

What Would Have Been Lincoln's Answer ?

"And the truth shall make them free" has been the underlying structure of American democracy ever since its early forefathers met to frame the constitution and, later, the Bill of Rights. America will remain a free country so long as she adheres to this doctrine.

It is the desire of Columbia University to keep the truth free, free to be spoken, free to be read, free to be proclaimed, free to be analyzed that has prompted her to have as her theme for her Bicentennial Celebration "Man's Right To Knowledge And The Free Use Thereof."

Now that our schools are coming under fire of criticism, it is obligatory that every school, regardless of size, test its curriculum to see if it is teaching those subjects that equip its students to think, to express themselves forcibly and clearly, to meet problems facing them in everyday life, to have the courage to defend their belief, to broaden their understanding of other people.

Bailey school has made wonderful progress within the past years in its building program, in increasing its enrollment, in making it possible for students to have more electives. All this is fine, but has the teachers' instruction of students in the art of thinking kept pace with the material progress made? It is a student's ability to think that will lead him to find the truth and be free.

With this thought in mind let's consider honestly a few pertinent questions:

1. Are teachers attempting to pour facts into students' heads rather than making them think for themselves?
2. Are teachers encouraging students to so organize their activities that they will have some time in which to think?
3. Are students being taught self-reliance, mental stamina, and a sense of integrity?
4. Is history being taught as a live subject and the functions of governments presented without political bias?
5. Are teachers giving students an opportunity to have discussion groups and open forums?
6. Is debating being used as a means of discovering the truth of a question?
7. Are parents, teachers, and students realizing that the ultimate goal of all teaching is the development of the mind, the soul, the body to the extent it leads each individual to accept his birthright--full citizenship responsibility in the building of his home, his school, his community, his nation, his world along the highest principles of mankind?

If the answer to these questions is not yes, then Bailey and all schools have failed to accomplish their prime objective--to teach the truth that shall make man free.

DO YOU USE YOUR STUDY HALL?



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- G OD NEWS COVERAGE
- L UCID REPORTING
- E NLIGHTENING READING

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