

# A Student Evaluates the University

CORNELL DAILY SUN last May 24 published a letter from Charles E. Juran of Tuckahoe which it titled, "An Evaluation of Cornell." Juran entered Mechanical Engineering in 1949 from Tuckahoe High School with a State Scholarship and received the BME in June, 1954. He was attracted early to the student program of Willard Straight Hall and served on its committees, becoming a member of the board of managers in 1952 and last year was chairman of the board and president of Willard Straight and a member of the Student Council. He was also a member of the Campus life committee of CURW, is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha and Quill & Dagger. His letter follows:

It has been my privilege to be a student here at Cornell for the past five years. During that interval I have tried to develop an awareness of some of the factors which contribute to make up Cornell; to isolate that elusive quality which Professor Healey calls "forthrightness." It is upon reflecting on this that many of the trivialities, little incidents, and experiences of the last few years begin to categorize themselves into some of the broader principles which comprise the Cornell idea.

In sharp contrast to what the Widow artists would have us believe, most Cornellians are neither thick-lensed bookworms nor reptiled club members. Most of us lie somewhere in between these two, worrying about grades and girls, and wondering about graduation and beyond. I think it is an awareness of the varied nature of our student population that has made us conceive of education as something more than assimilation of the printed word. It is a time to learn about men and their ways, and about God and His ways. There are those of us who like to believe that these concepts can best be promoted at a University which is set up on a Hill, and consequently a little closer to the sky.

Cornell is a cosmopolitan community and therein lies the very core of our strength. It seems to me that the same thing which made this country what it is can contribute to give Cornell a potential for greatness. However, this "melting pot" can also be a danger, and among the things we must beware is this: while we endeavor to make the student body and the curricula as broad and diversified as possible, let us not fall into a pattern of stratification. There are already evidences of this: the foreign student set apart from his American counterpart; a rift between the State and endowed Colleges; the affiliated students set apart from the independents. If these factors are allowed to grow in magnitude and signifi-

cance, they can turn our cosmopolitanism around to defeat us.

I hope that this University will be always aware of the importance of the individual; to evaluate our effectiveness in terms of what we have done for John Q. Student, not in terms of statistics and average starting salaries. I believe that the educational efforts of a university should always be aimed at the individual level. At a time when great social and political pressures are brought upon us to enlarge this institution, let us remember that there is a point of diminishing returns in this business, and once we pass it, we dilute our achievements on the individual level.

We have grown up in a time when everyone is interested in measuring and tabulating things. There are those who would reject that which cannot be put on a graph or expressed in symbols and numbers. I hope that Cornell will keep the yes/no-ism in its proper place. I don't mean to belittle the slide rules and IBM cards, but they have their own area, and we might do ourselves credit if we resist what is a rather common tendency to put a micrometer on society and the arts.

Finally, thinking in terms of University organization and college life itself, we must recognize those groups which are making worthwhile contributions to Cornell (or which have a capacity to do so), and we must strengthen them. Conversely, we must isolate those groups and/or factors which are detrimental to our purposes, and we must rid ourselves of them. We have witnessed the absurdity of diluted and undeliberated measures which achieved neither of these aims. This is an area for careful analysis and a recognition of the views and concerns of anyone involved.

Despite all the ominous warning and gloom peddling (and I have done my share), I think Cornell will get along all right. It has its drunks and irresponsibles; it also has its Dexter Kimballs and Foster Coffins. I think we have to weigh the pantie raids and statue painting against a record of outstanding work and solid achievement which goes on every day, unrecorded and unannounced, by Cornellians who are scholars or leaders, and sometimes both. Reflecting on these years of knowing and associating with them, one cannot help leaving with a deep sense of pride and gratitude. Cornell gives its students far more than they can ever return.

Mohawk Airlines, with headquarters in Ithaca, received the aviation safety award of the National Safety Council for going through 1953 without a passenger or crew fatality in air accidents. On its scheduled routes through New York State and New England, Mohawk last year flew 163,270 passengers more than 27,000,000 miles.