

The school of arts and science at the University of Delaware has shown a special awareness of the importance of educating the whole man. I am proud of its work, and I wish to take this occasion to commend Dr. G. Bruce Dearing, dean, school of arts and science and his colleagues for their contributions in building one of the more significant universities in our country. The work of Prof. Charles Robert Kase, head of the drama department, Prof. Anthony J. Loudis, head of the music department, Profs. Augustine Henry Able, II, and Ned Bliss Allen of the English department, and Prof. Alan Gowans of the art department, is well-known far beyond the borders of the first State.

The need of the arts by the one-third of our Nation which is economically underprivileged is strikingly illustrated by the following excerpt from a memorandum submitted on July 22, 1960, by Bernard W. Scholz, Chief, Public Assistance Division to the Director of the District of Columbia Department of Public Welfare in connection with the "second precinct rehabilitation project" in the heart of the Nation's Capital:

(Excerpt from a memorandum submitted on July 22, 1960, by Bernard W. Scholz, Chief, Public Assistance Division to the Director of the District of Columbia Department of Public Welfare, in connection with the "second precinct rehabilitation project")

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While this program is underway for the second precinct's youth, what about the adults whose actions and example will continue to influence the young, even while every effort is being made to orient these children in a positive direction?

What can be done to reorient the adults from an emptiness wrought of exhaustion, defeat, and resentment that finds release only in dope, alcohol, vice, and lawlessness, to an attitude of hope, a will to achieve, and acceptance of community standards, a willingness to conform and a sense of belonging?

As in the case of the younger people, the older ones are vitally affected by what they perceive the community's attitude concerning them to be.

Just as the auto dump on Sixth Street, established in the midst of a residential section by their city's government (one act that did not take congressional approval) is a clear demonstration of what the community thinks of them as citizens and homeowners, so is the flight of business and the blight on Seventh Street clear evidence that economically they do not rate, as contrasted to their white neighbors in the suburbs.

The community may provide many free services to the general population, but to these underprivileged ones, the descamisados of Washington, they are out of reach: They don't have the shoes, the clothes, the manners—that would make them comfortable and give them a "sense of belonging" in these community facilities.

The free city library is right in the second precinct, but people of this neighborhood would hardly be found within its austere walls. Yet most of them can read—and many would read, if only reading was brought within easy reach of them. There should be small, informal branch libraries scattered throughout the second precinct where people can quietly sit, smoke, and read the paperback editions of good literature.

If such books get soiled, torn, taken home—what would it matter? The main thing is that some refuge would be established from the drabness of their own homes—that through these books a door might be opened to a new world. Could lectures be added—films—discussions? Here could be the beginning of a very informal, rudimentary adult education process—but it must be taken to the people and offered wide open, without registration, without fees, without formality.