

PLAIN LIVING AND HIGH THINKING
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The Hilltop



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Old Dream Revived

In the fifteenth century Leonardo da Vinci, the great artist, engineer, and scientist, started an experiment with a type of plane called an ornithopter. This was so named from a combination of *ornitho* from the Greek word meaning bird, and *peron*, meaning wing. In 1958 the Soviet Union is said to be developing small planes that flap their wings like birds. This is a throwback to man's ancient dream of flying. The new Russian experiment was reported by the news agency Tass and *Komsomol Pravda*, newspaper of the Young Communist League. *Komsomol Pravda* went soaring into the future. It pictured a day in Moscow with streets deserted of traffic and pedestrians and the air filled with flapping wings. The paper even went so far as to say, "Everybody will take to the air then, even children going to school." The one thing the paper did not make clear was whether or not the planes have ever gotten off the ground. This must have been a mere oversight, or possibly it was done on purpose.

From recent reports the experimental planes seem to fall into two categories. One is the flying motorcycle powered by a light engine; the other is a flying bicycle powered by pedal pushing.

Komsomol Pravda had to concede that the experiments with ornithopters got no place in other countries a half century or more ago. But *Pravda* went on to say that interest had been revived in Russia because a flapping wing plane could do things no conventional plane could do. These planes would be unmatched for short flights; they could land and take off anywhere; and they have a lifting power three or four times greater than others.

Russia's research is in the hands of the "committee on bird-like flight," which is attached to the Soviet Union's voluntary society for cooperation with the Army, Air Force, and Navy. The news agency complained that the committee is handicapped by a lack of funds, a common complaint among early inventors in other lands as well as present ones in the United States.

Since inventors in years past have failed to get their planes with flapping wings off the ground, it remains to be seen if Russia can do any better. If she does, she will be one more step ahead of the United States in her race for world-wide supremacy. Maybe the U. S. would do well to start looking into the past for the unperfected things such as the ornithopter and begin to perfect them.

Remember, Students!

During the past weeks there has been a situation on campus which has greatly disturbed the faculty and staff, particularly the library staff. This situation is the alarming number of library books which are kept overdue each week. Perhaps the students do not realize that this is causing grave concern, but it is. Each time a book is kept overdue, it costs a great deal of time and money. It costs money to have someone write out fine slips because it takes time for which the library staff members are paid. It also costs the students money in the fines which have to be paid for the overdue books. In another way it takes time in that there is probably someone wanting and needing this overdue book. There is only one person that can help this situation and that person is the individual student.

This situation should be a matter of person concern. A student who has overdue books is apt to be the student who is careless in other matters, such as paying infirmity bills, college bills, and other personal debts. Each student should take the responsibility to return books when they are due and to pay bills when they are due. In checking out a library book, the student is pledging to return the book on or before the date given on the date slip. Remember, students, that the matter of the library is a matter of honor. Return your books promptly. The semester will be opening with a clean slate as far as bills and debts are concerned. Strive to keep the slate this way.

1958 Fashions To See Change

Predictions in fashions seem to point to a drastic change in '58 for the girls especially.

Girls will be quite fashionable in the entirely new shift-look dress with a stand-offish collar, as well as in a fitted dress with a back bow at hip level. For the footwear, the (still pointed-toes) shoes are somewhat lower to emphasize the leggier look. Stockings are available in about any color to reflect the shoe color. A "pearl" necklace of the choker variety, a bundlesome bag, and long gloves will complete any fashion-minded girls' wardrobe for more formal wear.

In the casual line of clothes the school girl's middy over a pleated skirt, a revival from the twenties, is a must for all females who try to look collegiate.

Whatever is bought and whatever the occasion is, it may be helpful to know that the key colors will be marine blues, which consist of indigo, marlin, bermuda, and dark sapphire; marigold; misty beiges; or the fresh fragility of the new greenery. In materials the checks and green plaids, all in big, bold print are the thing.

Naturally, now that most of the girls have cut off their hair, the trend is longer hair, turned up perhaps.

Now to the male world! 1958 brings with it conservative styling, with dark subdued stripes. A heringbone tweed sport coat worn with an Ivy League shirt, and dark-tone pants are quite the fashion. For more formal occasions, a dark, black or brown (definitely not blue), suit will be appropriate with a white shirt for almost any occasion. For some occasions matching tie, belt, and even watchband are available.

One popular item among the college crowd seems to be the Ivy League crew-neck sweater. Both girls and boys are wearing these; sometimes it appears that the girls are borrowing the boys' sweaters. Regardless, they look well on either when paired with an Ivy League skirt or a pair of slacks as the occasion may be.

Eds. Note—Adapted from *The Star*, Halifax County High School, South Boston, Virginia.

Reflections

Have you ever thought of when you die?
Or when you go away?
Does one go for a little while
Or does he go to stay?

Can you watch others
When you have long gone on?
Or is there forever darkness?
Is one all alone?

Listen, do not think these thoughts,
Face life with a twinkling eye,
Relish each bit as it comes;
Live until you die.

Wanda Davis

*Some books are to be tasted,
others to be swallowed, and some
few to be chewed and digested;
that is, some books are to be read
only in parts; others to be read
but not curiously, and some few
to be read wholly, and with diligence
and attention.—SIR FRANCIS BACON.*



By GWEN SLOAN

Ho Classmates, (haunted by dread, I almost said ex-classmates)

"Happiness consists more in small conveniences or pleasures that occur every day, than in great pieces of good fortune that happen but seldom to a man in the course of his life." Very few exam-conscious students could have agreed fully with Ben Franklin this week. They were too anxious for the seldom good-fortune to happen.

Agreeing that students' number one problem is study and their extra number one problem is finances, we must agree, too, with the following poem by Margaret McKeener Ellert.

The ancients thought the world was flat.

*How quaint! But still, it's funny.
That's how I find it when I try
To borrow money.*

But take courage, students! Even if studying is impossible and money isn't any more, Carl Forstom offers this bit of encouragement. "The electronic brain poses no threat to the classroom—you still need a college education to figure out which button to push."

We were sorry to learn of the illness of Mr. Oren Roberts, husband of Mrs. Nona Roberts and former member of the Mars Hill faculty. He is at Mission Memorial Hospital in Asheville following an appendectomy.

Mr. Bob Coley of the English Department suffered painful, though not serious, injuries, in an automobile accident on a slippery road January 18.

We welcome Judy Mayo, Linda Harbin, and Elaine Lance back to campus after their illnesses, which prevented them from returning following the Christmas holidays. We are looking forward to Brenda Whitehurst's return at the beginning of next semester.

Augusta Ann Arrives

Speaking of arrivals, Dr. and Mrs. A. Ellison Jenkins became the parents of a girl January 10, whom they named Augusta Ann.

Did you say you had noticed famous people on our campus? You should, for enrolled at Mars Hill are William McKinley Jenkins, James Stewart Stroup, Wilson Timmerman, Jack Benny Towe, who happens to live on Broadway Avenue, John Wesley Simpson, Johnny Mack Brown, James Madison Charles, Barbara Dale Rodgers, Ava Marie Barnes, Martha Wray Deal, Richard Nelson McCurry, Ralph Lee Shoemaker, John William Wright, and John Wayne Clark. With a little change Frances Arlene Edwards might become Arlene Francis.

The following excerpt comes from a recent Bible memory work test: "When I consider the heavens, the work of Thy hands . . . (I think of George)."

Congratulations, Freshmen, you have just reached your first plateau (semester). Sophomores, you're now striving for your fourth.

Author Gives Speaking Hints

The following excerpts are from an article entitled "The Principle of Poor Speaking" by Harold F. Harding:

The serious student of poor speaking can well afford to consider these first principles: Make no preparation in advance. Give the speech no order—let it ramble. Avoid a conclusion. Mumble your words and don't look directly at the audience. Never analyze your audience and never evaluate your performance.

Don't prepare until the night before you speak . . . do your preparing on the spur of the moment—give an old lecture without revision. Read your speech. Be late in arriving for the session. If a PA system is available, avoid it.

The rules of poor speaking are simple. The inherent good character of the speaker or his education and experience have little connection with them. The poor speaker is the inadequate man with nothing to say who nevertheless can painfully consume 30-60 minutes without profit and without the slightest qualm of conscience.

Ed. Note—NADECEN News, Johnsville, Pennsylvania.

Civil Service Offers Openings

During the week of January 12-18, the nation will be observing the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Service Act which is the cornerstone of the Federal Merit System. Students of American History will recall the slogan "To the Victor Belong the Spoils" and the resulting chaos during the Harrison and other mid-nineteenth century administrations. Public knowledge of these problems brought about the enactment of the Civil Service Act. This act substituted for the Spoils System an orderly procedure for staffing the Executive Branch of the Federal Government with people best qualified to cope with its increasingly difficult technical and administrative problems.

The need for young men and women of high ability to fill positions in practically every field of learning will continue. It is of the United States Civil Service Commission that the responsibility for filling these positions falls. The Commission administers an equitable personnel program which recognizes ability and provides benefits that are competitive in the labor market. Just as important, however, is the fact that the Federal Service offers to its employees an opportunity for personal satisfaction and professional achievement in service to the nation.

MHC Professors Contribute Articles

John A. McLeod, professor of Bible and French, have written articles for a book entitled *The Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists*, which is soon to be published by Broadman Press, Nashville, Tennessee.

Mr. McLeod wrote two articles; one is "Mars Hill College," the other, "R. L. Moore." Dr. Jenkins wrote on "Experience."