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EDUCATORS AND STUDENT REBELS

In the world of collective action, nothing is so uncertainly gratifying and exasperating as student political behavior. Whereas no one, aware of the possibilities of education in the 20th century, can have regarded the University of Havana as anything but in need of drastic reform, the sight of a Castroated student group governing the University is a shameful spectacle. Japanese students, drunk on ideologies and hammering down the gates of moderate government, incite counter-aggressive urges. On the other hand, the Turkish students who led the revolution against a government well on its way toward destroying the validity of the Republic are a source of pride and inspiration.

But the old Western democracies have their problems as well. The French government, using the sanction of the "withdrawn subsidy" (the proverbial lesson to subsidy-philes), cracked down on the student union at Paris for passively if not actively supporting certain positions of the Algerian rebels. Meanwhile, in Westbury, L.I., American education again displayed how boobery generates from a lack of issues of life and death. A student leader was unexpectedly offered an American Legion award for good citizenship and refused it on the spot, declaring that he could not accept an award from an organization whose principles he did not respect. Instead of calmly passing over the incident, the school administration, responding to the "challenges of education" they so eagerly expound in matters of higher salaries and fancier buildings, descended upon the student like a pack of wolves, denying him two other awards to which he was entitled and apologizing to the Legion even in anticipation of its protest, thus out-Heroding Herod. Such is education for Character!