignell, Reynolds, and Green participated in gymnastics, tumbling, and wrestling exhibitions.

Forty-five women, including faculty members, under the direction of Miss Mabel Lee, head of the women's physical education department, took part in demonstrations of Grant volley ball, archery, badminton, shuffleboard, and tennis.

GERMAN DEPARTMENT TO SPONSOR PROGRAM

Pfeiler Shows Movies Taken While Abroad; Miller Will Sing.

Dr. W. K. Pfeiler of the Germanics department, will show moving pictures taken in Germany at a program sponsored by the Germanics department Tuesday evening, March 26 at 7:30 in the auditorium of Morrill hall. Dr. Pfeiler took the pictures during his stay in Germany in 1933.

The Rev. Father Demuth of St. Theresa's church will speak of his trip thru the Black Forest and along the Rhine. Dr. J. Alexis, chairman of the Germanics department will introduce him.

Mr. William Miller will sing two German numbers, "Thoresensenz," and "Ich sah den Wald sich farben," and the group will sing German folk songs accompanied by Miss Esther Fuenning.

CHANTS BY CHANCE

A world premiere has come and gone at the University, as the University Players closed another play last evening at the Temple. "My Lucky Star," the play by a former Nebraskaan, Fred Ballard, featured Ray Ramsey. His drollery and easy-going drawl and the East Side bowery lingo of Art Bailey as the tramp kid, were good character contrasts. Sid Baker as the hat-twisting school boy in love with Marjorie Filley, the daughter of the house, and Gen Dalling, the chum, were a humorous trio. The nagging wife and typical mother-in-law were well presented by Mary Dean and Harriette Leason. Although the plot of the production dragged in several spots, the play was well received by local audiences. It may open on Broadway next fall, but whether it will meet with outstanding success is a question. Incidentally, Director Sumption practically re-wrote the entire last act to suit this local presentation. Whether the original last act will be accepted by New York critics as is, is rather doubtful.

REV. RAY E. HUNT TO TALK ON SELF DENIAL

Pastor Speaks at Vesper Service Tuesday in Ellen Smith.

Rev. Ray E. Hunt, of the First Christian church, will give his second address in the series of Lenten services conducted by the vesper staff of the Y. W. C. A. Rev. Hunt will speak at the regular vesper service Tuesday at 5 o'clock in Ellen Smith on the subject of "Self Denial: The Essence of Lent."

At the devotionals which will precede the speech, Jean Palmer, chairman of the program and of the staff of the Y. W. C. A., will preside. Bernice Rindin, violinist, will provide meditation music for a few minutes before the service begins. Caroline Kile, chairman of the vesper staff, asks that girls come early in order to hear the music. Miss Rindin will also play a special selection during the program. The service will take place in a special setting of candlelight and the crucifix.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Girls Rifle Team.

All girls who registered for rifle firing prior to March 1 may continue firing until March 30.

Volley Ball.

All volleyball games heretofore scheduled to take place at 8:20 o'clock will hereafter take place at 8. All participants in the intramural volleyball tournament are asked to make a note of this change. A forfeit will be charged against any team not on time.

Barb Open House.

Barb open house, Sunday afternoon from 3 to 5 o'clock in Ellen Smith hall. All unaffiliated men and women invited to attend.

Newman Club.

Members of Newman club will hold a general meeting, Sunday, March 24 in room 205, Temple. All Catholic students are invited to attend this meeting, which will take the form of a Lenten discussion. The meeting will be held from five to six o'clock in the afternoon.

Bullock Speaks on Economy.

T. T. Bullock of the university economics department addressed the Lincoln St. Matthews guild recently. His subject was "Practical Economy."

Engineering Alumni Return.

Alumni visitors at the college of engineering last week were Richard F. Hansen, Pittsburgh, Pa., a graduate of the university in civil engineering in 1928, and Yale Thieringer of Midwest, Wyo., a graduate in chemical engineering in 1934.

Davis, Downs Go To Valentine.

Prof. H. F. Davis and Dr. P. A. Downs of the university department of dairy husbandry will go to Valentine Wednesday, March 27, to inspect the dairy herd there.

Blish Bakes Bread in Order To Test Qualities of Wheat

If any housewives still bake their own bread, they probably still wish it would turn into light, crisp loaves each week. Because it doesn't always do that, Dr. M. J. Blish at the university proffers them much sympathy.

In the laboratory Dr. Blish has baked countless thousands of loaves of bread in the last dozen years, but he says, "Although we can tell pretty well what will happen to our bread in the laboratory, if I were to go into the kitchen of a home and try to bake I should probably make a failure of it."

Dr. Blish is professor of agricultural chemistry at the university, and is interested in the baking of bread in order to test the quality of wheat. Unlike the housewife and baker he does not care much what the bread tastes like. But he does want to know the properties of the dough, for they indicate to him what chemical or mechanical modifications are needed to produce good bread.

Quality Varies. "Quality in wheat," the professor explains, "varies greatly in different wheats and in different seasons. Because of this the miller must use a variable product and get a constant quality in his flour, or the baking quality will vary."

Agronomists test wheat for its strength and ability to grow in different climates, but they also wish to find the best wheat for both miller and farmer. Yet so complex are wheat and flour that the great trouble is in finding what constitutes quality in them. It is this difficulty which has led to the comparatively new field of study in cereal chemistry.

In order for bread to rise, gas must be formed in the dough by yeast acting on the sugar. However, wheats differ in their capacity to turn their own starch into sugar during dough fermentation, Dr. Blish explains. These differences must be measured and identified by the miller in order that flour lacking in this property may be supplemented by certain malted preparations. With proper additions all the flour can be brought to the desired level. The professor points out, and from this would result more uniform baking results.

Precise methods for measurement of wheat properties have been developed in the laboratories at the University of Nebraska, and they are standard over most of the United States. Mills now have scientists, so that every sample is

precise laboratory machines and thermometers the ground flour is turned into "pup loaves" of bread, all of the same size. Careful check can be made of the exact color, weight, volume, and texture of the finished bread.

Working with Dr. Blish in his important experiments is R. M. Sandstedt, assistant professor of agricultural chemistry at the university, and a number of graduate students and technicians. Each year a fixed amount of funds are allotted by the government for this work.

Now these men are seeking methods for isolating and changing the properties of flour. A long time job, but much progress has been shown. They hope to learn better how to identify and know the properties of various types of flours. Whether for cake, bread, or crackers each type has a place where it is best suited. By learning the properties the chemist can then associate and designate the types for different industrial uses.

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