

The AGGIE-Nizer

'Shame' Noted in American Colleges

By JOEL AUSTIN Battalion Co-Editor

Many of our college graduates—perhaps a majority—cannot think at all; they can only mope. Some of them cannot speak grammatical English and even more could not possibly write a full-page letter without half a dozen misspellings or grammatical mistakes.



Austin

These are a few of the charges made by author Louis Bromfield in "The Shame of Our Colleges," in March Esquire. Bromfield points to three "ugly seeds" which have given rise to this "tragic general ignorance": our failure to discipline our children, our tolerance of downright subversion in the schools, and our emphasis on the college degree rather than the college education.

C. C. Newton Wins \$25 Prize In Tile Contest

C. Chartier Newton of Tyler won first prize in the architecture department's first annual contest sponsored by the Tile Council of America.

The Tile Council, made up of the major tile companies of the United States, donates the \$25 prize money.

Honorable mention went to Robert L. Dabney and James A. Muncey of Dallas, Stephen O. Nall of Tyler, and C. Richard Watson of Bryan.

"The Tile competition is to be a sophomore project, with a new program devised by the staff each year," said Ernest Langford, head of the architecture department.

The contest was established to explore and promote the use of ceramic tile for floors and walls of various types of buildings.

This year's project, devised and directed by Richard Vrooman, assistant professor, and James A. Davis, instructor, was to design a store or show room in which ceramic tile is sold.

Eighty sophomores submitted drawings of their solutions to the jury of staff members.

Winning drawings now are on exhibit in the architecture department, but soon will be loaned to the Tile Council of America.

Dance Class Schedule Postponed by MSC

The MSC dance classes scheduled to begin Monday, Feb. 16, have been postponed until the following week, said Miss Betty Bolander, MSC program consultant.

This change was made because of Religious Emphasis Week, she said.

The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions "Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, is published by students four times a week, during the regular school year. During the summer terms, and examination and vacation periods, The Battalion is published twice a week. Days of publications are Tuesday through Friday for the regular school year, and Tuesday and Thursday during examination and vacation periods and the summer terms. Subscription rates \$6.00 per year or \$5.00 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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News contributions may be made by telephone (4-5444 or 4-7604) or at the editorial office room, 202 Goodwin Hall. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5324) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 209 Goodwin Hall.

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Pointing to a subject wide open for criticism, Bromfield elaborates on this plague of our present day society which makes it "the thing to do" to get a college degree.

He says, "There are too many who don't want to be there at all and make passing marks only because their teachers nag them or their parents scare them." These statements we find very true from associating with other students. How often do you hear a father comment, "I never had a chance at a college education and I'll do everything possible to see that my son gets one."

The emphasis on degrees from college, this alarming factor in our higher education set up, is caused in part by adults of today who have forgotten the real meaning of what college education actually constitutes. We are mass-producing graduates with fewer over-all qualifications than the man who finished college 30 years ago.

Mass-Producing Graduates

Why are we mass-producing these graduates? Because society demands that college training be obtained by young men, and even more recently young women, who hope to obtain a place in the business and society world.

In attempting to educate these students who are having it "forced" upon them, Bromfield says colleges are obliged to "drag down the standards of class, hold back brilliant students and those who are working their way through college because they really want an education, and in general demoralize their schools."

Yet industry laughs at the job applicant who has no college de-

gree. Society says "thumbs down" to the girl who leaves high school and goes to work.

Is this mass-produced college graduate capable of thinking, spelling, or writing correct letters? Chances are you would find the majority of students not able to fulfill all these requirements. One of the important factors in this situation is a constant demand from industry to give the student of technical subjects a more specialized education. The engineer is a prime example. As technological improvements and innovations are evolved he must add more training to his curriculum—crowding out courses in English, foreign language, the arts, even economics and business which a prospective executive should study.

A Means To Live

To quote Bromfield: "What is important is to provide children and young people with the means by which to live, both in a materialist and in a cultural sense, to create in them an interest in everything, to encourage and 'spark' their enthusiasm along the lines of their special inclinations. We have tried always in our household to make the world itself seem a stimulating and fascinating place and to scorn the

mind which does not operate clearly, logically and with force."

Addition of more specialized training to the technical curricula, however, is not the only reason graduates may be poorly qualified.

Industry and the world of business demand a highly trained graduate, then usurp outstanding educators for their own employment. Colleges are therefore faced with the problem of training students with a professorial staff inadequate to meet demands of business. Colleges also offer unpleasant conditions of employment to graduates who would remain in the field of education.

The majority of large colleges and universities in the United States are tax supported. When we must rely on state and government funds to compete with salaries paid by industry, it is easy to see who will out do the other.

Wrong Kind of Education

Bromfield says we do not have too much education, despite all the colleges in the US; our problem constitutes too much education of the wrong kind.

A few of these wrong kinds he

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THOUGHT HE HEARD A NOISE

mentions are: "the mediocrity and bleakness of too many American homes, the crowded schools, the poorly paid teachers, the vast numbers of young people who should not be occupying space in a university or college, the mass neurotic emphasis on sports, and the pedagogic dry rot which has been eliminating the human and humanist element from our thought."

We agree with Bromfield's conclusion, "education at its present stage in the US seems to be merely messy."

Like that author, we hesitate to suggest any solutions or reforms to the problem. The late John Dewey of Columbia University thought he had the answer in the early thirties with "progressive education." It swept the country and was a thorough flop.

Leaders of tomorrow—a solution is needed!

Vanity Fair Deadline Extended to Feb. 21

The deadline for turning in Vanity Fair pictures has been extended from Feb. 15 to Feb. 21, said Harvey (Spider) Miller, Aggie-

AIR FORCE BALL



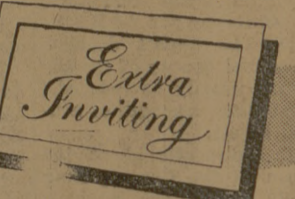
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