

Making Mud Pies Is Fun, But . . .

BRITISH writer Aldous Huxley made what seemed to be a rather sweeping statement when he charged that education "seems on the face of it radically absurd" in a Duke University speech this week:

But was it a sweeping statement? Huxley was not defending older methods of education. Indeed, he stressed that they "could do nothing better for my body than Swedish drill and compulsory football, nothing better for my character than prizes, punishments, sermons and pep talks, and nothing better for my soul than hymns before bed time and after breakfast."

As a result, he is functioning "at only a fraction" of his potential. "How grateful I should feel if someone had taught me to be, say, 30 per cent efficient instead of 15 or 20 per cent."

Huxley says that the biggest flaw in modern, progressive education is that disciples of John Dewey, in their zealous application of the theory that a child learns by "doing," have not stopped to analyze the "doing."

"So far as they are concerned, doing is doing. There is nothing to choose between one kind of doing and another. . . . (Dewey's followers) plunge headlong and with unquestioning enthusiasm into their mud pies."

Huxley proposed a 10 to 15-year program of "intensive, extensive and long-drawn research" to find out how to incorporate "a decent education in the non-verbal humanities into the current curriculum" of primary and secondary schools and colleges.

It is just barely possible that the elementary teacher in North Carolina might be able to do a better job in teaching science if, somewhere along the way, he or she were given credit for a college course in science. Yet the certification requirements, so strongly defended by state authorities, do not include science. The teacher is left largely to her own imagination, the ideas of the children, and the tortured instructions of this clumsy little pamphlet to learn not only how to teach science, but what to teach.

"Learning by doing" is, of course, an important philosophical concept of modern education. We wonder, however, if the time has not come to go beyond Huxley's suggestion that the various kinds of "doing" be subjected to close analysis and re-examine the current mania for teaching teachers how to teach at the expense of teaching them what to teach.

It was a rather grim coincidence that a bright, interesting brochure telling of RCA's new atomic battery came across the desk at the same time the chilling reports on the Pacific thermonuclear test arrived.

RCA's tiny battery is the first successful effort to generate usable quantities of electricity directly from a radioactive source, thus bypassing the relatively inefficient process of heating water to make steam and using the steam to drive a generator.

The battery, then, is just a beginning. In the tapping of radioactivity to make electricity, RCA's scientists are about where Faraday was when he first proposed current 120 years ago by rotating a copper disk between the ends of a magnet—the same basic principle of the giant turbo-generators at Niagara and Hoover Dam.

The battery produces only one-millionth of a watt. (The average house lamp consumes 60 watts.) Yet it was enough to activate an equally tiny transistor which, in turn, powered a radio set. By using a regular telephone key, RCA's David Sarnoff was able to tap out a message that was audible 20 feet away from the headset. This was the message:

"Atoms for peace. Man is still the greatest miracle and the greatest problem of this earth."

Though the words were tapped out on Jan. 25 of this year, there was an ominous cloud in the sky, just one day later, the Atomic Energy Commission set off a hydrogen bomb in the Marshall Islands. It showered radioactive ashes on Japanese fishermen well beyond the test area, shook buildings on Kwajalein Island, 176 miles from the explosion, sent a mushroom cloud soaring 20 miles into the sky as it generated force estimated at 500 times that of the Hiroshima atom bomb—force great enough to destroy completely everything within a circle 12 miles in diameter.

Man—the greatest miracle, and the greatest problem on this earth, just beginning to tap the secret of the universe for useful, peaceful purposes, but so expert at developing its destructive potential that he threatens to end his society at the beginning of its most promising era.

Surely in all history, there is no more striking illustration of the great paradox of man's nature.

A Beginning . . . And An End

THE Suburban Farmer, but recently a Yankee, slapped his knee. "Motes!" he guffawed at his wife. "So this fellow told you the lawn needs motes, did he? Honey, you have to learn how to understand this southern accent. There are motes in eyes and moats around castles. But on lawns? Ho-ho-ho. Mairy motes and dozey motes. Wait 'til I tell the fellows."

"Well, I must have misunderstood," said the wife. "Maybe he said 'mulch.' You'll have to admit, smartie, that 'motes' and 'mulch' sound alike, particularly when drawn through a piece of Apple Sun-Cured."

They agreed it must have been "mulch" and enjoyed the joke on the wife. Then they recounted the story to the native Mecklenburg neighbors and found out, at the Suburban Farmer's expense, that motes did indeed exist, not only in eyes, but around cotton waste mills, and on lawns. From that point on the main topic, at the dinner table and when neighbors converged, was motes.

The advice about what to do with them—and there was plenty of it—conflicted.

"There's nothing like motes to condition your soil, but you've got to work them into the soil," said the soil scientist.

"You don't have to work them in, just scatter them around—like this," demonstrated the dirt mover.

"I prefer rotted old saw dust, myself," said the lawn contractor.

"I got mine on so thick the lawn looks like a snowbank," said a neighbor.

And the pamphlet by John Harris, the fellow who writes about lawns from State College, was strangely silent on the subject. Obviously, he was too strewed to get involved in the motes controversy.

At a late evening lawn strategy conference the decision was reached. Motes would be purchased. They would be picked up at the mill, to save delivery cost. And they would be worked into the

Never, Never Mention Motes

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"We made it . . . we made it . . . we're on the list of cities of probable H-bomb targ." — INTERPLANNED

People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Thinks McCarthy Doing Great Job

Washington
EVERYBODY we pick up is in agreement with me that McCarthy is doing a great job. I have talked with people from there to Baltimore, and the majority of the people think McCarthy is doing a great job. People think McCarthy should have more power to force the recalcitrant to talk.

When the Red scam try to hide behind U. S. laws which they are trying to overthrow and destroy, that should be prima facie evidence that they are to be punished accordingly.

—W. E. COVINGTON

Plaza Road Plan Hotly Criticized

Charlotte
ALTHOUGH the following is my personal opinion, I feel confident that each and every property owner in Plaza Road is in agreement with me and will endorse this letter in its entirety.

I have on file a letter from John D. Shaw, City Attorney, which he uses the statutes of 1911 as his defense weapon in declaring that the City of Charlotte has owned a 60-foot right of way on Plaza Road since 1901, implying that the City owes nothing for the additional right of way they acquired from private property owners which was necessary for the widening of this street.

However, Mr. Shaw apparently didn't go far enough into the statute. I have information from the North Carolina attorney general that this statute further provides that the State Highway & Public Works Commission may take up to a 60-foot right of way by paying the property owner "just compensation."

It further states that the County Commissioners should appoint a committee who should appraise the property and assess the damages; further, that the property owners shall be notified in writing prior to the condemnation proceedings.

Has the City of Charlotte done any of this? They most certainly have not. Instead, they came through Carolina any and everything that happened to be in their way. I found a 128-foot section of hedge that it took me three weeks to survey and map and piled in my front yard without my knowledge or permission which was finally moved.

If our surveys and land deeds do not protect us in this deal,

Junior League Voices Thanks

Charlotte
I am a former resident of Charlotte, N. C., my birthplace. My father, James Dickson Polley, was born in Wilmington, N. C., and I believe the old Polley home is still standing.

My grandfather, Harry Nelson Polley of Wilmington, owned and operated a shipyard there many years ago. He was born 1817-187 years ago—so the N. C. Shipbuilding Co. is not the first. I may be in error, for

Fights Don't Merit National Anthem

Charlotte
I have been wondering what is so patriotic about the fights on television that merit playing the national anthem. Personally, I don't see anything about fights and wrestling that is good. The American people go to see them and spend a lot of money. They call it sport.

I don't see any sport connected with it. It is dangerous, two men beating each other up, while the crowds whoop it up. They could get killed and call it accidental. I would call it murder. It all looks silly to me. The winner hasn't won anything worth while.

—PARKS A. YANDLE

Attn: Historians—Here's A Request

Richmond, Va.
Editors, The News: I am a good many years ago, I laid aside an editorial from the Charlotte News about a special series of stories by Erik Fridson on the North Carolina Shipbuilding Co. in Wilmington. The yellowed condition of the clipping makes it difficult to read as to where I could purchase this book?

We also enjoy Mr. Agniet's daily "Close-Up" column.

—MRS. J. LEWIS HILL

Information On Woodring's Book

Cheraw, S. C.
Editors, The News: We have thoroughly enjoyed reading Mr. Agniet's articles on the schools in The News last week. We noticed in his last article that he mentioned a book by Paul Woodring, "Let's Talk Sense About Our Schools." Would you please be so kind as to advise me as to where I could purchase this book?

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THE House Committee on Un-American Activities, now pretty well derailed by the gymnastics of a senator from Wisconsin, is having one of its few full-committee meetings today. One reason for its infrequent meetings is that Republicans as well as Democrats have been in the committee's unpredictable chairmen, Harold Velde. Another is that subcommittee meetings have been held in key areas partly to smother embarrassing political information that will influence local elections.

That Velde has toned down his habit of pre-noun drinking which sometimes made him so difficult as a presiding officer, Republicans are still sore over what he has sponsored Harry Truman without consulting other committee members. They feel this ballooned up the carefully drawn plan to pin on Harry Dewar White matter squarely on Truman.

There are some of the reasons why Republicans in Velde's own congressional district are planning to run another primary against him in the Illinois primary.

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Democrats Planning Big D. C. Celebration In May

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON
DEMOCRATS will cooperate with President Eisenhower in his expressed desire to attract public attention to his program. Plans are underway for a three-day celebration here May 5, 6 and 7 in which every aspect of the new administration will be thoroughly covered.

The Democratic National Committee will be in charge May 5 and the emphasis will be on the party's congressional leadership and record. The committee will meet and hold a Jefferson-Jackson dinner at the Mayflower Hotel and a school of politics.

On May 7, friends of former President Truman will take over and give a birthday eve party for him at the Pan-American Union to which the general public will be cordially invited at \$2 per head. Proceeds will go for the construction of the Truman Memorial Library at Grandview, Mo.

TRUMAN TO BE 70
Mr. Truman will be 70 on May 8, a day he expects to spend in New York with Mrs. Truman and Margaret. He will be here for the entire three-day jamboree, as will Adlai Stevenson, but by tacit consent this Washington fiesta will belong to the Democrats in Congress.

With this in mind, former Democratic members of the Senate and House will take charge of the Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner. Some of the bolder spirits among them wanted to stage it in the armory as in the days of their glory, but since it will still be \$100 a plate, they were persuaded to settle for the Mayflower. An impressive dinner can be held there for relative few or for many, while the armory would look rather like the improvement of Sen. McCarthy is working out. Despite their past complaints about his 20 years of treason" speeches, they are beginning to feel that he is helping to unify their people.

Public power is another subject that will be amply developed in that celebration. Events, of course, will largely determine the place the recession will take in those proceedings.

TWO PRESENT TYPES
The decision to hold the May festivities was taken after a great deal of prayerful consideration. Democrats are aware that their former President and their titular leader are two quite different cups of tea and hold the deep loyalties of factions that do not always agree. It was decided, however, that both Truman and Stevenson could handle themselves all right, nor is any fear expressed that they would be unwilling to let Congress take the center of the stage.

A major topic at the committee meeting will be what, if anything, should be done about conferences or conventions preliminary to the next presidential year. Such proposals, favored in some quarters, generally run against the personal ambitions of important Democrats. This is the more true since a drive to renominate Adlai Stevenson in 1956 is candidly underway. Also Stevenson is so notably articulate he almost necessarily takes the spotlight at any gathering he attends.

Conservation Pay Faces Stiff Tests In Congress

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON
MORE THAN a third of the Eisenhower administration's \$96 million dollar Agriculture Department budget, which Congress is getting set to debate, will go for just two programs — the only ones under which the department makes direct cash payments to individual farmers without any material return.

But members of Congress in the past have said that the intangible benefits from these payments were worth the cost. One of the programs is designed to conserve the nation's soil and water resources. The other is for the U.S. sugar-producing industry, and order it payments were made last year in 23 states.

This year, the President asked Congress to appropriate \$15 million dollars for the farm conservation payments program, and \$6.6 million dollars to supplement the income of sugar-producers. In the 1953 Agriculture Department money bill for fiscal 1954 Congress appropriated \$11,862,000 for the conservation payments program and \$59,645,000 for payments under the Sugar Act of 1948.

WHAT N.C. RECEIVED
In the calendar year of 1953, the government paid out \$181,400 to farmers to help conserve the soil, improve its fertility and reduce erosion. Farmers in North Carolina received \$3,959,000 in federal payments for soil and water conservation.

Another \$31,680,000 in 1953 government payments went to sugar producers, some in North Carolina who met specified conditions, based on quantity of production. When the annual Agriculture Department money bill comes up for debate in Congress, it will carry funds for both these programs. But a controversial item form for the advance authorization of payments for the upcoming year. The far corner of the House Provisional Committee on the House of Representatives has set the year's 195 million dollar authorization.

WARPENT AND SCALPS — "In this battle of the age-long war, what is the part played by the Junior Senator from Wisconsin? He does his warlike part. He goes into his war dance. He emits his war-whoops. He goes forth to battle with the scalps of the pink Army dentist." — Sen. Ralph E. Flinders (R-Vt.) in a Senate speech March 9.

Hot Lead — "Suddenly incredible murders. But a controversial item form of three automatic pistols blasting a way simultaneously with the far corner of the House Provisional Committee on the House of Representatives has set the year's 195 million dollar authorization, may find more to debate in this year's \$20 billion dollar request.

CAPITAL QUOTES

WASHINGTON
THE executive and Congress. John Foster Dulles took an opposite stand before the Senate Committee on Un-American Activities. Asked by Sen. Fulbright of Arkansas why he didn't do something about the way McCarthy was wrecking American foreign policy abroad, the secretary of state replied:

"It is not my responsibility as a member of the executive branch to get into a problem which I believe is the responsibility of the legislative branch."

Tax Victory
The Eisenhower tax victory in the House of Representatives marks not only one step up on the Republican tax program but the development of the smoothest-working machine Capitol Hill has seen in years.

Every President tries to develop a lobbying organization with Congress—some successfully, some not so successfully. The House was highly successful; Harry Truman was not. President Eisenhower maintained a hands-off policy, but of late he has gone in for pressuring Congress. At the President's request, more expertly than any other recent President.

In order to defeat the \$700 tax-de-

20 Tough Republicans

Toughest job the White House and GOP leaders had with 20 Republicans who had introduced bills similar to the Democratic proposals. Called traitors to the party if they voted wrong. One of the most effective lobbying weapons was the old Citizens-For-Eisenhower Committee. Now in question is last year's To Elect A Republican Congress, which has been collecting fat-cat campaign funds and has threatened to withdraw them from nonconforming Republicans.

That was why even GOP Congressman Ayres of Alaska, who wanted that to vote against the \$700 dependent increase, meant defeat. He changed his mind and voted for what he said was defeat.