

Sending Daughter To College

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Ability: What criteria do most colleges use when deciding whether to accept or reject an applicant? The student's high school record is probably the single most important piece of evidence. Most colleges look favorably on a candidate who has had extensive work in science, math, English, history, and foreign languages. They will also consider her scores on the College Board exams and recommendations of teachers.

An evaluation of the personality, character, and extracurricular activities of the applicant will complete the total picture. In most cases above average intelligence and achievement will be required.

Choosing and Financing: Use as many different ways as possible to obtain information about particular colleges. Consult college directories and catalogues. Talk with the high school guidance counselors and college admissions representatives who visit the high schools. It is wise if the prospective college student and her parents visit the campuses of the institutions in which she is interested. Take time to read a few of the many books on the subject.

Find out about costs, scholarships, loans, cooperative work-study programs, and part-time jobs available. If you plan wisely, take advantage of financial aid plans, and are convinced that a college education is a sound investment, then you will be able to meet the ever mounting fees.

As a high school teacher I have had the unhappy experience of watching parents push a child into a college situation she is unable to cope with because of limited ability or lack of interest in going to college.

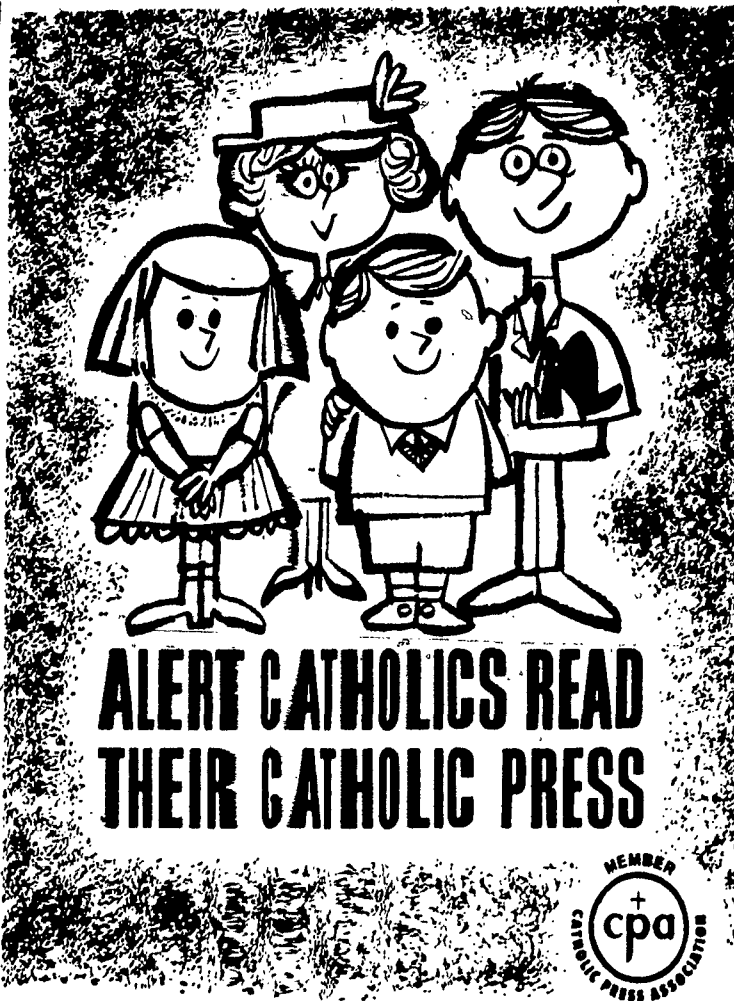
It is even more tragic to observe a girl who has both the ability and the interest to do college work with her hands tied because her parents were unwilling to help—or even to encourage her.

Too Many Baptisms!

Berlin (NC) — A Moscow newspaper received here has expressed concern over the growing influence of religion in the area of Vladimir, one of Russia's ancient centers of the Orthodox faith.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, organ of the Soviet Union's Young Communist League, said that in 1960 more parents in the region had their children baptised than ever before, including league members and even officials.

Vladimir, 110 miles northeast of Moscow, is the site of a number of famous 12th and 13th-century churches and monasteries.



ALERT CATHOLICS READ THEIR CATHOLIC PRESS



Clothing Relief Totals 8000 Tons

New York (NC) — American Catholics contributed more than 16 million pounds of clothing, shoes, bedding and household goods with a value placed at about \$22 million to the 1961 Thanksgiving Clothing Campaign sponsored by the U.S. Hierarchy.

Bishop Edward E. Swannstrom of New York, executive director of Catholic Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference, which conducted the campaign, commented: "Actually the true value of this clothing cannot be estimated nor spelled out in dollars and cents."

CRS-NWC, world-wide relief agency maintained by U.S. Catholics, disclosed that some 15 million pounds of the relief materials were received at the agency's warehouses in the New York area, an additional one million pounds at West Coast warehouses.

(Contributions from the Rochester Diocese totaled \$10,447 pounds.)

"It is a great source of satisfaction to report that the amount of clothing collected during this past Thanksgiving Clothing Collection exceeded that of the previous year by more than one million pounds," Bishop Swannstrom said. "Even in the United States this clothing would have a value of about \$22 million, but abroad it will be worth many times that amount to the poor whose bodies it will cover and warm."

Bishop Swannstrom expressed his appreciation to the thousands of volunteer workers in parishes, sodalities, Holy Name Societies and other Catholic groups in all sections of the nation who worked in assembling, sorting and stripping the materials collected in their respective communities.

"The results of the program are an indication of the continued and ever-increasing concern of American Catholics for their brethren in areas of need overseas and for victims of tyranny and oppression. This is a genuine people-to-people aid program," Bishop Swannstrom said.

Of the 16 million pounds of materials collected, the Bishop said more than 8 million pounds already have been baled and shipped to 11 areas overseas. He said the areas which received the largest amount of this aid included: Chile, 1,400,000 pounds; Taiwan, 508,000 pounds; Brazil, 730,000 pounds; Korea, 280,000 pounds and Hong Kong, 286,000 pounds.

Bishop Swannstrom recalled that the bishop of a poor South American diocese recently told him: "The American people through Catholic Relief Services — NWC are really accomplishing something by their aid program to South America, while the communists can only make empty claims of doing so."

Lincoln, Greatest American

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greatness as an American and as a president was altogether unique because it was founded on a moral basis never equalled by anyone before him, little likely to be surpassed by anyone in the future.

America waited a long time for Lincoln, almost a hundred years, as a matter of fact. It may have to wait longer still for another one like him. It is possible there may not ever be again a man of his stature, at least in America.

It is interesting if nothing else, to search for parallels between the life of Christ and that of Lincoln. Recognizing, of course, the indisputable fact that the founder of Christianity was a Divine Person and Lincoln only a human being, that there exists between the two an infinite distance, they exhibit, however, certain common characteristics.

It is recorded of Christ that He cried only twice, publicly once over the dead Lazarus, once over Jerusalem, spiritually dead. Never is it told He laughed. And yet Christ would not have been wholly human had He not laughed, and that frequently, for the very relief it gave Him in the midst of His troubled life.

Abraham Lincoln laughed much. In fact, his humor was famous; his stories never ending. One of the things his enemies reproached him with was this very lack of seriousness, this constant joking, even at times of national sorrow. After the bloody battle of Fredericksburg, Congressman Arnold came to see him, only to find Lincoln reading the humor of Artemus Ward. He was shocked and told Lincoln so.

Lincoln put aside the book he had been reading and enjoying, and turning to the congressman he said: "Mr. Arnold, if I could not get momentary respite from the crushing burden I am constantly carrying, my heart would break." And Arn-

'On Time' Blessing

Hong Kong (NC) — Through the crowded waters of Hong Kong harbor a crew of four Chinese sailors has carried the Catholic port chaplain to waiting congregations on the decks of the ships berthed off the shore. Invariably the Laetitia of Father Patrick J. Cunningham, S.J., arrived on time.

As a reward the Jesuit chaplain brought back from Rome, where he had been attending the International Congress of the Apostolate of the Sea, a special blessing. It reads that Pope John XXIII "blesses Coxswain Li Ping-kwan and the crew of the Port Chaplain Laetitia 'Stella Maris' for their devotion to duty."

old said that when he looked at Lincoln there were tears welling up in his eyes. Lincoln laughed, but he also cried. His tears, however, he reserved for the sympathy of friends.

Christ gathered around Himself the poor, the ill, the outcast of society. His graciousness and His sympathy drew them like a magnet. Lincoln too drew near himself the poor, the dispossessed, widows, orphans, slaves. They clustered around him as if they thought he alone understood them and loved them, and he did too, for his heart was made for loving and these people needed nothing so much as love. Christ said that the test of a man's greatness lies in the answer he gives to the needs of his neighbor.

No man of Lincoln's day loved people as individuals as he did. His many kind acts, his pardons, his sympathy expressed in word and work, his constant concern for everyone except himself is not only the brightest page in the history of those times; it would require thousands of pages to record them all.

This is all the more remarkable when you think of his reticence and lack of vindictiveness towards his enemies. No other man in public life ever suffered more from the calumnies of his enemies. Lincoln was accused of just about every crime, even that of betraying his country; he was called names most of which would not be allowed in the public press today; his physical appearance was a source of never ending coarseness; every facet of his character was misrepresented; every act of his public life was twisted into one of self seeking; even his speeches were considered inane and trivial.

Samuel B. Morse, the inventor of the electric telegraph, was typical of Lincoln's enemies. He called Lincoln "weak, vacillating, illiterate, a president without brains." The New York Herald was only echoing the opinion of most of the men of the time when it called Lincoln "a joke incarnated, his election a very sorry joke, and the idea that such a man as he should be the president of such a country as this, a very ridiculous joke."

In Leslie's Weekly for February 25, 1865, there is this "tribute": "There is no man of less consequence in these United States than A. L. of Illinois. A schoolboy would deserve flogging for sending out documents of such prodigious moment as come from his pen in phrases so mean and unbecoming." The Atlantic Intelligencer spoke of Lincoln as the "Baboon President, a lowbred ob scene clown." And thus the press ranted on in a never ending campaign of vilification, most of which could not be printed today.

And men of stature and standing in the country thought in like vein. Richard H. Dana, author of "Two Years Before

the Mast," said of Lincoln: "He has no admirers, no enthusiastic supporters, none to bet on his head. He is an unutterable calamity to us where he is."

What was Lincoln's reaction to all this? Not a word of censure or blame or invective in return. Nowhere is it evident that Lincoln ever had a grudge, remembered an insult, harbored resentment. The only noticeable reaction was an occasional quip about the ability of his enemies to paint his picture. "With malice towards none; with charity for all." That could verily be his epitaph.

And the manner of his death was almost Christlike. Lincoln had already given his all to the "Cause" and to the people. There remained only death to crown the work. And that was not denied him. A bloody death at the hands of an assassin brought immortality to Lincoln. He does belong to the ages.

Was Lincoln a saint? Ask the people of Nehru's land who esteem him second only to Gandhi. In the Communist countries the Great Emancipator has no equals. He stands alone on the pedestal of moral greatness. A Pakistan teacher said recently that he had come to America just to stand in the shadow of the greatest American of them all. "For," he said, "the people of my country consider him a saint."

There is, however, one serious objection to the canonization of Lincoln as an American "holy man." And oddly enough it relates to his religion or lack of it.

As far as we know Lincoln was never a baptized Christian; he didn't attend any church with any marked degree of regularity. He was assigned to pew number 20 in one of the Springfield Presbyterian churches, and when he went to Washington he was considered a communicant of the New York Ave. Presbyterian Church, but he never joined any church as a formal member, nor was his attendance at church a matter of regular practice.

In fact, he even testified per-

sonally to the fact of non-membership when he told an inquirer: "When any church will inscribe over its altars, as its sole qualification for membership, the Saviour's statement for the substance of both Law and gospel, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself' that church will join with all my heart and soul."

Two ladies came once to Lincoln to urge the release of their husbands who were prisoners of war. The ladies told the president how religious their husbands were, and this was Lincoln's reply: "You say your husband is a religious man; tell him when you meet him, that I am not much of a judge of religion, but that, in my opinion, the religion that sets men to rebel and fight against their government because, as they think, that government does not sufficiently help some men to eat their bread on the sweat of other men's faces, is not the sort of religion upon which people can get to heaven."

This could very easily be a reason for Lincoln never formally joining a church. If it is, what a sad commentary on the practical Christianity of those days. But whatever the reason — and only God can search the depths of a man's heart — Lincoln was not formally and methodically a church attending Christian. However, there is not a shred of evidence from this to conclude, as some do, that Lincoln was not a religious man. Far from it. From the voluminous evidence extant of other men's faces, it is not that Lincoln was a deeply religious man, perhaps one of the most deeply religious men of his day.

His extraordinary charity, his lack of vindictiveness, his humility, his dependence on Divine Providence, his sense of mission, were all the results of a constant "walking with God." The testimonies to all this are too numerous to mention. A casual study of his life and works and utterance abound in this sense of reverence and conformity to the will of God.

One of the last things he said as he entreated for Washington from Springfield was this: "Without the assistance of that

Divine Being I cannot succeed; that assistance I cannot fail." On another occasion he exclaimed: "I do not think I could myself be brought to support a man for office whom I knew to be an open enemy of and scoffer at religion."

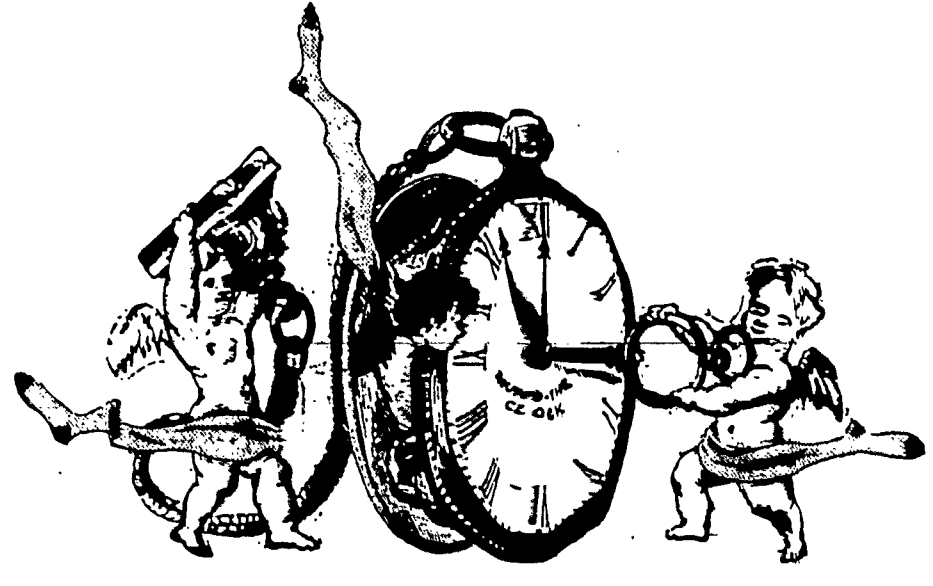
"I am conscious of no desire for my country's welfare that is not in consonance with His Will, and of no plan upon which we may not ask His blessing." The man who spoke those words was a man who knew his bible thoroughly and quoted it enough to prove his absolute familiarity with it. Biblical illusions in his published papers and recorded conversations number almost one hundred and are taken from twenty-two different books of the Bible. The Divine Will was one of the most frequent subjects upon which he spoke and he said he was constantly seeking its fulfillment in his life.

He carried a "Pocket Testament" around with him and read it daily. This testament is the "Believer's Daily Treasure" published in 1852 by the religious tract society of London. It is autographed by Lincoln — a thing he rarely did in his books.

Though repelled by creeds, Lincoln was himself a man of creed and principle. His thinking, his conversations, his speeches, his reflections were all nourished by religious principles.

His entrenched positions on slavery, the Union, the will of God and his choice of Lincoln as an instrument, the North's fightness in the Civil War, were dug with the pick and shovel of his religious creed. He had no guide. He had to hammer that creed himself out of the complex religious influences and experiences of his life.

Lincoln was ever a man without a church. Yet he was ever a man of faith. He saw himself as a believer who had difficulties, a kind of modern Thomas the Apostle. "Probably it is my lot to go in a twilight, feeling and reasoning my way through life, as questioning, doubting, Thomas did... seeking for a faith that was with him of olden time who, in his need, as in mine, exclaimed, 'Help Thou my unbelief.'"



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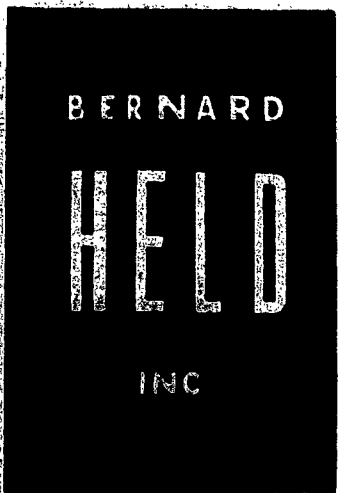
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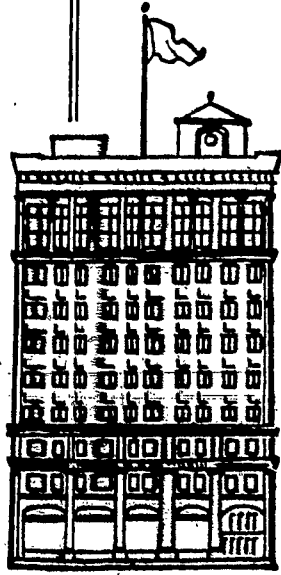
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A Word To The Wise

Everyone believes in Safety. But sometimes one forgets, and we don't have a second chance to remember. There is, however, one safety rule in the Electric Utility business that is so simple and so easy to follow that it should never be forgotten—"Never, but never, touch or go near a loose or fallen wire." It may not be dangerous, but you'd better assume it is. And don't touch anything the wire is touching either. If it is "live," whatever it is resting on may be "live" too. Keep others from going near it, and finally, let the RG&E know right away.

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