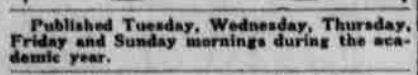


The Daily Nebraskan

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BACKFIRE.

The report on the behavior of American undergraduates, recently compiled by a group of university professors, makes this pointed statement in regard to the influence alumni have on college students:

The domination by the athletic and social elements in the part which the alumni play in college affairs is a lowering influence.

This is not the first time that a conclusion of this kind has been reached. A short time ago President Richards of Lehigh University made a similar charge in even stronger language. Alexander Meikeljohn, former president of Amherst College, is known to hold the same opinion.

Because these complaints frequently come from administrative officials of colleges and universities there is one aspect of them which should not be ignored. The men who offer the criticisms should remember that they are making charges which are capable of a forceful backfire. Their attacks are more than attacks on the colleges and universities as well. If it is true that the alumni are primarily interested in the social and athletic activities of the undergraduates, it follows that their education must have been of a kind which stressed those fields of activity. Obviously, if a college really educated its students they would not, when they become alumni, lay more emphasis on the playing and the dancing of the students than on their thinking and reading.

Such an overwhelming interest in the superficial aspects of college life can be the product of nothing but a superficial education. If its alumni have that kind of an education the college cannot, in justice, indict them. It is upon the institution itself that the responsibility rests.

A STATEMENT OF POLICY.

A correspondent writing to the Student Opinion column declares that The Daily Nebraskan should not make itself the mouthpiece of "malicious criticism." The issue here raised is one which can best be met by a statement of the policy which The Daily Nebraskan follows in admitting to its columns letters of the kind to which the writer referred.

Granting for the moment that the writer is correct in his assumption that the letter was "malicious," that fact will hardly suffice as refutation. To say that criticism is malicious is merely to attack the motive and not the criticism itself. Regardless of the motives which prompted the criticism it is sound unless it is possible to point out that it contains mistakes in fact and fallacies in logic. The surest way of refuting criticism is not to dam it with opprobrious terms but to indicate the unsoundness of its premises and conclusions.

If the motives of the writer were to decide whether or not a letter was to be published it is evident that it would be almost impossible to get a valid standard by which all letters might be judged. One individual is a poor judge of another's motives. An attempt to select letters on such a basis would probably result in their selection and rejection by no better standard than the prejudices and whims of the editors.

It is better that criticism should be made in the open, that it should be published, so that its strength or weakness may be examined. If it is fallacious the broadside of truth and logic which its enemies will direct against it will be far more effective as refutation than editorial suppression could ever be.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS—Horse shoe pitchers are out warming up for the inter-organization meet that is to be held the first week in May.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—The women have gone on record as being opposed to drinking.

Student Opinion

The Daily Nebraskan assumes no responsibility for the sentiments expressed by correspondents, and reserves the right to exclude any communication whose publication may for any reason seem undesirable. Except by special arrangements, communications cannot be published anonymously.

A DEFENSE OF LITERARY SOCIETIES.

To the Editor:
 I cannot understand why Veritas should state that the literary societies which occupy the third floor of the Temple Building have no right to this title. Either he (or she) is misinformed or he (or she) is willfully blackening the name of three of the oldest and most respectable organizations on this campus.

I, personally, am not a member of either of these organizations, but I wish to state that I have attended their open meetings and been courteously and hospitably received, as doubtlessly Veritas himself would be, if he (or she) would take the trouble to investigate his claims.

None of the charges that Veritas made can be sustained. In the first place he says that none of the members of these societies write. Now I personally know that members of at least one of them are represented in the Awgwan, in Nebraska Verse, and as contributors to Olympian Staff. And in reference to the latter, I would like to state that the only part of the column that the average intelligent individual can make any sense out of is contributed by a member of one of these societies.

In earlier days, the societies, or one of them at least, had control of The Daily Nebraskan, as well as the Cornhusker Countryman, and though this is no longer the case, I have heard it said that alumni of the societies always state that the old traditions are being upheld.

I might also add that members of these societies are doing distinguished work in The World Forum, the Big Sister Commission, Debate, Athletics, and all sorts of campus activities.

Last year one of these societies put on a stunt at University Night that by far outranked anything given there this year.

It was my privilege to attend a meeting of these societies about two years ago when a literary contest was held. Some of the questions were very difficult such as identifying passages from Milton and Whittier and all our noted writers. The prize was won by a member of the society who made a grade well up in the seventies. The prize, I may say, was a beautifully bound volume of Longfellow. Does this show a lack of literary appreciation?

Only last Friday a "poet's program" was held, in which two of the members gave readings from the works of James Whitcomb Riley, accompanied by beautiful tableaux. One of the members also read the old poem, "The House By the Side of the Road" and the audience showed great appreciation.

It is also the custom of these societies to put on plays, written and coached by members. There is no other organization on this campus which does so much to foster the playwright's art.

I make these statements as an outsider who has nothing to gain by it, for I understand that the societies themselves will not stoop to answer the charges so basely brought against them. It is my opinion that the Daily Nebraskan should not make itself the mouth-piece of such malicious criticism.

—JUSTICE.

MONTESEY MAKES A SUGGESTION.

To the Editor:
 I suggest that the "literary" society mentioned in the letter of Justice hold an investigation to determine the identity of the member who writes for Olympian Staff. These societies, as they are now composed, can hardly acknowledge a person who actually writes.

—CLAIRE MONTESEY.

The College Press

WE ARE THE TARGET.
 The colleges have certainly been taking a beating. There is no other class of American citizen which has faced the criticism thrust at the men and women now engaged in pursuit of higher education.

tion. Reporting for the committee he offers the following conclusions:
 1. "The character of the undergraduate as determined by his life before entering college will have much to do with his subsequent college life. If he looks upon college as being a release from restraint, the inner control is largely lacking.

2. "That the possession of an automobile by a college undergraduate is a sowing to the winds by the parents who present it.

3. "The curricula of the universities are in a serious condition. We find a willingness on the part of the student to merely get grades, to 'get by,' and to cheat if need be.

4. "Fraternalities may be helpful to students sometimes, but are only too often the open door for neglect of studies and a moral slipping downward.

5. "That the custom of humiliating freshmen lowers the morale of our educational systems. It is especially bad that this custom should be in the hands of the sophomore class.

6. "That the domination by the athletic and social elements of the alumni in the part which the alumni plays in college affairs is another lowering influence."

The natural reaction to this is protest, but read it again, and remember that the conclusions came neither from the press nor the pulpit. They are based on what purports to be sound speculation and investigation by those who teach us.—Daily Californian.

Twenty Years Ago

Delegates to the Pan-Hellenic dance committee met to elect officers for the annual dance, but the proceedings were deadlocked by an altercation over the vote of Phi Rho Sigma, medical fraternity, and Sigma Omicron Beta with a chapter at Chicago and two alumni at Michigan. Those opposed to the medics sought to nullify their vote on the contention that the society had never been voted in. On the other side, the vote of Sigma Omicron Beta was opposed on the grounds that the organization had never taken any active part in university affairs. The meeting split, both factions electing Pan-Hel dance officers, and both formulating plans for a dance.

"The university has been seriously handicapped for lack of funds to maintain the institution and has in the last few years lost several of its most valuable members of the faculty because of the low salaries paid them," a writer comments on the appropriation of \$250,000 for salaries at the university. This appropriation represented an increase of \$50,000 over that of the preceding year.

At a meeting of the board of regents, Dr. Pound's resignation as Dean of the Law College was financially accepted. A committee of law students presented a petition protesting against the acceptance of his resignation because of the unusual ability and popularity. "Although Dr. Pound has been a member of our faculty only two years he is counted as one of the most popular professors that the university has ever had," The Daily Nebraskan records.

ers College meet without fall Thursday at 5 o'clock in Teachers' College 200.

Lutherans

The Lutherans Bible League will meet Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 o'clock in Faculty Hall for Bible study.

Dramatic Club.

The Dramatic club initiation will be held Thursday at 6 o'clock in the club rooms.

Freshmen Football Men.

The picture of all Freshmen football men will be taken at the campus studio Thursday at 12 o'clock. All men are to have on their numeral jerseys. The following are eligible for the picture: Coaches Owen Frank and Raceley, Lawrence Armour, John Brown, Avery Batson, Harold Drum-

W. A. A.

Monthly meeting of the W. A. A. will be held Wednesday at 7:30 in the Social Science Auditorium. Banquet for awarding of N sweaters will be held at Ellen Smith Hall at 6 o'clock.

Bible Classes.

Bible classes not yet closed are at the following hours and under these teachers. Tuesday at 11, Louise Austin; Tuesday at 4, Freda Barker; Thursday at 1, Abbie Brich; Friday at 4, Blanche Stevens.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Chapel cuts must all be made up. Chapel probation is considered as important as scholarship probation.

PRINCETON

Ninety per cent of the students took part in some form of athletics last year. Thirty two athletic squads report activities.

Notices

W. S. G. A.
 There will be a W. S. G. A. Council meeting Thursday at 7 o'clock in Ellen Smith Hall.

Christian Science Society.

The Christian Science will meet Thursday evening at 7:30 in Faculty Hall in the Temple.

Ag College Mixer.

Ag College Mixer, Friday, March 6, at the Horse Barn on the Ag campus. Everybody is welcome.

Seniors in Teachers' College.

Dean Sealock requests that all members of the senior class in Teach-

ers College meet without fall Thursday at 5 o'clock in Teachers' College 200.

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