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Cedarville College Alumni News

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Cedarville College Alumni News

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February, 1963

AN ADEQUATE EDUCATION

A few days ago, a student asked a question as to whether or not Cedarville College, in my opinion, prepared a student adequately for graduate study. This, as you may quickly perceive, was a loaded question to say the least which demanded more than a simple "yes" or "no" answer. Since many of us alumni have come face to face with or are now facing this issue, I was prompted to share my opinion with you.

The issue of an adequate education not only involves alumni interested in graduate study, but every graduate of our college, for if one spends several years, much effort and not a paltry sum of money to obtain an education only to discover its inadequacy, what he would feel in his heart toward his Alma Mater is inevitable and needs no further comment. This is not to imply that there will never be an alumnus who will feel that he has been slighted, for I dare say that there are some who would harbor animosity had they degrees from Harvard. That these are a small minority is a blessing.

There are many variables which demand attention when considering such a question. For brevity's sake let us consider only two, namely the educational program and the individual student.

To state that Cedarville College offers the best education possible would reveal ignorance. But the converse is equally unjustified. No apology need be made for that which is offered by this institution. The injustice would reside in an unwillingness to recognize inadequacies and act in an attempt to eradicate them. Any educational institution whose administration and faculty are so disposed has no justification for existence.

For some time now a program of faculty upgrading has been in effect at Cedarville College. Facilities are being increased and improved. Curriculum study and revision are perennial problems. All of this takes time, qualified manpower and money. None of these is easy to obtain. Therefore progress is not as rapid as is desired.

The inadequacies which exist are hardly justification to decry the education one receives at Cedarville, Accreditation is not only desirable, but I believe necessary if this institution is to fulfill its full obligation to its students, but it is not to be thought of as a magic potion which will usher in the educational millennium. It is a goal toward which your Alma Mater is pressing, and one which I'm sure will one day be realized.

The institutional offerings are only half the story. Consider for a moment the student. Many, I am convinced, are of the opinion that once the finances have been cared for, the education automatically follows. As one may starve in the midst of plenty were he not to ingest the food available, so one who will not avail himself of the opportunities offered by an institution of higher learning will no doubt find himself little advanced upon graduation from that which he was when he entered.

There are those who will succeed in graduate study not because of, but in spite of their undergraduate training. But for the majority, success or failure depends a great deal upon their undergraduate training. There are many of our alumni who have received graduate degrees in the arts and sciences, and in theology. The great majority with whom I have talked have expressed themselves as being happy with their undergraduate training at Cedarville. To be sure, all have suggestions for improvement, but what alumnus who is worthy of the name hasn't?

Is the education available at Cedarville College adequate? Yes and no. That it is adequate is well displayed by those who have taken advantage of the offerings and have found themselves well prepared for positions or graduate study. That it is inadequate is demonstrated by the fact that there is a constant striving to improve. It is my hope that when this kind of inadequacy is completely eradicated, Cedarville College will cease to exist. That's my opinion, what's yours?
(Dale Thomson)

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Louie Schramm ('61) and his wife Margaret on the arrival of Kay Lou, February 3.

To Dick and Linda Lapp ('57) upon the arrival of Laura Susan, January 25.

To Dave Thomas ('59) and his wife Linda upon the birth of Ruth Elizabeth, December 20, 1962. Just in time for income tax!

Please inform us of changes in your exemptions.

WE NEED YOUR GIFT FOR THE BOOK FUND!
HAVE YOU GIVEN??

MANY HAVE RESPONDED WITH PAYMENT OF DUES.
KEEP IT UP!

PRAY FOR YOUR ALMA MATER

