

Seven Blind Spots . . .

Seven blind spots in man's knowledge offer unlimited opportunity to researchers, according to Watson Davis, director of Science Service. Whether or not we succeed in exploring these blind spots may determine whether or not the human race will survive.

Will A & M graduates be the ones to explore these dark places of world thought? There is no greater challenge to scientists, engineers or agronomists.

Mr. Davis recently declared before a librarian's association meeting that control of the human factor is the greatest unsolved problem in science.

"Hatred," according to Davis, "like the neutrons form fissible material, can cause emotional chain reactions of great violence."

"As with the atomic bomb, it is already very, very late to try to stop or control these emotional explosions that set peoples against peoples."

Listing war, mind and emotions as uncharted fields for science to explore, Mr. Davis outlined seven "blind spots" in man's knowledge that offer unlimited opportunity to researchers.

He said the "blind spots" are:

- The problem of disease.
- The problem of the nature of life.
- The problem of the nature of the universe.
- The problem of the chemical elements.
- The problem of photosynthesis.
- The problem of the mind and emotions.
- The problem of war.

"We must learn," he explained, "how we can settle differences between human groups without resorting to the insanity of war."

: Letters to the Editor :

'INTELLIGENT VOTERS'

Dear Editor:

Your editorial in the Batt last Tuesday on "Intelligent Voters" was a piece of writing of which you and your staff can well be proud. It is one of the pin-up collection and one which everyone of us can well afford to keep in plain sight everyday to be constantly reminding us of an obligation which we take largely for granted and barely appreciate. . . our government.

It has arrived at a point nowadays where a man can't talk earnestly about government responsibility, duties, and privileges as an individual voter unless his hearers tag him as a politician, a radical, an ax-grinder, and a lot of other things. However, some few people will admit that an individual American ought to know more about what's taking place from day to day in not only the U. S. Senate and House, but also in the state legislatures. Those few will then ask what can we do? And having asked it, forget it and go to a movie or turn on the radio.

If everybody will just stop to realize that there are 45,000,000 average Americans who are unaffiliated with any group, organized minority or union who do just that, they will realize what potential force that is. If 45,000,000 Americans, uncontrolled by any organized opinion other than the desire for good government were watching every step the governments made and the people who made them—wouldn't that make a lot of politicians, grafters, lobbyists and national "squeeze players" sit up and take a notice? Wouldn't we start getting some better men in office and some real public servants?

In my humble way I'd like to make a suggestion for you to go one step further in your editorial. That suggestion is this: no amount of instruction and education is worth a darn if it isn't applied and worked; to that end an educational institution should foster in every one of its graduates a desire to take a working, participating part in his government; he should know the issues, but he should also let his congressmen and legislators know what he thinks. That involves too much study and time in our competitive life today—in fact it gets so involved it is prohibitive—but if enough of the 45,000,000 are interested and serious and demanding couldn't an easier way be found?

There's no use having a good idea if you don't do something about it. You've got one in that editorial. Why don't you start a series with the idea of bringing home to everyone the idea of informing himself and doing something about it? The only danger in any government is the failure of the people themselves. The lack of information is the fault of yours and mine and Joe Blow's. If anybody doesn't believe that, we'd all better drag out the hardware again and get ready for another war—maybe within the U. S. the next time. Government isn't just History 306 to be forgotten as soon as we leave here. It's something to own and take a part in if we value it.

How about plugging for something that you've already started?

Sincerely yours,
WALTER B. STONE

(Ed. Note: Thanks for a thoughtful and provocative letter. As for what we must do—it is an individual matter. If every one of us takes an intelligent interest in our country, state, and national government, paying attention to what goes on, not swallowing such misinformation as is often handed out by politicians, we will have gone a long way toward improving American government.

In the early days, Americans and Texans took their politics seriously. Today we tend to say, "Let the other fellow worry about government." It is against such a shirking attitude that the editorial was aimed.)

Since the proposal by President Truman for monetary aid to Greece and Turkey, some short-term thinkers, commentators, editors, and alarmists have begun raving in tones reminiscent of 1939, "Begin immediate mobilization," they cry. "War is inevitable!" "Russia may attack!" Bosh! The Soviets do not wish war any more than we of America wish for it, nor are they much better prepared for war than we. We are certain of that fact from the reports of on-the-spot interviews in Russia.

Does Russia have the atomic bomb in production? We don't think so. In spite of her greater Army, does Russia have the equipment, resources, or real wealth, actual or potential, for fighting a war against the United States? No. Does the U. S. S. R. have a naval force capable of competing favorably with the United States either in naval warfare or in ability to land fighting troops on foreign soil? Hardly.

No nation in the world wants or is ready for war at this time. In fact, only Russia and the United States could wage war on a large scale, should there be any occasion for war. I do not believe such an occasion should or could exist. We might as well realize that the United States and the U. S. S. R. are the controlling nations of the world today. All of the other former great powers have been defeated either physically, morally, or economically to such an extent that they no longer play a significant part in the picture.

What reason have we of the United States to begrudge Russia her economic interests? Russia, Turkey, Greece, the Balkan States, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia are as destined to become an economic entity as are the U. S., Mexico, Columbia, Brazil, Venezuela, Bolivia, Argentina, and Chile. I can not recall any charges on the part of Russia which condemned the United States as "imperialistic," "coercive," or "dangerous" although no clear-thinking person can fail to perceive that we have our zone of influence much the same as Russia has hers. What was that story about the pot calling the kettle black?

Let Russia have her economic and political union as she and the member countries see fit even if it includes England. Let the nations of Europe fall in behind Russia if it is to their political or economic advantage to do so. If Communism or the above-mentioned "sphere of influence" should fail, it is no concern of ours.

Rather, the future of the United States and that of the nations of the Western Hemisphere lies within itself. We constantly discourage outside influence; can we blame Russia for doing the same thing? I hardly think so.

I heartily oppose loans to England, Greece, Turkey, or any other European countries unless they are made on a "strictly business" basis. We have too long attempted to be a combination Santa Claus and benevolent watchdog of the World with no resulting advantage. We must assume a "live and let live" policy with Russia and allow her to have the same rights and privileges as we consider ourselves to have.

Yours sincerely,
R. E. Scruggs, '47

Luke's Easter Egg Hunt Set Wednesday

Luke's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 2 in the park encompassed by Dexter Drive south of the College Campus in College Park Addition. Pre-school children and those in the first, second, third, and fourth grades at Consolidated are invited to attend and bring their parents.

Prize eggs will be donated by merchants, and a \$10.95 Easter Bonnet will be presented by the Smart Shop to the mother who designs and models the most original hat trimmed with some form of fresh fruit or produce.

A Professor's Life . . .

Teachers Face Crisis Due To Low Salaries

By A. D. Bruce Jr.

A university teacher does not expect wealth, but he does hope for the essentials of life. He hopes for a secure old age and looks upon freedom of thought and expression as a sacred right—a right which, in turn, cannot exist without economic freedom. In many universities and colleges instructors find it expedient to do a little "apple polishing" in order to get ahead. In spite of the fact that they can't afford it, the wives of younger teachers often feel obliged to entertain the administrative potentates and their families, especially those who control salaries.

Some teachers' salaries have been raised as much as 20 percent, but what good does such a raise do when the cost of living has risen about 50%? It takes no great mathematician to realize that the teacher is certainly not the winner in such a deal. Columbia University knows so well that its professors are underpaid that it officially encourages them to teach at night, to lecture, and to earn what extras they can. Naturally this robs them of the time necessary to prepare properly for their classes and also robs them of the chance to do the scholarly work and research on which promotion depends. Many instructors find they have to work in the summer in order to make ends meet for the year. Thus they have no real vacations, and grow dull and weary, for the statement about Jack still holds.

Starting salaries of \$2250 are not particularly attractive to a man who has spent four to seven years and considerable money for a college education, especially when garbage collectors, dog-carters, bartenders, and even school janitors get as much and often more. Even if salaries remain as they are, and living costs go higher, the profession always will attract a certain number of extraordinary individuals who know that teaching is their gift, who are born to give themselves to education and who will carry on in the finest traditions, regardless of sacrifice and personal hardship. But unless salaries are drastically revised, the profession is bound to fall increasingly into the hands of mediocre men or men of independent means, who may or may not be qualified for their jobs. Most parents don't want their children taught by teachers afraid of their bosses or by men who teach because there is nothing else they can find to do. According to present studies the intellectual capacity of men who now select education as a career is inferior to that of engineering, law, and medical students. Just think of the eventual result. The future world leaders will have been trained, taught, and guided by second-rate teachers; consequently their opinions and decisions are very likely to reflect this second-rate teaching.

Little Security

Security of job isn't as good as it appears to be for illness may cause a teacher to become unfit for teaching. Lack of savings to provide for possible sickness looms up as a constant worry for many teachers. Pensions and annuities, when they exist, are far from adequate; as a result many teachers cannot afford to retire. They continue to teach long after their places should have been taken by younger men.

The conception that a university teacher works only 15 hours a week and for hardly more than 30 weeks a year certainly is false now. Lecturing, conferring, marking papers, and class preparation take from 45 to 50 hours a week—sometimes more. The G.I. Bill has caused the size of the classes to become 50% greater than before the war. Many a college teacher today has no time—and too many troubles—to be intellectually alive. The instructor at a university or college has certain appearances to live up to; he cannot wear the overalls, denim work shirt, and heavy shoes that his salary indicates. Marriage, unless his girl has money, is practically out of the question, as are children for those who are married. Teachers are fortunate, in this housing shortage, if they do not pay almost a third of their salaries for quarters.

The Battalion

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Mousetraps, Defrosters— Patents Total 350 Weekly

by Ferd B. English

Every week the United States Patent Office receives between 350 and 400 applications for patents on various machines and systems. Many of these are not only interesting, but also practical.

Among the applications received in the middle of March was a system of clearing ice-clogged channels invented by two Swedish inventors, Bengt O. E. Parsson and Erik Roslund. The invention consists of long lines of perforated pipes through which air is pumped. As the air rises to the surface, it carries water from the lower levels along with it. This sub-surface water, by some natural phenomenon, is of a higher temperature than that on the surface and prevents the surface water from freezing. The system is even efficient enough to melt a thin layer of ice. Maybe if the Russians used this invention at their ports of Leningrad and Vladivostok, they would find it unnecessary to expand their territory to include an all-weather port.

Albert S. Barnfield of Atlanta, Georgia, limited his thawing process to a smaller scale. He applied for a patent on an automatic defrosting unit for refrigerators. When excess ice forms around the coils of the refrigerator, a valve stops the flow of refrigerant liquid through the coils, and in its place substitutes a flow of hot gas from the compressor. When the ice has melted, the valve reverses itself and again permits the refrigerant to flow.

Wilber E. Lake of Postoria, Michigan has built a better mousetrap. Therefore, the world should beat a path to his door. His contraption consists of a tube big enough for a rat to enter that contains a material that smells very enticing to rats. Across the entrance of the tube there is an incomplete electric circuit. When the rat enters, the circuit is completed and the rat electrocuted. With the dirty work all done, the rat then slides down to the bottom of the tube, and the trap is ready for the next unwary rat. The dead rats are then disposed of by merely turning the tube upside down in a suitable place, whereupon they will fall out.

The nuisance of coming to the end of a page on a typewriter has been remedied by E. T. Wickland of Roundup, Montana. His invention was a platen in which a groove had been cut. When there is paper over the platen, it keeps a metal finger from falling into the groove; when the paper runs out, the finger falls into the groove and causes a bell to ring, giving the typist ample warning that he is nearing the end of the page. The bell just rang!

What's Cooking

Thursday, March 27

7 p.m.—Tyler A.&M. Club, Room 108, Academic Building.
7:00 p.m.—Johnson County Club meets in Room 303, Academic Bldg.
7:15 p.m.—Rural Sociology Club, Room 203, Agriculture Building.
Dr. Charles S. Gardiner, Director of Texas Merit System Council, will be speaker.

7:30 p.m.—Denton County Club meets in 325 Academic Bldg. Easter Party to be discussed.
7:00 p.m.—Houston County A.& M. Club will meet in the Academic Building.

Friday, March 28

3:00 p.m.—Social Club meets in Y.M.C.A., 'Easter Parade of Fashions'.

that allow them to live on a maintenance, not a cultural, level.

Dr. James P. Baxter, president of Williams College, declared a year ago that the universities must insure "better salary scales, reasonable work loads, and scrupulous respect for the principles of academic freedom" if capable men were to be attracted to teaching. As things stand now the university instructor is not only forgotten, he is vanishing.

You, as a college student, know more than do most people about teaching conditions. So when you leave college and are a voting and tax-paying citizen, remember these things and vote accordingly. Do what you can to assure sound financial support, for no doubt you will soon have children; you want them to get the best education possible, don't you?

'Light and Lenses' Camera Club Topic

Arthur G. Edmonds of the Physics department will present the second and final discussion on "Light and Lenses" Monday evening, March 31. The Camera Club will meet in Room 35, Physics Building, according to Claude Stone, vice-president. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Cattlemen, Stockhandlers Hit By Odd New Disease 'Q Fever'

by W. K. Colville

A nondescript disease has been hitting stockhandlers and slaughterhouse workers in Texas, and the name of this unfamiliar disease is Q. It's called Q fever, and the Q stands for question mark.

Q hit 55 stockhandlers, slaughterhouse workers, and trainmen in Amarillo, Texas, killing two of them. The 55 did not know what had hit them, neither did their doctors. That is not queer, because it was the first naturally occurring outbreak of the disease in the United States. Previous outbreaks in this country had been in laboratories among scientists, and in troops who got the disease while overseas. The second naturally occurring outbreak struck about 30 packinghouse workers in Chicago last summer.

The Texas outbreak was identified through a circumstance that could be called queer. An Amarillo man, riding on a train, started talking about this strange disease in his town. An osteopath heard him and said, "That sounds like the Q fever they had among laboratory workers in the east." The train was noisy and the Texas man understood the osteopath to say "abattoir workers." So when he got back to Amarillo he started telling people they had this same disease among abattoir workers down East. A physician overheard this tale, went home and looked into his medical books, and found Q fever described. He found that the symptoms were like those in the patients that he had seen, so he got in touch with the health officer who got in touch with the U. S. Public Health Service which sent men out to study the situation. A group of doctors from the Texas State Health Department reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association that the disease was definitely Q fever and that the patients probably got it from cattle.

Q fever was first discovered in Queensland, Australia, among stockhandlers. Scientists seeking to identify the strange disease attempted to mark the tube containing the germs with a question mark, "Q," but they found that hard to write on a glass tube, so they used a Q.

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'Frontier Fiesta' At U. of H. Finds Everyone Go-West

Cowboy boots, western shirts, and jingling spurs is the proper wearing of apparel at the University of Houston now. After a six-year war-caused lapse, the Annual Frontier Fiesta is being re-inaugurated. A typical western town is being built by the students of the university centering upon the tradition and romance of the Early Republic of Texas. "Frontier City" will include such features as Judge Roy Beans' Court, taxi dance, and night clubs.

This year the Fiesta is being held in conjunction with a reception for thirty high schools from Harris and seven surrounding counties. In addition to this reception three nights of fun and hilarity have been planned for the out-of-town high schools.

CAMPUS

Opens 1:00 p.m. Ph. 4-1181

THURS.—LAST DAY

"MADONNA OF THE SEVEN MOONS"

FRIDAY - SATURDAY

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Beulah Bondi Cecil Kellaway
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Screen Play by Frank Partos and Raymond Chandler • A Paramount Picture

Barbecue Saturday For Johnson County

From 3 p.m. Saturday afternoon until everyone leaves, the Johnson County Club will sponsor a barbecue in Hensel Park. Tax will be \$1 stag or \$1.50 with wife or date.

The club will meet this evening at 7 p.m. in Room 303, Academic Building to make final preparations. Members planning to attend the barbecue should contact Steve Heyward, Room 1-H Puryear or write Box 2272, as soon as possible.

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