COLLEGE REPORT

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Parents, professors and politicians this summer, ponder the problem of student unrest and make calculated guesses as to what kinds of campus disorder September will bring.

More pressing, even than the question of what may happen, is that of why it came about in the first place.

My old professor of higher education at Stanford used to tell me that down the centuries five factors chiefly precipitated student disorder: (1) the unharnessed vitality of youth, (2) boredom, (3) the conviction of injustice being perpetrated upon them as a group or upon one or more of their number, (4) gloomy career prospects during periods of economic depression, and (5) intellectaual and emotional involvement in academic and public controversies.

THE LAST two of these provocations came into play on several occasions during earlier periods but did not become crucial until the 1930s. The first three, however, pervaded American colleges until about a century ago and inevitably invited persistent student turbulence.

Pre-Civil War America offered few ready-at-hand recreational opportunities to anyone; and students, the majority of them away from home, had to create their own. Here, however, they encountered protracted lists of required and prohibited activities specified in codes of "laws" enacted by their stiff-necked teachers. Weekdays customarily began with chapel at 6:30 in the winter and an hour earlier throughout the rest of the year. Sunday included at least two long church services, and during all hours of every day and evening faculty members snooped for miscreants. "A law got him out of bed and put him back again," an historian of the University of Georgia has written. "He ate by them, he studied by them, he recited by them—they were with him always" together with an awareness for the money fines listed for transgressions.

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STUDENTS could usually throw and kick balls, but the heavy penalties assessed for breaking windows or otherwise damaging property discouraged such exercise. Walking, yes, but only in pairs, never on Sunday, and always within limited boundaries that skirted places housing "any public tavern, store, tippling shop or any other place where spiritous liquors are retailed." Indoor games like backgammon, cards and, of course, dice presumably incited to gambling and incurred large fines. Dramatic performances also allegedly induced sinful conduct, and all colleges forbade them.

The spelling out in the rule books of so many ways to misbehave inevitably encouraged adventurous spirits to taste forbidden pleasures. Student chieftains also formented noisy and sometimes violent protests against the food served, the tutors and professors they disliked, the punishments meted out to fellow students, and the attempts to curb their traditional custom of hazing freshmen and doing battle with "townies." In short, rowdyism, riot, and rebellion kept the old American college in almost perpetual turmoil and made the professor "a detective, sheriff, prosecuting attorney and judge."

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THE TWO spheres of legitimate interest—study and religion—were no help whatsoever. Both bred boredom, hooliganism, and organized opposition to authority. The narrow-ranged classical curriculum failed to engage the enthusiasm or even the serious attention of any but the most zealous, the juvenile recitation method of instruction triggered the invention of a multitude of devices for evading study and harassing instructors; and the oppressive concepts of religion in vogue quickened the "Old Harry" rather than quelled the "Old Adam."

Dividend Set

Mobil Oil Corp. has declared a dividend of 50 cents a share on the company's capital stock, payable Sept. 10 to shareholders of record at the close of business Aug. 5.

Announce Lesson

"The worth of a Christian is measured by his concern for his fellow man."

This belief will be the basis for a special study at the Torrance Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1610 Acacia Ave., Saturday at 10

All adult members of the congregation will study a Bible lesson entitled "Faith and Works" during the church's Sabbath school service.