

UC President Clark Kerr Claims:

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Cluster College System Offers Solution to University Crisis

Beverly Hills (AP) — "The crisis of the university is of a limited crisis — limited to areas comprising perhaps one-quarter or one-third of a typical university viewed in terms of numbers of students," University of California President Clark Kerr said yesterday.

Kerr, speaking at a convocation sponsored by the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions entitled "The University in America," said the present crisis was limited to undergraduates primarily in humanities and social studies fields.

"The students in the humanities and the social sciences are also more likely to have broad concern about values or public policies which are not satisfied

by specialized, segmented courses," he said. "Then, too, the political activists are mostly found in these areas of study."

Kerr said "there is no crisis in professional schools" because students there have clear vocational aims, the curriculum is designed to further these aims, and because the schools generally are small enough to maintain a feeling of individuality.

The same, he said, is true in the sciences.

Kerr suggested three potential solutions to the crisis in undergraduate education:

1 — Do away with the lower division or all undergraduate instruction.

2 — Improve and adjust the existing university structure, i.e., seminars, honors programs,

credit for extra-university activities.

3 — Create structural changes in the university to fit the needs of non-specialized or broadly-interested undergraduates.

A feasible solution is the latter plan, Kerr said, implemented by the cluster college, a relatively small and broadly oriented undergraduate college with a university.

"The cluster college to be effective should be reasonably small in size, have a broadly oriented curriculum, and possess its own separate identity," Kerr said.

"The broad curriculum will serve the student with general interests. The separate administrative identity will make possible a specialized style . . . it

will provide a more intimate group that can treat each student and faculty member as a unique individual."

Of the crisis in general, Kerr said "it will not be the first nor the last to confront the American university, whose history seems to match the plot of the Perils of Pauline.

"Like Pauline, the university always escapes the immediate peril. I am certain that it will escape this one also . . .

"We can trace the future with full confidence, and even absolute assurance, that some new peril will come along to make life in the university more exciting.

"It may also even make the university, in the process, more nearly perfect," he said.

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