THE FUNCTION OF A SCHOOL PAPER

The publication of a school paper is one of the most valuable extra-curricular activities in which any school can enter. This activity naturally takes a little more time than most others, but when one considers the value of the paper, he can readily see that the time is not wasted.

Of course, the thing which all of the students consider first is the intense interest which the paper creates. You know by experience what an element of excitement prevails on the Fridays that the "Marlinian" comes out. Every student is anxious to get his paper. The office is crowded with the subscribers who are eager to see "whose name is in this month." However, this can hardly be termed a value and if it is considered thus, it is certainly not outstanding. The school paper is beneficial for many other direct reasons.

Every school must, or at least should, have a spirit of pride and loyalty. Without this spirit the standard of the school will immediately be lowered. The school paper is certainly an effective means of creating this necessary element. Through news stories the accomplishments of the school are pointed out to the students and, also to the parents, who should be just as interested in the welfare of the school as their children.

The paper has a strong tendency to unify the school. Every student should know and understand the objectives of the institution and should strive to maintain them. The paper should point out and explain the problems and the school achievements and give each student a chance to participate in the activities. In this way the school is unified.

A "stay-in-school" spirit should be definitely built by the paper. It should act as an interpreter between the school and the patrons. If it accomplishes this purpose, it broadens the vision of the outsider and gives him an understanding of what is going on in that place. A high school publication may be said to advertise the school; that is, it lets others know what is being accomplished; it explains the high ideals of the faculty and the students; and it creates an intense interest.

One of the chief objectives of a school paper should be to emphasize the extreme value and necessity of an education. If a paper accomplishes this, it is a success for that alone. At this particular period, a man is lost unless he has at least a high school education. This is not understood by all, but through news stories, editorials and special articles, this fact can be brought before the eyes of the cynic.

Ideals of honor should always be kept before the school. The paper should uphold these ideals and endeavor to present them to the readers.

A paper has a personality; this personality can be either good or bad. It can influence the readers for the better or for the worse. It should ever strive to influence them in the former way. The personality of the paper should be both helpful and optimistic. It's function should be to promote the good rather than to criticize the bad; to be constructive rather than destructive.

If a paper meets all these requirements, it is, without doubt, a success. In publishing our own school paper, "The Marlinian," we stand up to these ideals and present worthwhile facts to you, and if we have accomplished this, we feel that the time spent on the paper has been truly worthwhile.