

TELLURIDE NEWS LETTER

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A DISCUSSION:

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

An article clipped from the HARVARD CRIMSON and tacked to the bulletin-board generated a certain amount of serious discussion here at the Branch, that might be profitably extended to all whom the News Letter reaches. The article presents the thoughts of a person who finds that "over-emphasis on the social and economic miseries of our times" is having, frankly, a pernicious effect upon intellectual activity. People working or planning to work in fields of "pure" scholarship are subjected to a constant and demanding pressure from their own conscience and from an overwhelming public opinion urging them to engage instead in "useful activity" -- activity substantially directed toward the study and remedy of society's huge and immediate problems. This is the view of Isaiah Berlin, an Oxford University professor of Philosophy who recently lectured for a year at Harvard.

Prof. Berlin's observations have significance considered narrowly, with reference to our own Telluride group. That is why, no doubt, they aroused so much interest at the Branch. Within a group that has as its avowed purpose intellectual contribution and social betterment, a difficulty adumbrated by Prof. Berlin can conceivably arise. The emphasis within our group is given, quite naturally, to that part of the purpose concerned with social betterment. We assay a member or potential member chiefly by the criterion of his contribution to social betterment or potentiality of such contribution. Thus, overtly or unwittingly, pressure is brought to bear upon those whose career does not seem deliberately directed toward social betterment. People in or interested in joining the group whose contribution to society would be "purely" intellectual are perhaps viewed with degrees of suspicion; or are, at worst, unwelcome. A compromise situation where one's intellectual activity would seem happily to merge with activities of social betterment, is most easily digested and assimilated by the organization. Surely, if the

NEW FUNDS REPORT

With \$7,925.60 of cold cash safely in the till, there remains to receive but \$2,640.50 in pledges outstanding to close the books of the successful 1949 New Funds Drive.

Generally, the payment of pledges has been encouragingly prompt. The New Funds Committee, however, would like to remind the members, alumni and friends of the Association to fulfill their pledges on time so that financial calculations may be completed before Convention. The final figure raised during the drive will be relevant in formulating this year's Association budget.

May 1 is the final due date for all pledges.

Association is committed by its Purpose to encourage people who will do the "broadening of the field of knowledge," but yet maintains an atmosphere essentially inimicable to them -- we have a matter meriting some serious inspection and should be grateful to Professor Berlin and those who support his views for bringing it to our attention.

David Werdegar

BERLIN, EX-HARVARD LECTURER, CITES FAULTS OF UNIVERSITIES

Intellectual life in American universities is faced by a "comparatively new and sinister enemy," according to Isaiah Berlin, former Harvard lecturer on philosophy and first secretary at Britain's Washington embassy during World War II.

This enemy, Berlin disclosed in a recent article in Time and Tide, British weekly, is the over-emphasis on social and economic miseries of our times. This gives a sense of guilt to the student or professor who wonders whether he is justified in absorbing himself in the study, "let us say, of the early Greek epic at Harvard while the

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OXFORD EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

The eligibility qualifications for the new Oxford Exchange Scholarships have been announced by the recently appointed Lincoln College Committee. As described in the previous News Letter, an arrangement has been concluded between E. M. Johnson, on behalf of Telluride Association, and Dr. Keith Murray, Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford, to establish a Graduate Exchange Fellowship between the two institutions, to begin the next academic year. Both scholarships will cover room and board plus tuition and fees.

The qualifications follow:

A candidate must:

1. Hold a B.A. or its equivalent.
2. Be unmarried or willing to readjust for a year or two.
3. Be a member of Telluride Association or an active candidate for membership with experience at one of the Nunn Enterprises.
4. File an application before 20 May, 1950.

Anyone fulfilling these qualifications and interested in a year at Lincoln College, Oxford, is urged to communicate immediately with E. M. Johnson, who will supply application forms and further instructions.

TELLURIDE NEWS LETTER
 Anthony Geiss, Editor
 Morton R. Weinstein
 Alvin Friedman
 Associate Editors

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poor of South Boston go hungry and unshod and Negroes are denied fundamental rights in the deep South."

Liberal Arts Threatened

If this tendency becomes more widespread, Berlin argues, there will be "a rapid end to all the liberal arts and sciences. In such a world A is busily engaged in helping B to train C to help A -- to help him toward what goal? Only to make him more useful to B and C; useful in what respect? To make A, B, and C in general more helpful to one another; helpful in doing and being what? This remains unanswered."

Berlin, whom Time Magazine calls "Winston Churchill's most penetrating wartime observer of wartime America," has returned to his old job of lecturing on philosophy at New College, Oxford, after a year at Harvard.

American Students "More Responsive"

He says that he found U.S. students "more intellectually curious, more responsive to any influence, more deeply charmed by everything new" than their British counterparts, and, at the same time, "almost incapable of boredom, or of more than a very surface skepticism."

But by British university standards, many "could not . . . either read or write . . . Somewhere in their early education there was a failure to order, to connect, and to discriminate . . . they read rapidly, desperately, and far too much . . . and the result was often a fearful intellectual congestion from which many of them will probably suffer for the rest of their lives."

Referring to the guilt complex of many intellectuals who are "painfully aware of the social and economic miseries of their society" Berlin admits that the claims of social welfare are "indeed urgent, yet they must not be allowed to absorb the whole of life."

It is an alarming spectacle, he continues, to find scholars who have a genuine devotion to some "pure" subject (medieval art, for example) hounded by the feeling that they must pay the price for their "wicked self-indulgence" by participating in a "useful activity" which they may find distasteful. "Unless people do what they do

because they like doing it, the results of their work are sterile.

Social Consequences Unimportant

"I feel sure that neither Michelangelo nor Mozart, neither Newton nor Hume nor Gauss nor Einstein gave a conscious thought to social consequences while they were engaged in their labors.

"When I tried to suggest to my more socially conscious American students that intellectual curiosity was not necessarily a form of sin or even frivolity and that a possible valid reason for pursuing this or that branch of knowledge was merely that they were interested in it . . . I could see that I was thought to be expounding what is vaguely thought of as the 'European' point of view -- at best something exotic and over-refined, at worst cynical and slightly sinister."

Saturday, January 10, 1949 - The Harvard Crimson

It is debatable whether Berlin's hypothesized threat to U.S. intellectual life of "overemphasis on the social and economic miseries of the times" actually exists. For the purposes of this article, however, let us assume its existence.

Before proceeding with the discussion, let us take as axiomatic that it is desirable for American society to have an active, informed citizenry, and a group of energetic scholars searching out knowledge for its own sake and/or for foreseeable practical application.

The basic question raised by the Berlin article is: to what extent should students take interest in the social and economic miseries of our society. Berlin makes the point that scholars in esoteric subjects such as Greek literature or Medieval art should not feel compelled to take a keen interest in these problems and participate in "useful activity" which they may find distasteful."

Given the goals outlined in paragraph two above, it follows that certain responsibilities are incumbent on all of us as citizens in a democracy. I think all of us should at least read the newspaper, discuss public affairs from time to time, and vote in primaries and elections. Surely, the Classics students can spare this time and effort along with the rest of us.

In terms of our two goals, however, I think it desirable that students pursuing subjects unrelated to our economic and social miseries should feel no further responsibility. Further participation is desirable in individual cases, but no feeling of necessity or compulsion should be held over their heads. (Students of the social studies, however, I feel are downright hypocritical if they don't take a keen interest in the social and economic problems of our times.)

Several reasons support my contention that scholars in non-social science fields should not be expected to take a keen interest in

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these problems. First of all, people forced by guilt feelings into "useful activity" aren't going to help much in alleviating economic and social miseries. Why develop a body of opinion that forces them into these activities? Why not leave this to those who are already keenly interested in studying and/or manipulating social institutions?

Furthermore, I agree with Berlin when he states that preoccupation with the social and economic miseries of our times is likely to cripple and stymie the contribution of scholars in many fields. Pasteur worked out his germ theory, for example, not because of his humanitarian interests in stopping disease, but because of a keen interest in how a certain type of wine fermented.

Thus, beyond normal citizenship responsibilities, these excess expectations and demands on people in non-social studies fields accomplish little or no reform, stymie creative intellectual activity, and make some scholars miserable.

Roger R. Baldwin

The majority of the American university people whom I have met do not seem to be suffering from an undue concern with social purpose, and certainly not to the extent that their intellectual efficiency is impaired by the concern. Mr. Berlin's criticism, however, may have some validity when referred to a smaller subgroup of the community, the group of those preoccupied with the arts or the more erudite fields of learning, whose subject matter is remote from any immediate "social utility." I think that many members of this category, who will henceforth be designated as the intellectuals, have been reduced to a state of less than full productivity by their own feelings of guilt. These have arisen as the result of constant bombardment with the idea that their activities are contributing little to society, and perhaps it is only the inequities of the economic situation which allow them to persist in such pursuits at all. Not the least of the groups in which this phenomenon is observable are the branches of Telluride Association, where a large part of the group, whose activities do not fall under the sacred classification of social service, are called upon to justify their existence annually, if not more often. The unhappy consequence often is that the intellectual tends to develop a slinking personality, losing his self-respect as a member of the group in his own rite, or joining the NAACP (no slur intended) to show the world that he really does have some excuse for being.

I do not propose to take the position that a man need not consider what contribution he can make to society. But I do take it as a fact that each of the groups in the intellectual community has developed in its literature a justification of its own activities. Now we can either accept the justifications advanced or we can tell the intellectual that he is a parasite and should change his field of activity. Unless we are to assume the role of judges, it becomes rather clear that little is to be gained from excessive enforced soul-searching on the part of the intellectual, while much is to be lost psychologically.

The vital role which the arts and learned fields play in our society has been explained admirably by Dewey and Kallen, and as a basis of discussion I assume that we recognize the existence of the role. Then let us accept the intellectual as a first-class citizen instead of forcing him into a web of self-recrimination. The lack of a stimulating climate of ideas in many of the places in our universities where we should most expect to find it, may be due in large part to the anti-intellectualism of American intellectuals, which manifests itself in an embarrassment at carrying learned topics of conversation outside the classroom, unless, of course, they be related to significant social issues. The failure of the intellectual to play his proper role of leadership in our society may stem, I think, not from a lack of social purpose or interest in society, but rather from too much introspective examination of his own social role; under sufficient prodding from the anti-intellectual forces, he often finally concludes that he has little to contribute to society as a man of thought, and whatever contribution he makes will have to be through some simple social action. He may engage in this action as an extra-curricular activity to atone for his fundamental sin in being what he is; but his real resource, the capacity for leadership in the field of ideas, goes untapped.

Michael Cohen

PASADENA BRANCH NOTES

By CHARLES CHRISTENSON

With the successful completion of the New Funds Drive, Pasadena Branch has returned to something resembling normalcy. The drive's success creates a number of problems relating to the permanent program of the Branch, but these have displaced the big question of the Branch's continuance as chief items of attention. A meeting of the Branch Advisory Committee is being scheduled for early April to consider these problems and to make recommendations to Convention.

Officers for the spring term were elected at the Student Body meeting of 30 January. Curtis Baker is the new chairman, with Harold Fishman as vice-chairman and Charles Christenson secretary. The new administration holds office until Convention.

Work Term

The opening of the work term on 6 February threw the Branchmen into the army of the unemployed. The current unemployment situation in Southern California has made it difficult to get and keep a job. Unemployment began to ease in mid-March, however, and it appears that all Branchmen will be employed for at least half the term. A more complete report on the jobs being held will appear in the next Telluride News Letter.

Under present plans this may be the last spring work term of the Branch. In early

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PERSONALS

Major Hasso von Puttkamer of the German Army was captured by the Russians during the fighting in the Baltic States and has since then been a prisoner of war. Latest word comes from him through his wife, Dorothea, to Hugh Davy on March 3: "You must please excuse me if I did not write such a long time. I often intended to do it, but the uncertainty about Hasso since weeks made me incapable to do it, as I could not give definitive news. Now I unfortunately know that Hasso and his companions have been condemned to 25 years prison on the Dezember 25 th. This is difficult to understand. All this sad news was brought to me by a friend of Hasso, who came back with the last prisoner-transport in the first days of January. Hasso sends you his kindest regards and begs you not to forget him. He wants to keep strong in this sad occurrence and continues hoping to come back at last." Dorothea von Puttkamer and her small son, Gerhard, reside at Schoenstadt in the American Zone.

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Jean Bourgeois writes, "Please give my best regards to everybody at the House with a special word for the old friends." Upon his return to Paris from his year at Cornell Branch, he started on his "career as an engineer and had to work very hard to make the beginnings as good as possible."

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Dr. Nevil V. Sidgwick will be in the U.S. some five months during the spring and early summer. He will visit the Lee Davys in Kingsport, Tenn., and Doctor Conant at Harvard before he arrives at Cornell Branch on May 2 for a three-week stay. He plans to visit both Pasadena Branch and Deep Springs.

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Harvard has renewed the research assistantship of CHAO Kuo-chung for next year. Under the "stimulating and informative guidance" of professor John King Fairbank, Chao has just finished the translation and checking of some 40 basic documents of the Chinese Communist Party. His time from now on will be devoted to the writing of background materials and making interpretative and preparatory notes. The production schedule of Harvard Press calls for publication in the spring of 1951.

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Ensign Max King Morris is attached to VF-172, a squadron of "Banshee" jet fighters which operates aboard the "F.D.R." usually, but has been on the beach most of the time lately, at Jacksonville, Fla.

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Robert T. Scott began his premedical study in the autumn at the University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland. His father, Kenneth D. Scott, Sr., died at Hove, England, in January, while visiting his old homeland.

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Jose A. Encinas del Pando joined the Peruvian Delegation to the United Nations in 1946 and continues his work in connection with Economic and Social Council affairs.

PERSONALS

Constitutional member Ed Walter died in Los Angeles at 4:00 A.M. Friday, March 24th. He had been employed by the Electrical Products Corporation for about 25 years with most of this time being spent in San Francisco as division sales manager. Mr. Walter was buried with Catholic services in Calvary Cemetery in Los Angeles on March 28th.

Gilbert Miller, resident manager at Pocatello for Westvaco Corp., subsidiary of Food Machinery & Chemical Corp., has just begun operation of his second electric furnace for the manufacture of elemental phosphorus and now has a daily output of 30 tons. Don Brown, of the Idaho Power Co., sells the Miller outfit 35,000 kvh of electricity monthly. Gilbert and Mary Miller have a daughter, Mary Ann, born in March -- fifth child, first daughter.

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Richard Loomis, with the name in religion of Fr. M. Cuthbert, has entered the Trappist-Cistercian Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani at Trappist, Ky.

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Stephen Hay entered Swarthmore College at midyear preparing to major in Romance languages. His roommate is Steven Phillips.

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BORN: Julie Ann, No. 1 for Don and Lori Pederson of Rochester, N.Y. On Valentine's Day. 7 lbs. 5 oz.

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Albert Bush-Brown is a full-time instructor in the art department at Princeton. Graduated from Princeton in June, 1947, with Highest Honors in Philosophy; Bush-Brown received his M.F.A. in Art History in June, 1949. He and Miss Frances Wesselhoeft of Boston were married in Aug., 1948.

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Phi Beta Kappaman Francis Ogilvie was recently elected to Phi Kappa Phi.

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Thomas Fairchild has announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for U. S. Senator for Wisconsin. Fairchild is currently Attorney-General of Wisconsin.

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Windsor Putnam and Simone Tremblay Pettengill were married in New York City on December 31.

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John Wayne Edmister was born in Los Angeles on Aug. 22, 1949. No. 3 for the Wayne Edmisters of Pittsburgh.

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Dr. Ward Goodenough is Asst. Prof. of Anthropology at the Univ. of Pennsylvania. The Historical Files have two new studies by Goodenough: "Premarital Freedom on Truk: Theory and Practice" (American Anthropologist, Oct.-Dec., 1949); and "Comments on the Question of Incestuous Marriages in Old Iran" (Ibid., April-June, 1949). Goodenough will teach in Cornell's summer session.

Deep Springs Notes
(cont. from p. 4)

Springs, some of which were stated in the above-mentioned Resolution:

"This practise (three year attendance) promotes a better understanding of Deep Springs, maturity in the student body, improves the quality of self-government, and better qualifies the students to assume and properly handle the practical problems that distinguish the institution from other schools."

The possible difficulties of the program, however, should be considered. These difficulties could grow from the fact that students entering Deep Springs as high school graduates are too old for a three-year stint at Deep Springs. It is possible that to maintain the advantages of the three-year plan and cancel the difficulties suggested above younger students should be admitted, possibly sixteen-year-old high school juniors.

Younger students might derive greater advantage from the numerous basic courses offered by the permanent faculty, and thus profit more from visiting professors. Younger students might realize more gradually the extent of the circle in which it is possible to exercise responsibility and initiative, and the danger of becoming jaded on the work and committee programs in later terms might be avoided. They would probably be less concerned with the need for specialization, and might not lose an academic year.

A few months ago Dean Sabine wrote in the News Letter that the root of the problems faced by Deep Springs can be explained by one word: recruitment. Better-than-average students are considered necessary to achieve the purpose of Deep Springs, and the inducements offered to these students should be constantly re-evaluated. One aspect of the Deep Springs program which might weigh heavily as a counter to these inducements is the three-year plan as it now operates. Deep Springs will know more about the operation of this plan before long, and then will be the proper time to consider alternate schemes in greater detail.

PERSONALS

Rhodes Scholar, Barney Childs, writes: "I am working for a BA in English here, and hope to take 'schools' for this degree in June, 1951. Aside from study, I have a great deal to do in the customary Oxford life; organizing college concerts, writing music, writing verse, acting in the current production of Hamlet (I am the Gravedigger, apparently the only role where an American accent could be used without fouling up the play), and having innumerable bull sessions. I also play rugby football for the college second team, which is composed of any fifteen characters that happen to be available on afternoons when games are scheduled.

"I had a very enjoyable luncheon with Rector Keith Murray of Lincoln and enjoyed meeting him and talking to him -- he is the kind of person that education needs more of. I also send regards from Richard Robinson and his wife, who I see off and on around the college."

Announcement has been made of the appointment of Frederick Bullen as temporary umpire between the UAW-CIO and the Ford Motor Co. Executive Secretary of the New York State Board of Mediation, Bullen will nevertheless devote his full time to the new post. A graduate of Cornell and Harvard, Bullen joined the N.Y. State Board of Mediation while on a non-resident fellowship from Harvard in 1939 and served as assistant executive secretary to the Board.

During 1940-41 Bullen served also as manager of the Office of the Impartial Chairman for the laundry industry in Manhattan and the Bronx but later returned to the Board of Mediation as full-time assistant executive secretary. From 1942 through 1945, he served with the National War Labor Board as senior mediation officer, disputes director for Region Five covering Ohio, W. Va., and Ky., and board chairman of Region Five. In 1945 he returned to his executive secretaryship of the N.Y. Board of Mediation.

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Roderick Robertson acted in THE WINSLOW BOY Nov. 3-5 for the Cornell Dramatic Club.

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John Mellor of the Cornell cross-country team, tied for third place in the Cornell-Dartmouth meet on Nov. 5.

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The Research Corp. of New York City has made to Cornell a grant of \$4,500.00 to aid research supervised by Dr. Robert Sproull in the study of the motion of electrons in barium oxide crystals.

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Richard Wolgast and Elizabeth A. Hankins (Cornell, Arts '50) were married June 26 at Valley Forge, Pa. Wolgast is a candidate for a doctorate in aeronautical engineering.

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John Stoner studies at Harvard with the NROTC. His chief activities outside the academic are band and swimming, the latter purely for exercise because, "if I ever get back to DS I want to be able to at least lift a bale off the ground." He plans to enter Harvard Law School upon completion of his undergraduate study.

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L. B. Fuller retired in November as engineering consultant to the Utah Power & Light Co., after 43 years in the electric power industry. His first practical work in the industry was with L. L. Nunn at Madison River; he did further work in Utah and at Niagara Falls, but stopped construction work in 1904 to go to Cornell University where he received his ME degree in 1906.

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Wayne Edmister, Professor of Chemical Engineering at Carnegie Tech, has just published Section II of his "Applications of Thermodynamics to Hydrocarbon Processing." This Section II of the Edmister Series comprises Articles 13-25 inclusive, printed Nov., 1948, through Dec., 1949, in PETROLEUM REFINER. Each Section costs \$1.00.

February the Student Body approved a new schedule under which there will be a work term every fall, with study terms in both spring and summer. The proposed change, which will be submitted to Convention in June, was made for several reasons, one being that fall is the period of peak employment in Southern California. Another reason was the difficulty of fitting certain fixed dates into the old alternating schedule.

A second change affecting the work program is under consideration. This is the operation of a business enterprise by the Student Body. In connection with this idea Director Yarrow and several students have visited Harold Sanders, Trustee of Deep Springs and vice-president of Union Oil Co., about service station operations, and Omar Johnson, assistant to the publisher of the Los Angeles Times, about newspaper distributorships. The Director, on his eastern recruiting trip, spoke with Arthur E. Morgan of Antioch College, who has helped establish many student enterprises. The plan would provide jobs for several Branch members and give them training in management responsibilities.

Cultural Activities

Some measure of academic life is provided during the work term through the activities of the curriculum committee, which has scheduled weekly speakers. On 7 March Edward Sanders, Director of Admissions at Pomona College, participated in a challenging discussion on the Branch's philosophy and practice. The guest on 9 March was Frank Wilkinson, who had led the Student Body on a tour of Los Angeles slums on 11 February. Mr. Wilkinson, who is with the Los Angeles Housing Authority, talked about slum clearance problems. Rev. Harold W. Ruopp, pastor of the Hennepin Ave. Methodist Church in Minneapolis and father of PBman Dick Ruopp, discussed sundry topics with the group on 13 March. On 21 March Father John P. Languille of Pasadena's St. Andrew's Cathedral acquainted PBmen with Catholic theology. The committee is also planning a series of work reports by individual Branch members, perhaps correlated with outside speakers.

Several classes have been continued into the work term. Charles van Laar is helping language students to keep from going rusty, and Baruch Klein is teaching a continuation of his music course of last fall. Some Branch members are taking courses from the Extended Day Division of Pasadena City College.

Before Convention the Student Body will hold a series of discussions on various aspects of the Pasadena Branch program. The first, on practical work, was held 19 March. Other topics will be curriculum and the philosophy of the Branch. The Branch acted as hosts for a conference on Problems in Group Residence on 11 February, in which representatives of living groups at UCLA and USC participated. A joint party with one of these groups, Woolman House at USC, is planned for April.

Plans for Future

The Branch will leave its present quarters at Pacific Oaks at the beginning of the fall work term. The decision to postpone moving from Pacific Oaks beyond 1 June was made for

practical reasons, since it will be difficult to have a new site approved by Convention and prepared for occupancy before the summer term begins on 3 July. Several locations are now under consideration, and the new locations committee will spend much time in coming weeks surveying the field.

At the time of moving, and perhaps during the summer, the size of the Branch will be increased to 20 students. The maximum figure has been revised downward from 25 to obtain the best possible combination of budgetary efficiency and group harmony. The new PB community will probably include several staff and faculty people as well.

Other modifications in the program, including the new schedule and the group enterprise, are being considered. Most of these are of a minor nature.

Of course, implicit in any plans for future operation of the Branch will be the continued cooperation of Telluride Associates, whose generous financial support in the New Funds Drive has permitted Pasadena Branch to become a legitimate part of the Association's activities.

DEEP SPRINGS NOTES

By RICHARD A. GEORGE

Resolution Six, adopted December 11, 1948 by the Trustees, stated that the tradition of three-year attendance at Deep Springs should be re-established. In July 1949 the first ten students who contracted under this three-year system arrived at Deep Springs. Seven of these men are at Deep Springs now, and will complete one year here at the end of this semester. They are all high school graduates and will enter universities like Cornell, after three years at Deep Springs, as juniors. They will have a three-month vacation each year (at present the vacation period is December through February), and about three weeks free in June.

The problem is whether or not the recently-revived three-year plan will supply Deep Springs with the right sort and number of students, and whether, once enrolled, students under this plan will derive maximum benefit from Deep Springs.

A recent poll among the seven students of the new class showed that three of these men are fairly sure of remaining at Deep Springs for three years, conditions remaining the same, but that the other four students are in varying degrees of doubt. Their doubt centers in the main about two arguments: one, that a student wanting to specialize is more concerned with the academic year lost than with any advantages gained; and, that after two years at Deep Springs a student reaches the saturation point as far as the work program, isolation, and Deep Springs-in-general are concerned. When the men who are doubtful about staying three years are added to those who left for miscellaneous other reasons, the resulting figures imply (for the present class, at any rate) a serious situation.

Most students here realize that there are many advantages to a three-year system at Deep

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