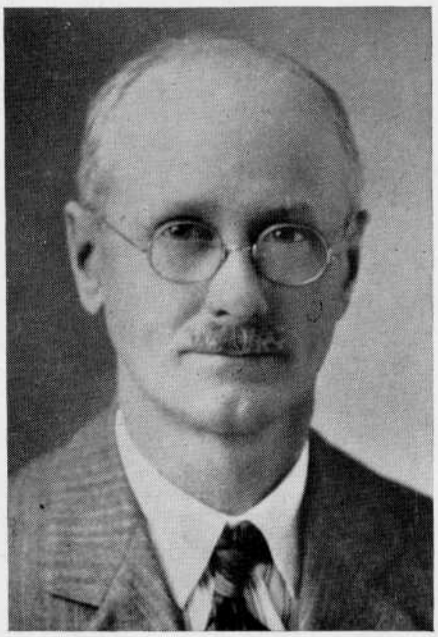
Dr. Charles M. Perry is the brilliant director of the university philosophy department. Under his leadership philosophy in the university is taking its rightful place as a basis for sane living. The article below constituted a lecture given before the Philosophy club last spring



An idea for the robot

BY CHARLES M. PERRY

MAN had first to master nature. In this conflict the machine in the form of wagons, grindstones, churns, and windmills was his friendly helper. Now the servant has turned upon its master.

It robs him of individual expression. The skilled cabinet maker becomes the machine hand. The fashionable bootmaker tends a device which sets the buttons on factory-made shoes. Craftsmanship is turned into labor. The alchemist's dream is reversed and gold is transmuted into lead.

It pulls man from his local environment where he lives a relatively self-sufficient life and places him in cities and industrial areas. It takes him from Pawnee, Oscaloosa and Kalamazoo to Pittsburgh and Gary. It makes him dependent on a world machine whose caprices know no pity. It makes him a wanderer and a stranger on the face of the globe.

By shifting income to the higher brackets it has shifted the center of power from Main street to Park avenue. With this shift of power, the destiny of the people has fallen into irresponsible hands. The race for wealth has led to the overbuilding of factories, to an insane rush for foreign markets, to wild speculation, and finally to starvation in the midst of plenty.

By changes in processes the machine throws men out of employment and forces them to seek new work. For instance, when the talkie came in 35,000 musicians were thrown out of their jobs. In the early days of industrialism in England the first impulse was to smash the machine and much smashing was done, but that is hardly an effective remedy. Usually the owners have got the benefit of such tactics and the workers have paid the cost in suffering.

It has been the boast of the *laissez faire* system that workers displaced by changes in process are ultimately taken up by new industries supplying new needs, and in general this has been true. The technocrats have made the charge that this happy solution has reached an end, that henceforth the rapid acceleration of invention will displace men in such numbers that they can never be reabsorbed. Their figures are unquestionably exaggerated, but the situation nevertheless demands attention.

With these disadvantages the machine has tended to destroy the healthy consciousness of social ends. The specialism of the machine and the machine age has drawn men's attention away from the broader view of life to many specific views. This has produced a narrow mentality and in the end bewilderment.

Society needs a goal. Lack of a goal inevitably means confusion. A goal gives direction and hope to both the individual and society. The ideal that is set may not, it is true, be fully realized. Plato confessed through Socrates that his Republic might never be actualized upon the earth but ventured the opinion that it might in spite of that be worth considering. Anyone hoping that any end would be completely accomplished would be indeed a voice crying in the wilderness. An ideal is always transcendent to experience. But if it is convincing it may nevertheless accomplish the purpose of integrating personalities. We have no evidence that the medieval Christians ever reached heaven, but the consciousness of their goal gave unity to their experience and strength to their arms.

In times of stress many goals are suggested. There are those who would return to Greek culture. But such a recourse is pure sentimentality. There are those who would return to medievalism. But a resort to a pre-renaissance culture is as anemic as Burne-Jones' pictures of women. Many in this crisis would go back to an agrarian economy. This is especially appealing, but as a permanent policy it is as unsubstantial as the fairyland of childhood. A romantic nationalism under a dictatorship is in the same class. Likewise a return to the control of "those sixty four titans of industry and banking who rule America" offers no great hope. The scepter has fallen from their incompetent and anti-social hands. All the returns to this and that have fallen into the discard and men have a chance to start new.

What then shall be the goal? In the first place it must be within the premises of the machine age. If this be treason make the most of it. A convincing argument for staying with the machine is that we cannot get rid of it. Men will not voluntarily forego its advantages. The only way to escape the present age would be to enter new dark ages in which men should lose their competence to operate the mass of equipment which now confronts us and the ability to invent and operate new equipment. Such an end is not devoutly to be desired.

Another point to be observed is that the machine is not altogether bad. Much of the writing and talking about it is sheer sentimentality. For the first time in the history of the world the whole population could be provided with food, warmth, and shelter. In addition it could have comforts, various forms of amusements, and the means of culture. If the people do not get what is coming to them, as admittedly they do not, it is the chief business of men of good will to insure that they do. The trouble is not alone with the machine but also with the men who control it.

It must also be observed that the products of the machine age are not *ipso facto*

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Big Six baseball standing

	WON	LOST	PCT
Oklahoma	3	2	.600
Kansas State	3	2	.600
Missouri	3	4	.428
Iowa State	0	1	.000

(Note: Kansas and Nebraska did not play.)

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Results of the season

Oklahoma, 10; Weatherford Teachers, 3;
Oklahoma, 4; Weatherford Teachers, 3;
Oklahoma, 4; Edmond Teachers, 1;
Oklahoma, 4; Edmond Teachers, 8;
Oklahoma, 5; Missouri, 3;
Oklahoma, 21; Missouri, 12;
Oklahoma, 6; Okla. A. & M., 2;
Oklahoma, 2; Okla. A. & M., 1;
Oklahoma, 4; Okla. City university, 1;
Oklahoma, 7; Kansas State, 6;
Oklahoma, 6; Kansas State, 7;
Oklahoma, 8; Missouri, 16;
Oklahoma, 4; Okla. A. & M., 8;
Oklahoma, 3; Okla. A. & M., 5;
Oklahoma, 6; Okla. City university, 1;
Oklahoma, 16; Weatherford Teachers, 6;
Oklahoma, 4; Weatherford Teachers, 7.

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Allsports champion

For the fourth time in the past seven years the University of Oklahoma has won the all-sports championship of the Big Six conference.

Figures released by Ben G. Owen, athletic director, show the Sooners scored 25.5 points in the nine sports, Nebraska ranking second with 27.5, followed by Kansas State with 28.5, Kansas 29, Iowa State 33.5 and Missouri 45. As in golf, the lowest score wins in an all-sports compilation. This year's table did not include golf, in which the Sooners spread-eagled the field in the recent Big Six tournament in Kansas City, nor polo, in which the Sooner four bowed only to Missouri.

Oklahoma teams tied for two championships this school year, John Jacobs' track team finishing in a deadlock with Nebraska for the indoor title and Coach Lawrence "Jap" Haskell's baseball team drawing with Kansas State for the conference flag. Nebraska won the most team championships, two, and tied for two others.

The Sooners also won the conference all-sports title in 1926-27, 1927-28, 1928-29, placing second in 1929-30, second in 1930-31 and third last year. The distribution of all-sports championships the past seven years is: Oklahoma 4, Kansas 1, Nebraska 1, Iowa State 1.

The compilation proves that all sports are given an equal chance to develop at Oklahoma, no stress being placed on two or three at the expense of all the others.

The table for the school year 1932-33:

	O.	N.	K. S.	K.	I. S.	M.
Football	2.5	1	4	2.5	6	5
Basketball	2	5	4	1	6	3
Indoor Track	1.5	1.5	4	3	5	6
Outdoor Track	4	1	3	2	5	6
Baseball	1.5	5.5	1.5	5.5	4	3
2-mile race	4	3	1	6	2	5
Wrestling	3	5	2	4	1	6
Swimming	5	1.5	3	4	1.5	6
Tennis	2	4	6	1	3	5
	25.5	27.5	28.5	29	33.5	45

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1934 basketball schedule

Four basketball games with each of the Universities of Kansas and Missouri have been scheduled by the university for the 1934 season. The Sooners will meet Kansas at Lawrence February 8 and 9, and close the season with the Jayhawkers at Norman on March 1 and 2. Missouri will be met at Norman on February 2 and 3 and at Columbia on February 23 and 24. The first game of each series will count as the official Big Six conference game.

The Sooner schedule against conference teams for 1934:

January 13—Iowa State at Norman.
January 26—Kansas State at Manhattan.
January 27—Nebraska at Lincoln.
February 2—Missouri at Norman.
February 3—Missouri at Norman.
February 8—Kansas at Lawrence.
February 9—Kansas at Lawrence.
February 8—Iowa State at Ames.
February 17—Nebraska at Norman.
February 19—Kansas State at Norman.
February 23—Missouri at Columbia
February 24—Missouri at Columbia.
March 1—Kansas at Norman.
March 2—Kansas at Norman.

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AN IDEA FOR THE ROBOT

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ugly. There is beauty in the clear, hard lines of planed steel. A great locomotive is a magnificent creation. The modern liner as against the much touted clipper ship has almost cosmic power and much beauty of line. And he who does not rise to the burgeoning upward drive of a great city must be ascetic indeed. One may not care for the club-like extension on top of the Empire-State building but when one views the great Medical Center from Riverside Drive at 168th street and sees its buildings rising in "prismatic simplicity," lordly against the October sky, one realizes that there stands an authentic product of the machine age—and that it is beautiful.

I had the privilege last fall of taking a trip on the ferry from the Battery to Staten Island. The whole trip cost ten cents and another dime to the musicians on the boat made me a patron of the arts. There was a bank of blue cloud in the west with just a peep of sunlight over the top to turn the haze of the harbor golden. The statue of liberty stood a portentous figure against the darkening sky. Liberty, yes, but liberty with all its tragic significance! The town on Staten Island rose from the water like an acropolis brooded over by supper-time serenity. On the Jersey shore a new lace-like bridge against the now brightening sky gave an air of phantasy. All this scene needed was the glamor of a thousand years to sweep every sentimentalist off his feet.

This age has its virtues as well as its faults. It should not be measured and discounted in terms of other times. It has its unique contribution to make. The true, the beautiful, and the good will find forms consonant with its peculiar genius. This means new standards of conduct, new organizations of justice, new expressions in art. In terms of this changing new world the ideal must be conceived.

As it is impossible to anticipate in detail the form which the state or society in general may take, or should take, and, as it is impossible to realize any ideal immediately, it has been asserted that men do not know the aim of education. In such assertions the usual implication is that such aim would have to be determined if at all by experimental or statistical study. I believe that this skepticism is unwarranted, that the legitimate aim of society and consequently of education is implied in our every-day judgments of methods and measures. When we characterize an act or a social measure as irresponsible or anti-social or exploitative we at least imply a standard of behavior or social organization that does not manifest these qualities. We apprehend the ideal order in negative terms.

In positive terms, the thing that is sought is the spontaneous individual within a social state that will create and sponsor his spontaneity. It is not a state or social order in which everyone's needs are merely taken care of. It is the cultural state or social situation in which the individual is indeed protected but has at the same time full range of imagination and expression along with responsibility for his acts. It is no smug, self-satisfied utopia but a dramatic life, the people and the state that men naturally love!

In this state the strife for quantity of goods will be curbed or relinquished. Success will not signify heaping up a billion dollars. Diversified human values will be the goals of living, and money will be only one of the means of reaching them. Exploitation will be reduced to a minimum. Hungry men will not walk the streets. Each will have a chance to do his part in the organized whole of society. There will be security and dignity and

self-respect. And men will be creative in strange new forms of art and of life.

This ideal state lies in a new dimension. Men have frequently said that "when science fails what we need is more science." The solution is not quite so simple. Science is good in its own way but its method has definite limitations. What we need now is social vision and loyalty. We need to have the human values clarified and vivified. These things do not lie in the line of increasing scientific knowledge, but in a line at right angles, so to speak, containing no component of the feverish chase for wealth and knowledge. It will indeed stand in functional relation to wealth and knowledge but it will be complementary to them and not a mere extension of them. In this dimension lie all the ancient treasures of the race including the teachings of Plato and the Hebrew prophets.

How shall these new insights be utilized in the contemporary scene? No one should be so naïve as to hope for immediate and complete success. The world of actuality is ever with us. Hereditary institutions are tough-fibered: no revolution either radical or conservative is likely to occur in America over night. Civilization is going to muddle along. There will be many violent demands, blundering political adjustments, revolutionary changes disguised under old forms, wars and rumors of wars. Dictatorships may come and go. The actual world will not soon contain within its geographical limits the land of heart's desire.

In this confusion the business of men of social conscience will be to keep sensitive to the want and misery of men as well as to their possibilities. They will keep the ideal of a just and dynamic social order alive even though it cannot be immediately enacted. They will realize that within certain limitations they have power to act and that they are responsible for public opinion and social measures. They will try to insure that technology and technique will be used for the common good, that every farmer in the river bottom, every worker in a factory, every life anywhere however humble shall share in the benefits which human intelligence has made possible.

While in New York last fall, I had the privilege of attending a psychiatric clinic for children conducted in connection with a large hospital. The mothers came in with the patients and sat in the midst of the group. A competent young physician kindly but deftly and swiftly questioned the child and the mother and gave directions. In some instances the children had been at the clinic before and in such cases the physician quickly inquired what had occurred since the last visit and gave further directions. Here were humanity and efficiency mingled—kindness without sentimentality, despatch without cruelty. This clinic was a symbol to me of what the machine age could legitimately accomplish. Benefits like these should be carried to all conditions of men.

Abundance of life can be provided by scientific technique and machine technology if appropriate social adjustments can be worked out. As we contemplate this vision we have something of the experience of the great reformer—here is a goal worthy of a complete commitment.

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FUNCTIONAL COSTS OF GOVERNMENT

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per capita cost was $91.42—$53.22 for intrastate and $38.20 for federal.

The common schools cost $31,857,959. This averages $13.30 per capita, and is 14.5 per cent of the total governmental cost. Education on the college level cost $5,599,699. This was 2.6 per cent of the total expenditure. However, nearly one-third of the revenue for collegiate education came from the fees paid by the students and from the income of the land grants.

Debt service cost $43,967,209, which is 20.1 per cent of the total and averaged $18.37 per capita.

Highways cost $34,153,047, which is 15.6 per cent of the total and averaged $14.27 per capita. This is for construction and maintenance only. No data could be found to show the money value of the labor item for the road poll tax. Interest and amortizations for the road and bridge bonds amounted to approximately $4,464,345. Highways, therefore, cost more than $38,600,000.00.

Pensions cost approximately $21,727,140. This is 9.9 per cent of the total and was $9.07 per capita. The net current cost of rural schools in Oklahoma for 1931 was $9.28 per capita. This per capita is based on the rural population of 1,574,439.

Postal service cost $6.89 per capita. The total was $16,503,288 for Oklahoma's share of the cost.

Other costs were: Army and navy $13,899,737; agriculture $8,152,354; administration $7,645,066; law enforcement $7,144,174; finance and accounting $4,976,586; utilities $4,477,290; commerce $3,726,019; health and sanitation $2,774,584; courts $2,508,414; charity $1,930,145; eleemosynary institutions $1,878,093; parks and recreation $1,791,920; fire departments $1,710,755; buildings $930,099; legislation $537,451; labor $238,093.

The costs of municipal government in Oklahoma have been tabulated for each city having a population of 2,500 inhabitants and over. Debt service and current expenses for schools and municipal purposes are computed separately. The costs of the schools for negroes appear as separate items, because these schools are financed by the county as a unit. This study shows the following conclusions for these cities:

In Oklahoma cities with population over 30,000, the per capita for the net current expenses of the schools was 11.7 per cent of the total per capita cost for all government.

In Oklahoma cities with population over 10,000 and under 30,000, the per capita for the net current expenses of the schools was ten per cent of the total per capita for all government.

In Oklahoma cities with populations over 5,000 and under 10,000, the per capita for the net current expenses of the schools was 8.57 per cent of the total per capita for all government.

In Oklahoma cities with population over 2,500 and under 5,000 the per capita for the net current expenses of the schools was 8.5 per cent of the total per capita for all government.

No evidence was found of any concerted planning for the expenditure of these vast sums. Whether the amounts spent for each of these twenty two functions represents their relative social and economic values is a question outside the scope of this undertaking. This is an important consideration and invites further study.

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EAST, I SAY, IS EAST

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difficult to write an article about Provincetown. My sympathies are not rooted here. I have no ties to the place whatsoever, and neither its advantages nor its disadvantages move me strongly. We have spent a happy winter here, but I believe that I should feel as much a stranger after eight years as I do now after eight months. Any observation about the place that I might make would be extremely superficial, because I have never identified myself as a part of it.

At least I can say that Provincetown is one of the most beautiful places we have ever seen. A detailed map will show that the Cape does not end in a point, but in a thin hook, almost a curlicue, making a bay within a bay. The small bay is Provincetown Harbor—"the habber" local dialect has it. On a clear day we look out across the calm harbor, lying like dark molten glass, a curiously desert-like scene, and see to the eastward, not the Atlantic, but the graceful blue and yellow curve of the Cape. Back of our house, to the north and westward, lie the fields covered with tarred fish nets drying; the brush covered dunes, and the cranberry bogs. The low, white-sanded line of Long Point with a light-house castle at the tip stretches along the southern edge of the harbor. Out at Race Point, a few miles to the northwest, one can look toward Boston, or westward across Cape Cod Bay toward Plymouth. The Atlantic is reached by following the