

More Dollars than Sense

Chicago University is conducting a survey just now to determine what proportion of the students' time and money is given over to teas, movies dances and other social paraphernalia. This in line with action taken at many Eastern schools to cut down the high cost of wasted time.

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America for March 8 has a thought-provoking article on "College Extravagance," which reviews two previous articles in the same magazine, "The Luxury of a College Education" and "Gottas and Gimmes." A few quotations will convince the reader that those in charge of the student expenditures of the parental income have a serious obligation in conscience.

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"Unfortunately 'Gottas and Gimmes' is not merely a rash that will disappear with the passing of college years. It is likely to develop into a malignant cancer. For why do our college men and women delay marriage? Why are their families limited to the non-Christian number of one or two children?.....The luxury of a college education too often finds its logical sequence in the luxury of a small family. Character has been weakened by a constant yielding to whims, and the refusal to make sacrifices..... And so for one I maintain that it is better for the "Gottas and Gimmes" type to withdraw from college and honestly go to work for a living."

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"Check all further advancements; curtail gradually but effectively, acknowledged abuses.... In the liberal arts colleges, allow a Junior prom where it is an established custom. One such event should satisfy social necessities. The financing of this function should be under the strict supervision of the authorities so that the 'hectic' craze of one class outspending another in useless decorations, cheap jazz entertainment, silly tokens, etc., with the consequent supertax on 'Junior's' father, would be at least lessened."

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"Class rings and allied fakes should be forbidden as a matter of simple justice to students and parents. The persistence of these shams, is due to the skillful propaganda of so-called jewelry firms. The profit is enormous while the thinly veneered metal must soon be discarded. Mr. Wiltbye's mention of the \$28 rings made me feel dizzy. Since then I heard quite by accident that the latest book of class-ring etiquette demands that each student buy two, one for himself, the other for his ephemeral 'best girl'."

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When do they study? "Most students do not object to passive entertainment. You will be a popular professor, too, but of course not an educator if you are content to enter into the student's intellectual life only during three class hours a week required for so many credits. On the other hand judicious collateral reading, whose fruit blossoms forth into frequent written theses and discussions in class, will keep both student and professor quite busy."

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