

Education

Americans have recognized the importance of free public education since colonial times. President John Adams said in 1785: "The whole people must take upon themselves the education of the whole people and be willing to bear the cost of it. There should not be a district of one mile square, with a school in it, not founded by a charitable individual, but maintained at the public expense of the people themselves."

All states had free public elementary schools by 1870. Free public high schools became a popular in the early 20th century; by 1940, half of all young Americans were high school graduates.

Free college education is not yet a reality, but tentative steps in that direction were made by the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862 and by the Pell Grant program in 1965.

America only a few years ago had the world's highest percentage of college-educated citizens. It has now slipped to 11th place. America's future prosperity depends on having an educated workforce: citizens meeting world standards of training and ability. The Hedges/Bayes administration would assist each state in providing free higher education to all of its qualified citizens.

The relationship of alcoholic beverages to higher education? Re-read the "Alcohol Education" notes I have placed in recent issues of *The Prohibitionist*. Look at the annual list of "party schools" in the popular press. Note the clustering of bars around college campuses, parasitic enterprises that are the source of gang rapes, property destruction, failing grades, and lost careers.

Allow us to put in a good word for a favorite "cause:" Berea College in Kentucky. The City of Berea is dry, and the college has a zero-tolerance policy toward alcohol on campus.

Berea was founded in 1855 by abolitionist-Presbyterian minister John G. Fee. Over the years, it has become largely secular, as have most church-related liberal arts colleges, but it has remained true to its anti-alcohol principle. It is on no one's list of "party schools," yet it has a waiting list for admissions, and it is recognized academically as the best liberal-arts college in the South. The absence of alcohol has handicapped neither the College nor its graduates.

The Hedges/Bayes administration would find ways to minimize the influence of alcohol on higher education.