

**Christmas Marks
Music Club Meet**

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VIEWS

By BOB SLOAN

Because the recent Russian advances in science have worried us, and even scared some of us, we are quick to criticize.

Some person or group has to be made the goat. The fact that Russia has even surpassed us in some fields of scientific achievement, some people would like to say, is the fault of our present administration.

While I am not overly fond of the present administration and have certainly not been found in the role of one of their defenders, to think that if we changed administrations we would regain supremacy in the world of sci-

entific achievement is sheer nonsense and wishful thinking.

The American people as a group have allowed this cultural lag to develop and unless there is a basic change in our way of thinking we will get even further behind as time goes by.

First, in our school system and in the home training of our children we put (and the writer shamefully includes his own family) too much emphasis on the pleasures rather than the duties of children. This is evidenced in many ways today. Here in Franklin there is more interest in the developing a youth center so that youth can have a place to play than there is making sure that youth can have a place to play than there is making sure that the children are completely mastering their courses in school. If it is found at the courses are difficult and require a lot of work they have gradually been dropped

The Franklin Music Club held its Christmas program in the basement of the Methodist Church on December 19 with Mrs. Henry Cobe as program leader.

Included on the program were a selection of Christmas carols by the junior choir of the Franklin Methodist Church, led by Mrs. Roy Cunningham; a reading, "Let's Keep Christmas", by Peter Marshall, given by Mrs. R. S. Jones; Mrs. Charles Gidney sang "In Bethlehem", a 13th century Christmas carol, and "Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella", an old French carol; and duets of old Christmas carols were played on recorders by Misses Linda Sue and Sherry Whelan.

Mrs. Willard Bell and Mrs. Jim Maddox were co-hostesses for the meeting.

from the course of study. Various excuses are given such as the courses aren't practical any more, but the real reason is that parents want to see their children keep up with the other children and they aren't willing to make them work hard enough to master them. Math, Science and Latin courses are examples of this. Discipline in the sense of being required to do a job is fast breaking down in our country.

Let us face facts and give credit where credit is due. Young Russian students have not had the way made easy for them in such manner. In the years to come it may make a great difference. This is certainly no problem that any governmental administration can solve.

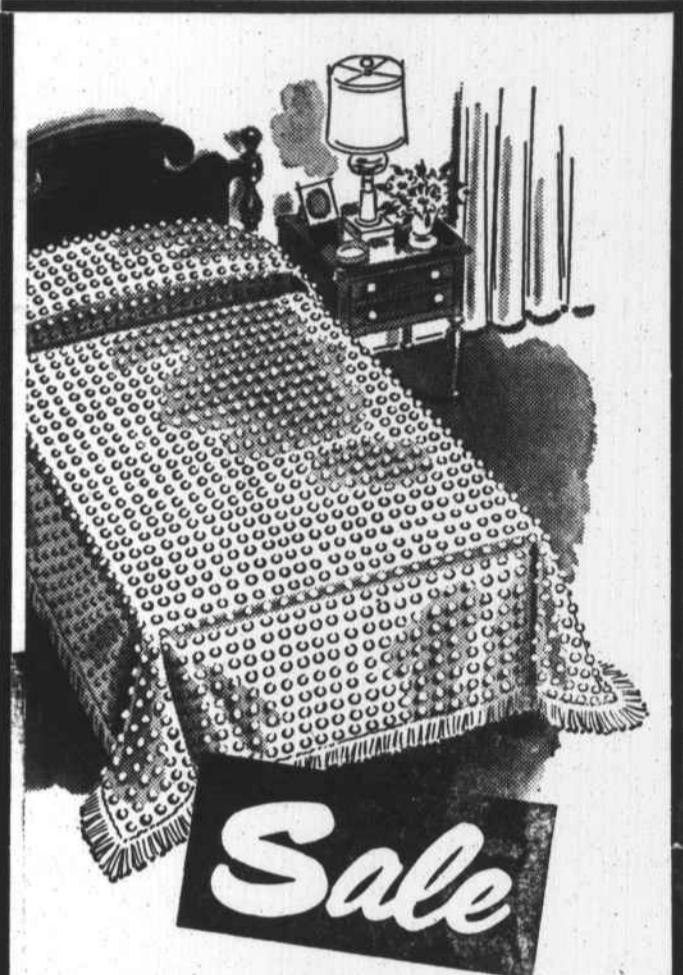
If we enact a gigantic educational program and attract better teachers with higher salaries we won't improve the educational system much as long as public clamor more or less forces teachers to grade on a curve. Today, you know, it is practically an accepted fact that if 80% of a class fail a math test the test was too hard so we either give another one or lower the passing grade. No one considers that the children from infant stage on are no longer required to GET JOBS DONE if it takes half a day, and so they haven't mastered the math.

Secondly, we must substitute some goal other than money as a reason for seeking knowledge. Unless we can instill in our youth a desire to obtain knowledge for the sake of knowledge itself our civilization will fall. Money is a false god and a lasting civilization cannot be built on the love for money. Yet in this country we praise and laud a man's bank account while it has become a national custom to make fun of and ridicule someone who is without material wealth but in a search for knowledge has obtained several college degrees. Recently many such have been called "egg heads", as a term of derision.

Yet today we certainly stand in greater need of those who have sought knowledge than those who have sought money.

Maybe it isn't too late. Can we, in this land of material wealth return to the spartan discipline and sacrificing search for knowledge that were found in rural homes and country school houses of days gone by? They made this country; they might save her.

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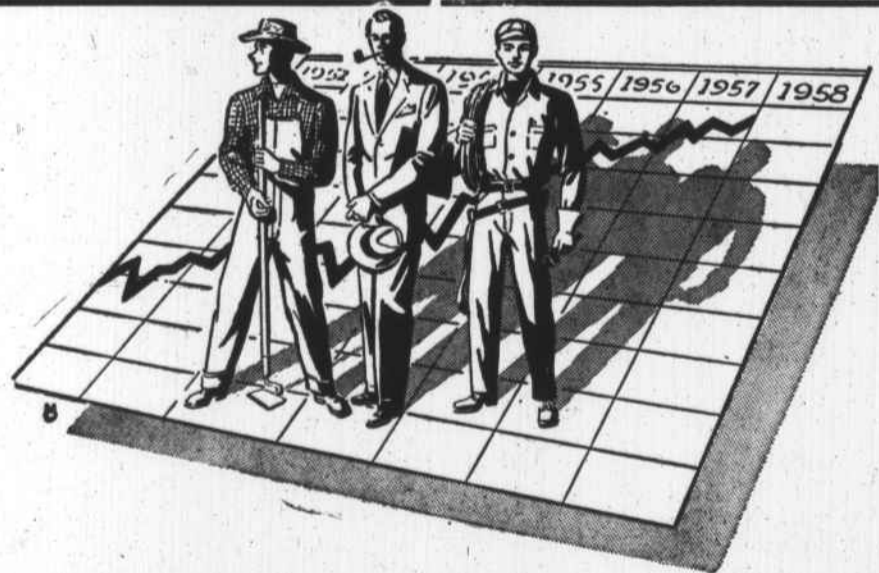
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