

# 'Average' Students

Look magazine, in a forthcoming issue, probably offers the best remarks for a new academic term. The words are reassuring to the majority of students who have never quite realized their dreams of high "all-U's" and have watched the select group of those that have received numerous awards and plaudits for "academic achievement."

Harold A. Fitzgerald observes in "Needed: A University for the C+ Student" that the average student, with a cumulative average that just approaches 3.00, is the "Average Young Man who built this world."

"Always be kind to your A and B students," the author quotes Novice G. Fawcett, president of Ohio State. In a letter Fawcett received from the president of Yale a few years ago, "Someday, one of them will return to your campus as a good professor. And, also be kind to your C+ students. Someday, one of them will build you a \$2,000,000 science laboratory."

The author adds that the C+ student is the "collective backbone of the nation." The logic of the C+ student eventually wins out when the theories so well-memorized by the A+ student don't always suffice.

We tend to agree. And, we'd like to add that those students who protest, who participate, who lead at this university, can only boast a handful of the "top students" in their ranks. The majority don't have academic records as shining as their extra-

curricular records, but their contributions and their practical learning cancel that so-called negative aspect. Their time is spent doing, instead of locking themselves away with their textbooks.

The C+ students are the ones you'll see at the majority of programs and functions at the University, the ones speaking out while their fellow A+ students are too busy at the library.

And, we are not attending the University primarily to go to classes and pile up credits. Learning involves much more than that to make a university important and to make a student's time here valuable later on.

The University should realize that its C+ students are really the most important part of the student population. And, as long as a good number of A+ students seem only content in fostering their own academic averages instead of trying to use their ability towards more constructive activities, the C+ student will continue to deserve more admiration.

A+ students are the top echelon at any institution of learning thanks to the layers of C+ students supporting them and keeping them up there—academically, if nothing else.

Buy books, study and go to class. Sure. But don't only buy books, study, and go to class. Use your ability and energy profitably, even if you're a "C+" student.

## BERRY'S WORLD



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J. Robert Shore

## Self-Truth Baloney

Ever since Will Shakespeare wrote, "Above all to thine own self be true," people have gone around thinking that self-honesty is one of mankind's greatest virtues.

Today's young adults set such value on self-honesty that it remains their primary goal in life—after marriage, of course, for the girls.

Coupled with the self-truth principle is a search for identity. This is where Shakespeare and the psychiatrists come in. The men of the mind help us help ourselves. They can't tell us what we are, but they try to direct us to find out about ourselves. These men, of course, swear by Will.

"If I never accomplish anything else," remarked a one-time Penn State engineering major, "let me be true to myself." That same student later said, "You can lie to your friends. Everyone does anyway. But if you lie to yourself . . . Well then, life just ain't worth livin'."

Most of us agree with the student. At least that's the consensus one gets whenever one hears or participates in a bull session which isn't dwelling on sex or sports. Right?

You bet. But no matter what you're theorizing, it doesn't matter because this self-honesty bit is some romantic concoction of little practicality. False! Fool, you cry?

I say there's no greater virtue than self-deception. In the words of the architect who designed Willard Building, "Those who deceive themselves best/live happiest."

Look, who are the people who end up in asylums? Aren't they the ones who, after having caught a glimpse of reality, simply snapped out?

And what about that most revered and respected man, the artist? He lives and creates in a world of illusion. Wasn't it Friedrich Nietzsche who said lies are necessary to rise superior to reality, to the horrible truth of life?

There's no need for us to get bogged down in the psyche of Nietzsche. He really wasn't a pessimist anyway. Art, which misrepresented reality, caused him to be optimistic.

Who are the happiest people in the world? The answer's a snap for any parent: children. Kids are so happy because they don't see life in terms of dollars and cents, birth and death. They live in a phony world, a world of illusion.

Nevertheless, it is a world of happiness. Give a kid a few blocks, and he's built a pyramid; give him a gun and holster, and he's Wyatt Earp.

Children aren't saddled with a station in life like adults. They can change their position with a spark of the imagination. If adults don't like what they're doing, they still have to think of bringing home the coin.

But you don't have to be a child to enjoy life. Of course, you must make money to live. But you don't have to do it honestly. I mean you can rationalize, a sophisticated term for lying.

We rationalize every day to make life more bearable. To put it a bit more refined, we study our great politicians like Lyndon Johnson and speak tactfully or (as Nietzsche would have it) with art.

You still don't believe me? O.K. What excuses did you give your parents when they saw last term's transcript? Girls: what kind of line will you throw to the fella who asks for a date tonight? Men: what did you say to your buddies after you called her?

As tough as it is to be honest with your associates, it's infinitely more difficult to be true to yourself? Suppose you find your identity. What would you do? Wallow in the satisfaction of knowing that you're perfectly suited as a pipe-cleaner?

No. You'll rationalize out of whatever you find. So why expend all this unnecessary energy?

### TODAY ON CAMPUS

Association of Women Students Executives, 6 p.m., 214 Hetzel Union Building  
G e r m a n Department, 6:30 p.m., HUB Assembly Hall  
Inter-Collegiate Council Board, 6:30 p.m., 216 HUB  
Interfraternity Council, 3 p.m., 216 HUB  
Men's Residence Council, 7:30 p.m., 203 HUB  
Panhellenic Council, 3:30 p.m., HUB Ballroom  
Press Association of Commonwealth Campuses, 7:45 p.m., 216 HUB  
Students for a Democratic Society, 7:30 p.m., 217-218 HUB  
Undergraduate Student Government, 7 p.m., 215 HUB  
Used Book Agency, 8 a.m., HUB cardroom

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PAGE TWO TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1968

## Letters To The Editor

### War Dead Sacrilege

**TO THE EDITOR:** On Nov. 22 a group of students proclaimed a day of mourning for our troops in Vietnam that have made the ultimate sacrifice. Of course, the theme of this insolent demonstration was that our troops have died in vain, that they have been needlessly sacrificed for a worthless cause.

Conspicuous by their absence at this degrading display of youthful ignorance were the veterans of Vietnam. Strange, indeed, that none of our men who have served decided to take advantage of this demonstration to make their countrymen aware that our fighting men see no reason for our presence in Vietnam, are there against their will and are being forced to fight a war of aggression.

Since none of our veterans showed up to participate in this demonstration, and in fact have never showed up for any long-haired show of disenchantment with the war effort, one must wonder about the opinion of the men who have been there.

The opinion of our fighting men as a group has been accurately summarized by Cevl Janusell, a 23-year-old sergeant serving in Vietnam. He writes, "Everytime I read

in the papers of these protest marches I get sick in the stomach." If our deceased veterans somehow voice their opinion of their "mourners" they would effectively communicate their feelings in the same way Pfc. Ronald Pattgen, a Vietnam veteran did upon observing a group of demonstrators in front of a Detroit bar. He threw a pitcher of beer on them and spat on the picture of Mao-Tse-Tung which they were carrying.

Our men in Vietnam loathe and despise the draft card burning protestors. The dead would turn over in their graves if they knew they were being defiled by a group of so-called mourners that unforgivably insulted them by associating them with an anti-war demonstration.

American citizens have the cherished freedom to dissent, but common decency dictates that a mockery must not be made of our war dead. On Nov. 22, every man that has died in Vietnam was shamelessly degraded by individuals that had he lived, he would not have blemished his reputation by associating with them.

If Americans have a shred of respect left they must prevent the recurrence of anything approaching the spectacle that occurred on the mall on the eve of Thanksgiving.

Robert Dewar '68  
Veteran



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