

The WEEKLY SPECTRUM

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CANNED THINKING

No student who has attended school here for at least one year but has noted that the instructors in our institution might be classified in a general way into those who believe in the use of a textbook in their course and those who do not. Of course there are the intermediates and in either class just mentioned probably no radical extremists. We don't propose in this article to defend the one and censor the other inasmuch as no two courses are any more alike than the instructors teaching the same course. Each knows or should know, if he is not a novice at the game, what system he can use to best advantage in getting results.

But there is the rub. Getting results. What wouldn't an instructor give to get results, to see some manifestation after expending one, two or four years on a student that would indicate a betterment in his intellectual status since entering college. Not that he had taught him to memorize a tremendous list of long and intricate chemical, mathematical or literary formulas which can be recited backward, forward, upside down or in the dark but rather that he had taught him something of the art of thinking for himself, of manufacturing some of his own ideas instead of using the canned variety. If this should become the rule rather than the exception at A. C. there are a lot of conscientious instructors who would go out and throw away all their enormous salaries for sheer joy.

We are all apt to indulge far too much in canned thinking. When a problem confronts us, we turn hopefully to our store of preserved thought "put up" by Remsen, Boyle, Bailey, Smith, Marshall, Carhart and so on down to great grandpa Larwin. The longer the thinking has been canned the greater our respect for it. And at this point the "we" begin to include some of our instructors.

If we were to take these cans to an analyst, he might report much of the contents to be adulterated. But it is doubtful if we would accept the verdict. How could anything that was made in the good old days be adulterated! Age has given it venerable whiskers and an ethereal halo that simply commands our respect.

Our opinions are second-hand—or seventy-second hand. We are afraid of manufacturing some brand-new, original opinions,—afraid that our mental digestions would be upset from the fresh fruit. We think what we think because we have always thought it, and our mother and father thought it, and our high school and college professors thought it, and many, many good people have thought it. And so whenever we have a doubt, we go back and reassure ourselves by reading over the labels that other people have pasted on. "For, Mr. Prof., it says so right in the text."

And like most of our schools, N. D. A. C. is a great canning factory. Definitions, axioms, names, dates—we stock them away in the pantry of our brain until our mind is so full of facts that we have no elbow room for original thought.

The word, education, means leading out, not cramming in; it implies a brain that will evolve ideas of its own, not one that will serve as a catch-basin for the ideas of everyone else in the universe. Mr. Dooley was right when he said, "Children shouldn't be sent to school to learn, but to learn how to learn. 'Tis thrainin' they need, Hinnessy!"

If Columbus had been content to live at a mental restaurant instead of running his own thought kitchen do you think with the geographical knowledge at his disposal he would have sought the western route to India and discovered the New World; would James Watt with all that was then known of the phenomena of steam in its application to mechanics have invented the steam engine; or would Robert Boyle have been able to delight our youthful minds with his famous law on the relation of the volume of a gas to the pressure to which it is subjected if he had searched the index for knowledge on this point. There would be no United States of America if Washington had waited to find a book on military tactics that would tell him how to outfox Cornwallis at Princeton and finally trap him at Yorktown.

Any good dietitian will tell you that a continuous existence on canned food is unhealthy. There are plenty of students in our school who are regular walking encyclopedias of information,—other people's information. But their educational menu has never included one original, homemade product. If called on to take the initiative or assume leadership in some student undertaking they can't "hit the ball". In life they will make excellent subordinates, the best filing cabinets in the world for reference but when an unsolved problem arises for which they have learned no formula, "let George do it".

Just how much of this patent education is due to the overuse of a textbook is a question. Much depends on the nature of the text; more on the program of the instructor. We do know that when a student passes a course in chemistry purely on his ability to memorize formulas, in economics because he learned all the definitions, in physics because he knew all the laws verbatim and can reel off all the dates, names and places recorded in the history text,—then we had better heave the books out the window and conduct a few classes in original thought.

Spring Is Here

Dere Sadie Marie,

Spring is here for sure this time cause Bezpelec says his wife told him to wear his B. V. D's. The robins are gettin' thicker every day and so is the night hawks. Dad Briscoe says he seed a lot of them lately on the campus. It sure makes me wish i was back at Hickson now with u when i hear all the birds singing in the treetops and the little pigs squealing for there dinner. This wether makes me want to be a poet and write pomes for u. Miss Dinan says i ot to have some of them published in the Spectrum but it aint no use cause the editor aint poet enuf to know high class literashure when he sees it. Here is a little pome i rote the other day in dairy class.

Mary had two pretty calves
 Both lightly dressed in Holeproof.
 One day they "ran" and now there's tan

To show her socks wernt sun proof. I gave this to Herbison for publication and he sed he couldnt see anything to it. I told him if he'd seen what i did he would think there was a lot to it. But that's the way with some of these dead ones around here they dont see nothing. We sure had a swell affairs here last week, the junior prom which is the biggest thing in school every year. So many guys wanted to lead the grand march that they decided it was best not to have any. There was a lot of argument who should lead it and one gurl who is a good friend of mine was just going to make a resolution that the best looking guy in the class should be the leader which would have got me into it so i am glad that they decided to leave the marching to the military dept. cause i hate to be to prominent. Gee, you should have seen me in the swell outfit i borrowed down at Kopelman's. They call them tuxedos just the same name as the kind of tobacco pa smokes. One of the chapter ladies said about me that i made a very striking appearance which is pretty fine i think, dont u? Well, Sadie, i've got to quit and go to a kommite meeting now where we are going to decidie about changing the name of our kollege and i am in

charge of it so u will have to wait for the rest till next time.

Urs till there's peace in Ireland,
 WILLIE.

::: LETTERBOX :::

Editor of the Spectrum,
 Dear Sir:—

The editorial in your issue of March 25 in which you emphasize the importance of attention to scholarship appears reasonable. When we engage a physician, a lawyer or a teacher we are interested in professional preparation; we want each to be an expert, and one assurance of expertness is scholarship and faithfulness in preparation. Your editorial properly emphasizes the fact that some interests are primary and others are secondary. Those things which can be had only from the college should be the student's main objectives; such activities as abound in society, generally apart from colleges, might to quite a large extent be wisely deferred until after graduation. An excessive degree of activity in athletics or social diversions tends to make the student's college career something of a sham. It is all a question of combining different legitimate interests suitably. If a student's non-scholastic activities are 90% and his proper college work 10% of his program there is evidently a failure to mix ingredients properly. It might be better to have 99% of college work and 10% of incidental activities. It is a wise student who combines the primary and secondary activities in the right proportion.

Very truly yours,
 A READER.

Center College is convinced that it pays to produce a winning football team. Last year they had an enrollment of slightly over 300. To date they have had 3,000 applications for admission.

The student paper at the University of Southern California advocates speaking without formal introduction, as a means of obtaining a closer friendship among the student body of the University.



Man-Made Lightning

FRANKLIN removed some of the mystery. But only recently has science really explained the electrical phenomena of the thunderstorm.

Dr. C. P. Steinmetz expounds this theory. Raindrops retain on their surfaces electrical charges, given off by the sun and other incandescent bodies. In falling, raindrops combine, but their surfaces do not increase in proportion. Hence, the electrical pressure grows rapidly. Finally it reaches the limit the air can stand and the lightning flash results.

And now we have artificial lightning. One million volts of electricity—approximately one fiftieth of the voltage in a lightning flash—have been sent successfully over a transmission line in the General Engineering Laboratory of the General Electric Company. This is nearly five times the voltage ever before placed on a transmission line.

Much valuable knowledge of high voltage phenomena—essential for extending long distance transmission—was acquired from these tests. Engineers now see the potential power in remote mountain streams serving in industries hundreds of miles away.

Man-made lightning was the result of ungrudging and patient experimentation by the same engineers who first sent 15,000 volts over a long distance thirty years ago.

"Keeping everlastingly at it brings success." It is difficult to forecast what the results of the next thirty years may be.

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Campus Comment
Theta Chi fraternity announces the
pledging of Roy Miller, Theodore
Greenfield, Arthur Wirtenberger, and
Lawrence Boerth.

Elva Stirwalt is once more an in-
mate of Ceres Hall, having served a
six weeks' term as an invalid at St.
Lukes' hospital. Doesn't she look
starved, kids?

Ray Ryerson dropped in to enter-
tain the Rho boys with his old line of
anecdotes and advanced political dope.
Yes she can walk, talk, and every-
thing now, and is just like her daddy?
(Poor kid).

Charles Herbison precipitated him-
self into our midst on a visit to his
dearly beloved brother, while on his
way home from the U. of Minn. No,
he does not resemble his brother in
the least. Rather a clever boy.

Chris Benson finally broke home ties
for another term of study. Bantry is
a pleasant place says Ben, but it's
pretty lonesome without the old
bunch.

Delta Kappa Sigma fraternity an-
nounces the pledging of Carlton Ryd-
strom, Robert Sanderson, Verne Ar-
cher, Howard Bateson, Harold Ander-
son, Mike Myrdahl, Harry Kunert,
Robert Jamieson, and Herman Her-
land.

Sidney Hooper left for Grafton, on
Thursday morning, where he will as-
sist in the preparation of a special
potato bulletin being published by the
joint farm bureaus of Grand Forks,
Walsh, and Pembina counties.

Rex E.E. Bell, Interstate Y. M. C. A.
secretary for Minnesota and the Dak-
otas, was present for the Installation
Services Sunday morning at the Y.

Thomas Rae expects to leave Sun-
day night for Minneapolis where he
will accept a position with the Minn-
esota State Fair Publicity Commission
for the summer months. Tommy ex-
pects to enter the U. of Minnesota
next fall.

The annual Y. M. C. A. installation
of officers took place in the Y dining
room Sunday morning in the nature
of an Installation Breakfast. Fol-
lowing the breakfast the new heads
for the association's work were duly
taken in and plans for the coming
year discussed.

Members of the Women's Athletic
association will give a dance in the
armory in the near future. The pro-
ceeds from this will be used in de-
fraying the expenses of their candi-
date to the national W. A. A. con-
vention at Boulder, Colo., April 14th.

Pearl Hollands will leave Tuesday
to attend the national biennial meet-
ing of the Y. W. C. A. at Springs,
Arkansas, April 20th and 21st. She
will represent the three colleges in
Fargo, and will travel in company
with the University of Minnesota del-
egation, meeting them in Minneapolis.

Installation services for the new of-
ficers of the Y. W. C. A. will be held
in the committee room of the Y
building, Tuesday evening, April 11,
after which a supper for the members
will be served under the auspices of
the old cabinet.

J. Mendzell, a newly made graduate
of the University of Minnesota, vis-
ited with his brothers at the Rho house
Sunday while on his way through our
city.

Carrie Hoveland is chairman of the
committee in charge of the annual
Co-ed prom. As yet, no definite plans
have been laid for the affair but 'tis
planned for Saturday, April 22.

Do you think we can improve con-
ditions existing at our college? Have
you any complaints to make? Would
you like to see something special done
here? Do you want to know the lat-
est dope on collegiate activities and
problems? Then come out to the
Student Commission meeting, Wed-
nesday evening, and present your sug-
gestions and lend your opinions to
the student's representative body. Re-
member it's your commission and your
privilege and duty to come out and
see what is going on.

**Achoth Annual Given
Monday Evening**

Waw of Achoth held its annual in-
stallation party Monday evening, Apr.
3, in commemoration of its seventh
fraternal birthday. Active members,
alumni, friends, patrons, and patron-
esses were present for the evening's
festivities.

The party began at seven thirty
with a five course dinner in the Wald-
orf dining room, during which solo
interpretative dancing furnished div-
ersion between courses. The sorority
colors, blue and white, were used
throughout in the appointments. Fol-
lowing the dinner, the party adjourned
to the ball room of the Masonic
Temple where Farrell's orchestra fur-
nished a dancing program of 14 num-
bers.

President and Mrs. John Lee Cou-
lter, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Stockwell,
Dr. and Mrs. C. S. Putnam, Mr. and
Mrs. Fred Olsen, Mmes. C. C. Ladd
and Minnie Rusk, and Mr. and Mrs.
A. L. Lincoln were the patrons and
patronesses for the party.

The committee in charge of the for-
mal were: Margaret Bishop, Dolores
Smith, Rose Lane, and Violet Erick-
son, Music and Programs; Hulda
Skjelseth and Ruth Dawson—Refresh-
ments; Emma Barnes, Edna Johnson,
Dorothy Tucker, Viola Larson, and
Francis Root—Decorations.

**ARCHITECTURAL DEPARTMENT
EXHIBIT BEING SHOWN THRU-
OUT STATE**

An exhibit prepared by the archi-
tectural student of the school is now
being exhibited at different High
schools throughout the State. This
exhibition consists of designs of dif-
ferent buildings such as banks, hos-
pital, post offices, and other types of
public buildings, it also includes pic-
tures of the students of this depart-
ment at work. The exhibit is sent
out under the auspices of the North
Dakota State Art Teachers Associa-
tion. This exhibit is now showing
at Bismarck, and reports show that it
is meeting with great success. This
display and also a display along ar-
chitectural lines from the Massachu-
setts Institute of Technology will be
on display here in May during spring
festival week.

SIGN THE PETITION FOR NORTH
DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE.

**A. C. Musicians
Guests at Party In
Honor of R. Putnam**

Members of the college and musical
department and lady friends were the
guests of Dr. and Mrs. C. S. Putnam
at a dinner party given in the Com-
mercial rooms on last Saturday eve-
ning in honor of their son, Rae, re-
cently returned from El Paso, Texas.
The affair was in celebration of Rae's
twenty first birthday.

The club rooms were prettily de-
corated in pink and white crepe.
Dancing was the order of the pro-
gram until midnight following which
a bountiful supper was served. The
fortunate guests all voted Dr. and Mrs.
Putnam hosts par excellence.

Rae Putnam, the guest of honor,
will leave this week to take up his
studies under the noted saxophone
teacher, Venreeken, at Huntsville, Ont-
ario.

**PETERSBURG HI STUDENTS PUB-
LISH ISSUE OF LOCAL PAPER.**

Students of the English depart-
ment at the Petersburg high school,
Nelson county, took complete charge
and published an issue of the weekly
paper, the Petersburg Record. They
published an eight page paper with-
out using any plate material, wrote
all the news stories, solicited the
advertising, and are collecting the
bills and paying the expenses for the
issue. Many articles were contri-
buted by the students on the leading
activities of the day, in addition to the
regular run of local news, which they
covered. Miss Irene Swendseid, in-
structor in English, directed the work.

**SIGN THE PETITION FOR NORTH
DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE.**

Students and faculty members are
to have the unusual privilege of lis-
tening to one of the country's fore-
most anthropologists when Dr. A. E.
Jenks of the faculty of the University
of Minnesota will visit N. D. A. C. on
Thursday, April 13th to speak before
the student body at the convocation
hour and again in the evening as the
guest of honor of the Polytechnic So-
ciety. Dr. Jenks' subject has not been
announced but will be given out in
next week's issue.

**SUSAN MARTIN CHOSEN A. C. DE-
LEGATE TO W. A. A. CONFER-
ENCE?**

Miss Susan Martin, a member of
this year's coed basketball team, will
represent the Women's Athletic As-
sociation of N. D. A. C. at the national
conference of Women's Athletics that
is to be held at Boulder, Colo., the 14
of this month. Miss Martin is a
Freshman who has made a meritorious
record for herself as right guard of
this year's basketball team.

This is the first time that North
Dakota Agriculture College has sent
a representative to a national women's
athletic conference and it marks a dis-
tinct step forward in the coed athlet-
ic affairs of the college.

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