Job Open Forum Debates Religion

Dean Sperry of Harvard Argues Orthodox Religion With Donald Lathrop

That progress in science adds not to the glory of man for having done, but to the glory of God for having created was asserted by Dean Sperry, of Harvard, at the Tech Open Forum held Wednesday at 5:00 o'clock in Room 4-270. The topic of the debate was "Whether or Not Orthodox Religion is Necessary in the Formation of a Well Balanced Philosophy of Life." William L. Sperry, Dean of the Harvard Divinity School, affidavited the affirmative, Donald O. Luther, President of the Common Cause Church, of Boston, the negative.

By way of introduction to the above statement Sperry said that we believe we discover marvels hereafter "the uniformities of nature are there in abundance," whereas Luther's line of reasoning was: God by definition is an explanation of uniformities. As at previous advance we begin to interpret the unknown in terms of the known. Then "God is on the defense."

A question which arose later was, "Would you enter our theory in the Bible?" said Sperry. Then, that all humans should bechildren!

Sperry's answer was No, that there is an infinity of Things. He said that "God means nothing more than the unknown, the universe." He also stated that God is not to blame for any of the catastrophies which may result from it.

The question period was then opened.

Lathrop opposed the necessity of religion, citing Buddhism, Confucianism, the Stoics of Greece, and the monotheistic religions.

New Subscription Campaign

Will Be Held By Technique

Technique will launch a new annual subscription campaign on Monday, Dec. 5. The Senior will lead the plan with the following advertisement saying:

"To all Technique students who haven't renewed their subscriptions this season. Subscription payments will be on Thursday and Friday.

Students will be on their way to the Union to renew subscriptions at the Tech Union in the Walker Main Hall, will feature Be-Anno, The Tech's first co-female groups. The subscription payments will be on Thursday and Friday.

Subscriptions may be had either by the payment of four dollars, or by signing a Bursar's pledge. These may be delivered to the fraternity representatives or in the lobby.

Talks On Safety Given At A. I. E. E. Meeting

Economic and Practical Aspects of Organic Products

Safety was the main topic of discussion at the meeting of the branch of the A. I. E. E. last night. The meeting was conducted by Professor Samuel H. Caldwell on "Economics of Power Safety." and was concluded by a talk on "Safety Practices in the New England Electric Power System" given by John P. McCann, Safety Manager of that association.

Do you think the United States should invoke the Neutrality Act in the Far East war?

Burrell F. Pell, K Plains, Britches, V. 49

No. Non-participation in the undeclared war would be neutrality. If the United States should invoke the Neutrality Act against China and Japan, there would be a corresponding list of states which is not neutrality.

Joseph J. Casey, 325 Ashmont St., Dorchester, V. 59

No, the Neutrality Act should not be invoked. In any case, the war is none of our business as we have no claims on Japan.

Tom White, 1111, Dorchester, V. 49

No, to invoke such an act would immediately show sympathy toward Japan, and in fact such to China. It is better, under the circumstances, to remain on the fence and let public opinion express the nation's feelings.

Dr. Hartog Speaks To Grads On 'Vibrations'

Dr. J. F. den Hartog, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the Harvard University, spoke on "Mechanical Vibrations," at a Grads' Dinner Wednesday evening, December 2. Mr. Anne Johnson, the hostess.

He demonstrated his talk with a disc that contained several apparatus allowing vibrations to be shown and explained. He also presented the mechanical engineer.

The talk was sponsored by the Westinghouse Electric Laboratories for eight years, and is aimed at the disposal of the writers. The talk was written by Dr. J. F. den Hartog in 1922. Dr. den Hartog is an expert on vibrational problems. He joined the staff of the Harvard School of Engineering in 1901.
How to Decide—This Year

From Committees face the perpetual question and we expect the perpetual answer any day now. Only one of those possibilities can succeed—small hand, supper dance. Big hand, supper dance costs too much, even in Walker. Big hand, society dance, no supper lacks appeal, for then everyone spends a big dance they cease to be in demand.

After all the Old Fashioned Prom has a lot in its favor. It (1) is unique among dances, (2) has years of tradition, (3) is the only Technology affair with “color.” We’re all in favor of seeing it continue.

Social Success—Financial failure brands the Boat Club dances.

Letters to the Editor

Chinese Relief

Editor, The Tech:

Airing from my previous letter on Chinese war relief, some pertinent viewpoints have been stated in this column by “Another Graduate” and by Mr. Sen. Some of their opinions are perfectly plausible and comprehensible, but others require amplification or are erroneous when we uncover their hidden flavor.

It was mentioned that we warn students with respect to foreign entanglements. This warning is well-advised.

The fact that there are latent dangers in the present Chinese policy is, however, exactly the reason that they should be discussed. The American idealist romanticized in this Chinese relief is certainly a honorable one, and one neither is derogatory nor is differentiated. It is to be praised. Close scrutiny will reveal, however, that it is just such policies which may draw us into war as have other previous valorous ideals.

We are not bound for freedom, for honor, and for democracy? Have we not fought a war for all wars? Have we not been the only country to fight against those others?

The fact is that there is latent danger in the present Chinese policy, and we must be on our guard for the benefit of humanity! (Continued, page 5)

Letters to Editor

Religion

It is not essential

“Tis orthodox religion necessary in a well-balanced philosophy of life?”—the nominal subject of Wednesday’s Forum meeting—can we believe, is the negative. The question holds great interest for Technology men, and while both speakers Wednesday were interesting, neither attacked the topic directly.

Any discussion of the subject depends to a large extent on one’s definition of religion. Ballagh in his book on Social Institutions says: “Religion is the process, more or less rational, by which man organizes his emotional life and its related activities as to give him a sense of security in dealing with the mys- terious factors of his social situation.”

If this statement is accepted in its strictest sense, our question is answered in the affirmative, by definition. However, the definition probably is meant to and, the usual conception does limit it to certain types of “proces- ses,” represented by what we have called orthodox religion.

A well-balanced philosophy of life would be based, in general, on the ideas of God and immortality. There is no question that a well-balanced philosophy of life can be based on religion, for it has been done, although many of the philosophies have been far from well-balanced.

But today science and scientific knowledge have so advanced and immortality tenable to many people. Religious leaders must depend on such vagues and essentially meaningless concepts as “An eternity of thought” or “The wisdom of the universe.”

If a reliance to admit complete surrender with the old ideas makes people hold on still to some notion of a God, that notion, as Lothrop remarked, is such a complete abstraction that it really has no meaning at all. But what may the non-believer use as the basis for his philosophy of life?

We must recognize that there is a conflict between religious and religious ideas, in the broad sense of the terms, despite the wishful claims of religious leaders that they are two separate worlds, not applicable to one another. “Science” is not a body of facts as many assume or would like to believe, it is a way of doing things, an explanation of things. “Science” does not mean “scientific knowledge,” which is the latter explanation or, in some cases, “scientific method,” which is relatively fixed.

As Lothrop pointed out, religion (or God) is also explained. With the two principles, the two methods of explanation, are incompatible. And the scientific method is the better one, since it does not depend on rationalizations and wishful thinking.

But religion does more than explain. It sets up standards, and it helps enforce them. However, our social sciences show that standards, moral, conventional of right and wrong, are not eternal and unchanging. Though we rarely think of our own standards in this light, the “right” in our eyes which are for the betterment of the group, which are for the benefit of the group, and the individual. For an intelligent person, this knowledge should be and can be a much stronger reason for conforming to standards than blind religious belief. In brief, then, a “scientific” philosophy of life is one which is based on a scientific understanding of the effects and interactions of that philosophy, both on the group and on the individual.

Religion is not necessary for a well-balanced philosophy—science can serve as well or better; the amiable methods of science which we are taught to use in our professional work can apply as well to facts where the rationalized and in many cases meaningless assertions of religion have formerly been unanswered.

Senior Class Spirit

World’s Fair Enhancing

The last year in college should mean more to everyone than just thirty weeks of study. Seniors and juniors are almost entirely lacking in class spirit.

Certainly many of the advantages of the best college should not be thrown away.

Senior Week has usually been the only really organized function of the entire class with them. A few more similar occasions earlier in the year might lend a hand in unifying the class of 1942.

In future years, the new housing facilities may enable the seniors to have frequent meetings and scheduled events. Anything that can be done to foster a better tradition of class spirit is certainly worth thinking about.

World’s Fair Exhibit

Will the Corporation Undertake to Run an Exhibit at the New York World’s Fair in 1933? The possibilities of an unusual type of publicity for the Institute in such an exhibit are interesting.

Presenting Technology to the layman is a difficult problem, as Open House committees in the past have discovered, but the World’s Fair is an excellent opportunity for the Institute to present itself to people from all over the country interested in science and education. Many corporations consider Institute graduates a necessary part of their promotion, but “Science and Engineering” are not linked up with “Massachusetts Institute of Technology” in the public mind. A carefully prepared exhibit run by several undergraduates or recent graduates could help accomplish this linking.

Gambling

A “prohibition” problem seems to be arising itself at present, in the form of card games.

Although many rules may be broken with no noticeable effect, I think that infringement of regula- tions of this type has the effect of being the object of both players and Stakeholders. The eighteenth amend- ment was one of the most manifestly bare cases ever made and this case is very analogous.

There is no detection of a fact that is involved in the regulations and while card playing is definitely frowned on, there is no stigma attached to being “stuck-up.” There is nothing essentially immoral with gambling and possibly it should be allowed on the grounds. Public opinion, however, would be definitely against anything on the scale of gambling.

At present, round table conferences which are un-ambiguously card games, held in open rooms of the school, present a poor impression to outsiders. The authorizes should either actively prevent open gambling or set aside regulations for the games.

Letters to the Editor

They Repeat

SO YOU WONT HAVE TO!

Without repeater tubes, which amplify voice currents every 50 miles. Telephone over very great distances would hardly be possible. One of the first applications of the vacuum tube principle, which now makes it possible for you to talk to the person in the next room as just around the corner, is. Changing needs call for continuous telephone improvements, and today’s tubes are more and more valuable.

Letters to the Editor

THE TECH

Editor, The Tech:

A “prohibition” problem seems to be arising itself at present, in the form of card games. Although many rules may be broken with no noticeable effect, I think that infringement of regula-
The winter sports program gets its big send-off tonight as the Beaver icemen meet the B. U. Terriers in an important hockey contest at the Boston Arena. After meeting the Terriers, they will then travel to Amherst to swim in the new pool there. The Tech riflemen have had a hard match against Beverly, but Corporal McDermott, the team coach, feels confident that his team, bolstered up by its new sophomore recruits, will take the match.

The team will be composed of ten men, each to fire ten shots prone and ten shots standing. From these scores the high five will be selected to serve as team scores.

Dane Dorn

The institute sharpshooters have already vanquished the rifle teams of the Yankee Division Post of the American Legion, the Corp of Cadets in shoulder-to-shoulder matches and have shot against U. C. L. A. and Brooklyn Tech in postal.
Friday, December 3
12:00 Noon-Placement Lecture—10:30
1:00 P.M.—Mr. Eugene Sargent—Silver Room.
6:00 P.M.—5:15 club dinner—Main Hall.
6:30 P.M.—Physical Society Dinner—Faculty Dining Room.
8:30 P.M.—Dramashop—Rogers Building.
9:00 P.M.—Sophomores Dance—Parker House.
December 4
1:00 P.M.—Chess Club—East Lounge.
3:30 P.M.—Grefour Tea Dance—Kemmore Hotel.
8:30 P.M.—Dramashop—Rogers Building.

Drumashop (Continued from Page 1)
evils of a smoker's life—its toll on the eyes and skin, and its effects on the voice—were stressed by the student Mattei.

Professor of Geology

Gives Talk At Smoker

Speech Compares Gold And Oil

In California

Professor Walden Lindgren of the department of Geology spoke at a smoker of the Geological Society of Boston, held Tuesday in the Walker North Hall.

The subject of his talk was the economic geology of California. He made a comparison between the two principal mineral products of California—gold and petroleum. Summarizing the history of both substances, he showed how the value of petroleum has increased until it far excels that of the gold mine.

Professor Harold W. Simon, head of the department of Geology and professor of Geology, made arrangements for the smoker.

FLY WITH WIGGINS AIRWAYS

At Two Conveniently-Located Airports

MODERN PLANES—VETERAN INSTRUCTORS

Municipal Airport
East Boston
E.A.I. Færther 2m30

And millions of Americans—more people than smoke any other cigarette—give a hearty o—kay to Camels!

(Continued from Page 1)

view of metropolitan Boston and of the Charles River Basin. A bar and cocktail lounge located adjacent to the reception hall and a grill room on the floor below the ballroom will provide service for the dancers throughout the entire dance.

Vocal honors for the evening will be Miss Kathleen Lane, Glenn Miller's star singer, who has appeared recently on several radio programs. The orchestra also includes John in on some of the choral effects.

Miller Premised in Music Circles

Dramashop has been very prominent in music circles in its own right. Before building up his own band, he played with Bing Crosby and Paul Whiteman. When Ray Noble's orchestra arrived in this country from England, Miller worked with him in smoothing out their style. He also arranged the music for the great Broadway hit of a few seasons ago, Strike Up The Band.

UNDERGRAD NOTICE

Placement Lecture

The fifth of a series of lectures on placement training for Seniors and Graduate Students will be given at 12 noon, Friday, December 3, in Room 1450.

Mr. E. E. Zimmerman, vice-president of the United States Steel Corporation, is to speak on "Opportunities in Industry."

DO AMERICA'S NAVY FLYERS APPRECIATE THE COSTLIER TOBACCO IN CAMELS?

YOU bet they do! In aviation it is one of the most discriminating groups of smokers in the country. The famous record holder, Col. Roscoe Turner, smokes Camels. So do nine other ace flyers, Col. Frank Jobes, Capt. Frank Hawks and TWA's chief pilot Hal Heston—to name only a few. Col. Turner says: "I never noticed that men who smoke are great smokers. And, from what I see, most flyers share my regard for Camels. They need hearty nerves. That's one big reason why so many of us stick to Camels."

ARTHUR WALDO, JR. is a Senior in College. He says: "When I'm not out on a tough assignment, I sometimes while away my leisure. Last week I whipped out my Leica and got a picture of a classmate smoking a Camel!"

WINIFRED CASTLE works long hours at her editorial desk—smokes a lot. She says: "I think there's nothing like Camels to make my mind go to sleep. I always take them with me whenever I go on my nerves."

WINIFREAD CASTLE, a 'lift' with a Camel.

PETER MILLAN is a news photographer. His class: "Camels! I never thought of Camels until I started thinking about getting a 'lift' with a Camel. They're the cleanest, most efficient cigarettes on the market."

ED GRAFF, gym instructor, says: "I can smoke Camels all day and never get a 'bad' after feeling. No outside residue on the floor, nor on the chair, or any of the smoking paraphernalia."

MARIE DRISCOLL, a business girl, speaks for the boys. "I like Camels because they're clean, and they're quite a 'lift.'"

RICHARD SWIFT, a young architect, says: "I think there's nothing like Camels to make my mind go to sleep. When I feel anxious, I just pull out a Camel and sit down to work."