

Faculty Criticizes Adler Theory Of Education

By PEG BARTUNEK Staff Writer
The case of Mortimer Adler vs. present day teaching methods was set before a group of University faculty members in a recent survey by The Daily Nebraskan.

The survey was aimed at getting the reaction of those effected by an article in the March 17th issue of Time magazine in which Adler's theory blasting education methods appeared. The opinions and comments brought forth should interest students and faculty alike.

Among those making statements regarding Adler's philosophy was Frank E. Henzlik, dean of Teachers college and professor of school administration.

"In my opinion," Dean Henzlik said, "Mr. Adler is an extremist who loves to make sensational statements. These people rarely, if ever, propound balanced philosophies or programs of education. I do not think higher education meets all of the needs of the young people as well as it could at the present time."

Supplementing his last statement, Henzlik went on to say that "we should have a broad general education supplemented by technical and specialized courses to enable one to be effective as a person, as a worker and citizen in a free society."

Expressing much the same sentiment set forth in Henzlik's last statement was George Babilot, an instructor in economics, who said that "we can't get everything from the Great Books. We also need the techniques of facing and solving problems of living."

Babilot said that the problems

we have today are 'of identical to the ones we had yesterday or back in the Greek civilization. He questioned if we could solve the problems of today by going back and reviewing contributions made by the authors of the Great Books.

Commenting on Adler's personally, Babilot cited him as a "non-conformist inconsistent with the traditional type of learning." He added that Adler's personality is hardly a good salesman for his ideas.

This trend of thought was further established by the comments of William H. Werkmeister, professor of philosophy, whose main criticism of Adler's methods was that "if we get education which is so thoroughly centered on the Great Books, we must wade through so much material which is no longer of vital significance to us today."

On the other hand, Werkmeister defended Adler somewhat by saying that he thought "Adler's objection to the principles of Dewey and the Deweyites is, in all essentials, sound. What is needed," he said, "is a facing of the fact that our education is to be not simply a preparation for making a living."

"Education should stress the fundamentals in subject matter," Werkmeister said, "and provide a rounded out cultural education which will bring the student in contact with the humanities and arts as well as the sciences."

From the science department came the remarks of John F. Davidson, assistant professor of botany.

"Things are seldom white or black," he said, thus stamping

Adler's philosophy "not valid." He added that he thought the American education system can and will be improved.

In Davidson's opinion, "if an AB degree is to mean anything, it should not be in the attainment of everyone." He felt that the achievements at a college graduate level were equal to those of high school graduates at matriculation, and the current AB degree could be attained from two to four years earlier.

From the language department came the comments of Stanley T. Vandersall, an instructor in the classics.

Vandersall stated that he thought Adler's ideas were basically "sound" but that he did not come to the same conclusions as Adler. Vandersall concludes that "given present circumstances, this synthesis of education is a desirable goal but is too idealistic for attainment in the predictable future."

Vandersall went on to say that he thinks "specialization will be with us for a long time because it is not only essential to our academic setup as it now stands, but it is also the basis of research." He further said that without research, broad concepts of education would become impossible.

He agreed with others interviewed that all Americans or all students were not capable of attaining an AB degree due to their varying abilities and qualifications.

Last, but certainly not least, is the opinion of Nathan B. Blumberg, associate professor of journalism, who had no trouble whatsoever in setting forth his opinion of Adler and his theory.

"I think Adler is an intellectual McCarthy whose goals

are admirable but whose means to the end are hardly worthy of respect.

"His major contribution," Blumberg said, "has been to explode the traditional teacher college approach to education which has not worked, is not working and will never work."

"Education is not a variable susceptible to the whims of the moment—or even of the century," Blumberg continued. "It is a constant. Only through the liberal arts can a man become truly educated."

An interesting note, especially to students, is the reaction of these six faculty members to Adler's belief that students are today being "indoctrinated with the local prejudices of professors and their textbooks."

Three definite sides were taken when asked, "Do you believe students nowadays are thinking for themselves?"

On one side of the fence was one faculty member who said the majority of students were decidedly not doing their own thinking and cited papers from his classes as examples of "illiteracy" on the part of students.

On the other side was another who felt the students were definitely thinking on their own and cited the mock primary election, Engineers Week and the model UN conference held on this campus as examples of student thinking.

And sitting on the fence between these two were the other four, who declared students were thinking. They qualified this statement, however, by saying that they were not thinking to the extent to which they were capable and should be stimulated to do more thinking for themselves.

Stolen Goods



Poem Asks For 'One Little Lull, Power For Passing Last Exams

Calmly awaiting a zoology exam the other day one of the other sufferers in the class handed me this coming poem. Good for now, good for later, in fact good any time of year at our dead alma mater, it goes:

Dear Lord, observe this bended knee,
This visage meek and humble,
And heed this confidential plea
Voiced in a reverent mumble.

I ask no miracles or stunts,
No heavenly radiograms;
I only ask for once, just once,
To pass these last exams.

One little lull, Lord, that's my plea,
Then loose the storm again;
Bless all my profs and ask them to
Be reasonable. Amen.

Notice From Utah
An April snow is the Dairy Queen's version of frosted April showers, says the Utah Daily Chronicle.

Ladies And Tobacco
More sage wisdom was gleaned from the Kansas State Collegian today. The title of the little bit—

Marilyn Mangold

"A Gal's Like a Smoke." Leave us continue.

There is a subtle analogy between women and tobacco. It declares that 300 homeres want their women to be like cigarettes, slender and trim, all in a row, to be selected at will. I set afloat, and when the flame is subsided, discarded only to select another.

A junior wants his woman to be like a cigar. They're more expensive, make a better appearance and last longer.

A senior wants his girl to be like his pipe, something he becomes attached to, knocks gently, but lovingly, and takes great care of at all times.

"A man will give you a cigarette, offer you a cigar, but will never share his pipe."

Helpful Coeds
While Nebraska coeds are helping human nature these days by flood-fighting, University of California coeds are currently manning the switchboards at the strike-bound telephone exchange in Berkeley. However, they admit they're doing it primarily for the \$12 day.

All That Glitters
From the Daily Kansan, University of Kansas: "A good way to restore glitter to your gold ring or fraternity pin is to rub the article with onion juice. Let it dry thoroughly and rub off with a soft cloth. You will find that all that is gold will glitter."

On The AP Haywire

Amy Palmer

Those who like to talk about the weather must have really had a heyday last week. There were water, wind and earthquakes. If that isn't enough, watch TV next week for the latest atomic blasts. I guess enough already has been said about the flood. Harry Truman said it was terrible, and if Truman thinks it was terrible, that's good enough for me.

Right now there's a little hot water around here over elections, as usual. Everybody seems to always get 'het up' over one of the vestiges of high school, class officers. Personally I'm for the faction. Their election may be the last chance they'll ever have of getting their names in the paper. And if it makes the boys happy to be mentioned in the Yearbook before they fade into obscurity, let them. The rest of us who want to do something for the University can pay our parking fines or walk on the sidewalks instead of the grass.

This free coffee deal the Union offered last week was a large percent of all right. Now if they'd only give away cigars and meals we could all settle down and live in the manner to which communists say they are accustomed.

Despite any expected blizzards, it's nice to see so many signs of spring. One of the most encouraging is the preparations for Ivy Day. I've already bought a new black suit for the affair, but there's word going around that I won't even need it.

There's quite a variety of songs on the slate for the great day. I'm glad to see none of them are singing that snappy tear-jerker, "Good Bye Maria, I'm Off For Korea." Evidently they have great faith in enlistment quotas or their pull with a congressman.

Another sign of spring was noticed by Mrs. A. H. Bien, local sorority house mother and eminent authority. As she puts it, it must be spring; the boys have started keeping me awake until 3 a.m. again. Ah, the vocal vitality of youth.

"Girl Crazy" Kosmet Klub's annual something-or-other is on the calendar for this week. All the members of the cast are sporting bags under the eyes in the best tradition of the theater. And if you don't have a ticket, don't let George Wilcox know. He's been known to corner customers in the Union until they agree to buy. And of course everybody agrees with George.

NU Flood Workers Stranded On Barge

By JIM ADAMS As Told To DICK RALSTON Feature Editor

Don Hodge, Ted Simonson, Ben Zinnecker and I went to Nebraska City Wednesday afternoon and were immediately put to work filling sandbags.

Thursday morning we began loading sandbags and lumber into barges. The barges were being towed up the river to the weakened Plum Creek dikes, and late in the afternoon we were told to go along with one of the barges.

When we arrived at Plum Creek the dikes had broken and were beyond repair. Our tug left us tied to a tree in the middle of the river and we spent the next three hours waiting for it to come back.

We were spotted by another tug after dark and we were finally towed back to Nebraska City. By this time it was pitch dark and the tug had only one small light to guide it. We ran aground several times and once we got tangled

in some trees. It was almost midnight when we got back to Nebraska City.

The main threat to Nebraska City was at the power plant where water was being held back by hastily constructed dikes. If the dikes fail, Nebraska City will be without water and electricity for the duration of the flood.

Some ware houses along the river were flooded but no more flooding is expected at the power plant which is lower than the rest of the city. When the dikes broke at Plum Creek the pressure was relieved at Nebraska City.

Most of the flood work there was directed by the army and the corps of engineers. Volunteer workers were assigned work areas by the chamber of commerce.

We had to sleep in hotel lobbies and our only meals were sandwiches and coffee fixed by volunteer women workers. I don't think I'll ever be able to face another minced ham sandwich.

A Student Views The News



Mobile Canteen Units Bring 24-Hour Relief To Flood Workers

Charles Gomon

"They said we'd never stop it, but they don't know the people in north Omaha. We aren't going to let anything break through here."

If that statement made by a pump foreman could be expanded to cover the entire twin cities flood area, no better summary of the courage and tenacity of the people could be found. The story of the great flood of 1952 has assumed the proportions of an epic struggle. Millions of words will be written about the flood and the army of citizens who fought it, but the immensity of their task cannot be imagined. It must be seen to be appreciated.

One of the most impressive spectacles described by University of Nebraska student volunteers who returned from levee-duty was the frequent arrival on the dikes of Salvation Army mobile canteens. Together with the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army dispensed food all the way up and down both sides of the Missouri along the fifty-one miles of levees and dikes.

As with the diking project itself, the gigantic relief mission undertaken by the Salvation Army people seems incredible unless viewed against the overall relief picture. Up to 1000 volunteers and 70 of the organization's officers worked in shifts to keep 60,000 sandwiches a day and 4,444 cups of coffee per hour moving out to the flood operations.

The large rehabilitation center in downtown Omaha was turned into an operation headquarters and relief center which processed more than 500 displaced families in the first day of operation.

Many of these persons were housed at the center itself.

Salvation Army Major E. A. Moyer, in charge of operations at the center, said, "When a need arose, a miraculous solution turned up." City officials suggested after inspecting the relief facilities that a medical staff be provided for the hundreds of persons being housed at the center.

Before the officials had left the building an appropriate "miracle" turned up in the person of Mrs. Maxine Negley, a registered nurse, who volunteered to set up a clinic. Mrs. Negley and a former U.S. army nurse, Mrs. Michael Pitzel, organized clinical facilities with a staff of 12 more registered nurses from the Nebraska Nurses Association, 50 student nurses from St. Catherine's and the University of Nebraska medical clinics, and the intern staff of Bishop Clarkson hospital in Omaha.

The clinic is but one example of the response obtained from citizens. When the Omaha YMCA turned over its entire facilities to University of Nebraska students who worked on the dikes, the Salvation Army staff helped serve meals to the students.

By far the most spectacular of Salvation Army activities was the "servicing" of workers on the levees. Forty vehicles operated on a 24-hour basis transporting the food to the dikes. This writer was privileged to ride with these Salvation Army personnel on one of their tours of the flood area. The courtesy with which the vehicle was treated by everyone in the vicinity paid indirect but moving tribute to the work done by this organization.

Adler Calls US Education System 'Racket'

Editor's note: The following is a reprint of portions of an article on Mortimer Adler, professor of the philosophy of law at the University of Chicago, from Time magazine, March 17, 1952. Courtesy of TIME, Copyright Time Inc. 1952.

Two Latin teachers recently agreed that the event which would give them most pleasure and at the same time mightily advance the cause of true education would be to blow up Teachers College at Columbia University. Mortimer Jerome Adler would probably volunteer to light the fuse.

He felt that organized U. S. education, dominated by the pragmatists, was "one of the largest rackets in this country," turning out students "chaotically informed and viciously indoctrinated with the local prejudices of professors and their textbooks."

Most U. S. college graduates, says Adler, can neither read, write nor think properly. They are not being taught how to lead a

good life (the aim of all liberal education), but merely how to make a good living. Education merely for specific jobs, cries Adler, "is the training of slaves."

What to do about it? Adler Hutchins and a band of dedicated fellow guerillas... have answered long and loud: make U. S. education truly liberal. That means, according to Adler, that American college professors must commit academic hari-kiri by giving up their specialized fields; they should be able to teach anything in the liberal arts.

2) The scientific method should stick to science, and leave to philosophy the job of and wrong; 3) all Americans should get the same kind of liberal education till they take their A.B. (from two to four years earlier than at present) and specialize later.

Whether such a program can be put into practice in 20th century America is a question.

The first U. S. answer, helped along by John Dewey, was free colleges and the elective system, with heavy emphasis on "useful" subjects like science. Most U. S. educators today agree that the elective system leads generally to an aimless nibbling at knowledge, or to excessive specialization.

But there is bitter disagreement as to what should be done. Most Deweyites insist that 20th century students must combine the liberal arts with "useful" studies, and that the learning of the past must be "reconstructed" to fit present needs.

Adler feels that this view has led to totally inadequate half measures, i.e., digested "survey" courses in the humanities. But there are signs that the great battle... Adler vs. the rest of U. S. education is slowly beginning to turn.

The ground swell is strong and deep; Adler, Hutchins and Co. are only part of it.

Union Cues

Fifteenth Birthday Celebration To Feature 'Burning Of Bonds'

Shirley Murphy

Fifteen candles will light the birthday cake at the Union's birthday party, Friday, May 2.

Not only does the celebration commemorate 15 years on the University campus, but also that the bonds and mortgage on the Union are paid.

A burning of the bonds ceremony will take place at the intermission of a Union street dance.

R. street between 14th and 15th streets will be cleared off for dancing from 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Square dancing will have priority from 7:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. and ballroom dancing will follow at 9:45 p.m., until 11 p.m. Jimmy Phillips band will play for the latter part of the evening.

Outdoor movies will be shown on the lawn east of the Union. Refreshments will be served to the guests.

Union board members at the time of founding will be honored guests at the party, according to Bob Meehan, hospitality committee chairman.

The informality of Shakespeare's age will predominate at the Madrigal concert in the Union ballroom at 8 p.m. Thursday.

Madrigal Singers, formally attired, will sit around tables on a platform at the north side of the ballroom.

David Foltz, Madrigal director, said that he would like the audience to imagine they are good friends listening to good music of fellow friends.

The audience will be informally seated around the platform, ac-

ording to Barbara Reinecke, music committee chairman.

A coffee hour will be featured at intermission.

Student tickets for the concert are free. Tickets may be obtained at the main office of the Union.

Samuel Shellabarger's best seller, "Prince of Foxes," is the Sunday night movie for this week.

The films are shown at 7:30 p.m. in the Union ballroom.

Tyrone Power, Orson Welles and Wanda Hendrix star in this portrayal of Desare Borgia's court during the Renaissance. Power plays a young nobleman who leaves the court to aid the oppressed.

ME Group Elects Eight New Pledges

Eight students were selected to pledgeship of Pi Tau Sigma, national honorary mechanical engineering fraternity, April 8.

Students are Clay Hutchings, N. J. Sidaris, Jack Keester, Duane Miller, S. P. Congram, Glenn West, Conrad Stahly, and Herbert Saxton.

Initiation will be on April 29.

Flood . . .

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able to work where men are needed.

Over the weekend, Dr. Thompson received a call for 500 men to go to Peru where the situation was termed "extremely dangerous."

Most of the real labor has been taken care of and the big job now is watching for weak spots. But a big job remains after the river returns to its normal height: thousands of loads of dirt and millions of sandbags have to be removed. Omaha officials, however, have assured The Daily Nebraskan that no University students will be needed in this operation.

University students, who are working with an estimated 20,000 man volunteer crew, have been offered food and shelter at the Omaha YMCA. Glen Gillaspie, Y residence director, announced that all regularly scheduled activities in the building have been cancelled until the flood emergency had passed.

The main job of the Y now, Gillaspie said, is to house more than 200 University students. All the facilities of the building, which include the swimming pool, gymnasium, television, card rooms, etc., have been turned over to the students.

The Salvation Army has arranged to provide free meals to any University worker billeted at the Y. This food is served in the YMCA cafeteria.

These arrangements by the Y and Salvation Army were called "wonderful" by one student who had just returned from spending 24 hours on the levees.

Before these provisions were made, many students spent any time for sleep they might have on a floor anywhere. Civil Defense authorities reported that many University students spent Thursday night on the City hall floor.

Authorities also reported that the American Legion club was used to house the overflow from the YMCA.

Several University women offered their services as baby sitters and canteen hostesses.

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