

Foreign Guests Recount Visits At Universities

Traveling Scholars View American Students as Ambitious Lot.

Editor's note: Following are excerpts from an article entitled "Innocents Abroad," written by Momi Sen and John Alexander, two Australian students, who have just completed a tour of the United States, during which they visited colleges and universities in every section of the country. The article from which the following excerpts were taken, was printed in the January issue of "The Intercollegian and Far Horizons." In the article the authors relate incidents of their tour and compare American universities with those of foreign nations.

From summer in California to winter in New York, passing a variegated "fall" in the middle west; from slow speaking Texas to French-speaking Montreal—such was the geographical range of the depleted W. S. C. F. "team" that visited the universities and colleges after the Pacific Area Conference. Socially our contacts ranged from kindergarten classes in grade schools to faculty gatherings; starting with a "significant" (blessed word) conference we finished (or, more literally, were finished with) a stupendous Thanksgiving dinner. And in these three gloriously full months we certainly met "the sweetest bunch of folks."

Vast Number Students.

Such a visit as ours brought home to us the immensity of the American S. C. M. as well as its amazing complexity. It makes an Australian laugh heartily when he finds for example on the first campus he visits twice as many students as there were in the whole of his own continent. But we grew accustomed to being in the "world's largest S. C. M."—after we had seen the world's largest elephant skeleton, read the world's largest "funny" supplement, dined at the world's residential girls' school (we found there were two of these in the country, and chewed the world's largest one-cent stick of gum. The fact that there are nearly a million university students in America—almost as many as in all other countries put together—has tremendous implications for the part the American movement has to play in the W. S. C. F. and other world enterprises.

In spite of all this variety and size we found a surprising oneness of purpose and a real sense of unity—though we had a feeling that the Pacific Coast was not as well coordinated with the whole as most other regions.

"Dynamic" Personality.

Motion, Action, Doing—these are found everywhere. The motto of the American students seems to be "Let's go, gang." In all, we spoke to about 10,000 students and collectively they left the impression having enough energy to push this old globe in any direction they chose. And at a football game! They are yelling dynamo. It's the "dynamic" personality that counts in this country. This vitality is warm and full blooded. It expresses itself in a hospitality so generous as to be overwhelming.

Cheerful American Outlook.

On the whole, the American student is free from the fears, the strains, the stunning confusion that European students face. This gives him a cheerful, selfconfident outlook (frequently, however, tempered by a number of inward doubts), a sureness about the security of the future that is exceedingly refreshing though often too naive to stand against broader visions. The dark clouds on the other side of both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and the sinister shadows that checker this country itself, have not cast a gloom over his living. The result is an optimism that is almost boyish, an immaturity that is in danger of being superficial. The foundations of this optimism need undergirding with much more than material well-being and national "sitting pretty." Dark realities must be faced, in order that the immovable foundations—faith in the ultimate dependability at the heart of the universe—may be created. The much talked of depression washed at the sands of this soft foundation and produced a degree of self-criticism, of doubt in the soundness of things that is surprising to a visitor; but everywhere—in university control; in newspapers; in war preparations—there are signs of a far greater flood coming and there is as great a need for a spiritual flood control program as for a topographical one. This prophetic note is not

ringing at all clearly in the programs of many of the S. C. M.'s, though it sounds out constantly from the national leadership of the movement. It is needed as a corrective to the remarkably penetrating "Hollywood psychology" which even among university students regards publicity as the summum bonum of life. This gilded prize, however transient, gleams as a genuine Holy Grail for thousands of students and together with its counterpart—measurement in quantitative terms—is a persistent temptation even to planners of "Y" programs.

Practicality of Curricula.

One of the most noticeable things about the American university system is of course its essential practicality. It is healthy and refreshing to see how thoroly well adapted to the needs of the country it is. Courses in flour milling, in dairy products, in hotel administration—these would horrify an English educator. But America is never frightened of being different and educationally there has been a big departure from the traditions of the little country that broke away from the United States in 1776—as we learned to define England while we were in Philadelphia.

But again, this virtue can be carried too far and may lead to a neglect of the broader horizons. It often tends to spread education very thinly, so that a student may contend, for example, he knows French when he can say Chevrolet coupe—as I've heard it put.

Learn U. S. Customs.

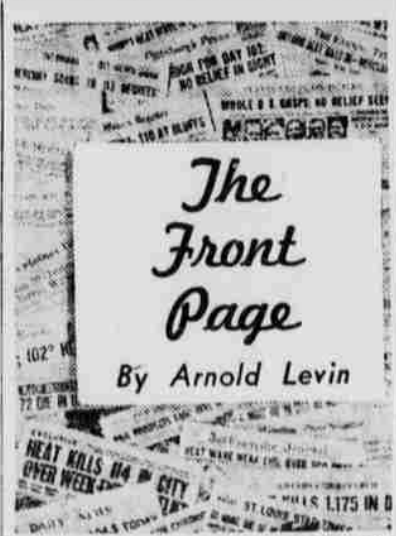
And so having learned that traffic runs down the wrong side of the road everywhere but in America, having got used to handling neckles and dimes and "bucks," having learned what skillet and biscuits and candies are, having traveled thousands of miles by bus, train and car without a single trouble to speak of, having learned the correct pronunciation of aluminum and corollary and schedule, having learned that even an American can be humble, having charged thru the middle of a presidential campaign, having learned more about our own countries than we ever knew before, having devoured delicious salads and drunk gallons of fruit juices, learned to carry "cokes" like gentlemen and sampled ice cream sodas in about 15 different states, having seen Niagara and viewed New York from the top of the Empire State building, having fallen in love until 70 times 7 (and necessarily out again), having plodded thru snow and been invited to take off our coats and suspenders (don't worry, you Australians, this does not mean your "garters") in the blazing sun, and having been asked innumerable times about Mahatma Gandhi, and often "Where did you learn to speak English?"—in short, having had a hotcha time, having been "routed thru a great setup" and seen more "world's largest" than we believed existed—we say "Farewell America" and more and still more power to you.

May you continue to be the stronghold of democracy, the mother of the nations, the constant inspiration for a great world enterprise, the greatest contributor to the world Christian community.

SIGMA TAU MEMBER TO ADDRESS AG ENGINEERS

Petersen to Develop Topic On Concrete Tests at Meeting Tuesday.

George Petersen, senior in the engineering college, will talk on the subject of "The Testing of Concrete" at a regular meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, Tuesday evening, Feb. 9, at Ag engineering building. Petersen, who is a member of Sigma Tau, honorary engineering fraternity, and A. S. A. E., will get his degree in agricultural engineering in February, 1938. He has been working in the material testing laboratory in the University of Nebraska for the past three years. With the increased use of concrete the testing process has become very important. Anyone who is interested in this field should take advantage of the opportunity to hear this talk.



PLANS calling for \$5,011,000,000 expenditure on flood control and public works were President Roosevelt's pre-season valentines to members of congress. The two houses in Washington seemed, on the surface, receptive enough. The senate paused in its consideration of the 900 million dollar deficiency bill, from which it is planned to finance emergency flood relief needs, to hear the president's message, which entailed plans for the prevention of future floods and a shot in the arm for industry in future depressions.

The public works part of the program calls for gradually increasing expenditures over a six year period, until over 10,000 specific projects are completed. Which puts the nation two years ahead of the end of the next Roosevelt regime, if the scheme goes into effect.

Dan Dunn, the comic strip detective hero, draws the same moral from each case solved—"Crime Does Not Pay." Yesterday a 20 year old farm youth learned the true meaning of that ethically drawn war cry of the comic's ace crime solvers. Under severe police grilling, Robert Kenyon broke down and confessed that he had lured Dr. J. C. B. Davis, prominent Willow Springs, Mo., physician to his death on a false call. Ransom was the goal, but the electric chair, say Missouri authorities, shall be the end.

A bill has been introduced in the Maine legislature seeking to change the date of the state election from September to November, removing the state from its "weather vane" role in national elections. Evidently the state has lost faith since last November.

A 12 year old wife was separated from her 19 year old husband and placed in temporary custody of a children's agent in Watertown, N. Y. In Kentucky, a 22 year old husband gave his 9 year old wife a doll for a wedding present and boarded up his mountain shack against a throng of curious visitors. In both states the legislatures began preparations for badly needed laws against child marriage. However, to all of you who "ooh" and "ah" at such reports, don't forget that Juliet, of the famous Romeo and Juliet combination, was but 13.

Shirley Temple-Freddie Bartholomew sounds like a nice child's romance, but try to put the two names together in Hollywood! The two studios who are respective owners of the two actor's contracts went into tantrums when a publicity picture showing the two together was planned. The feud was carried over to the respective families, the lad's relatives claiming that "that little Temple girl" snubbed their Freddie, and Miss Temple's family pointing smugly to a first place for their Shirley in box office appeal as adequate reason why she couldn't appear in publicity photographs with any other child star. Too bad they had to get practical about it all—it seemed like such a nice affair when we started out.

Miss Pound Reviews Craigie Dictionary for American Literature

Miss Louise Pound of the English department has a review of the first part of the monumental new "Dictionary of American English on Historical Principles," in the January, 1937, issue of the periodical, "American Literature." The dictionary was edited by Sir William Craigie. Miss Pound returned early last week from Washington, D. C., where she attended the meetings of the Fellowship Award Committee of the American Association of University Women.

TANKSTERETTES SET FEB. 13 AS DATE FOR SEMESTER TRYOUTS

Women Interested in Offer Asked to Sign Names At Armory.

Tryouts for membership in Tanksterettes, girls' swimming organization, will be held Saturday, February 13, at 1:30. Those interested should place their names on the bulletin board at Grant Memorial or on the bulletin board at the pool. Contestants must come equipped with bathing shoes, cap, and swimming permit. The latter may be obtained at the university health office.

Selection is based on form, speed and endurance. To complete form requirements, the applicant must be able to execute five strokes—front crawl, back crawl, side, elementary back, and breast. Speed requirements are based on the performance of front crawl, back crawl, and breast strokes, and endurance requirements are that the applicant swim twelve lengths of the pool in ten minutes.

Telegraphic Meet Slated.

Work is progressing toward the National Telegraphic Swim meet to be held some time between March 15 and April 15. Anyone interested who has not registered is asked to do so immediately so that the requirement of eight half-hour practices may be fulfilled. To be eligible for entrance in the meet applicants must have carried twelve hours in good standing the previous semester and must now be registered as an undergraduate student. Free hours open to practice are 4:00 o'clock Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 7:30-8:30 Monday, and 1:30-3:00 Saturday.

A meeting for all regular members of Tanksterettes and those interested in the telegraphic meet has been set for Thursday, Feb. 11, at 7:00 in Grant Memorial, room 101.

SPONSORS WILL HOLD OFFICERS TEA DANCE

Mary Yoder Presides at First Meeting of 1937 Group.

Election of officers for the university R. O. T. C. sponsors organization was held at the initial meeting of the group on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 4 at 5 o'clock in Ellen Smith hall.

Mary Yoder, Honorary Colonel of 1936, will automatically serve as president of the group for this year and Marian Rolland, regimental sponsor, will fill the office of vice-president. In the election held Jane Sawyer was named to assume the duties of secretary. Pat Scott will serve as scrapbook chairman for the ensuing term and Helen Pascoe will handle the publicity for the organization.

As an additional feature of the meeting, Miss Yoder read the constitution of the organization, emphasizing the provision that two absences automatically drop a girl from membership in the sponsors group.

A meeting to discuss plans for a sponsors tea dance to be given in the near future will be held on Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock in Ellen Smith hall, Miss Yoder announced.

Trojan Pole Vaulter Exhibits Finesse in Freshman Track Try

Robert Short, sophomore, who spent his freshman year at Southern California university, has joined the rank of pole vaulters on Coach Henry Schult's track team. Graduating from Norfolk high school in 1934, Short sought warm climes in which to practice his catapulting art, and enrolled at the California institution, where he received his track training. He has polevaulted 12 feet 2 inches several times. Due to the ruling that he must spend one year here before being eligible for the varsity squad, Short will take part in the tri-color meet this Monday.

Counsellor's Corner

The Higher Vantage Point

By Rev. F. L. Rodenbeck, Pastor of St. Paul's Evang. Church
"Lead me to the rock that is higher than I."
Psalm 61:2.

We can find a refuge only in something bigger than ourselves. We can only look up to something that is higher than we are. Our life shrinks when we do not look to things higher than ourselves. We must have room to grow or we shall become smaller. Even our reading must be a rock higher than we. Then our eyes can be lifted in aspiration, discovery and wonder.

This principle applies to our religion especially, but the danger is that, often in our practical thinking we level our conception of God to our own stature. Then God becomes one, who is not worshipped when not looked up to in trust. There is no adoration, no wonder. We speak to Him without much thought about what we have to say. We read His word casually or ignore it. Then we do not listen and if we do, we obey so indifferently. There can be no real depth to life, no breadth of meaning without vision.

We need "The Rock that is higher," in order to have a larger vision. We are so apt to get lost in details that we lose the sense of the whole. The immediate problems loom so large that we lose sight of the goal. The present difficulty blots out the possible solution and outcome. We need to look upon life from a higher point of view. We want the Rock that is higher and that Rock is Christ. From the vantage point of His outlook on life we see all of life in its larger meaning.

When the power of the heights comes upon us we are drawn away from the littleness of life, from narrow outlook and from absorption in self to the wider ruler view of life and acceptance of our place in the great plan of God.

WEATHERLY TO TALK ON FUNCTION OF UNIVERSITY

Lincoln Minister to Preach On Place of College In Community.

"The Function of a University" is the subject of the sermon to be given by Dr. A. L. Weatherly, minister of the Unitarian church at 12th and H sts., at 11 o'clock this morning.

"The function of a university is to serve as a community agency in the search for truth," remarked Dr. Weatherly in reference to his topic. "And the university exists not merely for the search for truth, but for the application of truth to human welfare," he continued, "and there is dynamite in this statement if it is rightly interpreted."

Rev. Weatherly also intimated further that he intended to indict superfluities of a university such as athletics, military drill, and certain training courses that should be relegated to trade schools.

Y. M. ELECTION DATE SET AS FEBRUARY 8

Election of officers of the campus Y. M. C. A. has been set for Monday, February 8. Members will cast their votes at the chapter rooms in the Temple during the hours of 9:15 to 12:00 and 1:20 to 5:00 p. m.

Nominees chosen by the committee on nominations are president, Dan Williams; vice president, John Steinhuis; secretary, Erle Constable and Bob Roland. Voters are privileged to insert the name of any candidate desired for the office who was not selected by the committee.

F. Ugai, Frosh Footballer Returns to University

Fred Ugai, all state lineman in 1934 from North Platte and a member of the '35 frosh squad here, returned to school this semester. He intends to go out for the varsity eleven during spring drills, and will try out for a guard post.

While under the tutelage of Ed Weir, frosh coach, before leaving school, Fred showed signs of becoming a lineman of much ability. After nearly a two year respite, the North Platte luminary is ready for all gridiron playing that may come his way.