

**P**ERCHANCE no more eloquent and concrete gesture of belief in man's capability and worth has ever been made than the setting up of the Arnold and Robert Founda-

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# The AVERAGE STUDENTS

# GET A BREAK

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In the first place, it is unusual as it is significant since unlike typical scholarship programs where the students of high academic standing receive scholarship privileges and aids, it lays emphasis on students of allegedly average rating.

In the second place, it disproves the disparaging misconception that students who are "weak in the upper story" have no bright future. The philanthropists are exactly opposed to this view. Explained one of the brothers: "We felt that very often a student who is not too outstanding in college may make good in later life."

One unfamiliar with the motive of the philanthropists is apt to criticize the program. A critic may point out that it does not give impetus to improve oneself; instead, it encourages students to remain at the bottom of the academic yardstick. But the Hoffmans believe that a man undergoes a change in himself and improves as he advances in age;

that every man has a capacity for success. Their belief rests on the fact that the bulk of Americans who keep their country's prosperity and military might are neither geniuses nor scholars who were "big fishes" in the campuses of American colleges and universities, but students who possess average intelligence, some who did not even attend schools who made their way to success all by themselves. The men and women of average intelligence are part of the strong backbone of

the youngsters were doing in class but on what they could probably do to contribute to the welfare of the community years after they were out of school.

This is not to be misconstrued, however, as appealing indirectly to "relax" the system of grading students so as to give favorable grades to those who are on the brink of failure. "Relaxation" would result in the degeneration of the University's high standard of instruction

every nation and this, too, can be true to the Filipinos.

The same idea expressed by a famous author is shared by the philanthropists.

In the biography of a renowned author, the biographer tells that when the school authorities in the community where the author lived were soliciting contributions from private citizens to be given as awards to well-behaved, obedient youngsters, he denied having anything to give. He explained the awards were reasonable, but if he

and in the turnout of intellectual weaklings.

History has a host of important figures who were never expected to make good.

One novelist, the *Saturday Evening Post* editorial cited, who was practically obscure in his college days attended the reunion to tell his colleagues how obscure he was and how the "big fishes" in the campus vanished into obscurity.

The biography of a living English statesman recounts that he had

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were allowed, he would give awards to the most rebellious and mischievous youngsters on condition that the school authorities keep personal records of both the naughty youngsters and the pupils whom the schoolmasters decided to cite for deportment and when they were already of age that their accomplishments be compared.

He did not keep an eye on what

to take entrance exams for the military academy for the second time because he did not come off successfully the first time. Which is evidence that he did not look promising then.

The average student has reason for added hope and confidence that he will succeed. And that increased hope can eventually drive him on to success. #