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The College Enigma: The Sophomore.  
(Reprinted by Request)

"The sophomore is our least responsible student. The enthusiasm and the docility, perhaps, of the freshman year has somewhat lessened. The end of the college course is still three years away. The goal towards which it leads is far and indistinct. The sophomore is now under pressure." -- Alexander Meikeljohn, former President of Amherst.

This heartless educator, who was canned by the board of trustees for insisting upon educating his students, proposes this test for the sophomore:

1. Can he and does he read books?

("In books is gathered up the culture and knowledge of the race. A boy who has not learned to go to them, to live in them, to understand their meanings, is not, in method at least, upon the great highroad of education.")

2. Can he express his own thoughts in writing?

(Look over your last English marks.)

3. Can he speak clearly and accurately?

(Ask him for a definition.)

4. Can he listen to and understand another's speech?

(Get his foolish questions. Read his letters to the Bulletin.)

5. Has he a sense of fact, distinguishing from facts the mere suggestions which are not yet established?

(Seventy per cent of any fact is sufficient -- and sixty per cent if the professor is broad-minded.)

6. Can he derive an implication, draw an inference, and see what implications and inferences do not follow?

(He draws plenty of favorable inferences.)

7. Has he a sense of values by which to feel, to appreciate, to recognize the things worth while from those not worthy of our choosing?

Has he a sense of values? The saxophone is his artistic expression; his great fear is that someone will discover that his mother is a lady. As long as the coarseness complex lasts there is no hope of an education. The sophomore swagger is bullet-proof, bomb-proof, rain-proof and fool-proof. The flapper confirms him in his madness. He falls hard for the profane cocktail mixer and tries to outdo her in coarseness. Some people are born sophomores; some remain sophomores all their lives.

The usual cure for the curable sophomore is falling in love with a real girl -- one who will stand for no nonsense. The Catholic Church offers a deeper, a more radical cure, but it takes brains to appreciate it. The Catholic Church stirs the soul to spiritual appreciation, to a knowledge of God -- the beauty of God in Himself, and the beauty of God in creation. The Catholic Church is the mother of art, the mother of music, of painting, of sculpture, of artistic expression in poetry, in oratory, in every form of literature. Her culture breeds urbanity, sweetness, strength, generosity, mildness, courage, sympathy, prudence, charity, purity, undying love.

The Novena for Christmas.

If you start this Novena tomorrow it will end on Saturday, December 18. The spiritual bouquet cards are on sale in the halls for the benefit of the Sorin chapel. -- In your Novena remember George Francis Haney's father, who died a few days ago; three sick relatives of students; five special intentions; three thanksgivings.