

"There are always in the world a few inspired men whose acquaintance is beyond price."—PLATO

# Editorially Speaking

"He who thinks his place below him will certainly be below his place."  
—LORD HALIFAX

## Man In Our Society

By PAUL MILLER

Today, more than ever before in the century subsequent to the Industrial Revolution, most of us are aware that our Way, the American Way of Life, is being seriously challenged. As unbelievable as it may seem, this challenge is being directed at us from within our midst. It is a challenge from a few to many; it is a challenge to determine whether we will live as part of a mass whose thoughts and mannerisms are determined by a thinking and perhaps scheming plutocracy, or whether we will live according to important natural assets of a democracy, for example, that of an individual person, the fountainhead of all good, of energy, of all that is creative.

The Industrial Revolution may be regarded as the start of a decline if not degradation of certain phases of social life. It tended to mold all — except the very aristocratic and the business and government officials—into the same character, that is, into the form of the "mass man."

For over one hundred years, our society—and, for that matter, our whole civilization — has been seriously endangered by this idea of "mass man." This danger stems from a few who are not of the mass, but tend to do the thinking for the mass. This problem is a direct outgrowth of conformity or "togetherness" caused by the "mass man" idea. As people conform and band together so as not to be laughed at or be thought of as strange because they do not always agree with the group, they tend to go along with the "herd" and the ideas of a few leaders.

It is now relatively simple to see how unscrupulous demagogues, fanatics, atheists, and other undesirable elements, by manipulating thoughts and ideas which temporarily please the "mass man," can easily rise to power, a rise which nearly always contributes to the decay and degradation of mankind.

We can then comprehend that the "mass man" is a real and ever-present threat to our very existence. If we are to overcome this potential decline of civilization, we must look to the individual. Albert Schweitzer in *The Decay and the Restoration of Civilization* has stated this more clearly and precisely. Mr. Schweitzer said this: "The renewal of civilization has nothing to do with movements which bear the character of experiences of the crowd; these are never anything but reactions to external happenings. But civilization can only revive when there shall come into being in a number of individuals a new tone of mind independent of the one prevalent among the crowd and in opposition to it, a tone of mind which will gradually win influence over the collective one, and in the end determine its character. It is only an ethical movement which can rescue from the slough of barbarism, and the ethical comes into existence only in individuals..."

Josiah Holland in *The Day's Demand* has stated for us the basic essentials that we must possess if we are to accept and defeat the challenge of the "mass man." Perhaps it would be wise for each of us to consider this following creed and to practice it as much as possible!

"God give us men! A time like this demands  
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and ready hands;  
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;  
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;  
Men who possess opinions and a will;  
Men who have honor; men who will not lie;  
Men who can stand before a demagogue  
And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking;  
Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog  
In public duty and in private thinking;  
For while the rabble, with their thumb-worn creeds,  
Their large profession and their little deeds,  
Mingle in selfish strife, lo! Freedom weeps,  
Wrong rules the land, and waiting Justice sleeps."

JOSIAH G. HOLLAND  
1819-1881

## Persevere In Your Field Of Study

By BOB PETRAS

The academic year is well underway. The first barrage of blue books have hit the campus. Many have been successful in meeting their first tests; others have not been so successful. As a result, some students have already begun to contemplate a switch to easier curriculums. As far as they know, the death knell for their original intellectual goals has been rung. They have already quit and given up the pursuit of the work which would have interested them most. They have not steeled themselves against the bleak reality that nothing worth having is easily attained. Yet, perseverance would carry many of them through, and one day they would become a real asset to their chosen field and experience the pure platonic joy that comes of thinking and surmounting the obstacles confronting finite man.

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes summed up succinctly and emphatically this point on real intellectual endeavor when he wrote this: "No man has earned the right to intellectual ambition until he has learned to lay his course by a star which he has never seen; to dig by the divining rod for springs from which he may never drink. Only when you have worked alone, when you have felt around you a black gulf of solitude more isolating than that which surrounds a dying man, and in hope and despair have trusted to your own unshaken will, then only will you have achieved; thus only can you gain the secret isolated joy of the thinker who knows that a hundred years after he is dead and forgotten, men who have never heard of him will be moving to the measure of his thought."

Most emphatic and relevant to the point of this article is his statement of the necessity of each man meeting alone the gulfs of solitude and despair which challenge his ambitions and through perseverance and trust in his own will bridge these gaps and accomplish his intended goal. Then, and only then, will he have become an individual distinct from the crowd. His education will have provided him with the means of proving himself. He will have stood alone in his despair like the biblical Job and brought his weakness and desire to quit under the subjugation of his will.

Nothing can be done about the blue-book tests which have passed. Much can be done in preparing for the tests of the future. If we fail a course, let us repeat it, rather than forget it. It may prove to be the only stumbling block to a successful college career in our chosen field.

Above all, let us consider and reconsider before we take any such drastic steps as denying our original goals and switching to easier curriculums. If we persevere, we may still fail, but we will have greatly reduced the chances for failing. We will be left with a higher regard for ourselves if we have tried than if we have only lain down and quit and taken the easiest way out.

## LIBRARY NEWS CIRCLE K NEWS

Gifts, in the form of periodicals, were given by the faculty to the Penn State students. These are as follows:

Mr. Amidon—*American Historical Review, The Progressive, The Manchester Guardian* (19 works), *Mississippi Valley Historical Review, Pennsylvania History*.

Mr. Zerbe — *American Math. Monthly*.

Mr. Wilcox—*College English*.

Mr. Nelson — *The American Engineer, Pa. Professional Engineer*.

Mr. Kostos—*Journal of Engineering Graphic Science, Collegiate News and Views, Industrial Reference Viewer, The Lamp*.

Mr. Billig (P. P. & L.)—*Public Utilities*.

Mr. Schneider — *Penn State Alumni News*.

Mrs. Kostenbauder — *Mining Congress Journal*.

Mr. and Mrs. John Longo—*Book, Moscow Was My Parish* by Rev. George Bissonnette (especially autographed to the Penn State Students).

Students — check your library bulletin board for rules and regulations.

On October 31, 1960, the Circle K Club held a special meeting which took place in the lounge of the Highacres Union Building. In attendance were the Key Clubs of Nescopeck and Hazle Township, the Hazleton Kiwanis Club, and several members of the student body. During this meeting, Mr. Bachman of the Hazleton Kiwanis Club initiated the new members of the Circle K Club, and Mr. David Amidon spoke on the religious issue in the past election.

Citizenship Quotient was held at Highacres on November 1, 1960. This served as a project for the Circle K Club in connection with the International Organization and as a sociology project for Mr. McKinstry's class. Circle K would like to thank those persons who participated in this project.

Finally, at the second Community Concert held on Monday, November 7, 1960, the Club served as ushers.

