



Colleges Urged to Make Room for the Human

Waverly, Ia. - (I.P.)-Change is imperative in a liberal arts college in order to make "room for the human."

(That was the thesis of Dr. Lloyd J. Averill, president of the Kansas City Regional Council for Higher Education, who spoke at the inauguration ceremony for Dr. William W. Jellema, the 12th president of Wartburg College.)

"Openness to change is essential in order to guard against those institutional rigidities which force the human into alien shapes and thus diminish womanhood and manhood," Dr. Averill said. "Any education which will be useful to the future of our students had better come to terms with the fact that the world is moving."

He said that without flexibility teachers and administrators lose their own attention and that when that happens it's unlikely they will succeed in holding their students' attention.

Too often, Dr. Averill went on, college people have been short on vision, building curricula on basis of compromise with institutional special interests. "The truth is that the statement of graduation requirements works as a very powerful symbol among us. It is consulted far more often than the statement of institutional purpose."

He said that colleges must find more authentically human terms in which to state what is expected of students and more authentically human measures by which to judge their achievements. Colleges also must find ways to break out of the human limitations which confine every academic community, he said.

"A liberal arts college ought to make students and teachers uncomfortable with their respective provincialisms and ought to be thrusting them into new worlds of cultural learning. To be liberally educated is to have access to a wide range of human values and achievements and to appreciate the similarities and differences which both enrich and complicate the human condition."

In the past, Dr. Averill said, colleges too often have encouraged, "the separation of learning from doing," being too cautious about adding practical skills and experiences to the historical and theoretical. Finally, he said colleges must find ways to respect what students have achieved away from school and the diversities which they bring to campus.

"We have acted as if students had no ideas or excellence or questions of their own. So our temptation is

to supply both the approved questions and the carefully keyed answers and to expect that the good student will conform himself to them. The truth is that students who do have questions of their own and some have found at least temporarily useful answers which deserve to be tested rather than ignored.

"The humanism which we profess ought to make us profoundly uneasy about standardizations throughout the college. In some places liberal education is the process whereby everybody is dragged through the same knot-hole, regardless of individual human shapes, apparently on the conviction that it's going to be good for them, even if it kills them.

"The problem is not so much how we can induce change and growth in our students, since that seems to be their natural bent; rather the problem is how to keep from inhibiting growth by institutional arrangements which restrict or penalize it." Dr. Averill concludes: "We must recover the human dimension of teaching. Teachers must be present as persons and not merely as professionals. Students are unlikely to achieve the growth of a larger self out of peer relationships alone."

Spreading Joy?

The "Madison Avenue Madness" award of the year must go to those makers of all sorts of things that make our lives just a little more of what they already are - The Rockwell people.

"SPREAD JOY" was the wonderfully simple, blocked-lettered headline on one of

their grabber Christmas advertisements. Reading on, we find that the Rockwell Cordless Yard and Gardnet Sprayer is just what we've all been looking for to spread joy. Besides spreading joy, we can spread our very own insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers, synthesizers, deodorizers, and disinfectants around the home

"with fingertip control." Now we can even "practice on indoor plants until the weather breaks."

Overlooked by Rockwell, but possibly even better, is the prospect of spreading cancer, tumors, birth defects, still births, and other questionable "joys" among the family, friends, and loved ones.

Two Scoops of Benzyl Acetate

(CPS)-At one time ice cream was the most nutritious treat one could buy. Today, however, the frigid treat is artificially flavored, colored and preserved with chemicals of dubious origin.

If your favorite flavor is vanilla chances are good old vanilla extract has been replaced by piperonal. A benzene derivative piperonal is a strong smelling substance commonly used by exterminators in the control of lice.

Another substitute in the dessert is benzyl acetate, used rather than real strawberries. This compound is a nitrate solvent which was employed in the motion picture industry (back in the days of nitrate film) as an ingredient for the cement applied in film splicing.

Instead of eggs, ice cream factories emulsify the batter with diethyl glucol. The same material is found in anti-freeze and various brands of paint remover.

Artificial cherry coloring, correctly termed aldehyde C17 is an inflammable liquid incorporated in aniline dyes, plastics and resins. Aldehyde is an alcohol derivative of

hydrogen.

Ethyl acetate, commonly wrongly referred to as "pineapple," is used to clean leather and textiles.

Though no direct connection has been proven, workers in these two industries do have a higher than usual incidence of heart lung and liver disorders.

Like all other processed food manufacturers, the ice cream man has had to find ways to cut costs to cope with rampant inflation.

Chemicals are simply cheaper than natural ingredients. It is also economically advantageous to embalm products with preservatives to increase their shelf life.

None of these synthetics have been proven directly harmful, yet few have been proven totally harmless either. Many of the substitutes, preservatives and additives found in processed foods have not been scientifically tested by government agencies.

So next time you order at your favorite "ice cream" parlor, use proper phraseology and say, "Two ethyl acetates and a piperonal please!"

Strip Mining

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One mountaineer, John Prine, has expressed the anguish suffered by the mountain people. In his song "Paradise" he relates the destruction of a part of western Kentucky by the Peabody Coal Company.

"When I was a child, my family would travel - Down to western Kentucky where my parents was born And there's a backwards old town that's often remembered - So many times that my mem'ries are worn - And Daddy, won't you take me back to Muhlenburg County - Down by the Green River where Paradise lay - Well, I'm sorry, my son, but you're too late in asking - Mister Peabody's coal train done hauled it away.

Well sometimes we'd travel right down the Green River -

To the abandoned old prison down by Adrie Hill - Where the air smelled like snakes - and we'd shoot with our pistols - But empty pop bottles was all we would kill - Then the coal company came with the world's largest shovel - And they tortured the timber and stripped all the land - Well, they dug for their coal till the land was forsaken - Then they wrote it all down as the progress of man - And Daddy, won't you take me back to Muhlenburg County - Down by the Green River where Paradise lay - Well, I'm sorry, my son, but you're too late in asking - Mister Peabody's coal train done hauled it away."

John Prine. Copyright 1971 by Cotillion Music, Incorporated

