WRITE? YOU'RE WRONG

In the recent furor over the announcement of President McKeeley, I may have escaped your notice that a nationwide study of the writing ability of American college students has just been published.

The survey reveals an astonishing fact: that when students have completed their freshman year and are no longer forced to take English, their writing skill progressively declines until they graduate. This was a fantastic situation where producing seniors are worse writers than sophomores.

Many theories have been offered to account for this incredible fact. One is that the young men, having passed English for the last time, are too busy with their work to bother much with the written word. Another is that all senior men in French. This is not true. No more than ten percent of senior major in French. How about the other six percent?

We are not more than the percent, haul—or three percent—later physiologists, and it is not hard to understand how these poor souls grow rusty in English when fl investigators are in the air.

Of the remaining three percent, two-thirds—or two percent—major in English, and their English too grows rusty with disuse. Wherewith, as we all know, do not speak! at all except to shout, "All right!" maybe twenty a year.

Of the one percent remainder, I cannot fairly say that they are poor writers. The fact is, we don't know what kind of writing they do, and we don't even know if they do any at all. Because this remaining one percent of damned college students are enrolled at the University of Alaska, and never take their mittens off.

Gradually, I received quite a surprise upon first visiting Alaska two years ago when I was invited to Juneau to crown the Queen of the Annual Date Palm Festival. Frankly I ex-

College World

Unprovoked Attacks At Harvard, Yard Residents Face Extermination

It just wasn't safe to walk through Harvard Yard, even to drive through a short street or umbrella to weed all un- improved alike. State officials were notified of the menace. They arrived, armed with note pads and guns, to search every square inch of the Yard for that. Harvard University police closed off the Yard to prevent students from entering.

The Great Host was not at the Yard. May was a bad month for the Yard. It began when a squirrel was seen by the Harvard man and woman. Less than two hours later, the squirrel sprang from a tree and attacked the wife of an in- structor. The successful hunt of it with an umbrella.

A University Highway official said that the unprovoked attacks were so unusual that the possibility of rabies epidemic had to be considered. State highway officials were notified and arrived at the scene. All in vain. The yard will have to be exterminated with poison baits. The records we can confirm the presence of rabies, action will be taken.

"And above all," he added, "do not think of the Yard as the little pets; they are poten- tially murd-erous.

Student Analysis

Did you know that students can be classified on the basis of their grades? This was the conclusion of James F. Crenin, an English professor at St. Louis University. Students with B grades are "the sturdy types, the backbone and the basis of their grades? This was

"The genuine B's are serious-minded, hard-working, and their grades usually go up and down. They seem to be in every grade and will never be taken as an A unless they mis- take for one by an easy year. The C's on the other hand, are the frauds. They are deeply skilled in law-making and respectable be- cause it is easier to look into a mower, or on the whole, the best policy."

The real C's, Crenin added, are the ones with no original ideas, although they may be sure they have. They write recklessly alike, happen to love cliches, and find a remarkable similarity between their own paragraphs and those of Newman, Thomas, Brown, and Hemingway.

Further down the scale come the D's, which Crenin considers a catch-all, rather unstable divi- sion, and quite unpredictable. This group is comprised mainly of un- normally lazy C types who have put just enough struggle against their fundamental weaknesses to barely keep in college.

At the bottom of the scale are the F's, a somewhat enthused group who includes the individual member who is hopelessly hopeless. It is a poor voice in the same way as the real, in misery, un-expressable, incapable of anything but the exact, and never able to progress to the second semester of his col- lege education.

The top of the scale, the A+ Crenin considers the most interest- ing, but at the same time the most difficult to assess. These in- clude the future leaders, teachers, statesmen, artists, judges, and occupa- tionally, destroyers.

Some of the A's members, usually the science-oriented ones, seem as though they have all the problems that C's have, but are, in actuality, steady and studious.

Comparison of A And B

More of than not, the A does not approach the easy as hard as the B. He will work longer hours on end, or with the serious; the A, anymore an appearance of the intellectual. For this, and for his extraordinary de- nove, the A may, generally, feel that he has been the type to judge others, including his teachers, and may even refuse to work for those who do not ad- mire him.

Unlike the B whose grades are all the same, the A can be brill- iant in science or mathematics and helpless in literature, but un- der his reach college, this unven- ments does not show up.

Maybe like the B, the A will fight hard for an ideal, although he may never reach the whole- hearted commitment that the B does.

Free Education Not Sufficient

In a recent issue of Redbook, sociologist Margaret Mead said that all college students should be paid salaries for performing their schoolwork: She said they should not longer be financially penalized for the time they spend teaching: time during which they are less intelligent, ambitious or the cre- ate a backlog which will prevent money and gaining experience in their chosen fields. She deplored the custom of making college stu- dents "suffer now for what they may be able to do later."

A "free" education is not suf- ficient, stated Dr. Mead, since it does not account for the stu- dents' living costs. She cited the fact that one third of the young men who are college students are forced to work for those he does not ad- mire him.

Quoth Of The Week:

From the Checkers Views (Checker Taxi Co., Boston): "On a Tennessee back road. Take notice when this sign is under the water road is impassable."