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THE ADVANTAGES OF A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

(A Biblical Interpretation)

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whoever loves discipline
loves knowledge.

proverbs 12:1

When writing this essay, I intended it to be read, not just tossed aside. Since making this theme involved the maximum time and effort, it is worthy of its purpose. A lot of personality went into the making of this assignment, personality not meant to be wasted.

Although the intent of this assignment was punishment, I have done something virtually unheard of to punishment -- given it purpose both for myself and the reader. For myself, this assignment contains pride. I am proud it is personal, written by me, written a way nobody else could do it, my way. This is not merely a list of advantages, it is a chain of thought, reasoned out and toyed with. It is not just words, wanted to be heard, scribbled on a sheet. For the reader, with its cynicism, this theme is written so that it might be enjoyed in a satirical sort of way.

Realizing that the author and the reader are both well aware of the advantages of a high school education, made this paper much more enjoyable to write.

Another aspect of this theme is that it involved much more researching than a similar "straight theme".

In writing this paper I did not intend to injure the personalities involved, but to give a satirical view of Falls Senior High School and its faculty; so that those involved might have a little laugh at themselves.

Without a high school education this assignment could never have been completed as such.

the Author.

And Spring rose up against the students and tempted them and they said, "Let us go forth to the lakes, the wilderness, and the roadways." And they forsook their studies for the temptation of the flesh. And the principal spoke even unto the vice-principal and said, "Offer them three alternatives to choose and inflict one on them." And the students did choose unwisely, "Give unto us three days exile," they said. And it was done unto them accordingly and for three days they were not allowed to enter the gates of knowledge.

THE BEGINNING

In the beginning God created the school board and Kay Herman.* Upon seeing a lack of purpose for the board God created the school, but the school was without form and void; so God created the STUDENT. And this was good. Then God said, "Let us make teachers in our own image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the students, pointers, chalk, pencils, pens, Big Chief tablets, erasers, typewriter ribbons, steno pads, desks, rulers, cafeterias, maps, overhead projectors, blackboards, textbooks, Tempa paints, lockers, gym shorts, dictionaries, adding machines, pencil sharpeners, lunch tickets, athletic supporters, slide rules, word-packs, shower rooms, report cards, library passes, tests, copying machines, basketballs and crayolas." And God said, "Indeed this is good!" So He took Saturday and Sunday off. Then God made the Principal to toil over the students. But the Lord said, "It is not good that the principal be alone. I will make a helper fit for him." So the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall over the principal, and while he slept took the tailbone of the principal and made his helper. Then the principal said, "This is the bone of my bones and the flesh of my flesh and shall be called Assistant Principal." The principal called his assistant Hardina, because he was hard and without compassion.

* Denotes Captain

THE BEGATS

Now the teachers set out to educate the students. Sister Conrada lived 140 years and begat Sister Jane

who begat Sister Sandra

who begat Mrs. Bolin

who begat Sister Ruthless

who begat Sister Jeanine

who begat Mr. Wallestad

who begat Mr. Ojala

who begat Mr. Bjorquist

who begat Mr. Dalton

who begat Mr. Gjertson

who begat Ms. Taylor

who begat Mr. Ross

who begat Mr. Narbo

who begat Mrs. Nordquist

who begat Mr. Anderson

who begat Mr. Ostroot

who begat Mr. Karlstad

who begat Mr. Elving

who begat Mr. Hendee.

Thus all the days that Mr. Hendee taught were 930 years and he retired.
And this was good.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

After three days Hardina descended from his office; assembling all his students in the gymnasium, taking his place before his peoples at the podium, he spoke these words:

- I. I am your Vice-Principal, your Disciplinarian, who took you from the land of ignorance and into the house of bondage.
- II. Thou shall not take thy Vice-Principal's name in vain.
- III. Remember to keep thy weekends free. For five days you shall labor and study, but on the sixth and seventh days you shall do homework.
- IV. Honor your mother and father, for they write your excuses.
- V. Thou shall not kill. (time, teachers, classmates, vice-principals, etc.)
- VI. Thou shall not commit adultery. (in the halls)
- VII. Thou shall not steal. (notebooks, teacher's cars)
- VIII. Thou shall not turn your teachers in to the police.
- IX. Thou shall not covet your classmate's chick.
- X. Thou shall not covet your classmate's lunch ticket.

The students were afraid and trembled, and they stood afar off. And Hardina said, "Do not be afraid. Just do what I say, or you will never leave this place!"

SERMON FROM THE MOUNT

1. Blessed are they who skip,
for they shall be suspended.
2. Blessed are the student teachers,
for they shall inherit the school.
3. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst,
for they shall inherit the cafeteria.
4. Blessed are scholarly,
for they shall receive the scholarships.
5. Blessed are they who are not sneaky enough,
for they shall see Hardina.
6. Blessed are the hockey players,
for they shall receive a free ride.
7. Blessed are the slow to apply,
for they shall inherit Rainy River Comedy College.
8. Blessed are the gearheads,
for they shall inherit the Vo-Techs.
9. Blessed are the money-hungry,
for they shall inherit a position of labor for Boise Cascade.
10. Blessed are the drop-outs,
for they shall inherit the gas stations.
11. Blessed are the honor students,
for theirs is the kingdom of college.

A FISHER AMONG MEN

Hardina walked by the Rainy Lake and he saw two brothers (who we shall call Simon Peter and Andrew) casting their lines into the water, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me or you shall be scrubbing lockers for the next three months." Immediately they left their lines and followed him.

And going on from there, he saw two other brothers (James and John) with their father mending their nets and he called to them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

They were all given "unexcused absences".

MIRACLE OF THE CANNED VEGETABLES AND RICE PUDDING

And it came to pass that the cafeteria depleted its stock of span. The student council came to Hardina and said, "Send the crowds away into the village to find food for themselves." But Hardina said, "They need not go away. You give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have but one can of mixed vegetables and two bowls of month-old rice pudding." And he said, "Fear not. Bring them to Mrs. Chezick." Then he ordered the students to form their customary lunch line (sophomores last). Within an hour everyone had their fill of chili con carne on rice, and they still took up twelve garbage pails of left-overs for the next days miracle - sloppy joes.

This is only one miracle of many that has occurred in the Falls Senior High School kitchen behind closed doors.

THE ART OF DECEPTION

And behold, a senior went to Foss saying, "counsellor, what must I do to enter the Kingdom of College?" Foss said unto him, "Why do you ask me what you must do?" Does thou wish to see his Iowa Basic scores?" And the student replied, "I have scored well, and I have kept all the commandments Hardina hath laid out for me."

"Have thou honored thy principal?"

"Yes, sir."

"Has thou ruined all thy weekends staying home studying?"

"Yes, sir."

"Has thou cast aside all thy fun-loving friends?"

"Yes, sir."

"Has thou maintained a B average or better?"

"Yes, sir."

"Has thou snitched on thy friends for smoking in the bathroom?"

"Yes, sir."

"Hast thou cleaned up his plate in the cafeteria?"

"Yes sir, all these I have observed, what do I still lack?" Foss asked of him, "Are you on the first string of the hockey team?"

"No, sir, I am not involved in any athletics." Foss said to him, "truly I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a non-jock to recieve a scholarship from Falls Sr. High School."

FLOOD

The principal spake, "Hardina, prepare for me a graduation accordingly: crepe paper of the grandest gold shall hangeth from the center of the gymnasium to each of its four corners and between each two lengths of gold shall hangeth evenly spaced twelve lengths of crepe of mountain purple. The walls shall flourish from adornments of brocade. Those students who taketh heed to the warnings of failure shall approach a stately podium, directly underneath the center of crepe," by twos - one female and one male - and receive their wordly credentials. And then they shall be given a name. Thou will prepare this exactly and with much haste."

Hardina replied, "10-4".

He then set out to fulfill what the principal had decreed. Craftsmen of the finest lot were called upon to perform the work of the principal exactly, who with much haste hungeth the crepe and did prepare the brocade. Hardina himself placed the stately podium in its rightful place, as there was to be no error. Those who took heed received names and credentials, by pairs, on that day of graduation. Those heedless ones were cast out nameless and lived in great humiliation and were not allowed to grooveth.

THE SOWER OF STUDENTS

One day Hardina went out to the gymnasium and stood facing the empty seats, and great crowds gathered about him, so he went to the podium, and the crowd filled the seats.

He told them many things in parables, saying; A teacher went out to teach, and as he taught, some students fell along the path of temptation, where the drop-outs quickly devoured them. Others fell upon a path of anxiety, where there was little interest, these students immediately learned much, but because of lack of interest soon became lazy and also dropped-out. Other students fell along the path of the scholarly, where their IQ's grew large. Then Hardina said, "He who has ears, lets him listen."

Then the faculty came to Hardina asking, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" And He answered them saying, "To you it has been given to know of the Kingdom of Knowledge, but to them it must be learned, that is our purpose." "For to him who has knowledge, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who is ignorant, even what he has will be taken away." And as to why I speak to them in parables, He continued, "Because seeing, they do not see, and hearing, they do not hear, nor do they understand, they will only percieve through discipline what is good and what is evil." And the faculty was awed by His wisdom.

THE MIND OF THE STUDENT

Another parable Hardina was fond of putting before the students was that of the mind of the student. He would speak, saying, "The mind of a student is like a mustard seed, which a teacher must cultivate." And also, he would say, "It is the weakest of minds, but when it has grown it has the potential to become the strongest minds and society can build its dreams upon it."

And the school board said, "I am the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. Happy are those who have written their essay and are free to enter the gates of knowledge."

Amen.