

Durant Advises Young American Graduates

Editor's note: A year ago at this time, United Press International distributed a remarkable graduation day address to American youth by Will Durant, one of the most respected of contemporary historians and philosophers. Graduation time is at hand again and Mr. Durant's words, republished herewith, are as timely today as they were in 1935—and will be in 1975.

By WILL DURANT
Historian, Philosopher
(Distributed by UPI)

A task has been assigned to me, and I propose to go through with it as modestly as its inherent immodesty will permit. If now I dare to address you, it is not as one who writes with wisdom or practiced in the ways of the world, but as a fellow student handicapped with senility, yet as eager as ever to learn something between every rising and setting of the sun. You must season my platitudes with a grain of doubt, and

grant me the tolerant allowances that youth must always make for age.

My first request to you is to be healthy. It is mostly within your will. In many cases sickness is a crime. You have done something physiological, foolish, and nature is being hard put to it to repair your mistake. The pain is the tuition you pay for your instruction in living. Care of the health should be a required course, for at least an hour each week, in every year from kindergarten to Ph.D. Such a course would include thorough instruction in diet. Our bodies are what we eat, plus what our ancestors ate. Don't let restaurants tempt you; they are the vampires of the stomach; they will burden your flesh in proportion as they lighten your purse. One

of the cardinal errors of our time and land is to continue in a warm and sedentary life in the diet that once served to provide necessary muscle and heat. Let us keep our inners clean. The hospitals are littered with people who have put too great strain on their digestive organs and have allowed an excess of imports over exports to disturb their internal economy.

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After hunger, sex is our strongest instinct and greatest problem. Nature is infatuated with continuance and dolls up the woman with money to lure them into propagation; and so it gives to us males such sensitivity to the charms of women that we can go quite mad in their pursuit. Sex then becomes a fire and flame in the blood and burns up the whole personality which should be a hierarchy and harmony of desires.

Our civilization has unwisely stimulated this sexual impulse. Our ancestors played it down, knowing that it was strong enough without prodding. We have blown it up with a thousand forms of incitation—advertisements, emphasis and display—and have armed it with the doctrine that inhibition is a mistake—whereas inhibition is the control of the impulse—is the first principle of civilization. Don't let indoctrination determine your desires.

MARRIAGE

Marriage was probably developed not only for the better care of children and property, but to save us from the tyranny of sex. In marriage that instinct is given abundant freedom, but it is channeled within limits consistent with social order. But submitting to marriage we can take our minds off sex, and become adult.

Marry as soon as you can keep the wolf from the door. You will be too young to choose wisely, but you won't be much wiser in these matters at 40. There's no fool like an old fool in love. We parents should help you to get started in wholesome married life: help you with money, and—if you will permit us—with counsel. Don't let your choice of a mate be determined by the accident of association at a time of physiological needs; don't buy a grab bag in a coma. Let at least three months intervene between acquaintance and betrothal, and between betrothal and marriage.

The difficulties of marriage are far less than its rewards. One touch of a woman's hand can be a paradise, if the touch is not for too much. Napoleon said that the only happiness he had ever known was in loving his children; and I hope you won't have children without marriage.

CHARACTER

Character comes on a par with health; intellect may come third. The greatest task assumed by such schools as this is to transform egos into gentlemen. A gentleman, as my wife once defined it, is a person continually considerate. Kind words cost so little and are worth so much! Speak no evil of anyone; every unkind word will sooner or later fly back into your face, and make you stumble in the race of life. De vivis, rather than de mortuis, nil nisi bonum. To speak ill of others is a dishonest way of praising ourselves; let us be above such transparent egotism. If you can't say good and encouraging things, say nothing. Nothing is often a good thing to do, and always a clever thing to say.

RELIGION

Religion has been along with the family and the teacher, a tutor of character. For 50,000 years or more man lived as a hunter before he took to tilling the soil. Probably man's native character as it is today was formed in that hunting life. He had to be greedy because the food supply was precarious and irregular; he had to be pugnacious to fight for food and mates; he had to be easily stimulated to reproductive ecstasy, because a high birth rate seemed desirable. What are now, through excess, our major virtues, were then virtues—qualities making for survival of the individual or the group. When agriculture developed, and social organization became the chief tool for survival, these powerful impulses had to be restrained. They were restrained by a moral code transmitted through parental authority, family discipline and religious instruction. That moral code, though against the grain of the flesh, was accepted partly through fear of parents and very much through belief that the code came from an all-seeing God who would reward every virtue and punish every vice. I am not sure that civilization could have come without such religious sanctions of the moral code.

Those of you who specialize in science will find it hard to understand religion, unless you feel, as Newton and Vol-

taire did, that the harmony of the spheres reveals a cosmic mind, and unless you realize as Pascal and Rousseau did, that man does not live by intellect alone. We are such microscopic particles in so vast a universe that none of us is in a position to understand the world, much less to dogmatize about it. Pascal trembled at the thought of man's bewildered minuteness between the two infinities—the immensity of the whole and complexity of each part. "These infinite spaces," he said, "frighten me!" Let us be careful how we pit our pitiful generalizations against the infinite scope, variety and subtlety of the world.

MONEY

Money builds an economic basis under your life, but don't get caught in the rat trap of money-making as a profession; that, too, like sex can be a consuming fever and brings only futile pleasures, no healthy happiness. Your wife will have the responsibility of stimulating you to develop all your creative capacities, but I hope she will not insist on your keeping up with all the Joneses in the town. If you become an employer, your relation with your employees will count for more in your happiness than adding a zero to your wealth. Give every employee the full equivalent of his share in the product. Don't live in a boastful and selfish luxury based on taking more from the world than you give.

POLITICS

Don't take politics too seriously. Expect to reform the government only after you have reformed human nature and your own. Corruption is natural in government because it is nature in man. Don't be frightened by the international situation; it is normal; man is a competitive animal, individually and in groups. Peace is war by other means. I believe that intelligent fear will keep us from international suicide. Evils usually beget their cure through their excess; so now the balance of terror is making for peace.

How good it is that the military competition is changing to economic competition! Let the better system win, or a combination. We are witnessing in America a Hegelian synthesis of capitalism and socialism, taking the virtues of each; and this merger, I believe, will be more productive of goods and happiness than the fearful communism of Russia or the selfish capitalism of the not very Gay Nineties. See, even in depres-

sion time, the relative happiness and exuberance of the American people, killing one another ecstatically in the precipitate pleasure of their holidays.

INTELLECT

I take intellect for granted in your case; indeed, our schools have put too much stress on intellect, too little on character. We have sharpened our wits even while weakening our restraints. In my youth I used to talk about the bondage of tradition; now, as befits old age, I distrust the fetishism of novelty. We exaggerate the value of newness in ideas and things. It is so much easier to be original and foolish than to be original and wise. For every truth there are a thousand possible errors. Let us not try to exhaust the possibilities.

Most of you now will go to college, and the sharpened competition among individuals and nations will force you into intellectual specialties. The stress on science today is so strong that college, if I may put a bit, will give you only a passing acquaintance with literature, history, philosophy, music and art. But don't let yourselves be fragmented. When your formal education is complete, give at least two hours a week to rounding yourselves out with these flowers of civilization.

Make friends with great poets—Sophocles, Euripides, Virgil, Dante, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Moliere, Goethe, Byron, Shelley, Keats, Whitman. Acquaint yourselves with the world's supreme art

—Egyptian, Indian, Greek and Roman architecture and sculpture, Arabic mosques and decoration. The Gothic cathedrals, Renaissance painting, music from Bach to Rachmaninoff. Study the great statesmen from Hammurabi and Moses to Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt. Sit for a while at the feet of great thinkers—Confucius, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Zeno, Epicurus, Archimedes, Lucretius, Epictetus, Marcus Aurelius, Francis Bacon, Spinoza, Newton, Kant, Schopenhauer, Darwin, Nietzsche, Einstein. Enjoy great prose writers—Isaiah, Jeremiah, the authors of the Proverbs and the Psalms, Demosthenes and Cicero, Rabelais and Montaigne, Milton and Swift, Voltaire and Rousseau, Hugo and Balzac, Tolstoy and Dostoevski, Emerson and Anatole France. Follow man's odyssey with great historians—Herodotus, Thucydides, Tacitus, Gibbon, Macaulay, Guizot, Michelet, Froude and Taine. Walk humbly with the great saints—Buddha, Jesus, Augustine, love.

Francis of Assisi, Gandhi. I shall not hold you educated unless you make many of these geniuses your friends. Cultivate them and you will be molded by the company you keep.

THE MOUNTING HERITAGE

These and the whole world of knowledge, technology, morals, manners, government, literature, philosophy and art are your heritage, which has grown incredibly through the centuries, and is so rich that you will never be able to absorb it all, to reach the bottom of this Fortunatus, purse of the race. This is the patrimony that each of us inherits on entering civilization.

Good health to you, good work, good fortune, good character, good children, good grandchildren! Drink the brimming cup of life to the full and to the end; and thank God and Nature for its bracing trials and challenges, its educative punishments and rewards, its priceless gifts and inexhaustible treasures of beauty, wisdom, labor and love.

SHADY COVE-TRAIL Lloyd Davis Honored

By EVALYN P. WATSON
Shady Cove-Trail - Lloyd Davis of Shady Cove was honored on his birthday at a family dinner at the home of his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Waltz, of Shady Cove.

Two other sons-in-law and daughters were present, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Weitman of Shady Cove and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bishop of Medford. Davis' son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Davis, Sparks, Nev., Joe Waltz's mother, Mrs. Waltz, and sister, Bell, Mrs. Waltz, and sister, Bell, friends of the family, Mr. and Mrs. Don Silver, of Shady Cove, also were present. Davis' cousin, Lee McKendry, of Illinois was a guest of Davis and the Waltz's. Davis is now on a trip with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Davis to Van Buren, Ark.

Smith home Saturday. Those attending were Jackie and Joey Hume, Willie Poitevent, Randy Sikes, Duke Witte and Mary Ann Elrod and Neil Cooper of Trail and Larry Smith, Gary Ayres, Delberta Spain, Carol Smith, Sharon Smith, Jack Darrohn, Suzi Chubb, Bill Pfeifer, Benny Nork, Norma Noble, all of Shady Cove, and Ray Bitterling, Dewey Henderson, Dick Herterger, Steve Geren, Don Arnold and Tom Perdue, Eagle Point. Entertainment was also provided by the Personalities, a singing four-some made up of Bill Pfeifer, Benny Nork, Duke Wilde and Don Arnold.

Mrs. Betty Hamilton and family of Hills, Calif., have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. Pete Kness of Trail.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Osborne of Eureka, Calif., visited Osborne's mother, Mrs. Ellen Osborne, of Shady Cove last week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Boehlke of New Westminster, British Columbia, were guests last week end en route to California of Boehlke's sister, Mrs. Adeline Carl, of Shady Cove.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph McDaniel of Trail have been Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hunter of Pasadena, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Grow and family of Shady Cove are moving to a residence at Camp White where Eldon is employed. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Meyer of Trail are moving into the Grow house.

Mr. and Mrs. William Schultz of Shady Cove were hosts on Saturday for a potluck dinner and pinocle party. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Miles Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Strother, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bartuss and Dr. and Mrs. Verne Wilson, all of Shady Cove, and Miss Ann Forbes of San Diego, Calif., aunt of Mrs. Wilson and Miss Marge Sandfort of Medford.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Bartuss of Shady Cove have been Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Fox and daughter, May Marie of Los Angeles.

Catechism classes and religious instruction for youth will be held at Our Lady of Fatima church and Parish hall in Shady Cove from June 8 through 21 with First Communion Sunday being held for the first communicants on Sunday, June 21. All children wishing to attend are welcome.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Monical and family of Shady Cove are moving from Art Hutchison's house to Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Williams' house.

Mr. and Mrs. Gale Friend of Shady Cove are parents of a girl weighing 6½ pounds, born May 22 at Medford Osteopathic hospital. The baby is the grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Mason of Shady Cove.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Silver of Trail opened their fruit stand on the Crater Lake highway across from the Rogue Elk Friday. Silver operated fruit stands at Phoenix and Talent before going into the motel business at Big Bear Lake, Calif.

Mrs. Mayme Trego of Beverly Hills, Calif., is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Miller of Trail.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rogers and niece, Lois Rogers, with Mr. and Mrs. Estel Jones of Happy Camp, Calif., went to Milo Sunday where they attended graduation exercises. Their daughter, Arlene, was graduated. Arlene is now spending a week visiting the Jones' at Happy Camp.

A joint birthday party honoring Bonnie Smith of Shady Cove and Lane and Jan Dusenberry of Trail was held at the

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playing baseball at Jacksonville grade school.

Mr. and Mrs. Harley Hall and family, accompanied by Byron Palmer and Fred Jones, Jacksonville High school students, made a week end trip to Canada recently. They traveled 200 miles into the Frazer river country, returning by way of eastern Oregon.

Ed Ramsay has returned to farm duties after two weeks of treatment for a virus eye infection.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Travis and sons went on a trip to Crescent City and Brookings recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Mervin Mapston returned Friday to their home in Stackett, Mont., after spending a few days here with Mapston's brother, Henry Mapston.

Mrs. Edna Sawyer is on a 10-day trip to Chehalis and Washougal, Wash., to visit relatives. She also will attend memorial services at the new Willamette national cemetery at Portland.

Wednesday 11 pre-school children visited the primary room at Ruch for a preview of the first grade class they will enter this fall. Mrs. Nell Suttell assisted the teacher, Mrs. Ruth Granby. Prescribed children included Datherine Corbin, Roger Thomas, Robert Baylor, Jimmy Byrne, Shirley Cheadle, Daniel Hunter, Steve Suttell, Janet Brown, Carmalita Spellman, Orlie Hall and Sandra Thames.

Ben Schmitt of Oceanside, Calif., has arrived to spend the summer at the Schmidt cottage at Squaw lake.

Rural Reflections: Elm a Christean, putting luscious berry and apple pies in the morning oven, as she made hamburgers for teen age appetites, was recalling happy youthful days on a coastal farm, where she pitched hay in the field and mowed it away in the barn.

Arlene Loses Punch; No Fatalities Reported

New Orleans—(UPI)—Tropical storm Arlene flooded highways, uprooted trees and knocked down power lines along the central Louisiana coast Friday but lost its punch as it moved inland.

There was no loss of life reported, and property damage was relatively light. But scores of families left their homes for refuge in public buildings, and heavy rains accompanied the storm contributed to a wave of traffic accidents in many parts of the southeast.

Washington—(UPI)—Senate foes of 63-year-old Lewis L. Strauss claimed yesterday they have the strength to block his confirmation as secretary of commerce by filibuster if necessary.

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Robert DeLorme, M.D.
Physician and Surgeon
Announces Removal of
His Office to the
Century Building
(Formerly Community Hospital)

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TOURISTER
TRI-TAPER®
The Luggage That Defies
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On
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Balcony



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