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## The Natural View

(From *Antioch Notes* for November 1, 1935, published by Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio.)

Intelligent men, unless prevented by dogma or prejudice, usually adopt that explanation of experience which is the most reasonable. The great barriers to progress are not mountains or deserts, or inherent intellectual difficulties, but improbable explanations which, becoming entrenched, prevent normal minds from taking the natural view.

To free men from arbitrary, entrenched opinion, so that they can, like intelligent, unbiased children, adopt the most reasonable explanations of experience, is essential to progress.

Leonardo da Vinci tried to explain the origin of fossil life in the high mountains. A fixed belief in a seven-day period of creation blocked the path of reasonable deduction in even his remarkable mind. He measured the rate living claims travel, and calculated whether they could have reached the mountains from the ocean during Noah's flood. But for that mental barrier which kept him from natural and normal conclusions, he might have been the first modern geologist.

Inquiring minds appear infrequently. A progressive society will therefore keep open the way of free inquiry in every field, so that when they do appear, original minds may have unhampered growth. Once the temper of critical inquiry is well established, such minds may prove to be not uncommon.

Many prevailing illusions are so obvious that any intelligent child of sixteen would see through them, were they not bulwarked by authority, tradition, and sophistry. Prevailing legal ethics justify lawyers in defending false issues. After a century of disillusionment, uncritical loyalty for certain methods of democratic government still continues. Irresponsible ownership and exploitation of natural resources is supported. Men adhere to diverse religions, each holding that his alone is the unique, adequate revelation of truth.

Such attitudes are possible because mental and emotional barriers prevent intelligent persons from taking the normal and reasonable view. One who is mentally and emotionally free will not feel compelled to retain a belief until it is proved false. Rather, among various possible views he will accept whatever seems most natural and reasonable. This change of attitude, simple as it seems, would be one of the most profound and desirable revolutions toward humanity.

The building of mental and emotional barriers, so that men's minds shall not be free to take the natural view, is essential to the maintenance of rigid and inflexible states of society, and being exploited. The Japanese doctrine that the emperor is a divine "son of heaven," and the German doctrine that "der Führer" is above criticism or error, could not, like the old doctrine of the divine right of kings, be sustained without blocking the natural tendencies of men to come to the most reasonable conclusions from the evidence.

Methods of propaganda in America follow the same course. The mental attitude to be secured once having been determined, the aim is then so to fix mental and emotional attitudes that the free play of judgment will be inhibited, and the desired emotional effect is representative. The advice of a public utility official is instructive: "Do not argue with your opponent. Pin the red label on him." That policy is being followed today with a vigor and determination unprecedented in American history. Conversely, appeal to class prejudice is equally blind and harmful.

Development of that mental and emotional freedom which leads men to take the natural view leads also to humility and sincerity. Take

## "The Slipstick"

Cleave to "The Slipstick"; let the Slapstick fly where it may.

Youse guys (almost wasn't gonna get no) Slipstick this here issue, (courtesy of the English dept.) on account of seein' as how some guy swiped all our 1908 joke books. Wooden thatta been tough? (Don't answer dat question.) But we fooled ya! We foun' a 1905 joke book.

Here's one for youse guys. (Darn it! Once you start, there's no stopping.)

I don't quite remember your face, but your breath is familiar.

And don't forget that Indians were the first nudists. Haven't you heard of Chief Standing Bear?

**Why Columnists Go Mad**—(a contribution)  
*Me and the girl friend  
Were walking in the wood  
We found a little pussy, but  
The smell we couldn't stand.*

ZAZU.

Our apologies for publishing this, but we thought the best punishment for the de-composer would be to print it with his name.

### VERS-ATILE

*Who brings my slippers night and morn?  
Whose love's a rose without a thorn?  
Whose eyes are never closed in sleep,  
Till slumber o'er my senses creep?  
Who keeps the home fires burning bright?  
Who smiles and reads to me at night?  
Who does all this with no greed for self?  
I ask you who?—I do myself!*

Zazu thinks the Oxford dictionary is an encyclopedia on shoes.

He—"I like to take experienced girls home."  
She—"I'm not experienced."  
He—"And you're not home yet, either."

### To Zazu

*I cannot read your eyes—  
They are too deep mysterious.  
I cannot read your lips,  
For they are never serious!  
I cannot read your heart—  
Its loves are far too many  
I cannot read your thoughts  
Because you haven't any!*

—H. C.

CON-FU-TSE.

away from our theories the support of irrational prejudice, and we should find it necessary to work together with tolerance and patience to achieve the common good.

Education should free men and women from servitude to propaganda, and should encourage the habit of taking the natural view. No other attitude is so conducive to stability and progress in social affairs. To view objectively and critically the facts and issues of current affairs will probably lead to departures from current public policy, but it also will tend to prevent the adoption of generalizations and abstractions which have emotional appeal, but which do not accord with experience. To oppose this objective spirit in education is to undermine enduring social stability.

A. E. M.

## Student Groups Vote Against War Service

(By Associated Collegiate Press)  
Columbus, Ohio—(ACP)—Despite heated opposition from within its own ranks, and in the face of "Communist" and "revolutionary" charges from the American Legion, the American Student Union endorsed the "Oxford Pledge," refusing to support the United States in any war it might conduct, at its convention here.

The union, recently formed by a merger of the National Student League and the Student League for Industrial Democracy, adopted the endorsement resolution by a 244 to 49 vote. Meanwhile, meeting at Kansas City, the National Student Federation voted, by 49 to 13, not to bear arms outside the United States.

Ed Kinney, the R. O. T. C., CCNY, and a member of the resolutions committee of the student union, asserted that "passage of this resolution definitely labels the student union as a 'radical' organization."

Kinney and others fought the resolution on the grounds that the "Oxford Pledge" should be optional with the individual members, and that its endorsement would keep prospective members from enrolling.

American Legion heads, asking that the union delegates be requested to leave their convention headquarters in the Y. W. C. A. building here, charged that they were "known Communists" and part of "a revolutionary movement against the government." Inability to get a quorum of the Y. W. C. A. directors prevented action.

## BOULDER DAM

(Continued from page 1)  
weight of Boulder lake itself on that area. Already, there are indications that the area is sinking, and the lake is only one-third full.

The four types of concrete used in the dam were mixed in a plant four and one-half city blocks long which was never operated at full capacity. The concrete was poured in blocks varying from thirty-five feet by thirty-five feet to one hundred feet by one hundred feet and only five feet thick. It is known that the heat developed by the chemical reaction of setting concrete in such large volumes will cause the concrete to expand and crack, therefore a gigantic refrigeration plant was constructed to artificially cool the setting concrete. The record run was the mixing and placing of twenty-two thousand tons of concrete in twenty-four hours, a record which will probably never be broken.

Mr. Kirkpatrick mentioned the fact that many technical secrets have been used in the construction of the dam, and all tourists had to inspect it from Lookout Point, but any engineer or student of engineering could, by presenting the proper credentials, visit the dam and inspect it personally.

## Fraternity Notes

**Elect Officers**  
Preparing to start the coming semester under a new regime, Theta Xi and Pi Kappa Phi each selected a new corps of officers. The Pi Kappa Phi balloting resulted in the following:  
Archon ..... C. L. DuSelle  
Treasurer ..... H. F. Perlet, Jr.  
Secretary ..... W. S. Hamlin  
Historian ..... I. Thomas  
Chaplain ..... J. F. Sturgeon  
Warden ..... T. H. Watts  
The Theta Xi executive board consists of:

D. C. Graham ..... President  
P. L. Slugg ..... Treasurer  
V. J. Kropf ..... Secretary  
F. R. Anderson ..... Exec. Secretary  
C. H. Parsons ..... House Manager  
R. G. Stevens ..... Steward

### Swim Won by Pi Kapps

Congratulations are in order to the Pi Kappa Phi swimming team on the event of their victory in the interfraternity swim.

Sigma Alpha Mu "Fraternity Day" will feature a banquet and various entertainment for the alumni, members, and pledges on the first day of the new semester. Members' parents will also have an opportunity to become acquainted with the fraternity and all of its members at this gathering.

### Plan Many Dances

Anticipating the end of the present semester, the chapters located on the campus are making preparations for parties: the pledges of Phi Kappa Sigma are busy making arrangements for the forthcoming pledge dance; Triangle is preparing a dance to hold up the standard set by their New Year Eve's dance; and the Rho Delta Rho's are planning a worthy dance program to initiate their new furniture.

Kappa Delta Epsilon indulged in a highly successful radio dance recently and they also found enjoyment at cards and ping pong after a joint active and alumni business meeting.

### New Honorary Member

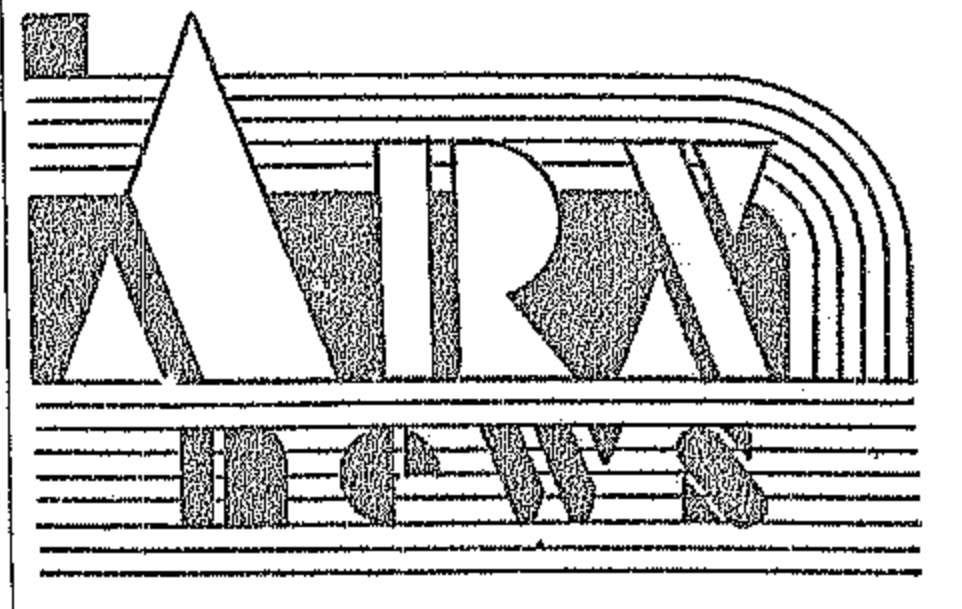
The new honorary member at the TX house is Tex, Alpha Gamma K9. He's the only member that isn't worrying about the final exams, but he does have his troubles with frequent journeys to the bath tub.

### Find Item on Visit

### Made 25 Years Ago

The following item was clipped from an issue of the "Leader", a paper in Pontiac, Illinois, which was published twenty-five years ago:

"Gordon Erickson, who has been traveling through Europe this summer, has written his parents Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Erickson that while in Rome he and John Schommer had an audience with the pope. They sailed for home September 16 from Naples."



Seems as though the boys have been plugging along at a very astonishing rate, if we are to use the results of recent judgments as an indication. There were so many who voted that only a few of the highest grades could be disclosed at this time, in fact, we believe the other boys are too modest to desire any free publicity.

Let's see now, there was the freshman rendering problem in which Goers received a first mention, and Oesterman and Jakubowski each received a mention commended.

Then there was the junior life judgment, in which almost everyone rated, but top honors went to Frank Hracrovsky who received a first mention and Baker, who came through with a mention commended.

Now for the class "B" canning factory. Once again there was a great majority who rated. Art Schreiber, Chiappe, Stein and Bejcek came through with a first mention apiece, to stand out from the crowd. Now we are all waiting anxiously for the New York judgment. Good luck, fellers. You'll need it!

Now that we have enumerated some of the good points of recent happenings, we have a complaint which is registered by Henry P. Lohmiller. It seems that one day Hank placed a drawing under a hole in the skylight, although he did not know it. Just then the "Bombing Squad" swooped down and the result, well figure it out for yourself; the drawing, the hole in the roof and the pigeons. That's right.

Here is another complaint. This time Kichaven was at the wrong end of a prank. According to him here is what happened — someone borrowed his hat. Now we cannot see why any one would want Kichaven's hat but that's his story and he is stuck with it. What actually happened, though, was just that someone remodeled the hat and Joe didn't recognize it.

While on the subject of lost articles that aren't lost, has anyone seen a pair of horn rimmed glasses?

Now we have a question, but no answer really wanted, since we will try to figure it out for ourselves. Why does Milt Kohn go to face lifting operations? Ans. Probably just to ascertain whether there is much discomfort during such an operation, because he is contemplating undergoing one. Anyone who can see Milt can see why.

Tom Tax

## EASY WAY TO WIN A DEBATE

**STUDENT** (A) POUNDS ON TABLE AND SPILLS WATER. **BEAVER** (B) THINKS THERE IS A FLOOD AND GNaws ON HAT RACK TO GET WOOD FOR DAM. **HAT RACK** FALLS CAUSING FALSE TEETH TO BITE STRING IN TWO—RELEASING **ARROW** (C) WHICH PULLS CORK FROM BOTTLE OF **ETHER** (D). **ETHER** IMMEDIATELY GOES TO SLEEP THUS LOSING DEBATE

## ...AND AN EASY WAY TO ENJOY A PIPE

**I'M PARTICULAR ABOUT PIPE TOBACCO — SMOKE ONLY P.A. IT'S Milder AND YET HAS MORE FLAVOR**

**ALL 'BITE' TAKEN OUT!**

YES, PRINCE ALBERT IS Milder / CHOICE TOBACCO IS USED AND THE 'BITE' REMOVED BY A SPECIAL PROCESS. P.A. IS 'CRIMP CUT' FOR COOLER SMOKING AND PACKED IN A BIG 2-OUNCE TIN—AROUND 50 PIPEFULS OF FINE SMOKING!

**PRINCE ALBERT**  
THE NATIONAL JOY SMOKE!

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