Culture Begins Here

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Culture Begins Here

by Jane Brintlinger
Technical Journalism Junior

Culture at Iowa State? The opportunities are here; we have just to take advantage of them.

Culture itself is a very elusive and individual term. Dictionaries define culture as the training and improvement of the mind. That shows that culture is a gradual and continual process—and a broad one.

The basic things necessary for culture are found at Iowa State. Given a good foundation of knowledge in the arts during college, our culture can increase as we take advantage of opportunities after graduation.

Take time to notice things around you and knowledge will come in many fields. How many times have you read the material on the bulletin boards in the ground floor of Beardshear Hall? The articles on drama at one end, the book reviews, religious discussions, general news and art at the other. Or in the library, have you taken advantage of the exhibits? The pictorial story of the Edwardians or the Age of Exploration that were there? Resolve to study the coming exhibits on the Age of Enlightenment, the Medieval World and others.

If art is your interest, just looking around Iowa State would again yield opportunities for you. Study the Grant Wood murals in the library, the works of Van Gogh, Millet and others in the Home Economics Building corridors. Or start at the local level by studying the paintings of students and instructors in the Applied Art Department, the sculpturing of Christian Peterson.

You can become familiar with architectural types by noticing those buildings passed every day—the modern architecture of Agronomy Hall, the Greek and Roman details of Home Economics Building, the American Colonial of the YWCA. You’ll see classic design in first floor, Beardshear Hall and in the mosaic work around the drinking fountains inside Home Economics Hall.

“Are Cultural Activities Sufficient at Iowa State”

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Favored cultural activities in order of preference:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecturers and speakers</td>
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<td>Dramatic productions</td>
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<td>Opera</td>
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<td>Books and Cokes</td>
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<td>Coffee Forum</td>
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<td>Debates</td>
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<td>Art Exhibits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literary reviews</td>
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<td>Film theater</td>
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<td>Religion in Life</td>
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Cultural activities considered lacking:

- Professional music events
- Nationally known speakers
- Professional dramatics
- Opera
- Ballets
- Art exhibits
- Book reviews
- Operetta

Following and learning the process of making an art object greatly increases your appreciation, a part of culture. If you haven’t space in your schedule for Applied Art courses, take the opportunity to observe a class. Spend a few hours at the Veterinary Medicine Quadrangle watching Mr. Peterson’s sculpturing classes.

A wealth of material in all phases of culture is found in the Periodical Room of the library. Here you have to be on your own, with your personal interest and desire driving you. Look through the Religion and Philosophy section. One journal asks “Is the Human Race a Mistake?”; another discusses “The Churches and Science.” Newspapers from Winnipeg and New Delhi supplement our country’s world wide news coverage. On through Literature, Art, Social Sciences, Education and Psychology, challenging and informative articles are waiting.

Discussions may increase and clarify your new-found ideas. Instructors at Iowa State have wide backgrounds of experience and travel which is available to you for the asking. Get together with your friends from other lands for an exchange of ideas, cultures and customs.

An appreciation of nature is an integral part of a cultured person, and where could there be a wider range for study than at Iowa State?

College-sponsored events offer a variety of cultural opportunities. Utilizing our student talent are Band and “Pops” Band concerts, Players, Lab Theatre, Symphony, and Dance Club programs. Here can begin an appreciation and understanding—though a means rather than an end. Remember, too, the college lecture series, film theatre and the music series. Taking advantage of these programs as well as the explanations preceding the programs will increase your appreciation through knowledge and familiarity.

To avail yourself of these opportunities, you must have a willingness to learn. With this attitude of mind you will see so many opportunities for your personal growth.

In conducting the survey on culture on our campus, one student commented that a truly cultured person is one who has allowed his knowledge to improve himself, not one who has learned many things in order to impress people. Another

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ART MAJORS are finding a big demand for their talents since Delta Phi Delta, art honorary, opened its Gift Shop just before Christmas. Members of the honorary themselves were surprised at the success of their project, in which they sell articles made in various art courses at a "shop" located on the second floor landing of Home Economics Hall.

Students and faculty rushed to reserve articles on display in the shop show cases even before things went on sale. Many saw a solution to their Christmas gift problems in the variety of frilly aprons, ceramic earrings, wooden bowls, designed note cards, luncheon sets and etchings of campus buildings. Sequin and ribbon-trimmed Christmas tree balls were also popular with customers.

From behind the Gift Shop counter, Jean Stirpe, Delta Phi Delta president, shows Joan Henke, A. A. Jr., a handmade bowl.

When the shop opened, only articles made by Delta Phi Delta students and faculty members were on sale. At that time it was decided that if the shop were a success, work done by other art students would also be accepted for selling.

Delta Phi Delta members took complete charge of the Gift Shop under the direction of Diane Bennett, H. Ec. Sr. Diane was assisted by Betty Bowen and Joyce Tomlinson, both H. Ec. Sr.s., and Prof. Edna O'Bryan, advisor to the group. A committee was appointed to set prices, and the profit from selling the articles is divided equally between Delta Phi Delta and the owner of the article, Diane explained. Members of Delta Phi Delta do the selling from 10 to 12 noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This arrangement was made so as to reach more students in their free hours.

Miss Garfield Comments

Marjorie Garfield, head of the Department of Applied Art, said that she feels the shop is a wonderful experience for art students to see which of their creations will sell, and to get the experience of actually selling them.

Since the Gift Shop is a new project, the length of time it will remain open, according to Diane, will depend on the response of the students. "We're all very enthusiastic and eager to see what will happen. We hope it will not only continue for a long time, but will also grow," she said.

Culture

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thought is that culture should guide you in good use of leisure time. Cultural things should elevate your thoughts and stimulate new ideas was another opinion. "A critical mind is not always necessary, for the personal enjoyment received is the true contribution of culture," said a student.

What culture will do for you is for you to decide. But take advantage of what is offered at Iowa State to form a basis of knowledge and interest. College experiences should offer a stimulation to greater learning in the following years. Be receptive and be willing to work for culture.

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