

Argues For Individual Student Development

All school children cannot successfully be educated if they are given standard courses of study for each age group. They should be offered educational opportunities that fit their individual mental and emotional abilities.

So declares professor William C. Trow, head of educational psychology at the University of Michigan.

Studies conducted at the University over many years show that children grow at amazingly different rates. Those in the sixth grade, for example, even in schools which have fairly rigid promotional practices, vary in ability as much as seven years," said Professor Trow.

"They come from unbelievably different home backgrounds. Some are all but neurotic because of home pressures to excel. Others put up real resistance to learning because they are reflecting the antagonistic attitudes of their parents toward schooling. Furthermore, Professor Trow continues, "Individuals, whether in school or college, are people who develop. They are not mere containers into which knowledge, however valuable, can be forced. True, good chemists, physicists, biologists, engineers, and other specialists are needed, and the schools will continue to train people to fill these needs.

"But in the process of learning, people also acquire attitudes which fit them more or less adequately for their adult life. In the past, schools emphasized the intellectual values, as indeed they should have. However, they neglected the emotional life with which intellect is closely intertwined.

He continues, "Rigid regulations with punishment for stepping out of line was the school's policy. The only recourse for many pupils was to leave school as soon as possible. And they did leave by the thousand. Now, for reasons beyond the control of the schools, these students must remain because at present they can't be absorbed by industry. It's the job of the schools, assisted by other social institutions, to help them develop their interests and abilities so they can become good citizens."

We agree with the Ann Arbor professor that the all-important need of every institution of higher, or lower, learning is "to help them (students) develop their interests and abilities so they can become good citizens."

It is the modern failure of, first the home, then the public schools, to acquaint youth with those attributes of character that has resulted in so much criticism toward educational methods.

It has always seemed to us that unless an individual is educated to understand and appreciate those duties and responsibilities necessary to the maintenance of free self-government, he will lose them. Degreed alone as chemists, physicists, biologists, engineers, etc., will not be enough to defend and develop the elements of human freedom.

Will "Soapy" Be More Careful This Session?

The Michigan State Legislature is in session, with Republicans again dominating both the House and the Senate chambers. In the Senate there are 23 Republicans and 11 Democrats; in the House the tally shows 61 Republicans to 49 Democrats.

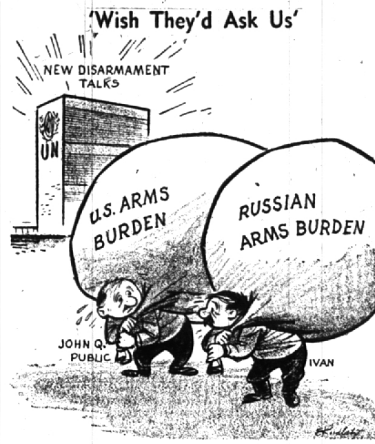
Governor Williams and a majority of the Administrative Board are Democrats—for the second successive term in several thousand years. (2)

Exactly what to expect from this session is hard to guess. If the usual pattern of the last eight Williams' years is repeated, not much will be achieved. The Governor will ask for extra dollars to provide increased largess for various recipients; the Legislature will not want to give the money—neither will it approve numerous of the Governor's pro-labor ideas.

ON THE OTHER HAND, it may be that the Governor will be more careful in the budgetary items he publicly deems necessary. The reason for this is that, having been elected Governor of Michigan five times, he feels that he now has earned a role in the national picture—indeed, already he is being mentioned as a possibility for the nomination as Democratic candidate for President or Vice-President in 1959.

Thus, reaching out for national recognition will tend to make him very careful that his political programs in Michigan do not offend certain of the nation's geographical and economic groups.

The present Legislative session in Lansing should prove very interesting. Only time, as always, will expose the moving picture at Lansing.



NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Freese
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

Nature Inventive In Snow Crystals

As these lines are being written, the Detroit area is digging itself out of its heaviest snowfall in 23 years.

The aesthetic aspects of this circumstance are pleasant to behold. One went to sleep in a drab winter world and awakened to the crunch of wheels, the sparkle of jeweled trees and gardens, of frosted roofs, and of fence posts leaning at jaunty angles. The soft white bonnets, the latter very much resembling the present vogue.

The practical in conveniences are all too plentiful in slow traffic, canceled appointments and actions which are being overlooked. Nine inches of it is nearly the equivalent of one inch of rainfall depending upon the "wetness" of snow. In any season this is needed by the thirsty earth if root stalks and bulbs are to come to their peak of spring flowering.

SNOW ALSO LAYS a warm blanket over millions of acres of winter wheat and grassland. In high mountain passes it is pressed into glaciers which will be gradually released by the sun's warmth into streams of water. These in turn will quench the thirst of uncounted numbers of plants and animals throughout another summer's heat.

Snowflakes are frozen bits of moisture held by a cloud. They crystallize while floating in the higher altitudes, growing and taking on diverse shapes as they descend through successive layers of air varying in moisture and temperature.

Men have been intrigued by snow crystals ever since 1550, when a learned bishop of Upsala, Sweden published the first drawing of one made from a crude woodcut. They are testimony to nature's unique and inventive ways, for no two have ever been found exactly alike, yet each takes the geometrical form of a star with six rays or else some multiple of six.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Mrs. Robert Schilling of Bloomfield township finds herself the unofficial area campaign chairman in getting surplus clothing on its way to Hungarian refugees.

Two weeks ago, The Eccentric ran a brief item on how she twice had filled a bedroom with clothing obtained from friends and neighbors. Now the additional response has been so great that the volunteer work and collection space at McClellan-Ball's S. Woodward warehouse is hardly able to handle matters.

Mrs. Schilling and her co-workers (more are needed) pack the clothes at Mc-B's, take it to Detroit where it is processed by Hungarian-Americans, placed aboard airlines and sent direct to the European points where the refugees are.

It's pretty cold working in a warehouse, so Mrs. Schilling was wearing a pair of slacks and heavy shirt Friday as she helped pack some boxes. She loaded as many as she could get into her car, took off the extra slacks and shirt, and placed them on one of the nearby salt or feed bags.

When she got back from Detroit to resume her packing, she was amused to learn a zealous packer had incidentally included her extra clothing in another load, which now was on its way to Europe, too!

Apprentice Theatre Opens Enrollment For Spring Term

Registration for the spring term provided by the Michigan state year-olds through adults in their at Will-o-Way Apprentice theatre board of education, is affiliated with the well-known Will-o-Way walks of life. There is no theatre the Apprentice theatre, ap. Ages of students run from four to experience necessary.

Among the things which never seem to even up are problems and answers.

Just how helplessly we are tied to our mechanical steeds was unquestioningly demonstrated to me this week: my car froze up, too.

Owners of those foreign sports cars are reported to be having plenty of trouble on these cold mornings. Apparently, those bantam babies aren't designed for our real North American winters.

The American public is suspicious of a politician—that's why terms of elective office are so short.

If you want to see the world's first "sit-down cashiers", stop in at the new Bloomfield Hills branch of the Community National Bank of Pontiac.

There are eight tellers on duty. Five of them will be in the usual stand-up cages. The others will work from specially-designed desks, along side which will be chairs for people who want to sit while depositing or withdrawing funds, buying bonds, etc.

Transactions thus can be completed with more privacy if a customer so desires," explains the branch's manager, Dawson Baer.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

A news report from Washington, D.C., says that Smithsonian Institution's anthropologists have discovered the missing link between man and the ape family. Bones from this link lived on earth about a million years ago. No doubt noted Charles Darwin, the original arguer that man descended from simians, is chortling happily to himself over this latest discovery. On the other hand, William Jennings Bryan will probably make a speech against it . . . and in the meantime mankind will, for the most part, at least act like foolish monkeys.

Seems as though the chaps who inform women what they will wear next spring already are busy at the job. After all, considering the fact that women appeal to men, why should the ladies not wear attire that will catch and hold the fickle males? (Some men won't like this paragraph because, among other things, women's wearing apparel costs them money.)

Periodically, practically every unit of American government, from Washington down to the small township and village, increases its taxes to meet budgetary needs. Again in 1957, it appears that the state of Michigan must find additional tax

sources to meet new public service demands of from 50 to 80 millions of dollars. More and more all of us work more and more days for government.

Why do a few church-goers, before a service begins, whisper (loud enough to be heard 15 feet away) as they converse with another? Doesn't this distract others who, in the solemnity of religious environment, seek to think holy and uplifting thoughts—as they should do when about to listen to the Word?

So They Say . . .

Dwight D. Eisenhower:
"The terror imposed upon Hungary repudiates and negates almost every article in the Declaration of Human Rights."

"If you are struck by lightning, you never forget it," asserts a columnist. Most persons who are struck by lightning never remember it.—Cincinnati Inquirer.

Adele Simpson, fashion designer:
"Women don't really like to look like lampshades, string beans or little boys. They like to look like women."

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Cleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
January 25, 1907
"We have not had such a wind storm in years as we had last Saturday night accompanied by rain. At about 8:30 came an extra strong gust of wind that made the cozy home of Fred E. Brooks shiver and tremble, and away went the roof from nearly half of the house."

"President John L. Snyder, of the Michigan Agricultural College, announces the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of that institution, which grants an affair will occur at the institution at Lansing, three days in May . . . to address a meeting there on May 31st."

"The Toy Farmers' Club at a recent meeting decided that for farm lighting gasoline and acetylene seemed to be the favorites. Exit kerosene along with the whale oil lamp."

30 YEARS AGO
January 20, 1927
"Unless the radio public keeps in touch with the various broadcasting stations of the country, commenting or criticizing certain programs, the radio is ultimately destined to become filled with the same kind of snuff and salaciousness that is manifested at times in the movies and on the legitimate stage."

"Contractors' bids for the construction of the new Baldwin Library on Martin street are open today following the approval of the architect's plans by the library board and the village commission. Work is expected to start in the

spring . . . The cost will be approximately \$150,000."

"The most expensive snow storm Birmingham has ever had was that of last week, when the mercury dropped to 22 below in Birmingham, the coldest January day in 42 years, and 11 inches of snow fell. Village Manager Harry Starr estimates that the cost of cleaning the streets and sidewalks of that snow storm will be in excess of \$500,000."

15 YEARS AGO
January 22, 1912
"A motion picture film showing how incendiary bombs can be extinguished will be purchased by the City Commission so that every citizen can learn how."

"Butter was advertised at 35¢ a lb., orange marmalade, 14¢ a lb., chocolate covered peanuts, 17¢ a lb.; candy bars or gum, 6 pgs. for 10¢; 2 lb. jar peanut butter, 24¢; two 3 oz. pgs. cream cheese for 17¢."

"That new water tank certainly projects from the landscape like a giant sore thumb, and is no asset to the esthetic quality of Birmingham, as was predicted when a group of citizens protested to the City Commission six months ago."

"Some people are so anxious to make a living that they've forgotten how to live!"

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