

starvation. Let the Government derive its taxes from articles of food which may be classed as luxuries, and arrange to keep the bare necessities of life at the lowest price humanly possible.

I was indecent enough to take in two photoplays, banned by the League of Decency. One was a true work of art, beautifully performed; the other was a botch, yet offending more one's intelligence than moral sense. Both of them dealt with illicit love, a staple of the stage in the lack of which the theatre would starve to death. In one form or other, most of the dramas of all ages revolve around this subject. I followed every detail of these proscribed plays carefully, and found in their presentation nothing offensive to one's sense of decency. In fact, one afforded me such genuine pleasure that I urged my friends to see it. Neither of the plays glorified sin. On the contrary, they portrayed very vividly the intense suffering and sacrifice which the breaking of the moral law entails, especially upon women. This instance shows the vast divergence there is among humans in taste and concept of decency, and the presumption of any group of men to set itself up as a censorial body for the whole public. Censorship is a dictatorial method and a reactionary effort. Improving the public taste by educational effort is the sole progressive measure, consonant with the spirit of democracy.

The political pilot of the Y. M. B. L. asked me to pen a paragraph in this widely read sheet about intelligent voting. I asked him to give this heavy assignment to the chief or silent editor of this publication, both of whom are keener cognoscenti of the complex art of politics than this circumscribed scribbler. However, he insisted and persisted that I be the oracle to disclose this vastly important information, for, by virtue of my utter impartiality and rugged independence, he opined, I would enjoy the voters' implicit confidence to a higher degree than any political prognosticator. Let me, then, discharge my Socratic or Solomonic role by these sagacious pronouncements. Regard campaign promises as card debts or as war loans. The prospects of their payment is slimmer than the waist of a wasp. The average citizen will consider you as voting intelligently, aye infallibly, whenever you cast your ballot for the candidate of his choice. To strike a more serious note, I would suggest to our local press to publish a few days before election the chief planks in the platform of every candidate, plus his record of public service. Digest this authentic data, and let your conscience and your common sense be your guide in making an intelligent choice of the legion of office seekers.

ROTARYGRAMS OF BEAUMONT



WEEKLY BULLETIN

Membership Secretary, Phone 932

Vol. X Beaumont, Texas, July 25, 1934 No. 3

Slants at the Meeting

The Terrible administration weighed anchor and shoved off last week without buoy markers or radio beacons, barnacles on its bottom or leaks in its sides.

The program was a musical one we are told but our technique has never enabled us to qualify as a critic. We feel more like the feller that said all he knew about music was 'when he heard a soprano voice singing in the bath-room, it was time to look thru the key-hole.'

In fact if we had to listen to syncopators, blues-singers and crooners we would rather be muscle-bound than music-bent. Bung Crosby has just worn us down to the ragged edge of impatience and we might as well have a bad liver as to listen to him.

We are sure that Victor Insirillo gave us a good program and the applause justified the effort, but as suggested above we can't qualify on long runs, short stops and bars.

Only one complaint we have with ALL orchestras or bands that play in the Rows Rum and we are not attaching the blame on them either. They try to play TOO DAMN LOUD.

"We some how feel" as a distinguished Rotarian would ejaculate, that the blame could be centered on the program chairman for not informing the aforesaid "noise-makers" of the bad acoustics in that hash-boudoir.

Now after that ONE COMPLAINT we have one more, the accompaniment is invariably too LOUD, too but we attach that fault to the musicians just like mucilage to a postage stamp.

However, we congratulate Charlie on this meeting as we have heard more favorably chatter on its denouement (?). In fact, it is the only time in our lives that we ever saw a unanimous "motion"—the only Charlie made when he raised his hand with the gavel to strike for adjournment.

This session was so short the Eat-N-Run members were trapped and the Faithful members were left amazed with thirty minutes on their hands. We can accustom ourselves to these violent shocks, however. Check.

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Vote! Vote! Vote!

JULY 28th, 1934 ELECTION DAY

A plea from the editorial staff of this SHEET to exercise your privilege of enfranchisement and cast a vote next Saturday. Your State, your country and your lives depend on the electorate.

—R—

An Innovation

It is the purpose of the ROTARYGRAM to get a contribution, each week, from some member well qualified to discuss a timely subject, a Rotary principle, or a personal experience.

Today we have an article entitled EDUCATION AND ROTARY by our good Rotarian, A. L. Morgan. We commend it to your attention.

—R—

Education and Rotary

Today thoughtful people everywhere are deeply concerned about the rapidly increasing amount of crime and lawlessness in our country. Reliable statistics reveal that the age level of crime is sinking. In one state, 75% of the prisoners are under 25 years of age, 80% under 30, and 50% of the crimes and misdemeanors are committed by persons under 22. This is a challenge to every teacher, minister, and social worker, as well as the responsibility of every parent and citizen, every adult civic and social organization and agency throughout the land.

The way out of our present difficulty would appear to be through EDUCATION with a shift in aim and method. Let the new emphasis be upon building the right sort of habits, attitudes, and ideals into our youth. This job cannot be wholly accomplished by our schools, Y. M. C. A.'s, Y. W. C. A.'s, and Boy Scouts, try hard as they may. It will require the efforts of the home with intelligent parental instruction and control and those of the church with a new interpretation of spiritual life

adapted to modern needs. Moreover, it will require the cooperation of the MOVIE, the NEWSPAPER, including our CIVIC and SOCIAL CLUBS, the latter not by giving mere lip service, but by example. In short, WE NEED MOST OF ALL AN AWAKENED PUBLIC CONSCIENCE.

For example, we shall not get very far in our teaching for sobriety as long as "leading" citizens indulge in social drinking; teaching kindness to animals as long as we continue to torture animals for sport; personal and social purity as long as we permit the sale of vile printed matter to school children; the evils of gambling as long as our marbleboards and other gaming devices are allowed to run carte blanche and are freely patronized by respectable citizens; "the straight and narrow path" as long as newspapers and movies continue to "glorify" crime, immodesty, and shady practices.

The above is not a plea for more laws. We cannot legislate kindness, sobriety, modesty, uprightness, or reverence. YOUNG PEOPLE ACQUIRE NOBILITY OF CHARACTER WHEN THEY SEE IT LIVED.

"It is all in vain to preach of the truth
To the eager ears of atrusting youth;
If, whenever the lad is standing by,
He sees you cheat and he hears you lie,
Fine words may grace the advice you give,
But youth will learn from the way you live."

If we expect our educational institutions proper to succeed in their attempts to build high standards of conduct in youth, let these teachings find eloquent expression and be glorified by the way grown-ups conduct themselves at home, on the streets, at public amusements, and places of business.

ROTARY is definitely committed to the principles of HIGH ETHICAL STANDARDS. If these are to become anything more than sounding brass and tinkling cymbals, its members must live up to the high obligations which ROTARY imposes. In so doing, individual Rotarians will make their greatest contribution to the education of youth by affording them living examples of what constitutes the GOOD LIFE.

A. L. Morgan

—R—

Timely Topics

By Samuel Rosinger

I wish that ways and means could be found whereby the price of bread, milk and a few other staples, which form the chief diet of the working masses, could be kept down to a level where the humblest laborer could secure them in sufficient quantities to keep himself and his family well fed. Every undernourished and emaciated child is an indictment of our civilization, which suffers from overproduction, yet, keeps hundreds of thousands on the brink of