

ON HITLER'S NAZIS

Last Tuesday The Battalion reprinted an editorial from the Los Angeles Junior College Collegian entitled "A Letter to Hitler." In view of the recent outrages on civilization by the Nazis under Hitler's leadership, the comment was not in praise of Der Fuehrer. If it had been, we would not have printed it.

This week we received a letter—unsigned—criticizing The Battalion for printing it.

Now we find that The Battalion's attitude must be justified in order to satisfy the minority who may have some use for the fascists.

In the first place, we hold with no dictator, whether he be fascist or communist.

In the second place, we cannot see either fascist or communistic philosophy as logical or desirable.

In the third place, we cannot but despise any government which strikes at the very roots of civilization through oppression of minorities and being intolerant.

For these reasons, we reprinted the Collegian's editorial.

The criticism which we received, however, was not directed toward praising fascism so much as toward pointing out that America may be the victim of propaganda again just as it was before the World War.

In response to that, it may be pointed out that if straight news stories from reputable news agencies—Associated Press and United Press—sound like propaganda, then obviously something's wrong either with the news agencies or Hitler, and we are very much inclined to think it is the latter.

Recently Jews have been so oppressed in Germany that it is difficult for them to prevent starvation.

While by far a majority of college students are wholeheartedly opposed to the Nazi philosophy and the means used in carrying it out, we interpret as a duty of a college newspaper to tell the outrages to the few students who do not take interest in outside affairs through other newspapers and to offer sensible attitudes toward these world events in editorial columns.

We believe, therefore, that the editorial was consistent with that concept of the duties of a college newspaper and that the criticism was not in order.

However, we reprint below the letter of criticism which we received—but only with the added note that no further unsigned communications on controversial topics will be printed in The Battalion:

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITORS OF THE BATTALION

I have just been reading an editorial published in The Battalion titled, "A Letter to Hitler". Now I am not living under the illusion that all that Herr Hitler does can be justified by us in the light of our own convictions, but I do question the advisability of the recent widespread campaign in America to create a negative feeling in regard to Mr. Hitler. It seems to me that the editorial defeats its own purpose by the manner in which it was written. Of course I am aware of the fact that the editors probably regard it as a very excellent piece of satire, but it seems to me that if the goal of most thinking people is a peaceful relationship among the nations of the world, this particular piece of writing has missed that goal.

In the first place, instead of attempting to retain an impartial attitude, the editors seem to have the express purpose and desire of showing Hitler to the world as they themselves see him, and to create a negative attitude on the part of all readers with whom they come in contact in regard to

Hitler.

In the second place, the editions of this, our school paper, are not the only ones who seem to have this objective. One has only to turn on the radio, or pick up a newspaper to read of the "oppression" which Hitler is practicing in Germany today. As a case in point I might refer to Dorothy Thompson's Monday night radio broadcasts, or the columns of almost any of our daily news commentators. Yet we never hear the other side of the argument, or whether or not Hitler is doing anything for the German people as a whole. The question which arises as a natural consequence of this condition is:

Should we believe that Hitler has done nothing for Germany? Or should we believe that we are hearing only one side of the argument—are we the victims of propaganda?

A number of historians in recent years have shown that propaganda favorable to the Allies, which was distributed in America prior to our entrance in the World War, was a great factor, aside from the economic reasons, for our entrance on the side of the Allies. One of the most important of these historians is Walter Millis, whose book, *The Road to War* might well serve as our guide during the present uncertain times. Another reason for our entrance into the World War on the side of the Allies was the favoritism of the administration in power during that period toward the Allies.

It seems to me that these conditions are being duplicated at the present time—Roosevelt's action in recalling our ambassador to Germany recently serves as only one more of a growing number of illustrations of the tendencies which are eventually going to force America to join with England against Hitler.

Now the point of this whole argument is not to criticize the actions of any particular person or group in regard to the present chaotic conditions, but to raise the question of whether or not we are going to allow ourselves to be duped into fighting another war "to make the world safe for democracy". Perhaps I am mistaken, but I do not think that the candle is worth the price—and I am not preaching economic isolation or nationalism, but rather I am making a plea for the use of common sense.

DR. MAYO'S COLUMN

ELEVEN PROPHETS OF MODERNITY

XI. Raymond Pearl: Statistics! Statistics!

Certainly the "modern" man is more respectful of statistics and of the statistical method of turning facts into truth, than the man of any other generation has ever been. In a sort of bull session, for example, I recently asked a biologist and a sociologist to name the most significant trends in their respective sciences. Without any hesitation they both replied: "The application of statistical method."

Raymond Pearl of Johns Hopkins University has perhaps done more than any other one American to make us statistically minded. His articles in *Mendenhall's* *American Mercury* and in *Harper's*, and his highly readable book, *The Biology of Population Growth*, enjoyed and discussed as they were by thousands, have undoubtedly influenced in a "statistical" direction the minds of the people who have in turn influenced most modern-minded men. Hence, even if you yourself never heard of Raymond Pearl, you probably owe to him, if you are a "modern", some of your characteristic respect for statistics.

I should like to recommend "The Biology of Population Growth" as a painless illustration of how a good statistician can make truth out of mere facts. By means of charts and curves, clear as crystal and much more entertaining, the book proves, among other things:

(1) That the population of a country follows the same sort of growth curve as does the body of a man. That is, in any one period (such as our own, which began with the introduction of power-driven machinery) the population of a country first increases very rapidly, and finally flattens out into stability. This tendency is indicated on paper by a curve that looks like an S pulled out rather flat and then tilted forward into a diagonal position across the page. Thus, we need not, it seems, be worried about over-production. Unless a new era in production should set in, and so start a new cycle of growth, our population increase will diminish and then flatten out in due time.

(2) The rate of increase of population tends always to be less in densely populated areas.

(3) The rate of increase tends always to be greater among poor people. (Raymond Pearl suggests that this somewhat alarming tendency may be counteracted to some extent by the wide and free dissemination of the knowledge and the means of birth control.)

(4) Sexual activity tends to be greater among farmers, next among industrial workers, next among commercial people, least of all among professionals and "brain workers". The narrow and mentally cramped lives that result from a poor economic and social environment actually tend to stimulate sexual activity.

Such profoundly interesting generalizations as these are some of the fruits of the science of statistics. But of course, you may say, there have always been plenty of interesting generalizations, even before statistics were ever heard of. The truth is, I think, that what the science of statistics has really given to us "moderns" is a feeling of assurance that such swelling statements as the above are not only interesting but soundly built up out of millions of hard facts scientifically collected and scientifically interpreted.

To the statisticians then, in general, and especially, I think, to Raymond Pearl, the modern man owes one of the most characteristic traits of his modernity: An impatience with generalizations, however interesting and authoritative in tone, which are not solidly based not only on facts, but on facts turned into truth by statistical method.



Kryl's Symphony Orchestra To Be Presented Nov. 29

BY JACK PUCKETT

Bohumir Kryl, nationally known musical conductor, and his symphony orchestra will present two concerts at A. & M. on Tuesday, Nov. 29. The first program will be held in Guion Hall at 8:30 p. m. for the convenience of the high school and grammar school students, and the second will be held that night at eight o'clock in the same place as a presentation of the Entertainment Series.

Admission to the afternoon matinee will be twenty-five cents for high school and grammar school students and fifty cents for adults. All holders of Entertainment Series season tickets will be admitted as usual to the night program, with single admissions being \$1.00 for the occasion.

This program promises to be one of the best of the entire season. Kryl, a dynamic, fiery, but superb conductor, is a thorough observer, as he has had forty years experience of concert life, all of which was continuously EN TOUR and of which thirty-two years he has been conducting his own musical organization. His only interruption from his field of work was during the World War.

Five superb soloists will be presented on the concert. The beautiful Dorothy Dickerson, soprano, and Burtis Preston, baritone, will sing; Florian Zabach, violinist, and Barbara Le Brun, harpist, will present numbers; but the best solo of the evening will be presented by Kryl himself, with his magnificent cornet.

Another achievement in Kryl's career is that fact that he is commissioned by the U. S. Government to supervise and direct the training of all Army bands in the various training camps throughout our country. Kryl is popular for his high class symphonic organizations, and for his unrivaled and unexcelled cornet solo, but what makes his name immortal is his vast contributions to the cultural and educational field of our nation.

Student tickets for the remaining six Entertainment Series programs can now be purchased for \$1.00. Every organization commander has several of these tickets and any one desiring one may purchase it from them. The six remaining programs are Kryl's Symphony Orchestra, the Deep River Plantation Singers, Cornelius Vanderbilt, the Pasquier Trio, John Patrick, and a swing orchestra yet to be named. It is suggested that all students desiring these tickets purchase them within the next few days, as they will not be on sale after the Kryl's Symphony Orchestra program.

BIOLOGY CLUB SEES PERSON PUT TO SLEEP WITH TIE-PIN

BY BILL MURRAY

It's hard to believe that a person can be made to fall asleep merely by showing him a tie pin. It's even harder to believe that he can through suggestion be made so insensitive to pain that he will not even feel a needle stuck through his flesh, or a flame burning his hand. Yet such things can be done, as proved by hypnotist Matthew Feinstein at the meeting of the Biology Club last Thursday night.

Fascinating indeed is the subject of hypnotism, one of the most obscure and as yet incompletely explored mysteries of the human mind. Feinstein, a student of A. & M. who has attracted much attention and favorable comment in this part of the country with his demonstrations of hypnotism, presented many of the amazing angles of this subject to a large audience of Biology Club members and guests at their meeting in the lecture room of the Animal Industries Building at 7:30 last Thursday night.

Dr. C. H. Winkler, Head of the Psychology Department, gave a brief history of the study of hypnotism, and introduced Feinstein, who then lectured on the history, types, and methods of hypnotism. Feinstein followed his explanation with a demonstration. He first tested a number of boys to find out if they would make suitable subjects for hypnotism. Unfortunately, because of the conditions of light, noise, and other circumstances unfavorable to the mental concentration of those tested, only one that night was found to be a suitable subject, (although Feinstein has always before been able to hypnotize at least five of any group he has tested).

He then demonstrated on the subject he had hypnotized a number of almost unbelievable feats of hypnotism, making the boy respond at the hypnotist's will to feelings of intense cold or heat, making him feel the terror of an imaginary lion, causing him to eat with relish a sour lemon which the subject was made to think was a sweet peach, having him sing "America" and deliver while in the trance a long oration in Latin (although the boy normally could remember very little of the language).

The demonstration was made to serve a scientific purpose, for by it

Feinstein was able to prove in error the arguments of some psychologists who believe that no change in the physical functions is produced by hypnotism. Before being hypnotized the subject had a nearly normal pulse of about 82 beats a minute, but while in the hypnotic spell his pulse fell to about 46.

Feinstein concluded his demonstration with two almost unbelievable feats of hypnotism. One was an illustration of post-hypnotic suggestion, as follows: While the subject was hypnotized Feinstein told him that the sight of a certain gold tie pin after being awakened would again put him to sleep; and sure enough, after Feinstein had brought him back to a normal state, the hypnotist as well as members of the audience put him into a sound sleep merely by showing him the tie pin.

Still more amazing was the last feat, which illustrated how hypnotism is now being put to practical use in the field of surgery to render a patient who is to be operated on as insensitive to pain as if given an anesthetic. Feinstein had his hypnotized subject hold out his left arm, then convinced him that his arm could feel no pain. And even though burning matches were held under his hand, the subject held his arm out rigidly, evidenced no feeling of pain, and after being reawakened still felt no pain and suffered no ill effects whatever. Indeed, it was impossible to convince him that his hand had been burned.

TURKEY—TON OF IT—IN MESS HALL

The 2885 Aggies who regularly eat in the mess hall will consume a ton, 2,000 pounds, of turkey—plus enormous amounts of all the "trimmings" at their Thanksgiving Day dinner, which will be Wednesday noon because the Aggies will be taking off on the Corps Trip to Austin Thursday.

Did you ever wonder just how much food was consumed in Sbia Hall in one day? Well, here's a rough idea of the amount. They eat approximately 2000 pounds of potatoes, 2700 pounds of meat, 12 cases of eggs, 800 pounds of carrots or any green vegetables, 325 loaves of bread, 190 pounds of butter, 5800 hotcakes, 500 pies a meal, 900 rolls, and 9090 biscuits. Ice cream is served every third day and around 3200 individual cups are served.

When chicken is served, usually on Sunday, about 1,400 pounds are required. For Thanksgiving dinner, the cadets will eat around 2,000 pounds of turkey.

Milk consumed amounts to about 6,000 half-pint bottles a day. All the milk, ice cream, cheese, and butter used by the mess hall comes from the A. & M. College Creamery.

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