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COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE PECULIAR
By Ferdie J. Deering.

College Students are peculiar persons. They don't know why they come to college. Some think that by their coming the college will be benefitted. Some think that by their coming they will receive manifold returns. Some think that a college course will insure them a job. Others come because everybody else says they ought to. Still others come on the rather doubtful assumption that because their parents didn't go to college and were failures, ~~they~~ they will be successes. They are all wrong. But they come anyhow. *By their coming*

College Students are peculiar persons. They don't know how to start a college career after they get here. They don't know how to enroll. ~~They~~ They are completely baffled by the startling array of schedules, off-days and instructors, who must maintain their dignity at all costs. Whether it be their first, tenth or fiftieth time to enroll, they don't know what to take. They don't even know what they want. But they enroll anyhow.

College Students are peculiar persons. They don't want what they have after they are enrolled in it. They discover that their classification demands that they sit for a prescribed number of hours each week in a dismal room listening to a mumbling or drawling professor. They neither know nor care what he is saying. They simply sit and wonder how long it is until class is over. But they don't change their enrollment.

College Students are peculiar persons. They waste their time reading difficult books, struggling to remember meaningless dates until after the examination and wondering whether the blonde on the next row has a date yet. Figures, ~~formulas~~ formulas and other useless data is poured into their heads daily. They learn it but don't understand it. They hate it but make no resistance. They always come back for more.

College Students are peculiar persons. They don't know how to read. They have access to hundreds of volumes of the world's best literature but they don't know how to make a selection. They spend hours in the reading room but they don't know how to read. They ~~waste~~ waste it getting reports or taking notes on history readings or flirting with ~~the opposite~~ members of the opposite sex seated at nearby tables. *Then* they go back home and tell the folks what a grand library their college has.

College Students are peculiar persons. They don't give a darn. All the world criticizes them and they don't give a darn. Authors scribble reams about them ~~They~~ They don't give a whoop. Lecturers lecture at them; They don't care. They just listen. Reformers try to reform them. They don't care. Psychologists test them, chemists analyze them and moralists weep over them. ~~They~~ They don't mind. They just keep on going to college.

College Students are peculiar persons. They have no sense of relativity. They read volumes trying to decide whether Burns was a better poet than Keats but they want the Einstein theory of space explained in a paragraph. They will spend hours searching for evidence to prove that Jim Thorpe was a better football player than Red Grange, yet they wouldn't spend five minutes looking for a book on the League of Nations and World Peace. Maybe that is why they are college students.

College Students are peculiar persons. They have too much ambition. They want to be everything everybody else is. They ~~see~~ hear a great musician and they want to become opera singers. They see a great actor and they enroll in the dramatics department. They read about a great statesman and decide to take up law. Stenographers and bookkeepers salaries go up and the business department becomes overcrowded. The world demands ditch-diggers and hod-carriers. They ~~quit~~ quit school. They have too much ambition.

College Students are peculiar persons. They don't know what to do after they have finished school. They find that nobody wants to listen to opera singers. The public is too much interested in the movies to go see actors. The people want politicians, not statesmen. They discover that the demand for accountants and typists has been miraculously supplied. They become as completely befuddled as they were when they began. They decide to end it all and ~~quit~~ quit into obscurity. They become school teachers and inspire their pupils to become college students.

-apologies to
Stephen Leacock
"Americans are queer"

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