

Needed: A Scorecard For Universities

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is taken from the June 15 NATIONAL OBSERVER which adapted these remarks from a recent speech delivered in Los Angeles by Dr. Louis T. Benezet.

The goodness of a college has become a matter of importance to a great many American people. Years ago it used to matter only to the small handful of studious or wealthy souls who were able to go to the few colleges then available. And as like as not, how good one college was, relative to another, was decided on autumn Monday mornings after the football scores of the preceding week end had been compared.

Our country is at the dawn of universal higher education. California leads the development, but other states follow fast. Universal higher education is dictated not only by the personal ambitions of parents for children but by the needs of our technology for highly trained specialists. America also needs highly educated generalists, to give direction and wisdom so that there may be a society worth preserving. Currently we are not doing so well in this category.

Thus some form of post-high-school education will soon be the requirement for everyone capable of producing at that level for society. It becomes important, then, to know that higher education everywhere shall be well done. Just to have a college degree is mean-



ing less and less. To have a college education that truly fits one to become a productive member of society: This is

a modern necessity, or the whole process will fall of its own size and weight. As our dependence upon colleges for na-

tional production grows, so does the necessity that all colleges be good.

The idea of a college degree as a prestige badge dies hard. And so the successor to the prestige value of any college degree has become the prestige value of degrees from a certain few colleges. If you examine which colleges these are, they will be for the most part the oldest and wealthiest institutions, which have become also the most expensive and the hardest to get in.

Are these, then, the best colleges? In many ways, yes, if we can allow that money will buy better professors, better laboratories, bigger library collections. If you were selecting a corporation for a long-term stock investment you would consider that its continuous years in business and the amount of its capitalization are plus factors, and perhaps also is the price level of its product.

Yet your scrutiny of the business corporation will not end there. You will look for at least a dozen other indices of business performance, and you will be able to consult any of innumerable business reporting services. Here the analogy with colleges ends. Colleges have no Dun and Bradstreet or Fortune Magazine Annual Survey. The success of an educational program is not easily reduced to figures.

We have nothing for the objective appraisal of a college except the regional accrediting agencies, such as the Western Association of Colleges and Schools, and a range of individual professional groups such as the American Chemical Society. These do not rate colleges; they merely accredit to a standard of readiness to do an effective educational job. If you hear that some college or university rates "fourth in the nation" or

"ninth in chemistry," then you have been listening to college fiction. No recognized rating system of colleges exists, nor of individual college departments, on either a regional or national scale.

In 20 years I have found it impossible to convince laymen that this is so. There is such passion in man to make book on his cars, his horses, and his

About The Author

Dr. Louis T. Benezet, the author of these remarks, is currently president of the Claremont (Calif.) Graduate School and University Center, where he moved last year after heading Colorado College in Colorado Springs since 1955. Before that, he was president of Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa. He has also served as consultant to the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Born in La Crosse, Wis., in 1915, Dr. Benezet studied at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N. H. He received an M.A. degree in psychology from Reed College, Portland, Ore., and a Ph.D. from Columbia University in New York City.

other possessions that college ratings have become one of the myths that never die.

Lacking the means to an objective appraisal of the goodness of a college, the public judges by what it can see. The public sees that certain colleges have become hard to get in and costly to stay in. These colleges thereby are publicly very desirable, and applications for ad-

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The public buys its opinions as it buys its meat, or takes in its milk, on the principle that it is cheaper to do this than to keep a cow. So it is, but the milk is more likely to be watered.

Samuel Butler

Summer Nebraskan

Young men have a passion for regarding their elders as senile.

Henry Books Adams

Tuesday, July 7, 1964

Summer Nebraskan

No. 4

Union Presents

Lee Castle Tomorrow

By Diana Goldenstein

Music of the '30's and '40's will be featured by the Jimmy Dorsey orchestra in the Student Union ballroom tomorrow night.

The original Jimmy Dorsey orchestra will present contemporary musical numbers in addition to those that made the group famous in the 1930's and '40's, according to John C. Carlisle, Union Program director. The concert, a feature of the Summer Artist Series will begin at 8.

Lee Castle is now conductor of the orchestra. Castle actually performed with Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey and is often considered the third member of the Dorsey family.

Another performer in the Summer Artist Series is Max Morath, who will play ragtime piano music next Monday



Max Morath

in the Union ballroom at 8 p.m. His performance will be titled, "Ragtime Revisited." Morath will play ragtime that was popular during the turn of the century while slides of that era are shown.

Morath comes to the Union from an engagement at Greenwich Village in New York. He will return to New York following his performance here.

An Italian film, "Bitter Rice," will be shown at the ballroom Thursday at 8 p.m. The film is one of the Cinema Classic Series presented by the Union.

"This is probably the greatest film Silvana Mangano, the Italian female star, has made," Carlisle said. Vittorio Gassman is the male lead of the picture.

The action of the film takes place in the Italian rice fields where women are recruited for seasonal work, according to Carlisle.

A Cinema '64 film, "Picnic," will be shown at the Love Library auditorium Monday at 6:30 p.m. The film stars William Holden and Kim Novak.

World Affairs Preview

Battle: Ultimate Security Is Minds; Wars Start In Inner Not Outer Space

"Our ultimate security lies in the minds of men—in 'inner space.' Wars will not start in outer space; if they come, they will start in inner space—in men's minds, in ignorance, in prejudice, in overweening pride," Lucius D. Battle said at the first World Affairs Preview.

Battle, who is Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, talked in the Student Union last Thursday on "The Need to Explore Inner Space."

Battle said in his address that:

"Educational exchanges related activities play a unique and a key role in reaching men's minds; they enable people to see and hear for themselves. They assist the formation of attitudes and approaches based on understanding, rather than fixed answers which may be obsolete in an evolving, changing world. They encourage informed attitudes in place of horseback opinions and other glib and perhaps glittering answers. It is the essence of successful diplomacy in your time—a time when more people have more to say about their diplomacy and participate more fully themselves as 'citizen diplomats'—to recognize that the road to peace requires great endurance and persistence. Attitudes and approaches based on understanding, and adaptable to new facts or requirements, offer the best prospect of enabling us resolutely to stay the course. "Educational exchanges and related activities have the further advantage of providing a ladder for the national, as well as individual, advancement so much desired throughout the world—not only in emerging and newly-developing lands, but in more mature societies as well . . .

"We do not suppose the influence of educational exchanges and related activities on world peace can be instant.

"But we believe it can be important, over time. With passage of the Fulbright Act in 1946 and subsequent legislation, this country has written a 'Declaration of Interdependence' through exchanges—a declaration that mutual exchange can do much to bring mutual understanding.

"For exchange is an influence working for mutual understanding—in men's minds in that inner space where the ultimate course of our civilization on this little outpost in stellar space will inevitably be determined . . .

"So there came a time when many Americans let it be known that they preferred to be let alone, and to go it alone. These views were perhaps most marked in the period between the Wars. Involvement in international affairs for many persons consisted largely of the simple, if painful, act of paying taxes.

"How far the pendulum has swung since World War II is dramatically apparent to all of us. The United Nations, the Atom Bomb, the Strategic Air Command, the jet airplane, Fulbright Scholarships, Sputnik, emerging nations, outer space, Telstar—these few words are enough to evoke the whole new world of the postwar era.

"So it is in such a world—a world in great tension in spite of, and to a degree because of, its great technological advances—that we have seen education become a more central concern in all our



LOOKING AT ART—Lucius D. Battle (left) is being shown the All-State Art display in the Union by Summer Sessions Director Frank Sorenson. Battle, who is Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, spoke at the first World Affairs Preview last Thursday.

thinking, individual, national and international," Battle said.

"We have come to realize, as individuals, that the increasingly complex and technical processes of our lives can be managed successfully only by enlarging the educational opportunities for all our citizens.

"We have come to realize, too, as nations—in the early stage of development and in advanced stages as well—that education is truly a ladder of national growth and progress, and perhaps mankind's last best hope of peace on earth!

"Confidence in the efficacy of education to help individuals and nations achieve their goals in probably the most widely accepted of all the common beliefs of men today, the world around.

"This is true in nations on both sides of the various curtains—Iron, Bamboo, and any other.

"It is truly a great current of our time.

"It is now but a simple step to see that international education offers opportunities for developed nations to assist the less developed. And it offers the less developed a means of rising to higher levels of economic and social stability, where they can strengthen the whole

structure of world security," Battle said. "Viewed in these broad, historical terms, the wide-ranging system of exchange we know today appears to have been foreordained and inevitable. Exchange of people and through them of knowledge was clearly one of the most hopeful means available to the hand of man for building—slowly, but securely—the foundations of enduring peace.

"Ironically perhaps, these means to peace were first found in war—or in the aftermath of war, in foreign currencies held to our credit in other countries from the sale of surplus war materials. The Fulbright Act of 1946, which made use of these funds, was truly an example of 'beating swords into plowshares.'

"Exchanges could, however, be no overnight solution to problems of misunderstanding and distrust. They could not be expected to bring political problems to neat solutions. But they could help to build mutual understanding. They could ease man's progress on what Secretary Rusk has called 'the tortoise path to peace.' And they could perhaps do more. No one can say where the limits may lie when men first identify the interests they share, and then go on to find new

areas of agreement they find they can share. This is the kind of hope that lies at the base of President Johnson's call to continue to 'build bridges,' as he said, 'across the gulf which has divided us from Eastern Europe.'

"But this is only a part of the almost world-wide system of exchanges we have developed in this country in less than 20 years' . . .

"Our open society lends itself peculiarly well to exchanges. It gives exchange a maximum opportunity to be effective. This works advantages both ways, of course. Our visitors learn from us; and we learn from our visitors. No society can be sufficient unto itself in the realm of ideas, any more than in the realm of trade. Hence, we continue to be dependent on the importation of ideas, new knowledge, new insights, new approaches from other countries. American has always encouraged free trade in ideas, in scholarship, in literature, in science. Foreign visitors can be welcome carriers of these ideas and insights, and good exponents and defenders of them. On their visits here their American hosts and colleagues have the opportunity to discuss ideas with them. Through the friendly confrontation of exchange, the ideas that divide can often be cut away, or at least cut down in size and effect; and the ideas that unite can be given greater force and effect. . . .

"The pre-eminent source of strength for our total international effort in educational and cultural affairs is the private sector. Within it our system of higher education is a major resource base. In both numbers and diversity, this system is unparalleled in the world. More than 1800 colleges and universities in this

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Be Sure To Read

Thundering Herds Echo From Past

This is the story of the buffalo. It is the third in series of four stories which use information in books published by the University of Nebraska Press.

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Corps Trainees Prepare To Assist Rural Bolivia

The University is training 38 Peace Corpsmen for work in Bolivia. Dr. Max E. Hanson, director of the Bolivia Project, tells just what is expected from these 38.

Skinning rabbits and killing chickens are a part of this program.

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