

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press
is Democracy's First Line of Defense

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It's Art
Modern art seems to be a somewhat remarkable achievement because, according to the London Daily Mail, a painting done in the abstract manner recently remained upside down on the wall of a gallery for eleven days before anybody discovered the error.

Hundreds of visitors looked at the picture without finding anything amiss. Even the selection committee that placed it on display passed it in the wrong position.

Finally, somebody noticed that the initials, "A. C.," were upside down in the top left-hand corner.

We admit that we are not modern enough to appreciate the crazy-looking pictures painted by the so-called masters and we have our doubts whether many of those who applaud them see anything in them, either.

Most of them could hang, like the picture in the London gallery, upside down for days without anybody knowing enough about the artist's purpose to discover the fact.

No War Without Men-to-Die
Manpower will be eliminated from the battle-fields of World War III, just as horse power was eliminated by tanks and trucks in World II, according to a prediction by Dr. O. M. Solandt, chairman of the Canadian Defense Research Board.

The doctor believes that push-button warfare will enable men to send machines out to fight for them. Navigation in the air and on the sea would require little human intervention. Guided missiles would be launched and controlled by machines.

Back of the lines, however, men would be needed to devise, build, control and repair the machines.

The idea that future wars will be fought without soldiers is a pipe-dream. Even if manpower is not needed to handle the weapons of the machine age, one should not overlook the possibility that the attacks of the future will be directed against the man-power, wherever it functions.

School Tests Are Criticized
School tests and examinations which require the students to answer questions on the basis of remembered facts are not a good idea, believes Professor Jacob Verdun, associate professor at Ohio State University.

The educator seems to be on good ground when he says that tests do not offer a basis to grade a student's ability to use information, which, after all, is one of the objectives of education.

He thinks that a fairly tough examination would be a fair test of a student's ability to use information, which, after all, is one of the objectives of education.

It so happened that I'd just come from a lecture tour of eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania high schools presenting the free enterprise story to 10,000 students and their 250 teachers, and 500 teachers in a separate meeting. The week before I'd been with a large group of industrial foremen. I'd found that the audience was surprisingly well informed; had been thrilled by their own testimonies.

A Second Thought
I thanked my friend, then, grinning, I asked, "Do your secretary and your wife know these free enterprise facts? Could they adequately uphold our American system in conversation at the company grocery, or over a bridge table? Would you yourself care to converse with a girl Socialist?" He stammered a moment. Then he smiled. "I see what you mean. No;

LOOKING AHEAD
By GEORGE S. BENSON
President - Reading Circle Society, Arizona

"WE DON'T NEED IT"
At the conclusion of a recent talk on the simple mechanics of free enterprise and the great benefits the system has given our people, an intelligent-looking man from my Mid-Western service club audience came up to shake hands. He said, "Splendid talk. But why waste it on us? We don't need it. It ought to be taken to those who do need it."

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tion could be given to discover if the student knows where to find facts and how to use them. These tests, he insists, can accurately grade the knowledge and ability of students.

Certainly the system of examination in use in most schools invites students to cram their heads with facts because the essential requisite of modern tests is a memory of facts.

It would be much better to adopt some form of examination that would eliminate the memory and permit students to use their time and energy in developing the process of thinking on the basis of facts gathered and readily available.

The close relationship and sincere friendship that have existed between Canada and the United States has been a matter of pride to the people of both countries.

For this reason, it is important that the people of the United States understand that Canada, like other countries, is experiencing some difficulty in securing dollar credits.

Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent points out that there is a billion-dollar balance in favor of the United States between the value of Canadian imports from the United States and Canadian exports to this country.

It should be thoroughly understood by all residents of the United States that the only "permanent" solution of this problem, as the Canadian Prime Minister asserts, is a willingness on the part of the United States to accept from Canada an equivalent to what we sell to the Canadians.

Only in this way can the commerce represent a mutual swapping of goods which will be beneficial to both countries.

Bullet-Proof Cars for White House
The White House will soon have a fleet of five seven-passenger limousines and one seven-passenger convertible, with anti-proof glass and heavily-armed motor, hood and sides.

The cars will cost about \$30,000 each but will be leased to the White House for a small annual rental. Each will have special fittings, including two-way radios. This may look like extraordinary precaution in a land where the people rule and there is a general state of peaceful content. Nevertheless, it is a wise precaution, fully justified by the possible existence of cranks, morons and the mentally-unbalanced.

It is a fact in human nature that helping others too much tends to make the one helped too dependent upon the helper.
In extending American aid to Europe via the Marshall Plan, we hope our leaders realize this fact, and endeavor to inspire European democratic nations to help save themselves.

Detroit's new telephone directory, including its suburbs, contains nearly a million numbers. Which only proves that modern man, in his business and social life, is a very talkative individual.

The abstract search for truth doesn't stand a chance when it collides with the organized pressure of a selfish group.

It is somewhat comforting to suspect the Russians are as puzzled over our actions as we are over theirs.

Everybody Invoiced
Yes, this national discussion involving the freedom of all of us is going on in government buildings, on college campuses (the classic 1950 college debate question), in railroad roundhouses, in fact, everywhere. And we have the equipped spokesmen for the American people. Particularly in this time among our business, professional people and our white collar workers.

Local Contractors Win State Contest
Covett Robertson, 1091 Lake Park drive, and his brother Paul Robertson, 600 Chesterfield, had a decision of their building in the state-wide judging of new homes in Michigan, sponsored by the Michigan Association of Home Builders.

He did Birmingham officials, pointed out how much easier the new ticket was for the arresting officer and the police and justice to understand the case and so settle it without "hard feelings."

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago
FEBRUARY 16, 1900
We are to be favored next Sabbath, Feb. 19, and the following day, Monday, by a series of lectures from the Rev. John F. Cross, superintendent of the state anti-saloon league, and the Rev. S. B. Crosby, field secretary. They will do us in their power to spread the terror of liquor among us.

The many friends of Rev. Francis Church formerly pastor of the Baptist here will be happy to know that he likes his pastorate at Byron very much. Those same friends will rejoice with the reverend and his good wife when they learn a little son has been welcomed to gladden their home.

Arthur Young of Pontiac has been obliged to take a vacation this week on account of illness. He has been spending the painful time happily with his parents at Mack.

Anyone wishing to plant trees in front of their homes will do well to set out sweet cherry trees bought from the Royal Oak nursery. These delightful trees will provide shade, beautiful flowers and delicious food.

Mrs. George Shain has purchased, recently, a lot on Brown street. Mr. Shain has been given to understand that a very attractive residence will adorn the site as soon as possible.

20 Years Ago
FEBRUARY 16, 1930
James E. McClintock, Benjamin F. Evans, John W. Wolf and John Donaghy, United States census enumerators for 1930, are now taking a census of distribution and manufacture.

Razor blades valued at \$23 were reported stolen from the store of Huston hardware company at 208 North Woodward. The theft occurred while the store was open and doing business, police reported.

Birmingham firemen were called Thursday to extinguish a blaze on the roof of the Barnum school building. The fire was caused by a child, since it was on a section not yet in use. It was caused by a match.

With the addition of 145 new books during the month of January, Baldwin library now has 12,000 books on file. There is now slightly more than one book per person in the village, which, according to Mrs. Nancy B. Thomas, librarian, will put Baldwin in the "first class" rating.

The housewarming on Mar. 17 for the Community House will be very interesting, according to Mrs. Charles J. Shain, chairman of the board. She said that invitations would have already been sent to the families in the village whose names committee members had been able to secure.

5 Years Ago
FEBRUARY 14, 1945
Fire Chief V. W. Griffith today appealed to the City of Birmingham to aid in fire prevention here.

The Red Cross blood donor service at the Community House on Feb. 14 has announced the next Blood Bank dates as March 12, 14 and 14. Those who are interested may begin making appointments March 1 at the Community House.

Hills Police State New Traffic Policy Fairer to Drivers
After several days in which to test the uniform traffic policy bills through usage, members of the Birmingham Hills police department have expressed approval of the new system.

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If the Sphinx Could Only Answer



When President Truman and Governor Williams ask for increased government spending at Washington and Lansing, their actions fit logically—as we see it—into an interesting cycle of contemporary history.

It's plain arithmetic in part. And yet it is as illogical as a magician's rabbit or Alice in Wonderland.

We refer to that little understood thing called inflation. Every dollar you saved in 1939 and put in the bank, or into defense bonds, or an insurance annuity or anything else in fact, is not worth a 1939 dollar today. It is worth only 59 cents.

What happened to the other 41 cents? Well, part of that might be considered to be a tax we paid to preserve our freedom. The government—and that means all of us—spent money freely to win the second war. And war is utterly destructive. It destroys material wealth as well as human lives. It is as inevitable to a staggering national debt, now at 257 billions.

Part of the 41 cents may be said to be due also to postwar treasury deficits caused, in part at least, by social reforms—public housing, for example, whereby the government agreed to subsidize rents of low income workers.

"Will we get more inflation in the future?" Eugene Fabson, the noted economist, thinks we will.

This would mean that our 1939 dollar, instead of being worth 59 cents, might go down to 50 or 25, and even a lower sum. At 50 cents, your 1939 savings would be worth one-half. You would need \$2 to buy the same goods that a 1939 dollar would buy.

What is the annual cost today of our wars? Approximately \$31 BILLION dollars, as follows: National defense, \$13.5 to \$14 billion (depending on expenditures or appropriations); foreign aid assistance, \$4 billion and veterans programs and interest on the war debt, \$12 billions. The remainder consists of more than \$800 millions for atomic bombs, merchant marine subsidy and other indirect national defense benefits.

There is little doubt that a third world war, with its frightful waste of human resources as well as material wealth, would push the 50 cent dollar down still more. Continual treasury deficits at Washington, regardless of the cause, would have the same economic effect.

Hence the prediction that the average American family may have an annual income of \$12,000 by the year 2000—another 50 percent drop from today. That is if we get mixed up again.

Snow in the Night
By BEATRICE McDONALD
Coming down silently during the night. Covering all of the bare shabby ground. How beautiful is the snow, how white. Come, down silently during the night. Piling up everywhere silent and deep: Millions of jewels strewn over the ground. Each hunkum changed to a silvery mound. Silent the sky and the earth below. Wonders of wonders, the beautiful snow!

Michigan Mirror
INTERPRETING THE NEWS
By Gene Allaman

"Any Way You Slice It"
By HAL P. BUERGE

Both Barnum Junior High and Baldwin High School have hot lunch programs, but the real hot lunches are enjoyed by the students who do not participate. Most of these students eat in the local beergeries and the proprietors of these establishments have the hottest time of all. Some of them are nearly overcome by the heat their little noonday customers put on them and some of their other patrons notice the effects too.

Most of us who eat in restaurants regularly are used to the antics and shenanigans of the students and depend on them for entertainment when we eat. The kind of entertainment varies, depending upon which part of town the restaurant of your choice is located. Those close to Baldwin have quite a number of that institution's finest numbered among their regular patrons. Most of this crowd behave well enough and do no damage. Their contributions to the entertainment varies, depending upon which part of town the restaurant of your choice is located. Those close to Baldwin have quite a number of that institution's finest numbered among their regular patrons.

I only mention the high school students because they are always worth mentioning, but it is the Barnum gang that really inspired my efforts for the day. Brothers and sisters, you ain't seen nothing 'till you've seen them in action in a restaurant. Those that are located on the South side of town are especially a catch most of these characters and consequently most of the rough stuff.

Girls always behave better than boys; I have noticed, so I'll skip them. For some strange reason there haven't seem to be many girls in the Barnum crowd that eat down town anyway. Maybe the girls are so ashamed of the antics of the boys that they would rather starve than have to eat with them. I think that may be the case. You know how girls are about those things.

Getting back to the boys and my story. Some of these jokers have undoubtedly sold their parents on the idea that they can't get an adequate meal in the school cafeteria, so they have to go downtown where they order such wholesome meals as a half a cherry pie and a bottle of orange pop with which to wash it down. They descend upon the restaurants in droves of 10 to 12 and grab every loose chair in the place. Then they pile onto one lone table in the middle of the room and start yelling and beating each other over the head with the menu enclosures. The waitress, showing remarkable restraint, is able to get their order after much bickering and changing of mind. Most of the restraint is probably due to the manager having warned her that to lose patience with the boys is fatal.

While the mass order is being prepared, concocted or assembled, whichever the case might be, the little demons engage in wrestling, pulling chairs out from under one another and much loud and nonsensical oration. The regular patrons, many of whom are enjoying the shows and others who are fearful of their lives are hovering near the outer walls of the establishment, lest they become an unwilling participant in the proceedings.

Soon the order arrives and the boys begin grabbing and pawing. First a big piece of lemon chiffon pie pops to the floor. No one immediately follows by a glass of milk or a bottle of pop. No one remembers who gets what and that includes the dominated waitress. Where the food is finally distributed there is usually a couple of hamburgers too many and no one will admit having ordered them. Finally a couple of the quicker witted ones offer to buy them at half price rather than see them go to waste. They even get away with this kind of a deal now and then.

I always thought that the pickles and radishes that are served with a sandwich were to be eaten as a sort of appetizer, but I have learned different. They are to be thrown at companions across the table, or if you have a better throwing arm, across the room. The ducking ability of a 12 year old boy is something at which to marvel. Thus, most of the missiles continue on until they have smacked another patron in the back of the head or have come to rest in a bowl of soup that a waitress is nursing along a troubled aisle across the way.

Finally, comes the payoff. The tabs are totaled and the big row starts. "How much are cream puffs?" "I didn't have a cheeseburger I had a toasted liverwurst." "You've got me charged for three bottles of pop and I only had two. Johnny drank the other one and it should be on his check." Finally they are out of the building and everyone is relieved, especially the proprietor who wishes he knew the answer to the solution. "Boys will be boys," he mutters, "and every year they seem to be a little more so."

THE AMERICAN WAY

Hell On Earth