

-:- Editorials -:-

Religion of the College Student: An Outlet for the Sex Urge

No, the charge is false: organized religion, as such, does not engross the attention of the students of Indiana. An unknowing observer might conclude from the numerous guises under which religion is offered here and from the fact that students actually attend the religious meetings that the intelligence of the average Hoosier student is even below the sad level at which it now stands.

But happily this charge can be refuted. The great bulk of the students who participate in religious activities do so simply because they have no other social life; because at these gatherings their repressed sex instincts find temporary relief. Obviously, these people are the unorganized, for fraternities and sororities provide a social life for their members that is adequate, considering the pseudo-sophistication of the participants.

Seeking social life then, the unorganized fill the churches and Y. M. C. A.'s, and the religious leader is inspired to greater effort by the thought that he is really accomplishing great deeds. He says to himself: "Look, how many young people are feeling the Call! They are interested in saving their brethren, in doing something Worth While!" This he says to himself only if he is sincere, and not merely a well paid propagandist who makes a living by stimulating a passion for Christianity and who would do equally well in the advertising field by pretending a similar passion for Ivory Soap, or Peruna, or Dr. Miles' Kidney Tablets. But, sad as it may be to disillusion the sincere religious leaders, it is undeniable that the hopeful adolescents come, not seeking guidance in order to

lead a life of Service, but rather because of a perfectly normal sex appetite.

And what a watery substitute for social life they are given, even at the avowedly social functions of churches and other religious organizations! The fact that religious meetings have become social gatherings for the sex-hungry unorganized rather than jaundiced discussions of the queer thing called religion is a compliment to the intelligence of the students; but the professional religionists do not realize this and keep stuffing into their throats God and the Golden Rule.

The most ludicrous feature of it all, however, is the asininity of these so-called social functions. Supposedly for "moral reasons" there is no dancing, although there is a fearful thing called a "Socktime Party." The events of the evening are big-foot contests, and games slightly more complicated than "Going-to-Jerusalem."

Military Neurosis

When patriotism becomes militaristic it seems to develop into a disease which leads the unfortunate victim around by the nose. Most patriots suffer from this malady to a greater or lesser degree. Military Training in the Colleges is nothing but a form of this perverted patriotism.

The clipping below shows the almost unbelievable lengths to which this disease, military neurosis, can lead one. The clipping is taken from a story in the *Indianapolis News* for October 21 on the senatorial investigation into the charges of political corruption in Indiana brought by W. H. Adams of Vincennes:

Walb said in his judgment about fifty speakers—"a lot of college professors"—visited Indiana urging the league of nations, world court and cancellation of the foreign debts. Under pressure from Reed to name the speakers Walb said Professor Hershey, Indiana University, was among them.

Paul McNutt, Bloomington, commander-elect of the Indiana department of the American Legion, was named by Walb as one who had supplied him with information relative to the activities of the group the chairman referred to as "prospects."

And Dean Paul V. McNutt, commander-elect of the Indiana department of the American Legion, has always advocated *esprit de corps* and *solidarity* for the University. Such infidel-

ity to "morale" can only be explained by attributing it to military neurosis, that bane of internationalism.

Meanwhile, it does not pay to become too greatly excited over the R. O. T. C. at Indiana University. Of course, it should be entirely optional, if indeed it deserves any place at all in an institution of higher learning. It is very doubtful, however, if most of the young men who take Military Training are greatly injured thereby or would be greatly benefited if they did not have to take it. They are so apathetic, so impervious to all suggestion, that the subtle influence of the Military department is wasted upon them as indeed is the influence of most departments. It would be a decided change for the better if they really became anything, even snorting militarists.

As the course is now conducted, it takes a man of great moral courage to get exempted from it. A timid freshman, overawed by the machinery of the University, even though he be conscientiously opposed to the principle of preparedness, is not going to accost a smartly uniformed, be-medalled officer of rather grim appearance and argue with him in an attempt to get out of the course. The best way to excuse conscientious objectors is to make the course optional. They are the ones worth saving; as for the rest—it won't hurt them.

At present, the army officers reap the greatest advantage from R. O. T. C. They have an easy four years of it in an atmosphere of a bit more refinement and culture than is found in the average army post. How fine it would be if, as a result, all army officers might become cultured, though not all of them are uncultured now, and some of them are even charming. If their uniforms were more colorful, they would add a pleasing feature to the variety of the campus. And it might not be a bad idea to have them around to drill the band, that unexcelled publicity getter for the University.

Football Asses

It was the last night of the Garrick Club play, "The First Year." A pep session for the Purdue game was being held in Assembly Hall. Only by the courtesy of Ivan Boxell, president of the club, was the session going on at all. The club

had had the hall signed up since the first of October and was under no obligation to relinquish it for the meeting.

When asked by the Union for the use of the auditorium, Boxell went to five University officials and asked their opinions. They all advised him not to allow the pep meeting as it would very likely hold up the play. But in spite of this risk, in an effort to favor the student body, Boxell gave the football fanatics the required permission. The stipulation was made, however, that the hall should be emptied not later than 7:45. At 7:55 Boxell went to Captain Howard Clark, who was in charge of the session, and asked him to cut the meeting short as people were waiting outside to see the play.

"I have two more speakers," Clark said.

"But that will take fifteen minutes more."

"I don't give a damn, I have two more speakers."

Then Clark, not content with having already violated courtesy by staying over the appointed time, stepped in front of the curtain and insulted Garrick Club within its own portals.

"I have just experienced an example of the kind of spirit I've been talking about," he said. "Some fellow backstage just tried to force us out of here. They want to give a *play*!"

And the crowd belligerently cheered Clark. A clever, thoroughly well acted play was nothing to the cohorts of the Great God Football. Probably there were a few individuals present who regretted the proceedings; but the crowd as a whole, swayed by such leaders as Captain Clark, acclaimed the insult and gloried in smashing all dictates of good-breeding. Stop a pep session for a play! Hardly, even though the place for the session was graciously lent to the football worshippers by the dramatic organization. "Rah for Indiana," "To hell with Purdue," "To hell with Garrick Club too if it obstructs the stimulation of the old-time Indiana Spirit."

What else could be expected from people who set up football for a god and then worship it like Holy Rollers?

In showing his disregard for everything but football, Captain Clark made another remark worthy of note. "I may not be in this school tomorrow and I don't give a damn if I'm not," he said. May we add, "We wouldn't either."

"The Revolt of Youth"

The great majority of the youth of the University were surprised and flattered when Dr. Stephen S. Wise announced to them that they were in revolt. Seven or eight, certainly not more than a dozen people on this campus, are in revolt, and they are by no means representative of the student body.

Dr. Wise, at bottom a Puritan, says in essence: "Revolt, but don't hurt anyone." What is revolt but a breaking, a destroying that is bound to hurt someone, and a good many someones too? "Be well-mannered, be gentle about it." In other words, be colorless, be ineffective.

Dr. Wise tried earnestly to make it appear that he was an ardent rebel, but he betrayed himself when he spoke of some of the greatest iconoclasts of the day, Mencken, Nathan, Havelock Ellis, as "that rotten crew."

There is a great deal of hokum about the youth movement all over the world. To hear speakers like Dr. Wise, one would think that every person under the age of thirty is a walking Vesuvius, when as a matter of fact the circle of progressive free-thinkers is very small, though constantly increasing.

This much, however, should be said for the speaker. His conviction against war and the preparation for war was delivered without any whittling qualifications. Undoubtedly he is the most radical speaker heard at Convo this year, but that is hardly a compliment, as he himself would decide if he had heard the others.

Advice to Prospective P. B. K.'s

Do not read Chekov, Andreyev, Hamsun, Nietzsche, Strindberg, Hauptmann. Once you become interested in pleasures so unfailing you will no longer spend much time on the silly little home-task papers which you write so neatly and punctually. You will be tempted to do them hurriedly or not at all, and then just think what you might miss!

Perhaps in 1930

It is reported that Indiana University has been closed by Government officials because of its extremely liberal tendencies. For several years the University authorities have been under suspicion on account of their radical expressions concerning Education.