

## TWO LETTERS

### BY AIJI TASHIRO

The News' best columnist gets the letter-writing craze that that truckling sheet started.

The University Dormitory  
January 1, 1933  
Dean of the Engineering College  
Lurnett Woods  
Cincinnati, O.

Dear Sir:

I have received today, a notice to the effect that I have been asked to withdraw from the University. This information comes as somewhat of a surprise inasmuch as my scholastic record proves that my grades have been high above the average. While there is no doubt that the various members of the faculty have analyzed my case critically before rendering this decision, I feel that there might have been factors which they overlooked. I would appreciate an opportunity to appear in person to appeal for reinstatement.

Yours very sincerely,  
Edison Burbank Ford

Office of the Dean  
Engineering College  
Lurnett Woods, Cincinnati, O.  
January 4, 1933.

Dear Mr. Edison Burbank Ford:

It was with regret that we informed you that you would not be allowed to return to the Engineering College this term. While it is true that you ranked for four and a half years among the upper five in your class, there are certain exactations other than scholastic work that are demanded of students. You have failed to comply with these exactations and we advise you that even personal appearance to plead your case would be futile. We have made it a long established policy to keep in intimate touch with the aptitude and abilities of our students through the medium of our faculty, every member of which has sacrificed more remunerative careers in the business world to undertake this altruistic enterprise.

Lest you feel that we are unjust and hasty, we shall enumerate specific reasons for our asking for your withdrawal. No doubt you are aware of the existence of highly essential social groups on our

campus known as fraternities, membership to which is open by invitation only. That you have made no effort to make yourself desirable to these groups after four and a half years of college is a matter of serious consequence. We have interviewed members of such of the lesser groups as might be induced to accept men of your caliber, and from them have received specific information which in fairness to you, we shall enumerate.

You have never shown initiative enough to become a candidate for a major office on the campus. You avoided or openly showed your disregard for those whom you disliked. Convention, Mr. Ford, demands that you be amiable and outwardly sincere at least to the faces of those whom you would slander on their absence. And convention, Mr. Ford, is something that cannot be so easily ignored. One's success depends upon this drama of appearance.

It has been brought to our attention that you have invariably, during the course of the school year, dined at the Greek restaurant whose patrons are men only. No doubt it did not occur to you that the school had its reputation to protect. Reports have been consistently trickling into our office that our students patronized places that served coffee in thick rimmed cups. Your defense seems to be that sandwich shops draw a large feminine clientele whose presence embarrassed you, and that patronizing such establishments made it necessary for you to don a necktie and to pay undue attention to your manner of conducting yourself during meals.

Though we make every effort, Mr. Ford, to develop the social graces of our students, there are certain details that because of lack of finances, we must leave to student initiative. A student who after four years of college is still addicted to dunking, we feel has not derived the full benefits of his environment. Your statement that economy is responsible for your actions is ridiculous. It seems that you are not aware that the very essential collegiate marks of identification must be paid for as any of your academic courses.

The observations of a full year of college have failed to call to your attention that only seniors affect egregious clothes such as corderoys and wool shirts, and such affectations are never practiced from a standpoint of economy. Certainly you should have been aware of the attention you would attract to yourself when you tucked your sweater into your trousers. One of the men whom we interviewed informed us that in utter disregard of a salesman, a member of his chapter, you purchased a blue serge suit. When a man is of college age, Mr. Ford, we feel that he should realize that such a stigma would shine on him for many years.

Another member calls to our attention that you habitually committed the *faux pas* of having your hair cut high above your ears. Even the most juvenile of our students is acquainted with the words, "Clippers on the back only." Still another charge is that you impersonated Law and Medical students by smoking cigars in public. This alone is sufficient reason for

your withdrawal. We also have definite information that you never took the pains to appear in front of the Commons on those afternoons when you had no classes. It was with much difficulty, Mr. Ford, that we arranged your schedule to allow you several free afternoons, and we are sorry to hear that you so imposed on our generosity.

After making no attempt to make yourself desirable to our fraternities and thus avail yourself of campus social functions, you made it a practice to patronize the Dreamland Hall of Dance on Saturday nights. Our sorority girls, Mr. Ford, are unaccustomed to such slights and independent gestures on the part of university men.

Twice a week we sought to arouse your interest in worth-while things through the medium of our school publications, for which we generously allowed you to subscribe, through your activity fee. That you made no effort to acquaint yourself with the events and people mentioned in our columns and news stories leads us to believe that you came to school for book knowledge only. The fact that the same campus luminaries and satellites are important enough to be mentioned in each issue of our paper is sufficient proof that you should acquaint yourself with their activities.

At the midsemester, it was revealed that you accepted a position washing dishes in the Cafeteria. Such gestures, we feel, are only for celebrities or those of means. We shall not go into further discussion of your shortcomings inasmuch as they have been impressed upon you by this time. Had you come from a family of some financial or social standing we might have dismissed your faults as eccentricity. As it stands we are hardly justified in considering your plea for reinstatement.

Yours sincerely,  
The Powers that Be

## AMERICAN ARTISTS SERIES

### NARCISSUS OF THE BACKWOODS

American Artists Series—Gillies Werner.

So this is art! Art screwy! The atrocity opposite is the new high in low life depicting the 110 per cent American scene. Work presented in earlier *Sanity Fair* issues does not warrant mention. Gil Werner, young stager and news sportswriter, holds his claim to art fame for the same reason that there thing is called *Narcissus of the Backwoods*—neither have any connection. The versatile maestro from Evondell offers this portrait of a robot getting oiled. The dream-like insight into the future falls slightly short of probability in that the building—so handy in modernistic work—is not authentic. The Technocrats will have us living in Diesel engines and the Beerocrats will bed us down in the gutter. Werner cannot be considered as being an artist who has struggled forward to success from amidst trying handicaps—he never attended Applied Art school.