

# Anti-intellectualism Blamed For Probable Deterioration Of Student Mental Health

Among every 100 American college students, at least 10 will encounter psychological difficulties this year, according to Dr. Dana L. Farnsworth, director of the Harvard University health service.

Student problems can be serious enough to require professional help and to interfere substantially with effective living, Dr. Farnsworth says. Studies have shown that there are indications of an increasingly severe deterioration of the mental health of college students, he states in a report on "Student Values and Mental Health."

**A major cause, Dr. Farnsworth says, is "the massive assault on the integrity of our young men and women of college age in the examples set by their elders."**

He also blames a spreading anti-intellectualism within colleges.

"Anti-intellectualism may take many forms," he notes. "Among social life and the development of them is the excessive emphasis on artificial activities designed to encourage 'school spirit'.

"Excessive emphasis on winning at any cost leads to subsidizing athletes, and when this becomes too hot an issue to be acknowledged openly, indirect—but none-

theless undesirable—practices arise which lead to demoralization of faculty, administration, alumni, and the general public."

Farnsworth points out that "We have more and more persons who are brought up in homes in which there are no estimable values, no suitable standards, where the parents and all other role models have highly materialistic goals." Colleges should give "serious attention to helping them acquire satisfactory values even at this late period in their development," he says.

He calls for long-term research projects "in how values and character are best developed." Research workers are available he says, if they have "security equivalent to that of their colleagues in other academic departments."

Dr. Farnsworth stresses the need for increased personal contact between faculty and students. Such contact is "the strongest tool a college possesses in its attempt to inculcate proper values."

The Harvard psychiatrist says that students' character weaknesses, reinforced by pressures of campus life and society in general, may lead them to cheat on examinations, plagiarize, disregard house rules or commit acts of vandalism. "Neglect of assignments, as well as cleanliness of persons and room, often unconsciously serves the student as an instrument for irritating his parents as well as college authorities," he added.

—National Student News

# Watch Your Garden Grow.

(ACP)—From TAN AND CARDINAL, Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio, this column, bylined Pete Frevert, worries whether we care at all.

"Sing ho for the life of modern collegian! There is something wonderfully serene in the attitude he assumes during those four years spent in the security of the ivied halls. Something that is really gratifying.

"In the face of world-wide strife, our student has somehow attained an inner peace. While the Arabs are carving their initials in each other and Governor Faubus is making a fool of himself, the student's soul is at rest.

The world isn't really starving to death, you know; we're sending them money. I wonder how money tastes. AMERICAN money that is washed down with jet fuel or something.

"He sounds apathetic, doesn't he? He really isn't tough. He has places to go and people to see, man! Like big problems to solve! Like what's the easiest way to get a three point? Or, who is the best date in the freshman class? Or like how can I get a permanent chapel excuse?

But he'll solve 'em, these big problems, yessiree. And even if he doesn't he can survive, because his soul is at peace. In the face of any dilemma, if his own hide isn't in jeopardy, he will sit leisurely on his Ivy league buckle and say "so what? Tomorrow's Christmas."

We should publish a commemorative stamp, praising this collegian. We shall have his picture on it, and beneath the picture we shall inscribe, "What, me worry?"

# Kessler's Abstract Art Reveals Italian Influence

Have you ever wondered how an artist can look at a landscape; which to you looks like a bunch of trees, a field, and a cloud or two, and put it on canvas as a mass of lines, circles, and color, which to our uneducated eyes look like the product of a six year old's tantrum. Miss Anne Mercer Kessler, the new addition to a proud Art Department, and an "avant garde" of the abstract school, says that the secret lies in the power of observation, and its transference to canvas through an artistic imagination.

She explained this statement by telling of the paintings she has done as a result of her trip to Italy this summer. She made sketches of the Italian landscape, concentrating on the specific, and deriving inspiration from the contours of plowed fields, or contrasts in the rolling countryside. She then brought her sketches and slides back and used them as a basis for her current work, which all centers around a void. Basing her work on the principal that the shapes in nature are much more fascinating than anything that the human mind can imagine, she put them on canvas and then let the spirit on the painting take her along. So we see that the abstract can really be as emotional and as sub-

jective as the "Mona Lisa," or a Bellini Madonna.

Miss Kessler advises all budding Picassos or Michaelangelos to see as many of the original paintings as they can. She also believes that anyone, no matter what his style or medium, should have a foundation in realistic drawing. Teaching, she says, has been a great help in clarifying and expressing her ideas and it is exciting to see what different people come up with.

The most immediate material result of being an artist occurred one day when she was taking a train from Paris to Milan. It was a hot August day, and the season when everybody in Europe was taking a holiday. She was about to starve, but she was scared to move from her seat which was precious, and besides, she had no idea how to get to the dining car, or if the train even had one. She struck up a conversation in what she described as "very broken French" with some students from Paris. When they found out she was "ze Artiste" they begged to have their portraits sketched in exchange for some of their bread and wine. Miss Kessler says that you can believe that she was more than happy to oblige!

Vive l' Artiste!

—Carol Doxey

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