

## Dormitories Should Be Educational Centers

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The roots of this non-intellectual side go very deep into the past. Take the following from John Addington Symonds' translation of a medieval student song:

"Cast aside dull books and thought;  
Sweet is folly, sweet is play;  
Take the pleasure spring has brought  
In youth's opening holiday!  
Right it is old age should ponder  
On grave matters fraught with care;  
Tender youth is free to wander,  
Free to frolic light as air  
Like a dream our prime is flown,  
Prisoned in a study;  
Sport and folly are youth's own,  
Tender youth and ruddy."

Thus, conventions have grown up on our campuses which foster this tendency toward interest in the pleasures of college life. Large numbers of our students deem it disloyal to their companions should they be seen in the act of doing college work except just before examinations. There is the convention that a student attends class only because he has to, and hence that a student must take all the cuts allowed him each term or he will feel himself disgraced. There is also a noticeable evidence of the fact that our students, women especially, are not interested in life outside the college environs. Listen to their conversations or note how many read daily newspapers intelligently, if you doubt this statement.

With this inertia of some students and lack of interest in education it becomes our task to provide dormitories which function as educational centers. We then ask ourselves—*how can it be done?*

I would suggest several methods which would lead us toward our goal. There is everywhere a renewed interest in student housing and social life on the campus, and a belief that the conditions of *actual living* should contribute their proper share to a well-rounded college experience. The life of the dormitory should influence manners, develop taste, and offer training in the courtesy and cooperation necessary to group living.

Within our dormitories, we should provide a reading room, that young people may learn to read, not to "make a grade," but to have a broader view of life. Vassar has a fine library in Main Hall which girls are not allowed to enter with notebook or pencil. It is placed there for the purpose of having girls read for the love of reading. Many students come to our college who have read few, if any books, aside from those required by course assignments. Hence, many students must acquire in college a love for good books.

Closely related to the reading room or library provision in our residence hall is the provision of bulletin boards. Bulletin boards should be used as a means of creating interest in current news and stimulating thought. We must take care, however, to prevent students substituting bulletin board reading for well-chosen magazines and papers.

Considerable attention has been given recently by college authorities to the way housing conditions effect the scholastic standing of students. Both the student working for room and board and the light-housekeeping student have to devote a number of hours per day to housework. That is not the case of the student housed in the dormitory. The life of the whole residence hall is centered around the idea of what is most conducive to the best interests of the student's life and comfort. Therefore, we expect that students living in residence halls will stand higher in scholarship.

If the dormitory is to accomplish

## Roland Hayes Expresses Genius Of His Own Race

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singer afterwards, showed that they had divined their content.

Roland Hayes thus described the spirituals in a recent interview:

"In the community where I was born, nothing but the spirituals were sung. There was no question of the blues or jazz. These were looked upon as profane. And the Negro sang the spirituals in deep devotion, unbound humbleness, and worship. He did not approach God, he did not attempt to call to Him in his song and prayer; he just surrounded God, face averted, with his art."

its purpose in our educational program, it will be necessary for us to make a study on our campuses to determine the effect of the living environment on grades. We may then be able to foster a pride in house standing which will lead to higher standards of scholarship. A scholarship committee composed of students resident in our dormitories should function constantly and is most valuable. The following, from an editorial in the *Harvard Crimson* seems to me significant:

"When a man is put on probation his friends slightly deplore the fact, but seldom do they exert any moral pressure to impel the man to attend his classes and do the reasonable amount of study that is required to save him—If probation were looked upon as a disgrace, and if a little healthy missionary work were done by classmates, in other words, if undergraduates realized some responsibility for their fellows, the sinking probationer would more often make an effective effort to reform his ways."

Group responsibility and cooperation is not to be limited to student achievement in classes. Again, if the dormitory is to fulfill its function there must be shared responsibility in its management. We would suggest that the members of the resident hall organize themselves into a house association or dormitory organization with specific objectives.

An evaluation of this sort of effective management would lead us to believe that gains will be made toward the development of desirable moral and social characteristics, high scholarship and leadership qualities.

To become successful, an individual must develop social characteristics such as integrity, judgment, cooperation, initiative, perseverance, ambition, and industry. These characteristics can be developed through dormitory activities.

I shall suggest only two activities that may be included in a program of this type. Tea prepared daily by the house committee serves not only to bring the girls together after classes for sociability, but often to interest the listless girl in real college work through the lively social, philosophical and political discussion of the upper classmen.

Informal interest groups may parallel the formal work of the classroom. Their characteristic is always some vivid personal interest, and because these groups operate quietly and make no effort to gain campus recognition, they seem most valuable as a type for dormitory units.

Dormitory Life! Is it for better or for worse? There will be leisure hours and they will be spent in many ways. There will be opportunity for spontaneous group relationships. Is it not time that we make the dormitory contribute more to its educational objectives?

RUTH G. RUSH,  
Dean of Women.

## Shorthand Lesson Astounds All Comers

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hand is written exactly the way the word sounds. Thus, should I have occasion to write the word *bay*, I should write *ba* and pronounce it bay. All silent letters and unnecessary appendages are omitted. There are two requirements, however, that are necessary and without them, one wastes his time in the attempt to study shorthand. One is a never-failing memory, the other is an instant reaction to the spoken word.

There are three hundred and fifty much-used words called brief forms. These are to be memorized thoroughly from time to time. Also, there are a number of rules to be mastered if they are to be put into execution in a split second.

If you are blessed with the faculty of retaining; if you can make immediate application of rules; and if you are willing to give from one to three hours daily to preparation; then, by all means, have no hesitancy in beginning the study of shorthand.

## Sophomore Class Settles Down For Best Year Yet

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tain of her exuberant, cultural character. It was therefore with no surprise that she was unanimously re-chosen, not as "faculty advisor," but as co-worker, mother, and friend.

"Great oaks from little acorns grow."

The seed has been planted, the blade has parted the crust; the members of the Sophomore Class are planted deep in the soils of this college where they shall continue to grow in the richness and grace of its tradition.

The Sophomores are a progressive group of people in a progressive school.

## Answers To 'Coronet' Test

1 Arcadia. 2 Bluebeard. 3 Cataline. 4 Troy. 5 Ambrosia. 6 Virginia. 7 Bank of England. 8 Independence Hall. 9 John Greenleaf Whittier. 10 The Æneid. 11 Utopia. 12 Wellington. 13 The Bourse. 14 Thor. 15 Albion. 16 King Cole. 17 The northern coast of South America. 18 Cockney. 19 Defeating the British in the Battle of Lake Erie. 20 Opening Japan to foreign trade. 21. Hippocrates of Cos. 22 Order of the Garter. 23 Venice. 24 Lombard Street. 25 The Appian Way. 26 Richelieu. 27 George Washington. 28 Mississippi. 29 Abyla and Calpe. 30. A university; Paris. 31 "Eureka" (I have found it!) 32. Thomas J. Jackson. 33 Caledonia. 34 Bismarck. 35 The Alexandrian Library. 36 Rome. 37 Atilla, King of the Huns. 38 York and Lancaster. 40 Plato's disciples. 41 Cincinnati. 42 A petition with signatures in circular form. 43 The Colossus. 44 Cuba. 45 The Adorable. 46 The Kohinoor. 47 A series of orations by Demosthenes against Philip of Macedonia. 48 Congressional Library, Washington. 49 The Kremlin. 50 Lares and Penates.

## Senior Class Organizes

MELVIN SYKES

The Senior class has organized for the year '37-'38 with the following officers:

President—Melvin Sikes.  
Vice-President—Walter Ellerbee.  
Secretary—Esther Delaney.  
Treasurer—Jessie Cofield.

With the cooperation of every Senior, the class plans to make this its banner year.

ESTHER DELANEY,  
Secretary.

## Commercial Club Will Study Business Procedure

Grades Not Only Important Aspect of Commercial Course

By J. O. Yeates

It is time that students taking a commercial course should realize that making good grades in their subject matter is not all that is necessary to good business training. Good marks do give one assurance, self-confidence, and poise to some degree, but these qualities must be broadened.

The aim of the Commercial Club is to motivate interest in the civic actions of the outside world. Business people make a definite contact with other people; they must be trained to make these contacts. No man or woman already active in commercial affairs has time to coach new-comers in the etiquette of good business manners—that is the task of the school from which they are graduated. Success in this respect depends upon the flexibility and initiative of the students themselves.

Our three instructors, Miss Cee Vee Harris, Dr. V. V. Oak, and Mr. C. T. Willis, are well prepared to foster such training. However, with the large number of students enrolled in the commercial department, they cannot do this successfully unless students themselves manifest some interest. In order to foster this interest the Commercial Club was organized last week and the following officers were elected:

President—Juanita Yeates.  
Vice-President—Charles Williams.  
Secretary—Lucradie Porter.  
Assistant Sec.—Bernice Humphey.  
Treasurer—Mrs. Herndon.  
Reporter—E. G. Spaulding.  
Chm. Soc. Com.—Emily Ferguson.  
Chm. Prog. Com.—Esther Delaney.  
Chm. Dec. Com.—B. Madison.

Watch us grow to be the most active organization on the campus!

## Y. W. C. A. Solicits Support of Women

Varied Activities Need Support

The Y. W. C. A. is looking forward to the best year it has had on this campus. Through its worship, its committee meetings, and its recreation it intends to develop the young women on this campus spiritually, mentally, and physically. During the month of November the Y. W. C. A. is planning a Thanksgiving breakfast for its members, a Thanksgiving dinner for about three needy families in Durham, and a Y. W. C. A. vespers for the student body.

We need your support. Come on girls, and give us a hand!

DOROTHY WHITTED.

Y. W. C. A. Secretary.

## The Faculty Members

The New Faculty members, are going about their respective duties like old stagers. They are adding to campus life and you can hardly tell the new faculty members from the old ones. This is as it should be.

The customs officer was making a routine inspection of Pat's baggage when he discovered a bottle of whiskey.

"Aha!" said the officer. "I thought you said there were only old clothes in this trunk."

"Shure, and that's only me night-cap," said Pat. —Lyre.

Prospective governess: Sorry, but I'm not interested in the position. I didn't know had thirteen children.

Mother: Don't tell me you're superstitious! —Jester.

## Recently Formed History Club Makes Rapid Strides

By William Tuck

One of the most recently organized clubs on our campus is the History Club which had its beginning just two years ago at the beginning of the 1935-1936 school year. It originated among a small group of young people who were far-sighted enough to realize what great possibilities there were for the program of such a club. Before the History Club was organized the students who were interested in important current events had no way of meeting for discussion and exchange of ideas concerning current history, but now every meeting of this club is partly devoted to the discussion of the most outstanding and most important topics of current interest. It really serves the purpose for which it had its beginning through the enlightenment that one can not help getting from these discussions. When the discussion of any topic gives rise to serious differences of opinion that can not be settled among the members because of lack of information or because of a misinterpretation of the information at hand, we are always fortunate enough to have these differences settled in a later meeting in the form of an interestingly informative lecture by someone whose position and experience cause his opinions to be somewhat authoritative.

The History Club had its first meeting for the 1937-1938 school year on September 30 and officers for the year were elected. William Tuck was unanimously reelected president with Andrew Sharpe vice-president, Miss Mittie Kelly secretary, Miss Biverous Pretty assistant secretary, and Mr. Nathan Brewington treasurer. The program committee is headed by Miss Willard Tyler and Miss Edna Smith was elected chairman of the social committee. These officers have pledged to make this year the most successful ever for the club through increasing the number of students on the campus who will have a practical knowledge of current history.

The club is sponsored by Professor D. J. Jordan, who always encourages constructive ideas among students, and who is made happy when he sees any example of student initiative. He deserves credit for whatever success the History Club might have.

## THE ORCHESTRA

Everything is pointing to a very successful year for the band and orchestra. Our enthusiastic directress, DeMond, has done a great deal toward causing every member of the orchestra to take a new and keener interest in music and its relation to his favorite instrument. This enthusiasm has also spread among students who have never played instruments and if they receive the right sort of encouragement, nothing can stop our band from attracting attention this year.

In a meeting on the evening of October 12, the orchestra elected the following officers for the year:

William Stafford, president; Joseph Mills, vice-president; Miss Sarah Tuck, secretary; Miss Roberta Fair, librarian, and William A. Tuck, reporter.

History teacher: Now, what do we know about the Phoenicians?

Student: They invented those window blinds made out of wooden slats. —Bedlam.

Mrs. Brown: What I say to you never seems to bear any fruit.

Mr. Brown: Try pruning it a little, my darling. —Bear....