

Editorial Opinion

Rifles or Understanding?

The Saturday Review in its December 14 issue supposes for a minute that America will be successful in its present quest for scientists "and classrooms will be bulging with physicists, chemists, biologists, mathematicians and engineers of the highest talents."

After all this supposing, it comes down to a simple 2-word question: "What then?"

"When we succeed in doing these things," the magazine says, "we will still have left the largest part of the problem facing America. For what this nation needs today more than scientists is men of wisdom and vision."

Realizing, therefore, that a "master switchboard" will not bring peace, the Saturday Review goes on:

"Our job is to help create a great debate in the world. Once we define the need for a pooling of sovereignty in the creation of a design of world law—adequate to prevent aggression, stop the nuclear arms race, and provide a basis for justice in settling the disputes among nations—once we do this, we create a stage for the long-overdue great debate that the age requires."

The magazine realizes that such a debate may not automatically end communism as a world threat "or any of the other insistent problems in the world, but at least it can enable us to focus on our real problems."

The Saturday Review, apparently realizing this is not in the immediate future, says the American universities "in the meanwhile" can serve "the nation best not only by giving increased attention to the need for scientific knowledge but to the need for knowledge about the world itself."

Here is a challenge for our universities. It is a challenge for Penn State. Admittedly, the University does offer some outstanding courses—International Understanding 300, for example—in this line, but definitely more could be done, especially by making these courses available to more students.

We think this is a bigger challenge—a bigger service—for a university to perform than teaching its male students how to drill and carry a rifle.

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Other Opinion

The Students And Freedom

The current crop of college students, we are told, is a conservative lot, bent more on acquiring a corporation berth and the respectability of suburbia than on breaking new ground with the radical thinking and progressive action that characterized the undergraduates of a generation ago.

The Bill of Rights, America's charter of individual freedom, is certainly no radical document. But a scientific survey of undergraduate opinion has disclosed that less than one per cent of the students agree with, or accept with reservations, all of the historic liberties, enumerated in the Constitution's first ten amendments by the conservative founding fathers of our Republic.

Professor Raymond W. Mack of Northwestern University and Professor Robert McGinnis of the University of Wisconsin, both sociologists, polled a cross-section of student opinion on the individual safeguards in the Bill of Rights and came up with the shocking conclusion that "even the most highly educated segments of our population cannot be counted on to defend the principles of human rights set forth in the first ten amendments to our Constitution."

The response among students at private, conservative Northwestern was not greatly different from that among the students at the state-supported, more progressive University of Wisconsin. And there was no significant difference between those who classified themselves as Democrats or Republicans.

Both surveys showed that more than 70 per cent of the students would deny an accused person the right to confront his accuser, that more than 40 per cent believe there are situations where star chamber proceedings are preferable to a public trial, that 40 per cent believe there are groups to which the right of peaceful assembly should be denied, and that 75 per cent believe there are circumstances in which an individual ought to be subject to double jeopardy.

Dr. McGinnis broadened his study to include 500 secondary school teachers. Their response was remarkably similar to that of the students. The teachers, in fact, showed a significantly greater proportion of acceptance on only one of the 14 items in the Bill of Rights on which they were questioned.

The Ninth and Tenth Amendments reserve to the people and the states all powers not explicitly granted to the federal government. Sixteen per cent more teachers than students agreed with this provision. But, as Dr. McGinnis pointed out, "approval of this item seems to indicate more a belief in states' rights than civil liberties."

Part of America's propaganda campaign overseas consists of a proud display of our charters of liberty, notably the Bill of Rights. Certainly the McGinnis-Mack findings emphasize the more urgent need for a vast educational effort here at home to inspire American youth with an understanding and appreciation of the source of our strength and the citadel of our freedom—the individual liberties guaranteed in the first ten amendments to the Constitution.

—The Progressive

Three Engineer Groups To Hear Nuclear Talk

A joint meeting of the Institute of Radio Engineers, American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Electrical Engineering Society, will be held at 7:15 tonight in 219 Electrical Engineering.

Richard D'Ardenne, field engineer for the Nuclear Systems Group, Leeds and Northrup Co., will speak on "Instrumentation for Nuclear Reactors."

TONIGHT ON WDFM 6:45: Sign on, news and market reports; 7:00: The Home Ec. show; 7:15: Folk Music; 7:30: State news and national sports; 8:00: Invitation to Relax; 8:00: Open to Question; 9:00: Campus news and sports; 9:15: As You Believe; 9:30: Cabinet Reports; 11:00: National and international news; 11:05: This World of Music; 11:30: News and sign-off.



Curious Creature, The White Man

By ARTHUR EDSON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (AP)—Curious creature, the white man.

He quickly developed a contempt for the alleged savage Indian and his ways.

Yet what has happened?

We now have reached a spot in our civilization where,

by working like fools, we may be able to set aside enough so that in our leisure we can do what the Indians did full time: Go hunting, fishing and camping.

This is well illustrated today in a new exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution that completes a study of the American Eskimo and Indian from the far north to the tip of South America.

One can see, as he drifts among the exhibits, many of them life size and astonishingly lifelike, what the Indians wore, what they ate, how they worshipped, what kind of a life they lived.

One reporter's viewpoint: It wasn't bad.

Apparently that's what the Smithsonian experts think, too.

One placard says: "The New World peoples showed a high degree of imagination and skill in using the resources of their environment."

Possibly the biggest surprise comes in the variety of the cultures.

The Eskimos, for example, worked out clothes that not only are warm but also are extremely attractive.

The Northwest Indians went in for fancy masks, and the Smithsonian, who seems to get gayer as it grows older, has arranged a spectacular display of them.

Lights have been put inside the masks, and as they glower—or, worse, grin—from a darkened display it certainly is effective enough to scare off any evil spirit. And that goes double for the mask representing a monstrous bird that ate human brains.

Some of the Indians had habits that weren't exactly attractive. The Jivaro Indians of Ecuador thought that after you captured an enemy you ought to be able to prove it. So why not whack off

his head and shrink it for evidence?

The Smithsonian, ever thorough going, has dug up the recipe for head shrinking, which we won't go into here. But it takes 20 hours, and judging by the results of the specimens on display, is scarcely worth the effort.

If you want to work up a full portion of envy, consider the Grizzly Bear Indians. They also are known as the Yosemite, and each summer those fortunate people camped out in what now is the national park bearing their name.

Table titled 'Gifts for Larry' with columns for organization and amount. Total to date: \$1681.92