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Milo Rediger Writings & Addresses

Milo Rediger

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Excitement and Disappointment (article for THE ECHO)

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EXCITEMENT AND DISAPPOINTMENT

by Milo A. Rediger

I share these thoughts with you in the hope of recovering an attitude which is essential to the continuation and maintenance of the Taylor University development and expansion program. I enjoy giving myself to, and working hard for, anything that will benefit the students of Taylor University and which will upgrade the quality of their educational experience.

We have been involved together in the excitement of growth, forward movement and building activity--Wengatz Hall, East Hall, field house, classroom building, science building, president's home, student union, walkways, water and sewer lines, etc. Actually, what has taken place during the past eight months is nothing short of a series of miracles. Surely God has given evidence of His leadership and His blessing, and this has put a spiritual quality into our enthusiasm. Never before in the 120-year history of Taylor University has there been such a period of growth and expansion, and never before has there been such a great need for it or such a challenging opportunity. Many, many people give largely and work overtime continuously in order to provide these things for Taylor students. We are happy to do this as an expression of our belief that the students are what the college exists for. I find nothing more exciting than working with and for the kind of students who come to Taylor University.

In the title, however, I included another word--disappointment. The one great disappointment I experience in connection with this program is in the evidences of a lack of appreciation and a disregard for new facilities and high quality property.

You would be amazed at the number of hours of labor and the many hundreds of dollars which had to be spent during the mid-year vacation period in cleaning and repairing Wengatz Hall as a result of both lack of care and actual abuse of the physical properties. Honestly, I could hardly believe what I saw. I am not criticizing any individual; I am making a plea for increased appreciation of new facilities and better care of properties that do not belong to you but which are provided by the blood, sweat and tears of many who are interested in your education.

The Knowlton Construction Company is constructing high-quality buildings, and I am greatly pleased with the high quality of their workmanship. I feel that it is incredible that we should degrade, depreciate, and even abuse these new facilities to the extent of our actual experience during the first semester. Again, I do not mean this in a merely negative or critical sense; I am appealing to you to add one more dimension to your educational experience. Genuine appreciation for the rights and the property of others should be cultivated during college years. If what we have seen represents earlier home training and experience, then in many cases this is not good enough. You will help us tremendously in the program of growth and expansion if you will care and share in the cleanliness and in the pride with which these new facilities should be kept. I am aware of the fact that you are paying for the use of them; however, if use is to become neglect and abuse, then the charge would have to be doubled if we are to keep even.

I and other members of the staff will continue to "wear ourselves out" in order to provide adequate facilities for a high-quality Taylor ^eEducation experience. Please add your contribution to the development program by treating the new facilities with respect, with pride and with care. Only thus can we work together to realize the values of Christian higher education in the Taylor program.