

A Good Idea

The basic theme of this year's high school senior visitation program is a good one. The accent on showing the prospective student the academic side of the University is a welcome change from the now defunct "Duck Preview," and the haphazard visitation weekends of the last year.

Last year, it is recalled, it seemed that nearly every weekend was a "poor man's Duck Preview." Living organizations were forced to entertain visitors much too often.

This year, high school seniors will be the guest of private campus living organizations on one of the weekends, Jan. 23-25 or April 23-25. They will be provided with an opportunity to personally talk with faculty members of the departments in which they are interested. They will be housed in fraternities, sororities, and student co-operatives.

Throughout the weekend Greater Oregon committee members will be responsible for campus and department tours. Greater Oregon has also scheduled a dance for the Saturday night of each weekend. Dates will be arranged between high school seniors. Here we have a balance between the academic and social, you might say.

It is plain to see that the visitation program is better organized than in recent years. This is a step in the right direction by itself.

The role of the living organization should be that of a counselor. It should see that the high school senior attends the talks and tours. Here lies the success of the program. The high school senior is a guest of the University to acquaint himself with the University—not the fraternity, sorority, or co-op.

Two Ideas

From the Eugene Register-Guard:

Two new ideas in higher education will be of interest to persons who are concerned over the cost, the efficiency and the subject matter of the college experience. Wayne University of Detroit plans to establish a college for its experiment. The other experiment is "New College," an institution that exists only in the minds of professors from Amherst, Mount Holyoke, Smith and the University of Massachusetts. Both share one feature—additional responsibility for the individual student.

The college at Wayne will be a general education college, bent on producing well-rounded, but unspecialized, graduates.

Rather than studying certain "subjects," the students will look into broader areas, attempting to relate one field of learning to the next. And much of the work, even for freshmen, will be done without direct assignment from the faculty. Faculty direction, like the Marxian state, will wither away, or almost away, until by the time a student is a senior he will be working half on his own and half under tutelage.

New College also calls for more independent student work. The college, if it is ever built, will be built around the library. It will be characterized by an "intellectual single-mindedness" which will leave no room for inter-collegiate sports or social fraternities. And like Wayne, more attention will be paid to broad areas than to narrow "subjects."

In one important respect, New College could reverse the established pattern. In the traditional college, freshmen study broad courses, usually called survey courses. Such courses give the freshman a general knowledge about a wide field, but little in the way of specialized knowledge. As he moves toward graduation, his fields of study become more specialized until he becomes an expert at something, good enough to get a degree. (And an expert, says a waggish definition, is a person who learns more and more about less and less until he knows everything there is to know about nothing at all. A man of general education, on the other hand, learns less and less about more and more until he knows nothing about everything.)

At New College, the student would start by concentrating in a fairly restricted field—say New Deal economics or Shakespeare or the geology of the Middle East. He would study intently in this narrow field. Then, as he mastered that, he'd be encouraged to broaden himself by applying that to related fields. Over his college experience, he'd begin to understand the relationships of one branch of study to another. By the time he was ready for graduation, he'd be reading widely indeed, in the pattern of the survey courses students at other institutions pursue as freshmen.

New College is only an idea, or a series of ideas. Wayne's experiment is only an experiment. But both should lend flexibility to the unnaturally rigid pattern of college education. And both, in the long run, should contribute to a continued process of rethinking. This will help to ascertain if established patterns in education can provide for changing needs.

Male Decline (cont.)



"I SURE AM GLAD I FOUND OUT ABOUT HER! I CAN'T STAND A GIRL THAT'S STRONGER THAN I AM."

John Lengel

Greatest Town Contest Due; How About Your Town?

A few months ago we were invited to sit in on an organizational meeting of a committee. The committee's purpose was to select "The Greatest Little Old Town in the U.S.A."

The panel, so formed, has since got its plans underway. The selection will be run on a contest basis, with the panel members acting as judges.

We heartily agree with the move. Being an associate member of the committee, we helped formulate a set of standards for picking a national top ten of the nation's more permanent camp sites.

All cities large or small, incorporated or not, are eligible.

The town should have a minimum of 31 residents (homo sapiens), an American Legion post, an active Ku Klux Klan movement, and at least three school, home, and/or church bombings within the past calendar year.

On the city government side of the ledger the requirements in the consensus of the committee members are rather lax. Here the panel is looking for incapable, conservative people, young and old who know nothing of the ways of progressive government. The city council, or whatever governing body the town has, should be against anything that might do the town any sort of good. Vetoes in such case should be made on grounds of "good politics."

The criteria for population make-up is also lax as a result of a last minute split of panel members. In this category the population should act as a unit. It should suppress and/or ostracize anyone for individual or inspired thought. Race supremacy and lowbrowism should be typical of the mass. Two-thirds of the population shouldn't have the vaguest idea about U.S. foreign policy or federal-state relations.

All the townspeople should be pro-labor and vote a straight party ticket automatically and without question. And, only a quarter of the eligible voters may vote in any one election.

Any effort towards personal cleanliness and wholesome appearance should be generally avoided. Any sincere efforts towards broadening one's self in-

tellectually, or keeping pace with current events and their meaning would also hurt the town's chances for a win.

These rules also apply to the younger set. The rules also hold for any of the townsfolk's children who might go to college.

Physically, the town should have a healthy ratio of slums, and ample signs of mismanagement.

So far the committee has been swamped with entries.

All sections of our country are healthily represented. It was feared that the south would turn the contest into a rout, but surprisingly enough it has remained even all around.

The committee was in an endless state of argument until an honorable mention category was set up to handle the overflow of deserving entries.

It's not too late to enter. So send in those entries. Remember, you must document your case with photographs, plus signed statements from prominent members of your town. There is still a good chance your town can win. In fact the committee is toying with the idea of expanding the top ten winner's category to a top one hundred.

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Writer Expects Busy, Interesting Congress

By James Marlow

WASHINGTON (AP)—This will be a busy, interesting and probably productive Congress. It is unlikely to seem spectacular if only because very little ever does in the grinding legislative mill.

It will be a self-conscious, perhaps just a little less conservative than the previous Congress and, despite plenty of conflict, its personal relations with President Eisenhower may not curdle very much.

Democrats and Republicans in this Congress can not help being self-conscious: Its two year term will be drawing to a close at the time of the 1960 elections when voters choose a new Congress and a new president.

Both groups know their performance these next two years will be a major factor in the election outcome — for themselves and their party — and that the next president may be chosen from this Congress.

It hardly seems in the cards for this heavily Democratic Congress to get into feuding, name-calling and bitterness with Eis-

enhower in his last two White House years.

During his first six years his relations with Congress members have been unusually polite and restrained, except in political campaigns. There does not seem much reason to change.

For this reason: Without resorting to slam-bang, the Democrats were still able to win control of Congress in three successive elections while Eisenhower himself remained highly popular.

Nevertheless, there will be broad conflicts between Eisenhower and the Democrats in Congress on the programs he wants and the kind they want.

Some people thought, after last November's elections, that this would be a much more liberal Congress than last year. But in the first showdowns on strength this year conservatives showed they are still in charge.

In the Senate, a coalition of liberals from both parties lost heavily in their first test of strength in a fight over the rules.

Liberal Republicans on open-

ing day tried to name one of their own number their Senate leader, but they were defeated by a majority of conservative Republicans who picked Sen. Everett Dirksen of Illinois.

House Republicans are still under conservative leadership. They were simply replacing an older man with a younger one when they substituted Rep. Charles Halleck of Indiana for their old time leader, Rep. Joseph Martin of Massachusetts.

The two Texans who lead the Democrats in Congress—Speaker Sam Rayburn and Sen. Lyndon Johnson, are both conservative. So are a majority of the Democrats who are committee chairmen in both houses.

Still, the voters sent a lot of new men to Congress this year, some of whom are expected to take the liberal side. So, while liberals are not in the majority, their ranks have been strengthened.

They should be able to exert some pressure. Particularly Sen. Johnson is not likely to ignore them. Even though he outma-

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