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Calling the Senate's Bluff

Senator Axtell, of Fairbury, who voted against the senate bill to prohibit smoking in university buildings, is now engaged in the pleasant occupation of calling that august body's bluff. Yes, indeed. He proposes a substitute that really covers the territory. And then some. It would prohibit all smoking and drinking on all university property, either buildings or campus, and in all sorority or fraternity houses and grounds. In fact, if the measure passes, but one nasty privilege is left the students. They may chew when and where they please.

Incidentally, the substitute does not include students living in rooming houses instead of fraternities. The reason for this, according to the Hon. Mr. Axtell, is just this: Fraternities and sororities, not rooming houses, cause all the trouble.

"A make-believe" measure was the original, he says, to placate the warlike, crusading W. C. T. U. In other words, senators who voted for the original ban of smoking in buildings did so to win approbation of the women folk, realizing that the bill as it stood would do nothing, one way or the other.

Instead of this weak-kneed political gesture, he puts a real, be-man measure, that actually does the work.

"It will give the state what it thinks it's getting, and not make it think it's getting something it isn't."

Getting down to the bottom of the matter, we rather think he proposed his substitute in order to kill the whole business. Sorensen rather doubts the constitutionality of the substitute. After all, the legislature cannot prohibit smoking in private homes, and the attorney general considers a fraternity house a "private residence in the legal sense of the term."

When asked if he devised the substitute to kill all such legislation, Senator Axtell said, with the faintest trace of a smile, "Of course not. I really believe in my substitute measure, and intend to vote for it."

"Incidentally," he remarked a moment later, "I wrote the state W. C. T. U. a letter suggesting that as a means of combating this tobacco evil, they might do all they can to enforce the legislation already passed on the matter. For instance, they might aid in enforcing the law against selling tobacco to minors, or against smoking in public eating houses."

"The senate wanted to prohibit smoking among students. Here is their opportunity to accomplish that end."

"Will it pass? It ought to, unless senators who voted for the original bill were doing so merely as a method of placating the W. C. T. U. and at the same time shelving the whole proposition."

The "unless" will kill the bill. Senator Axtell does not believe it will pass. He may have proposed it as a means of squelching the whole question. Politics are funny, sometimes, but politics do get around things very nicely.

A more serious element involved came out in the discussion between Senators Axtell and Neumann, of Oakland.

"For that matter," said Axtell, "I am opposed to the continued existence of fraternities and sororities."

"So am I," said Neumann.

"They teach bad habits," continued Axtell.

"Right again," continued Neumann.

There, in a nutshell, is the whole situation. Legislators do not as a rule, like fraternities. They do all they can to restrict them by various and sundry regulations, bidding the time when, with dormitories for men, they can be dispensed with. Whether this is the idea of the majority of the legislators cannot be determined. At least, it is the attitude of more than a few.

"The organizations do nothing to prevent drinking and smoking," said the Hon. Mr. Axtell. "They do pass rules against drinking in the house, but tolerate it outside. It is their duty to prevent that too. When a man comes in drunk, action should be taken to prevent a repetition of the occurrence. None is."

There is a great deal in what he says. According to his own statement, however, there is no law against drinking. The legal restrictions are upon possession and selling of liquor only. Hence, according to law, if a student wants to drink, it is his own affair, and no one else's.

Here is the reason for the tolerance of organized groups. They have no desire to be their brother's keeper. Let one man do as he pleases, until that action interferes with another's acts... This is the theory imbedded in collegiate minds by a study of the governmental principles of the United States, and is not

to be ousted in a moment by the opinion of a senator, or several senators... The public, so far as enforcement of the prohibition amendment is concerned, is indifferent. They care not a great deal whether it is enforced or not. And so long as this is true, college folk will reflect that attitude.

This is no fault of the fraternity system, but of our legal structure. Isn't it a bit too much to ask the fraternities to remedy something that is not their fault?

"Why not," says a well-known professor, "approach the trouble this way: pass a law requiring all students to wear celluloid collars. Then they will be forced to stop smoking on account of the fire hazard."

Undoing His Work

Rev. W. C. Fawell, the man you know, who characterized the innocents as a group dressed in devil's robes, singing between puffs of cigarette smoke, "Cheer, Cheer The Gang's All Here," has done some good work on this campus. Although his Wesley Players, Phi Tau Theta, and other organizations have not been responded to by a large group of students, compared to the number enrolled in university, nevertheless some good has been accomplished.

It's too bad Reverend Fawell has to turn right around now and undo all his good work. For that is what he has done. He has not only cast a shadow on his own efforts but of student pastors in general. How can a man expect students to have faith in him, listen to him and work with him when he flings out so silly, absurd statements which are simply preposterous? Possibly striving for their confidence, he has reaped only their disgust. And it is too bad.

Reverend Fawell could have continued to do many good things for his flock on the campus, had he not fumed over the smoking law as he did. He probably will still try to do those good things, but accomplishment will surely be impossible. Students aren't imbeciles. Neither are they youngsters who must have someone do their thinking for them. They have sense enough to know when a man is narrow minded, when he has gone too far in making silly, inconsequential statements. They prove this by their show of disgust.

So, again, it is too bad. Reverend Fawell might have continued an efficient working factor among students on the campus, had he kept his head—and tongue.

The University of Chicago is abolishing class system, fraternities, mid-quarter exams, and all such. They didn't do away with the faculty or the student body, however, and with no outside interests these two should have ample time to fight each other.

Wherein a Student Cusses the Librarians

There drifted down to the office the other day an irate student. It seems he had just visited the main library, and had emerged therefrom bookless and full of wrath. His own story of the eventful afternoon runs something like this:

"We went over to get a couple of psychology references. The professor had given us the titles, the authors' names, and library reference numbers. The girl at the desk said she was sorry, but they were both out just then.

"Later we went back again. The woman at the desk that time said there were no such books. If there were, they were in some other library on the campus. We told her we had called for them before, and they were out, in use.

"She said, 'Young man, you can't get away with that here. You are bluffing, and I know it.'

"We said, 'We are sorry, but we are not lying. Why should we?'

"She grew quite angry. So did we. We left. We firmly intend to flunk that course rather than go back and ask for any more books in that place. We do not like to be called liars."

Evidently the student concerned had a mistaken idea of why librarians are engaged. They are engaged to prevent students' getting away with anything. To emerge from the library with a book, one must present his identification card, a certificate of good health, credentials testifying to his innate honesty, and a birth certificate.

Librarians are not engaged to please and satisfy the students. They are there because someone must be on deck to hand out books to the few who are qualified to receive them.

It is too bad if any student will prefer to flunk a course rather than realize the actual conditions, but the modern flair is all in favor of the realists. It can't be helped.

Coeds at the University of Detroit have been forbidden to converse with the male students at any time on the campus. It is no doubt another forward step in the great Reforming of Youth that seems to be in progress.

Without Fire and Sword

By MEREDITH NELSON
 And HOMER DEADMAN

What a tragedy would this be to the Ford Motor Company if one of these days the machinery of the Ford Motor factory should suddenly go mad and start turning out coaster wagons instead of Ford cars! It is certain that we would be highly critical, especially if Henry tried to sell us the coaster wagons under the name of Ford tudors and sport roadsters. We would all insist that the production must be done to the machinery of production (for notwithstanding what General Motors may be to us, most of us really prefer even Ford's to coaster wagons for ordinary purposes). Nor would we be satisfied if the factories turned out one car for every two or three wagons.

But what are we to say of the human products of our colleges and universities? Are we reasonably sure that the machinery of education does not turn out coaster wagons instead of motor vehicles? Certainly it is the end of universities to produce for society a constant and steady supply of intelligent individuals.

The most important distinction between a coaster wagon and a Ford car (but not the only one, Henry!) is that the Ford has power—that which enables it to go up hill or down. It is the power which makes the Ford more or less valuable, and as a result we have less use for a coaster wagon. Without pressing the analogy too far, we may draw the same distinction between the useful individuals who graduate from colleges, and the useless. Those who are in demand, and whose production justifies the existence of colleges, are the individuals with power; they move up hill as well as down, and if given a chance will get some place. On the other hand are the individuals of coaster wagon standard who must be pushed, herded, and guided everywhere except downhill where the going is extremely easy, and even going downhill they must be guided, else they run wild. (But here we must drop the analogy before we get onto the subjects of Ford drivers, which is a most disastrous subject.)

Now this concept of an individual with power is not to be construed in any abstract, unreal or goody-goody manner. The man who has power is the man who has achieved mastery and understanding of himself as a person, who has made the various parts of his self fit each other so they work together best in a common direction. He is commander of his desires, emotions, and habits. Besides this, the man of power must have a grasp of the great and small social problems, understanding them and meeting them with scientific attitude and strong, well-founded conviction. In these problems he must see far ahead, in the light of a good store of knowledge, extending this personal social understanding, the intelligent individual must have the habit and will for acting definitely in accord with the knowledge which he holds. Without the ability and initiative for living in harmony with truth, he falls short of power. Progress is not to be made by dreaming dreams alone; it requires leaders of activity, in whose lives ideas become realities.

We need in no way be idealists to agree that such individuals of power are the individuals of practical intelligence. We need only the bitterest of realists to recognize that our society is far short in the supply of thoroughly intelligent people. And the most direct kind of inference from this fact is that colleges and universities are not producing a great stream of satisfactory products.

The machinery of education needs overhauling. Or perhaps it needs the addition of certain new equipment? What addition is necessary to better the quality of its products?

TWO ATTEND CONFERENCE

Florence Corbin and Rowan Ehalt, members of the vocational education staff in the home economics department, attended a regional conference on home economics education at Chicago last week.

DR. D. A. WORCESTER AND MRS. J. P. GULFORD

Dr. D. A. Worcester and Mrs. J. P. Gulford are the authors of an article dealing with only children which appears in the current issue of the Journal of Genetic Psychology.

DR. WORCESTER SPEAKS

At Church Sunday Night Dr. P. A. Worcester of the department of educational psychology spoke at the First Plymouth Congregational church Sunday evening. His subject was "Psychology and Religion."

Few Students, It Is Said, Know That Library Has Page Of Gutenberg Bible

Practically every person acquainted with books and printing knows that Johannes Gutenberg printed the first book, a Bible, from movable types, but few people on the campus know that a page of this Bible is in the university library.

Gutenberg, credited with being the inventor of printing from movable type, did his famous work in Mainz, Germany, some time between 1450 and 1455. During that time he is supposed to have printed several copies of his 650 page, "42 line" Bible, of which forty-five are now known to be in existence. Practically all of these are in public museums and those in good condition are valued at about \$300,000 each. The University of Nebraska has but one leaf from the Bible, secured from an incomplete volume.

Other rare books in the university library include a copy of the Nuremberg Chronicle, published in 1493 in Germany, an extraordinarily fine copy since it contains a portrait missing in most copies. There is also a copy of the fourth edition of Shakespeare's plays, published in 1633.

With some 240,000 volumes in the library, Nebraska has several good collections of books, according to G. H. Deane, librarian. Nebraska ranks with Cornell in having the best collection of books on the French revolution and ranks third in the Woodrow Wilson collection of some 1500 items. Princeton and Yale outrank Nebraska in this respect. The William of Ockham collection at Nebraska, although very small, is considered as the finest in the United States.

DR. AGARD GIVES TALK

Wisconsin Faculty Man Is Speaker for Meeting Of Society.

Dr. Walter Agard of the University of Wisconsin faculty spoke at 5 o'clock Sunday afternoon under the auspices of the Lincoln chapter of the Archaeological Society of America at the Morrill hall auditorium.

"Recent Discoveries of Greek Sculpture" was the subject of Dr. Agard's address. He was brought Society of America which took charge of the museum program. The children's program in Morrill hall at 2:30 o'clock consisted of a three reel film entitled, "Young America."

PLANS ARE MADE FOR CINEMA OF U OF CALIFORNIA

Plans for the taking of motion pictures of college life on the campus of the University of California have been completed, according to The Daily Californian. The scenario will be written by a student on the campus, and revised by Hollywood scenario writers.

The film is to be silent, the various roles being filled by students active in campus dramatics. It is to be used in a tour among several high schools, and will also be shown on the campus. A picture travogue of the noted and popular points of the campus is planned to accompany the feature film when shown.

Y. M. INTER-RACIAL GROUP BROADCASTS

The Y. M. C. A. Inter-racial commission broadcast a vesper service over WCAJ Sunday evening from 6:30 to 7:30. There two short talks and a program of music by negro students.

Six Women Enter Home Ec Management House

Six home economics students began their residence in the home management house last week. The

Food Induces Rats to Break Jail in Psychology Class

They're not so dumb! So say the students in Prof. William E. Walton's comparative psychology class, which has recently been conducting memory experiments with a group of susceptible albino rats.

It has taken many a day for an experienced convict to make good his getaway and with countless combinations at his fingertips to aid him in his escape; the innocent white rat has only his under-developed intelligence to aid him in getting out of the pens he gets put into. Just a bit of food is all that is necessary to induce him to make his "break" for liberty.

A hidden spring suddenly released by his accidental contact opens for him a doorway in his prison wall. Food and temporary freedom are his. Repeated trials taught him in an hour's time the particular spot that flashed open and he soon became a professional jailbreaker.

207 Coeds Prove Skill, if Any, at Roller Skate Rink

Two hundred and seven girls proved their skill at the Varsity roller skating rink on Thursday night. The time for skating was divided into three one hour periods. Only sixty girls could be accommodated each hour because of the limited space and equipment.

This was one of a series of novelty hikes planned by Ruth Kier, hiking chairman, who is working on ideas for varied and interesting marches.

T. J. THOMPSON WILL SPEAK AT VESPERS

T. J. Thompson, dean of student affairs, will speak at vespers at Ellen Smith hall Tuesday afternoon, at 5 o'clock. Marie Broad will have charge of the program this week.

College girls don't get enough parties, don't go out enough, spend too much time studying, is the claim of the Dean of Hunter college.

The UNITARIAN CHURCH
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 Subject, March 22—"The Meaning of History."

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"These Periodical Outbursts."

TO THE EDITOR:
 The recent smoking controversy which has been spectacularly rekindled by the Rev. Fawell's outspoken remarks, is typical of some of the men who make it their business to deal and work with students without ever understanding them.

We cannot but admire the courage of a man who would so uncompromisingly express such extraordinary views as those aired by the Rev. Fawell in the face of an overwhelming public opinion, student and otherwise, which is so manifestly opposed to his ideas.

Although the writer is a non-smoker (and so the proposed legislation would make no personal difference) he is at least sufficiently well acquainted with the history of social legislation to know that to try to enforce temperance by law is but inviting disaster.

The absurdity of the proposals is rivaled only by their ridiculousness. However, I personally am glad that the discussion has come up. These sporadic outbursts afford all reformers a chance to air their grievances, which as such should be heard and forgotten.

E. J.

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