

Daily Nebraskan

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Phi Beta Kappas; How They Suffer!

Almost sheepishly, some 587 students will submit to being honored this morning for having the brazen audacity of stepping out ahead of the rest of the "flock" and securing good grades. A certain apologetic attitude is often assumed by those being honored for procuring high marks, as if wishing to convey to other students their expression of regret for having achieved so inferior an accomplishment.

Whenever any articles are written concerning Phi Beta Kappas it has practically become traditional that the honored should squirm in their seats for their narrow mindedness and bigotry. They are nothing but pedants who slave for mere distinction.

With this issue the Nebraskan wishes to break precedent and vie with such timeworn accusations. True that scholastic achievement is not an adequate indication of capabilities. True that it is merely a record of the highest grades. But was it ever intended to be more? Who has attempted to claim for it any greater distinction? While many courses are "pipes" in comparison with those taken by other students, scholastic achievement nevertheless is indicative of something.

If nothing better it indicates a will to better oneself along some line of endeavor. That this particular line may later take a different direction, is of minor importance, the fact remains that the quality of perseverance is inherent within the student. Due consideration should rightfully be given this aspect when applications for positions are later submitted.

High grades do not teach a student to think, to reason or to invent. Most certainly they do indicate, however, that they have obtained a certain store of information. Information as such may not be valuable, but without information no manner of reasoning is possible. Analogy cannot enter a vacuum. Training in the use of a subject must necessarily follow awareness of the subject matter. The person possessing an elementary comprehension of liberal arts, for example, will be much more likely to evolve something of use to the world than that individual who as yet does not even possess cognizance of the simple facts. Long before any interpretations or opinions may be voiced it becomes obligatory to know the salient elements if any logical conclusion is to be attained. Scholarship does not pretend to embody genius, rather genius almost indispensably embraces some form of scholarship. For this very simple and obvious reason the possession of information, recognized thru the attainment of high grades, should not be subject to ridicule.

That person in a position capable of exciting envy is far better off than the individual standing at a distance and vainly rationalizing by use of "sour grapes." The more a man can, by achievement, make others envy him, the greater becomes that man. No amount of belittlement can take away the glory of something well done.

Was it not Voltaire who said, "Reason, industrious hands, a head capable of generalizing ideas, a language pliant enough to express them—these are great benefits granted by the Supreme Being to man, to the exclusion of other animals." Students being honored this morning have industrious hands and a language pliant enough to express themselves. Much remains for them to do. Others may yet overcome and surpass them. But while their ascendancy is far from complete they have shown some degree of capability by outstripping their either less intelligent or more lethargical classmates. More power to them.

COSMOPOLITAN LECTURER TO ADDRESS CONVOCATION HERE. (Continued from Page 1). his work as general secretary of the organization that he became interested in the problem of modern education and the bearing of education upon political thought and economic facts. He has contributed a great many articles on these subjects to European and American newspapers and periodicals. In addition to his newspaper and periodical articles, Dr. Kotschnig has published a symposium on "The University in a Changing World," and just recently was entrusted by the Carnegie Corporation of New York in co-operation

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT

Youth Walks The Streets.

"You have walked the streets looking for jobs that never turned up." Thus President Roosevelt at Baltimore, talking to "a cross section of millions of young people who have come to maturity since 1929." In these simple, homely words the president described the gravest evil and the gravest menace of the economic maladjustment we call the depression.

The passing generation, after all, doesn't matter so much. For the most part it has fulfilled its mission, done its work—much of it very poorly. Biologically speaking, it can be spared. Its individual suffering and hardships may be, and are, pitiful enough. God knows, to arouse the wrathful sympathy of those with eyes that see and imaginations lively enough to feel vicariously. But to the race its usefulness is about ended. Perhaps, even, it is more a drag than a help.

The young folks, tho—the oncoming generation—they do matter. They have their lives yet to live. The future is in their hands—their own, and the race's. And their future matters to us who are their fathers and mothers almost as much as to themselves. It is in our children, for our children, and their children, more than in and for ourselves, that the passing generation lives. Its eyes, sadly troubled, are also on the future.

And so all of us older persons are in the same fix as President Roosevelt when "youth comes to us wanting to know what we propose to do about a society that hurts so many of them." None of us, of whatever race or creed or party or station, likes to see that hurt, dazed, appealing look in the eyes of the young men and women of our time—eager, ambitious, well equipped—who walk the streets and troop thru the offices and shops looking for the jobs they can't find. It makes us feel guilty. Even the most fortunate, who may be at the same time the most selfish, cannot but be seriously disturbed as to the future of their own children.

Somehow or other, we cannot but realize, we have fallen down on the job. We have succeeded gloriously in providing the facilities for "the more abundant life." We have multiplied and simplified the means and methods for the production of goods and materials. We have so developed education that it comes within the reach of all. Scientific inventiveness and research have brought rare gifts, also within the reach of all, undreamed of a century ago. Music, literature, the arts, are for the enjoyment of the many and not only the few. We have assembled the materials and ingredients, in rich abundance, for Utopia.

And yet, with it all—with far greater wealth more widely distributed than any other civilization has known—millions of our older persons are subsisting off charity and great multitudes of the youngsters, searching for a place in the sun, can find no opportunity, no chance to work. Their skill, their talents, their energy, their loyalty—there is no place for them.

Surely there will be no disputing that something should be done about that. Everyone realizes that there is a failure, a dislocation, so serious that it threatens not only the republic, but every individual, every home, every enterprise within its borders. And, each in his own way, we are all anxious to do something about it. The differences are as to the methods, not as to the objective.

Mr. Roosevelt says truly that unemployment was growing at an astounding rate under the 1928 kind of prosperity. What the captains of industry could do to check it was not good enough. It is equally true that what has been done since 1932 to check it is not good enough. Our bright eyed youth still clamors for the opportunity that of right should be theirs. And the recipients of charity, direct and indirect, hold close to the all time high. For example, a survey of the New York relief situation shows that federal, state and city taxpayers are today supporting about 25 percent more persons at a cost of about 50 percent more than before WPA—the administration's chief relief expedient—went into effect.

The "captains of industry" failed to restore the economic equilibrium when they had full sway. And government, itself tackling the problem single handed, has likewise failed, tho it has poured out many billions of dollars, most of them borrowed, in the effort.

To this newspaper now, as a year ago, the moral seems obvious, and the lesson driven home. Industry, including both labor and capital, and government, both federal and local, must co-operate in good faith and with good will and mutual confidence and support, if the problem is to be solved.

They can't do it each blaming and assailing the other. They can't do it sinking knives into each other's backs. To a battle to the death between them, there can be but one result—and that not alone failure to solve the problem, but the making of it far more difficult, far more menacing.

Not alone to recovery, but to reform as well, the great impediment is the profound distrust now unfortunately existing between the government and private enterprise. It has almost entirely blocked co-operative effort. And, by the same token, it has almost entirely blocked both recovery and reform so far as the youth of the land are concerned and the older willing workers still unable to find jobs that do not smack of charity.—Omaha World-Herald.

Just recently Dr. Kotschnig served as a resident leader in the Des Moines public forums and delivered a series of lectures under the general theme "Whither European Youth?" Apart from his native language, German, he speaks English, French and Dutch, and has a reading knowledge of some five other European languages.

Economic Situations Affect Personality Says Reinhardt

Finances, Family Trouble Are Main Causes of Present Disintegration of Person's Social Complex Says Professor in Recent Article.

"The personalities of average people in the United States are suspended by thin threads under the present economic setup," says Dr. J. M. Reinhardt, associate professor of sociology at the university and George R. Boardman, former graduate student, in an article entitled "Insecurity and Personality Disintegration" which appeared in a recent issue of the magazine, Social Forces.

"Since personalities in most cases are integrated around certain values expressed in terms of radios, automobiles, furniture, vacations, occupations, incomes and friends, and since the security of equal friendships depends largely upon continuance of the other complex of values, it seems plain that readjustment and restoration of personality is possible only thru a redefinition of the whole situation," they write. "In other words, involuntary unemployment or forced change of occupation affects the personality insofar as it blocks the individual's realization of socially approved goals."

The authors made a study of sixteen dependent families, only one of which had ever been on charity before. It may reasonably be supposed, therefore says Dr. Reinhardt, that what happened to these people under the pressure of prolonged unemployment might happen to almost any parents in America under similar conditions. The following table, which resulted from the study, presents in the order of appearance certain resulting personality reactions:

- Reduced income. Moving to cheaper house. Unpaid loan on furniture. Inefficient food. Necessity of asking aid. Old loan to brother. Brother had better education. Overdrawn expense account. Company withheld commissions. Bills piled up. Shabby clothes. Loan company called employer. Wife begins to nag; friction in the home. Took roomer. Accused by wife of being worthless. Personality Indicators: Feeling of insecurity, fear. Resented it, humiliated. Fear of losing it. Worried about children's health. Humiliation and disgrace. Not constant source of conflict. New source of resentment. Desperate, despondent. Threatened to quit. Source of embarrassment. Felt it hindered work. Humiliated, left the firm. Increased nervousness. Fretted former source of conflict. Left home "to save face."

"Some individuals went down rapidly, while others resisted for weeks and months only to break suddenly under some pressure which on the surface appeared insignificant," they found. "A harsh rejoinder from a nerve-wracked wife, a failure on Jean's report card, or an unsuccessful attempt to land a promised job, proved to be the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. The changed attitudes of parents are quickly reflected in the changed attitudes of children. These in turn are again



...but the squirrels were disgusted

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SENIORS MAY APPLY FOR TEACHING POSTS AT FORT CROOK CAMP (Continued from Page 1). June 17 to June 30, and the third period from July 1 to July 14. All graduating members of the R. O. T. C. who will receive their commissions will be eligible to attend the Citizens' Military Training camp which will also be held at Fort Crook during the month of August. Graduates to Attend. Graduates will attend the camp for periods of two weeks, and will act as platoon commanders. The three periods will last as follows: the first period from July 23 to August 10, the second period from August 7 to August 20, and the third period from August 16 to August 29. The overlapping periods are to enable all first year men to receive training before taking charge of their respective platoons. The first two periods will be open to members of the 355th infantry and twenty officers will be chosen for each. The last period is for the 54th infantry; twenty-six officers will be taken. A special camp for members of the Corps Area Service Command will be held at Fort Crook from June 14 to June 27. Only students who live in Omaha have been assigned to this branch of the service.

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