

Battleground USA

Liberal arts are fighting a battle in American universities today, in danger of being unseated from their traditional place atop the curriculum's heap.

A twist came the other day when Dr. Harry D. Gideonse, president of Brooklyn College, announced that Brooklyn's concern for the "vitality of our basic liberal arts program is beginning to pay off."

This is heartening to those who can see the slow decay of literacy. And for evidence, President Gideonse cited the scholarships and fellowships being won by his graduates to the country's grad schools. The number has taken quite a leap in the past ten years, he said.

The news that another college (where, oh where Carolina?) is taking an aggressive approach to the liberal arts vs. technical training jousting is joyous to The Daily Tar Heel. Our position in the matter is not openly opposed to technical training. Quite the contrary. Bue we do set much store by a rigid grounding in the social sciences and humanities to brace up whatever technical occupation a person decides to follow.

Broadly speaking, the ranks of the liberal arts seem to be, within themselves, progressing sharply. Here at Carolina, progression in liberal arts is certainly the mode. In a nationwide poll of scholars last summer, Carolina's College of Arts and Sciences turned up in seventh place in the nation. Furthermore, the departments of English classics, and romance languages were rated among the top five of their kind. Since this is scholars' opinion of scholars, it has added significance, we believe.

Judging by this poll, the difficulty in our own case is not internal. It is external. The deficiency lies, not in those who have chosen to major in one of the liberal arts, but among those who have chosen technical courses. We think that a few generalized courses are insufficient for most people, no matter what occupation they plan to follow. Certainly a meager liberal arts background cancels the opportunity of a person to begin to be educated, unless he is one of those rare Jeffersonian individuals who can educate himself. Whether by making the General College course longer, or more intense, the times and trends demand that more liberal arts be integrated into the curriculum—for all.

The idea seems to prevail that we can do business and progress scientifically in a literary vacuum. We don't think so.

By the time most of the students at a university have attained the age of 18 or thereabouts, their minds are made up either one way or another on most of the subjects they have encountered.

It is the exception rather than the rule who changes materially after he enters college. He may not have decided on the form that his decision will take, such as political party, church affiliation, career, etc., but the form is of minor importance, since the content is determined.

If the foregoing paragraph is accepted as true, then it follows that the most important formal educating influences in the lives of most people come before college: grade and high school. These are the institutions that shape the minds of the bulk of the population of the nation, inasmuch as teachers shape opinion.

And, unfortunately, they are perhaps the least prepared to do so. They are underpaid to the extent that it is more profitable to drive a brewery truck, overworked to the point that they often have to teach four classes a day with forty or more students in each class, and spend a good part of the "free" time correcting papers. Their training consists of a degree from the School of Education, not in the subject they teach. They may continue their education beyond the formal level, but it is difficult to see where they get either the money or the time to do so.

Consider the facts above, and decide for yourself. Would you go into high school teaching when you could so easily find a better job? Would you sacrifice better pay and less work for service to humanity?

That's what it would take for the superior person to decide to teach, when he has so many opportunities placed before him. He must, in most states that I know of, take a series of courses in the school of education, which I have never heard called anything but dull.

He must look forward to a career which has little or no praise. He must meet and deal with parents. He must satisfy the principal of his school, the superintendent of the area, and the board of education. His personal life is subject to a scrutiny to which few people in other professions would submit. He is expected to be above reproach by people who are not above reproach.

Any person, especially one of superior intellect, must certainly chafe at this rigorous routine. Finally, he is expected to teach just like everyone else teaches. He must not teach what he thinks, but what is on the curriculum. And classes are given under the most inauspicious possible circumstances: Old and small classrooms are the rule; minimum equipment, and books that are usually old, generally dull, often inaccurate, and almost always worn out are provided.

This is all supposed to be for the benefit of those who will solve the problems that we and our elders have left them by the time that they take their place as the generation in power. It is time for a change.

CREDO

Todd

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'Eh? Oh, Yes—Very Pretty'



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Drew Pearson

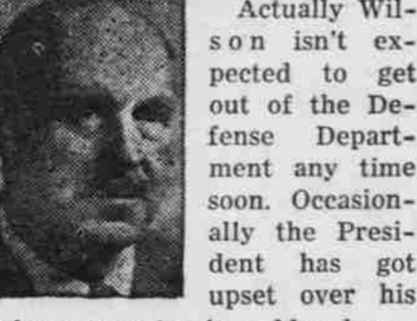
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The Eye Of The Horse

Roger Will Coe

("The horse sees imperfectly, magnifying some things, minimizing others. . ." Hippopotis; circa 500 B. C.)

THE HORSE and his two friends were on the lawn at Spencer Dorm when I saw them. The Horse was cropping grass, an activity which had Mr. Wump, the sponge-rubber Frog, on the jump to a void being incorporated with the Horsely victuals.

Mr. Neckley, the motley-colored Giraffe, was nibbling daintily into some upper branches of a tree hard against Spencer's second-story windows. He paused his browsing when a feminine voice squealed with an indignation characteristically used by the very — but not too — young.

"Fresh!" this coo-edish voice then accused. "Go 'way!"

We looked and saw a well-upholstered Sweater standing (the verb is used advisedly) at an open window near Mr. Neckley's head. Mr. Neckley stared noncommittally, but The Horse was all eyes.

"Sometimes," The Horse murmured, "I envy Mr. Neckley his laughable evolutionary inheritance. Would that my ancestor, To Hippus, had been as sagacious and developed such a neck!"

Why hadn't Mr. Wump's ancestors also done so? "A sensible avoidance of competition," The Horse saw it. "Neckley takes the high road, and Wump takes the low road. Me, I'm a middle-of-the-roader." He called in a shrill neigh, "I say, Neckley, old boy, how do things look up there?"

The Sweater was now hand-feeding Mr. Neckley out of a bon-bon box and alternately tickling his India-rubber nose. I was nonplused by her trans-mogrification.

"Yeah?" The Horse asked enviously. "Can you see that well, too?"

I meant, Mr. Neckley had been annoying her, and now look!

"It is a pleasure to acquiesce, Roger," The Horse said, "in your invitation to look. What annoyed her was, Mr. Neckley was not paying attention to her." He chattered loudly, "Oh, Neckley, old chap, how is it up in the wild blue yonder?"

Mr. Neckley remained silent, but his stub of a tasseled tail was wagging like a puppy-dog's.

"A noncommittal brute, isn't he?" The Horse commented. "Ah, the lack of friendly communication in this world of ours!"

We were settling down to sit with Mr. Wump when a resounding slap startled us. Mr. Neckley was backing from the window, a something pink dangling from his teeth.

"Fresh!" The Sweater accused again, and her window went down.

"Gad!" The Horse exclaimed, when Mr. Neckley dropped the pink something (they proved to be plural in a way) to the ground nearby and stared noncommittally over the trees. "UNC's first successful party-raid!"

Mr. Wump whumped. Was he taking a low view of all this?

"Whaddya think ya are, Wump?" The Horse snapped. "A Trustee, maybe? A Raleigh cop? How'd you like to go before Holy Joe?"

On what grounds, I wondered, could McCarthy inquisit Mr. Wump?

"On the same grounds the pink panties are," The Horse said.

But, Mr. Wump hadn't taken them!

"He's the one nearest them now, isn't he? Guilt by association, a fine new American principle! Too, being a Frog, he is submersive by nature."

McCarthy was after submersives, not subversives.

"Holy Joe will settle for the smallest frog in the shaft-went pond, when the hunting is bad," The Horse stated. "After Hallowe'en, with all the witches grounded, he would flatten Wump so utterly that not the least insect could Crouch behind him!"

Would this last Long? Could I be of Service?

"You'd tip the Scales in Wump's favor, and that would be disastrous," The Horse stated darkly. "It is his continual low view of things that has him so wumpy all the time. If only we, his friends, could help!"

Mr. Neckley didn't move a hoof or make a sound as he lowered his chin flat to the grass. Mr. Wump flipped neatly up between Mr. Neckley's knobby ears without opening his lids. Mr. Neckley then swiveled his head up and close to that certain window. Once again the window came up, and the coo-edish voice cooed goody things. The Sweater stood (my word on it, sirs!) there again.

The Horse shook his head sadly and quoth, "For want of a nail, a shoe was lost, for want of a long neck, a Horse was lost."

That was not what Napoleon had said.

"I bet he'd like to be able to say it," The Horse said. "But I do see a point of similarity. Napoleon was foiled by Quatre Bras, while I am frustrated by none." He stared up at the window enviously. "We're all pals together, eh, Neckley, old boy? What do you see up there, chappie? You may speak frankly, old fellow! Eh?"

But Mr. Neckley continued to stare noncommittally over the trees. It was Mr. Wump who answered.

"Wump!"



Washington Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON — White House advisers say that when and if Charles E. Wilson steps out of the Defense Department his successor will be Gen. Lucius Clay, former U. S. commander in Germany, now head of Continental Can and one of Ike's closest unofficial advisers.

"Clay can have any job he wants in the administration," one White House adviser confided. "He can write his own ticket. I think, also, he's ready any time Ike needs him."

Actually Wilson isn't expected to get out of the Defense Department any time soon. Occasionally the President has got upset over his defense secretary's sudden brusqueness and was extremely irked when Wilson shot off about the innocuousness of the Russian H-Bomb at a time when other administration leaders were warning of its danger.

However, it's recognized that Wilson is performing a useful and necessary function by knocking Pentagon heads together — one of the toughest and most thankless jobs in Washington.

NOTE—When and if General Clay becomes Secretary of Defense, he would have to get a special dispensation from Congress. For no military man can be appointed to that post unless he's been out of the armed services for 10 years. General Marshall got such a dispensation.

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