

Writin' On Readin'

There is reading of varied amount and degree among college students of 1946. Those who read, and every student does read, may be classified in three groups:

- I The intellectually curious—the literati
- II The intellectually indifferent—the cosmopolites
- III The anti-intellectual—the mundane

During the freshman year of college there is much reading matter that is common to all three groups. All have either read *The Rubaiyat* or know just enough about it to say, "That's the life for me" or to allude casually, "That's the way Omar and I feel." Acceptance or rejection of the *carpe diem* philosophy almost invariably takes place in the freshman year of most students, consciously or unconsciously. Members of all three groups are also acquainted with at least one book on sex, a book of cartoons, *The Man in the Shower*, or Max Shulman, and some 19th century novel that is required for a freshman English course. Students in Group I may have browsed through Freud, Gertrude Stein, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Eugene O'Neill, or Theodore Dreiser by the end of the year. The cosmopolites of Group II—cosmopolite because they are without prejudice or attachment—have read at least parts of some of the great books, such as *Forever Amber*, or *Gone With the Wind*. And Group III has further developed its avid enthusiasm for Sunday literature, "Li'l Abner," "Blondie," and "Terry and the Pirates."

The sophomore year usually finds each group broadening its interests. The literati have supplemented required readings with collateral books—biographies of poets or historical figures. Some have read non-fiction books on the best-seller lists, comparable to *One World*, *The Time for Decision*, or some Russian novel in translation. Group II feels complacently well-educated. Most of the group reads the front page of some newspaper two or three times a week and frequently the magazine section of some Sunday paper. They have gained from class a conversational knowledge of Swift's satire, Byron's women, and Johnson's Boswell. The mundane by this time have enlarged their reading to cover a variety of movie magazines and have an irrefutable knowledge of the personal life of many of the stars.

The members of this group can delineate in detail the myriad of characters that have appeared in Dick Tracy. Most of them read some serial regularly—in a newspaper or a good magazine, *Cosmopolitan* or *Redbook*.

The junior year generally produces a narrowing field of reading. The intellectually curious have found some writer in whom they are particularly interested; consequently many of the group read O'Neill's complete plays, all of Thomas Wolfe's novels, Henry James' short stories, or T. S. Elliot's poems. They have found one magazine that satisfies them such as *Time*, *The New Republic*, *The Atlantic* or *The New Yorker*. The cosmopolites have by their junior year joined the Book-of-the-Month Club or the Literary Guild and have perused books like *The King's General*, *The Foxes of Harrow*, or *B. F.'s Daughter*. They are "fascinated" by *Forever* or "crazy about" *This Is My Beloved*, read by candlelight. Group III has narrowed its reading down to the gossip page of the *Salemite* and an occasional Pocket Book sex murder like *The Pistol of Passion*.

By the senior year not only has the reading been narrowed down, but also the readers have nearly been annihilated. The literati are deluged by a list of "suggested" readings in the field of their major. They buy copies of Pascal's *Pensees*, Dante's *Divine Comedy*, or Schopenhauer's *Essays* and shelve them for future perusal. The cosmopolites confine their reading to fashion magazines if any are sent from home. And Group III has degenerated to looking at "Back Home for Keeps" pictures.

Throughout the four years of the undergraduates' exposure to knowledge, a variety of text books is eagerly devoured, disinterestedly underlined, or bought and sold without being opened. At one time or another a majority of students reads the bridge hand by Culbertson in the newspaper, Homer, the drama section of the *Times*, a pamphlet on figure control, Archy and Mehitabel, football scores or predictions on the sports page, and a so-called religious novel in which the main character faces the problem of "to be or not to be an atheist."

P. Davis

MY DANCE CARD



By Nancy Carlton

1. My date
2. Jack Edwards, with Joanne Swasey
(The Marine Lieutenant in dress uniform.)
3. Pick Simpson, with Barbara Ward
(Barb's foot is broken, but not her spirits. She's got her pick!)
4. Jimmy Smith, with Ronnie Aiken
(He's the blond with The Grin.)
5. Jake Wade, with Mary Jane Hurt
(Jake is the good dancer.)
6. Jessie Gascoigne, with Martha Lou Heitman
(The K. A. from Carolina.)
7. Kyle Stephenson, with Dottie Smith
(They're almost engaged, but don't tell a soul!)
8. Alvin Hurt, with Jean Shoaf
(A Davidsonian who really enjoyed Salem-Davidson day.)
9. Allen McNeil, with Susan Johnson
(The green '46 Mercury.)
10. My date
Intermission
11. My date
12. Dave Stephenson, with Maria Hicks
(All the way from Arkansas)
13. Bill Ledbetter, with Kat Ballew
(Bad Bill is Sweet William now.)
14. Gene Cochran, with Preston Kabrich
(Preston's pet brunette.)
15. Don Pope, with Pat Edmundson
(Crew cut on a nut.)
16. Jim Harris, with Betsy Long
(An S. A. E. at Davidson.)
17. Duke Willard, with Margaret Spillman
(Don't mention Duke to Duke.)
18. Bob Curriq, with Lu Ogburn
(Fun to be with.)
19. Audrey Long, with Lynn Marshall
(He's 6 ft. 3 and just out of the Navy.)
20. My date
Unpastable Souvenirs
Tired feet
New jokes
A ring—Who knows?

Titlitis

The Fatal Weakness	The Bookstore
Life With Father	Mr. Peterson
State of the Union	Messy
Dream Girl	Jean Moss
The Best Years of Our Lives	Vacations
The Big Sleep	Sunday Morning
The Chase	Junior Hockey Team
Two Years Before the Mast	Sophomores
Deception	November Weather
The Turning Point	January 24—February 1
Romantic Voyage	Chapel Hill
Three Wise Fools	Senior Math Majors (?)
Diary of a Chambermaid	Big Indian
A Prince in Their Midst	Hambone
The Plotters	Faculty
Toil of the Brave	Salemite Staff
The Dim View	8:30's
Days and Nights	Six and Five
People in Quandaries	Toute Le Monde
The Strength We Need	southern comfort
The Miracle of the Bells	Self-explanatory
The Salem Frigate	Station Wagon
We Happy Few	Engaged girls
The Egg and I	Winona
I Chose Freedom	Betty Bell
The Happy Profession	Practice Teaching
A Long Way From Boston	Dodo, Mac Clapp
The Lull	Never
Joy in the Morning	Miss Pangle
Sinister Errand	Gooch's after 10 p. m.
Strange Fruit	Persimmon Puddin'
So this Is Peace	Salem

AT THE COLLEGES

- Last Saturday and Sunday
- CAROLINA
- Sara Coe Hunsueker, Mary Helen James, Amie Watkins
- DAVIDSON
- Betsy Micklejohn, Sara Haltiwanger, Aggie Bowers
- Coming Attractions
- SALEM
- Mary Ann Linn and Graham Frances Carr and Drake Sally Boswell and Buddy Peggy Smith and Sam Peggy Davis and Tom Mary Billings and Bob Virginia Smith and Bobby

AT THE THEATERS

CAROLINA:

Mon., Tues., Wed.
"Thrill of Brazil"
Evelyn Keyes and Keenen Wynn

Thurs., Fri., Sat.
"Badman's Territory"
Randolph Scott and Ann Richards

FORSYTH:

Mon., Tues.
"Cloak and Dagger"

Wednesday
"So Goes My Love"

Thursday
"Anna and the King of Siam"

Frid., Sat.
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