

School And Your Child

General College Gives Weak Student A Break

For the youngster who wants to go to a four-year college but can't because of limited academic ability or preparation, the University of Minnesota offers a solution.

It is a General College which provides a two-year general education leading toward an A. A. (associate in arts) degree.

The General College, as such an integral part of tax-supported University of Minnesota as any other school on its campus, affords every Minnesota high school graduate an opportunity to try it's hand at college — even though the grasp may be weak.

And the university absorbs this caliber of student (3,000 of them) without lowering standards in its more specialized fields. This problem presents difficulties for many other publicly supported colleges without a similar setup which are required to accept all high-school graduates regardless of ability.

Even though admission officers can usually pinpoint potentially unsuccessful college candidates the moment their high school records are seen, many colleges must still accept the unprepared students and allow them to undergo the negative "weeding out" process. A few make it but most don't. Up to one-fifth of college

freshmen drop out before completing their first year.

States find the "washing out" process expensive and usually of questionable value to the youngster. But legislators and many college officials hesitate to turn away sons and daughters of taxpayers who help support their institutions.

The University of Minnesota has washed out the "wash out" problem.

Courses in its General College are largely whittled down to the abilities and needs of the students. Extensive "weeding out" doesn't happen because the student isn't permitted to take subjects unless he has a reasonable chance of succeeding in them.

And for the collegian who demonstrates through good grades and work a capacity for advanced study, the university permits

transfer to the four-year program and into more specialized fields.

This gives the "late bloomer" a break. He is typical of the many men and women who really don't find themselves until after high school graduation.

Often mothers and fathers who pamper their offspring during childhood and adolescence cause the delayed "blooming." Some children couldn't worry less about their future during this period. And why should they? Parents seem to do everything for them from blowing their noses to washing their ears.

The kids usually wise up quickly on graduation, when they find themselves neither prepared skill-wise for employment nor academically for college.

They've learned the score. But is it too late?

Not in Minnesota. The General

College allows them a second chance to catch up and, if they prove capable enough, opportunity to move into the four-year university.

The program also offers a break to boys and girls who come from inadequate school systems lacking courses, equipment, or qualified teachers to prepare them for college. Many rural pupils, in particular, find themselves in such situations. And thousands of youngsters from these backgrounds (through no fault of their own) are denied admission to colleges of their choice.

These students are in the minority at the University of Minnesota's General College, however. The really wonderful thing about the college, says its dean, Dr. H. T. Morse, is that it provides a decent opportunity to young people who have the ability to complete two years of col-

lege and little more.

The General College enables them to discover a more appropriate life work, explore personal interest, and pursue an individually planned general education.

It also offers the possibility of earning higher incomes. Well-documented statistics reveal that a college education may increase one's earning power.

Minnesota's general education plan is nothing new. In operation since 1932, the program was pioneered along with others at such institutions as Stephens, Sarah Lawrence, and Pennington College, and the Universities of Chicago, Wisconsin, and Florida.

Thousands of foreign and native educators have observed Minnesota's General College with a view toward the establishment of a similar system.

Even though general education exists today in various forms at

Day Of Glory Given Trees

Even trees have a space problem — and for the evergreens, it is alleviated at Christmas time, say forestry experts. The big trees get room to grow, and the small trees get their day of glory.

Conservation-minded President Theodore Roosevelt, objecting to the cutting down of millions of evergreens, once adamantly refused to have a Christmas tree in the White House.

His son, Archie, smuggled in a tree and set it up in his room. The deed was discovered and Archie was about to be punished when Gifford, Pinchot, the President's conservation adviser, intervened.

Pinchot explained that the cutting of trees, properly supervised, is a good conservation measure.

Arche wasn't punished — and the White House had a tree.

In Finland, just before Christmas Day, the whole family must take a Finnish bath (Sauna). This is the traditional steam bath taken in a hut with a stone over.

Gian Carlo Menotti's opera, "Amahl and the Night Visitors", was inspired by the story of the "Three Kings of Orient."

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