

A Mirror For Students

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STUDENTS in universities and colleges are there for many reasons. To get an education in its broadest sense is too often not chief among these reasons. Sometimes it is possible to determine the purpose a student has for being in college in a matter of minutes, and in other cases, close association with the student must be maintained over a long period of time before it is possible to determine what his aims and expectations are with relation to his college life. Often students are not certain within their own minds just what reasons they have for being in school. All students, however, may be classified according to their reasons, either realized or unrealized, for being in an institution of higher education. These classes are the academic student, the athletic student, the political student, the practical student, the play boy student and the loafer student.

The Academic Student

The academic student is the delight of instructors. His assignments are always well prepared and turned in on time. He can usually be found in the library when it is open and the rest of the time behind the closed door of his room concentrating on some volume of fact or theory.

This fellow is seldom found in gatherings of social relaxation and has little time for dates or an evening of poker. He is so engrossed with cramming facts, theories, and formulae into his head that he loses sight of the theory that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." His greatest joy is the realization of a 3.5 or higher average. His chief source of entertainment between reports is the accumulation of knowledge, and both constitute his chief

purpose for being in school.

The Athletic Student

Athletic students generally have their purpose well in mind long before they enter the university. They have hopes of being All-American. This type of student is probably more easily recognized than any other because they invariably wear their high school athletic sweaters, complete with letter, stripes, and stars, when they come to register.

As soon as the athletic director eliminates those who don't come up to his expectations, their numbers on the campus drop to a much lower figure. For since the participation in athletics was their only objective they leave and return to their home town where they are more appreciated. Those that are left manage one way or another to maintain the minimum requirements in order to be eligible to continue their participation in athletic activities. To make the team is the only aim and the pursuit of knowledge bores them.

The Political Student

It is sometimes difficult to put the finger on the political student. Because of the very nature of his aspirations it is best to keep his intentions from becoming common knowledge. His interests lie, however, in things political. To be an officer in one or more organizations is his chief desire. He attends all meetings he can get into and has the broad smile and generous attitude that is so necessary to gain the good will of prospective voters. The required scholastic standing or better not only keeps him eligible for holding offices, but is also a good asset at election time.

The Practical Student

The practical student many times is a

mixture of the first three types. The distinguishing feature is the objective. This type of student is enrolled for the purpose of broadening the scope of his intelligence. He follows the principle of "first things first" and if there is time or opportunity after his main objective is completed he will participate in as many other activities as possible. He figures that these activities not only afford a certain relaxation, but are valuable in that they allow him to study human nature from various angles and give him some experience in practical application of the knowledge he has acquired.

The practical student may sometimes carry the maximum load or he may carry only the minimum, depending generally on the amount of work he must do to support himself while in school. Scholastic honors, though, are not his primary aim, but the collection of facts and the study of theory that he can relate and apply practically are his purposes.

The Play Boy Student

The play boy student is in college for a good time. He spends much of his time with the women students or going out with the boys for a few rounds of drinks and general devilment. He is always on hand at social gatherings and does his best to be the life of the party.

To carry the minimum requirements is important to him, for by doing so he can stay in school and continue to enjoy him-

self at his family's expense and put off just that much longer the day when he must give up his hilarious life and settle down to support himself.

The Loafer Student

This type of student is in school simply because he doesn't want to do much of anything and faces the day of self-support with a great dread. He is content to let Dad or society pay his room and board as long as he can think of any possible excuse for them to do so. He spends the greater portion of his time on his bed napping. The loafer type is generally unpopular. Society just doesn't like being loser to a bed in a choice of companionship. The loafer is usually a sponger. He would rather copy assignments and try to get by on the work of others than put forth the effort himself. His chief desire is to get back on his bed and have another nap.

At any given time all students fit into one of these classifications. The ever changing society of colleges and the fact that one cannot help accumulating new ideas if he so much as attends class, will many times cause a student to alter his aims and to strive for a new objective. In the process of determining a standard for himself, the student may pass from one class to another and back again before he finally comes to a definite conclusion concerning the course he would follow throughout the rest of his life.

