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PARK COLLEGE RECORD

THE PARK COLLEGE PLAN - turning knowledge into power



Selling the Church-Related College

An Alumnus who is a Presbyterian minister in Poughkeepsie, New York, asked me recently how he should present to his young people the advantages of a church-related college. He was speaking in the context of New York and New England where the church-related college is now almost unknown. The answer to his question seemed obvious. Why of course the small church-related college can most effectively provide a truly liberal education while maintaining it in a spiritual balance. Of course. But somehow this by itself did not sound quite convincing. A better "selling job" is needed if we are to draw to our colleges those young people who are best able to take full advantage of them.

One of two prevailing arguments used against the church-related colleges is that they tend to be narrow and bigoted, stultifying to the free expression of the intellect, and thus defeat their purpose. The other is that the educational experience at a large

university is so much more broadening. Let us first dispose of this latter point by recalling a recent widely published article by Elton Trueblood, an article which presented in good order the arguments usually arrayed in favor of the small college. Beyond this, however, we can note that some of the presumed advantages of the large university are somewhat illusory.

For example, how many of the brilliant scholars on a large campus does the average undergraduate even meet, let alone have in class? What portion of the millions of books in the library does the average undergraduate read, let alone use? How many undergraduates get a chance at the electronic microscope or the cyclotron? In fact, of course, the immense resources of a great university are there to serve the important research needs of the institution, while a smaller plant with far less facilities can offer *teaching* resources equal to

those of the greatest. Remember that the undergraduate program is essentially a teaching program.

As for the breadth of intellectual vision, both among the faculty and the student body, which would inspire the student, this is in no wise a function of size. At Park, as objective outsiders have told us, there is more breadth, more intellectual vitality, than can be found on many campuses far larger. A topnotch faculty, and a cosmopolitan student body will impart real breadth to any campus.

But what of the other contention? Are church colleges narrow, bigoted, and stuffy? Some may be, but emphatically they *need* not be. We have long accepted the values of a college education, and some of us see its highest attainment through the *liberal arts* college. We are now beginning to perceive that mere academic learning, however fine, is not enough. Man's spiritual life has an importance too and many colleges and universities are taking account of this. The church-related college goes further than most, and relates its whole program to spiritual and intellectual aims. The day is past when these need to be thought of as antitheses. In fact, it is precisely the liberal Protestant atmosphere which provides the best climate for successfully pursuing the aims of a liberal education. It is only if a church college becomes narrowly doctrinaire and confuses "shalt nots" with Christian morality that it may infringe upon and deflect us from our educational objectives. Our Presby-

terian colleges consistently avoid this.

But these remarks are defensive. We are refuting popular misconceptions. What can be said positively? Just this: that through the mutual support which the liberally intellectual and the liberally spiritual offer one another in the church college, they can together produce the broadest and most satisfactory *liberal* education conceivable. For the spiritual context in which teaching takes place at the good church-related college in absolutely no way restricts or directs the free ranging intellect for which the liberal education exists. If the aim of liberal education is, in part at least, to understand man's place in the world and his purpose in life, then that education which is consciously experienced in a setting of faith and an awareness of ultimate reality is best able to attain its goal. R. E. L.

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Seventy-seven scholarships for 1957-58 with one valued at \$4,400 for the four years, were recently announced by Dr. John H. Schnabel, director of admissions. Six full tuition scholarships at \$600 each and 10 merit scholarships of \$100 each are open to students ranking in the top five per cent of their classes. Ten "honor" scholarships will be awarded to the sons and daughters of school teachers. Fifty special scholarships will go to students ranking in the upper 25 per cent of their classes, the amount in each instance varying with the student's academic standing and financial need.

Hauptmann to Give Faculty Lectures



Dr. Jerzy Hauptmann, chairman of the political science department, will give the annual faculty lecture series this year. Under the general title for the series, "The Dilemmas of Politics," he will give three lectures: April 2 — "Politics: Manipulation and Contemplation"; April 4 — "Society, Public, Economy"; April 8 — "The Personal Political Commitment." Lectures are scheduled at 7:30 p. m. in the Meetin' House.

Dr. Hauptmann came to the United States in 1950 from Austria, joining the Park faculty in 1951. A former member of the Polish Underground, he participated in the Warsaw uprising of 1944 and was a prisoner of the Germans after the surrender of the city until April, 1945. From 1947 to 1950 he was a Social Service Representative of the French Military Government in Austria, working with

Polish displaced persons in the French zone. Dr. Hauptmann has established a program of practical politics in his department and the Government Research Bureau to serve nearby communities.

Choral Workshop Planned

A Choral Workshop for high school students with Ralph Hunter as director will be held at Park College, April 12-13. Mr. Hunter, widely known as a composer and arranger, is director of the famed Collegiate Chorale in New York and musical director at Radio City Music Hall.

Mr. Norman Nunn, acting chairman of the music department, who is in charge of the workshop, said that a 75-voice chorus of selected students from high schools in the area will present a program as the climax of the two-day session. High schools within a 200-mile radius have been invited to send students and teachers to participate in the workshop.

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The new edition of the Artists and Speakers Bureau leaflet lists 23 faculty and staff members who are available for engagements. Subjects represent the fields of science, history, religion, literature, art, drama, foreign countries, political science, German culture, athletics, and others. Two musicians — a tenor soloist and an oboist — are also included. The leaflet is being distributed in the Kansas City area. The Bureau will be glad to send copies of the leaflet on request.

An Appeal

One of Park's most pressing building needs is improved classroom facilities. Except for the natural sciences and music, virtually all our classes meet in Mackay Hall, a fine old structure, the cornerstone of which was laid in April, 1887, just seventy years ago. The building is of native stone, quarried by students in the early days of the College, and built by them into a distinctive center for the College's life.

Because of its associations and its soundness, we have no intention of replacing Mackay Hall. Yet the facilities it contains, both in classrooms and faculty offices, are sadly out of date and in need of major renovation. We estimate that it will cost \$150,000 to do what should be done to bring Mackay up to the highest standard. About \$50,000 of this will go into present classrooms. The balance must fireproof the building, re-do the corridors and the main stairwell, and remodel areas now occupied by the administrative offices when these can be housed elsewhere.

But we are not going to wait until we have \$150,000 in hand, or even \$50,000. For the nature of what we must do can be done on a room-by-room basis. We estimate that each of

the twenty regular classrooms now being used in Mackay can be re-done for about \$2,500. This would cover new lighting, new window treatment, new flooring, new blackboards, new trim, general redecoration, and new equipment. A gift of \$2,500 would afford an excellent means of memorializing a member of the family, a friend, or a former Park teacher. Won't you give this your earnest consideration?

Choir on Tour

The Park College Concert Choir of 48 voices was on tour March 24-26, presenting eight programs within three days at three churches and four high schools. Concerts were given at the First Presbyterian Church, Hiawatha, Kansas, and at the Second Presbyterian Church and the University High School, Lincoln, Neb. To accommodate the students at Benson High School, Omaha, Neb., two performances were necessary. The choir gave a concert at the Mount View Church, also in Omaha. On the final day of the tour the choir sang for the students of Glenwood High School, Glenwood, Iowa, and Falls City High School, Falls City, Neb. Kenneth F. Seipp, instructor in music, directs the choir.

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