

The Hilltop

PLAIN LIVING AND HIGH THINKING

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Get Off The Fence

THERE'S NOTHING MORE detestable in modern society and business than a "fence straddler."

In the first place, "fence straddling" marks one as not being intelligent enough to make up his mind or not having enough backbone to take a stand on one side or the other.

Life itself is an issue—an argumentative issue. From the very beginning there is the issue of staying alive or of dying. In the majority of instances, nature, aided by science, makes that decision for man. As time and life progress, however, the practical world forces one to face practical, material issues.

Humanity is endowed with personal individual intelligence. Nevertheless, some poor souls go through life avoiding decisions, hoping in vain that they will never have to take a definite stand. Unfortunately, some individuals actually do not possess sufficient intelligence to make decisions. But more often, the "fence straddlers" simply have not enough backbone and individuality to take a stand, one way or the other.

It is not the mentally weak that are condemned; they are pitied. It is rather those who have not developed morally that are an abomination to society. There is no place in the present-day world for one who never expresses himself on an issue, but who totters between both sides, thereby supporting neither: The "fence straddler" not only weakens society, but weakens himself personally. By never forming his own convictions, he robs himself of the joy and thrill of mental and moral individuality and independence.

Develop your own convictions; determine your own stand. Then support your convictions and your stand. By so doing, you will become an asset, not a liability to society.

If the shadowy individual who places his masterpieces of art on the bulletin board by Spilman every day will come to THE HILLTOP meeting Monday night, we will give him a regular job. We look forward to the daily treat, but think how much MORE publicity he would have if his cartoons were printed in THE HILLTOP!

When the load is heavy
And the way is drear
And you're heavy hearted
Filled with pain and fear,

Think about your neighbor
Is his burden greater still
Does he not fight harder
To climb a steeper hill?

—George Fleming.



Whispering Spirit

As I sit here in the twilight,
Dreaming of the days gone past,
I see only fallen castles,
Beautiful things that couldn't last.
I see all my lovely pipe-dreams
Fallen in a shapeless heap;
Only sweat and toil and sorrow,
It makes my woeful soul to weep.

Now the twilight all has faded.
Just like life it's quickly gone,
Still I sit here gently dreaming
On and on and on.
Now I see a bright tomorrow
Filled with happiness and love,
And I see the beautiful castles
Reaching, oh so far above.

Sitting here alone in darkness,
I feel some gentle spirit near.
Now it's whispering oh so softly,
Whispering in my listening ear;
Oh you poor misguided dreamer
Life on earth is quickly past,
Dream of things in life here after
Dream of things that ever last.

—George Fleming.

FRANKLY SPEAKING

One Moment, Please

HERE WE ARE in the second half of the first semester of the college year, and by this time we are all wrapped up in our school work, society activities, special programs, and religious activities with little time to spend with ourselves.

A man was traveling on a perfectly good and clear highway on a moonlit night. Approaching a turn in the road, the man failed to turn his wheels, and the car went over a hundred foot cliff. Why did this man not turn his wheels when everything seemed to be normal with the car, the highway, and the weather? It was the man that was abnormal. He had allowed himself to be overtaken by alcoholic drink, and his eyesight was affected to the point that he could not see the turn in the road. An oncoming car also affected his eyesight in that the car's headlights were on bright and were reflecting off a shiny sign located at the bend in the road. There was also a car following the man with its lights on bright and reflecting from the rear view mirror into the man's eyes. The alcohol that he drank, the lights reflecting from both the cars caused the victim a tragic end.

We here at Mars Hill College may not be overtaken by alcoholic beverages, but we are often overtaken by the extra activities on the campus to the point where we lose physical, mental, and spiritual strength. We may not be blinded by headlights of a car, but we are often blinded by the things of great unimportance, and, like the accident, the overtaking and blinding elements take but a moment to cause a tragic end. What is the answer?

Mary Anderson gives us the answer in her poem:

We mutter and spatter,
We fume and we spurt;
We mumble and grumble,
Our feelings get hurt;
We can't understand things,
Our vision grows dim
When all that we need is
A Moment with Him.

The answer lies not in trying to kid ourselves, but rather in realizing, recognizing, and experiencing the reality of Christ as Lord of our lives in our talking, thinking, and doing. We never really know anyone until we get alone with that one and live with that one. We can never expect to know Christ until we get alone with Him and live with Him. "It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him; if we suffer, we shall also reign with him, if we deny him, he also will deny us: ... study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Tim. 2:11, 12, and 15.

—Lee Belleman, Guest Editor.

Cheezy Tidbits

CONGRATULATIONS, Nons and Eus, on your reception tonight. Anniversary was wonderful.

REACTIONS were varied over the first snow last week but those from the Florida students who had never seen the stuff before were the most amusing. The Barwick gang gazed upon it with a raptured, "It's cold, isn't it?" One little girl ran screaming up and down the dormitory hall at 4:30 a.m. She still doesn't know exactly what she did that, but she had fun. Another girl who neglected to wear a kerchief over her head said, with her hair streaming in her face, "My, I didn't know that it was wet." An ambitious Floridian built a miniature snowman (about six inches high) on the wall along the steps down to the dining hall. As a whole the new Floridians decided it was just about what they expected except that it should have been about two feet deeper.

WONDER WHY: Millie Smith suddenly decided she didn't want to go to Westhampton ... those eight or nine girls enjoy Dean Lee's night Economics classes so much ... the person who draws those cartoons and puts them on the bulletin board doesn't reveal his identity. Coach Ramsey doesn't choose his track team from the students who run down to lunch at 12:30 each day ... sideburns have almost all disappeared ... all the people who have company look extra happy and all those who don't look blue.

OVERHEARD IN THE CAFETERIA: "My, this is the best gristle I've ever eaten!" "That oyster must have had a pearl in it," the girl said that as she spit out a tooth.

MAY WE EXTEND our heartiest congratulations to the students who attended the concert last Saturday night for their excellent behaviour? They sounded almost like college ladies and gentlemen.

Olio and Philomathia
 Extend Congratulations to
 Nonpareil and Guthalia
 in this
 Anniversary Reception
 Period

Hollywood And High Thinkin'

AN IMPORTANT PHASE of any college program is the entertainment it furnishes for its students. This is a part of the curriculum which should not be considered lightly, because the type of amusement and relaxation school sponsors will do much either to make or break the standards of the school.

At least seven hours of a student's week should be spent in some type of relaxation, whether it be movies, sports, reading, or any other of a wide variety of amusements. What is done with recreation periods is of great consequence in several ways. It may serve to help hinder a student's progress; it may likewise affect his attitudes and his character.

Considering these points, it is only reasonable to conclude that the students want and will appreciate the highest type of entertainment—movies and concerts that play a distinct part in forming worthwhile ideas and ideals while fulfilling their original purpose—providing for the diversion of the students.

A worthwhile step towards this ideal would be the showing of classical pictures on Wednesday nights. In this way a background would be furnished which would be useful in English courses.

If this would not be practical or possible, the pictures shown should be kept on a high plane, and only films of the highest sort should be presented.

Occasionally there are unavoidable errors in film selection and choice of other types of entertainment, but it would be well to work toward the highest quality at all times.

—Elizabeth Bridges