



Was school as hard then?

"Why don't you ever help your father and I around the house? You just don't do anything anymore."

"But mom, I've got too much homework to do. It'll take me an age to get it done. You guys don't realize how hard school is. I wish you could take my place in school for a couple of days."

Is school actually harder for today's teenager than it was 20 years ago? Would today's parents be able to understand today's homework?

In the 1940's the schools didn't require the students to stay in school until the age of 16 or beyond. But then it was easier for a student to get a job without a lot of education. Today the schools and society expect students to complete high school. There is also a labor law that says anyone under the age of 16 cannot work.

The courses of today are more numerous than 20 years ago. They are also being taught in a different way, since there are new approaches in subjects such as the "new math," and the CBA chemistry.

Some courses taken in the 40's were in preparation for college. You weren't really expected to take them unless you were planning on furthering your education. But compare that to today's high school requirements in which you are expected to take these college preparatory courses.

According to Gust Kanas, curriculum vice-principal, "If parents were to experience high school these days, I think they would have a hard time of catching on to these new techniques of teaching."

Even if our parents didn't have as much to learn and weren't expected to complete certain courses as we are, we must admit they still had a lot to learn.



On The Shelf by Cec O'Rourke

Musical comedy 'Half a Sixpence' reviewed

"Half a Sixpence," a new Paramount Pictures release, is a musical comedy based on the novel *Kipps* by H. G. Wells.

The story is about Arthur Kipps (Tommy Steele) and his hilarious adventures, after he is suddenly dropped in the middle of high society through a fortune inherited from his father.

Kipps starts out as a young boy, who is in love with his childhood sweetheart, Ann (Julia Foster) and working for a miserly man (Cyril Ritchard) in a department store.

After Kipps inherits his fortune, however, the Walsinghams and their young daughter Helen (Penelope Horner) lure him into high society and into being something he isn't; primarily because they want him to marry Helen.

A humorous incident occurs when Kipps is taken to a dinner at the mansion of Lady Botting. He is served cold poached egg on toast, and with four forks and four knives next to his plate, he is confused over which to use.

When he finally figures out what silverware to use, he proceeds to cut his egg with his knife, when Helen says he shouldn't cut it with his knife. At this point he picks the whole thing up with his fork, and naturally it falls all down the front of his vest. The whole scene turns into an embarrassing, hilarious mess!

Naturally, all turns out well and he ends up marrying his childhood sweetheart. He loses his fortune, but it isn't unpleasant for him, because he realizes it was the money which caused him all the trouble.

The musical score is lively and it is good entertainment for people of any age.

'Skin of Our Teeth' reactions vary

The American Theater company is presenting special shows for high school students. The first of these shows, "The Skin of Our Teeth" by Thornton Wilder, received some various reactions from students who attended.

According to Charles Randolph, English department head, "Based on student reactions they enjoyed it very much. I know of one student saying, 'This is the greatest play I've ever seen.' Most haven't seen a professional acting company. This puts an altogether different light on plays. A lot of students told me that a live play is a different experience than a movie."



Charles Randolph



Mollie Grohs

"I've never seen a live performance before. I thought the acting was very good. I didn't like the play because the whole idea was hard to understand. I kept losing the idea," commented Rocky Manashe.

Mollie Grohs said, "The acting was very

'Miracle of television' not new; teens tend to take it for granted

by Kathy McGregor

"The miracle of television" indeed is just that, but we tend to take it for granted, for the teen can't remember when it wasn't around. Although we think television is a new invention, its basic principles have been around for years.

In 1947, television was an expensive novelty, in 1968 a necessity with sets owned by 55 million families. These families spend more time watching television than all other activities combined except sleeping and eating.

Educators believe that television wined children's interest, and made them active and less aggressive. They also believe it stimulated the children's interest in school because of school oriented subjects introduced on television. Still others believe it ruined their eyesight, made them aggressive and led to a falling interest in school.

Lee Loevenger, an official of the Federal Communications commission stated: "Television is not and has no prospect of being either the salvation or damnation of mankind. It will not and should not take the place or perform the functions of the school, the church, the home, or even the parent, although it is sometimes the most useful babysitter."

Television should be recognized for what it is, not what it isn't. As Geoffrey Gorer pointed out, each time we create a new media, the older people blame it (the new media) for the defects they see in the young.

Because we are under 20, we belong to a special group in the United States. We are members of the television generation, the generation that has felt the impact of television as a tool for learning, for television has been informing, educating the teen in his formative years about such things as the atom, the people around us and current events.

Many of the television shows today are aimed directly or indirectly at the teen. News is an example of this. "It is not specifically aimed at the teen, but it is certainly not trying to exclude them," stated Dick Hawkins, KATU news director. Television has made many teens more aware of the world around them, for the teen will one day become the leader who faces the problems that the news shows. News like other things is of interest only to the interested.

As public relations man Walt Hawthorne stated, "Television is of great value to everyone including the teen. It is a great medium. Where else can you see history happening right before your eyes?"

Many prime time shows, those shows between the hours of 7 and 11 p.m., are aimed indirectly at the high school age

viewer. Shows like *That Girl*, *Rat Patrol*, and *Bewitched* are about young adults not far from the teenager.

A recent documentary aimed especially at teens was *The Mind Benders*, a film on psychedelic drugs. Judy Noll, writer-producer at KATU-2, believes it made whoever watched it more aware of the drugs' effects, but especially the teen. Many specials are aimed at teens too. Those with talent taking people or persons from around the Northwest and the young adult age group.

Television has more impact than the printed word. The television industry is more aware today of its responsibility to give the viewing audience not only what they want but what they have indicated they need to help increase the understanding of the world around them. It both reflects and helps mold life in America.

Television is, has been, and will continue to be primarily a medium of entertainment. The audience is on the upgrade, they are more demanding, including the teen. Television must not only serve the needs of the majority, but the minority as well. It must provide a broad freedom of choice for the viewer and an equally broad freedom of expression for the creator.

Television has grown and will continue to grow. As it expands it looks to the viewer for help. Television seeks moments of greatness at its best, and at its worst it seeks to be better than it has been.

Relations League getting under way

"If anybody has any gripes about society, or Grant, I would encourage them to come to our Human Relations league meetings," stated Dan Robinson, social studies teacher.

HRL was first organized by the executive council last year, but didn't really get off the ground until this year.

The objective of this club was to get the students to sit down and talk over their problems and also to organize purposeful projects in the community.

"In that some people think that Grant high school is going down the tube, I think that interested students can engage in some very meaningful discussions," added Mr. Robinson.

Portland State college has sponsored a similar club on the college level. Some resource materials might be available to the Human Relations league.



Bill Haskell



Henrietta Bailey

good. I'd read the play before and it didn't make much sense. After I saw the play it made much more sense to me. I think that the Negro actress was very good. The characterization of the gypsy fortune teller was also very good."

"The acting was really very good," stated Bill Haskell. "The true meaning of the play was hidden, so it was hard to follow."

Henrietta Bailey commented, "It was a very interesting play. The acting was well done. It was very symbolic. There was a lot of meaning in it. I didn't have any trouble understanding it."

The next play to be seen on February 20 will be Elmer Rice's "The Adding Machine."

This play could be considered a problem play. The problem is, what happens to a man when he is replaced by a machine.

"The play itself, if it had been written recently, would fit in with the problem of automation today," added Mr. Randolph.

The procedure for attending the play "The Adding Machine" and all the others to come will be the same as it was for "The Skin of Our Teeth."

The Grantonian

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