

EDITORIAL PAGE

'Prayer' For Pragmatism

A perversion of a well-known prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr recently came to the attention of The Nebraskan.

Niebuhr, one of the foremost Christian theologians of the present day, in his prayer, asked:

"Give us strength to endure those things we cannot change, courage to change those we can and wisdom to distinguish one from the other."

The perverted form came out this way: "Dear God: Help us to do the things we can do and to leave alone the things we can't do—and help us to know the difference."

If results cannot be obtained from a particular action, the revised prayer said, don't let us have anything to do with it. The prayer set the stage for pragmatic action.

The Student Council and a large number

Questionnaire

The Student Council questionnaire to be found elsewhere on this page is the result (according to the Council) of a desire to find out if students feel the Council is adequately serving them.

While this is not quite the same thing as asking for a vote of confidence, it borders on it, regardless of the Council's intentions. Thus, the student body is presented with an opportunity (outside of elections, which are not always determined on issues or platforms alone, but frequently on personalities and popularity) to express approval, criticism or suggestions to the Council.

The Council, however, has cleverly stacked the odds in its favor. A glance at the questions reveals that the Council is selecting the issues upon which it wishes to be rated.

A representative body should serve its electorate and not exist to insure the perpetuity and good reputation of its members. Instead of asking students whether they approve of previously acknowledged problems which have been acted upon, the Council would prove its worth by acting upon issues facing the student body both new and in the future.

Therefore, the most important section of the "questionnaire" is the request appended almost, as it were, as an afterthought: "Please attach any ideas that you feel..."

But, the Council has been given suggestions of problems by The Nebraskan during the current semester. Yet, those do not appear among the "areas" students are asked to consider.

No mention is made of the problem to come up in a few months concerning allocation of rooms in the new dormitory between incoming freshmen and returning upperclassmen. Chancellor Selleck himself implied that the final decision has not been made and he would like to know what students think about it. This was mentioned as a possible subject for investigation by the Council in a Nebraskan editorial. No move from the Council.

"Inequities in filing and voting," a hold-over problem from last year was the subject of another Nebraskan editorial offering a suggestion (or rather, a reminder) to the Council. No move from the Council. Last year's Council acknowledged that this was a problem to be dealt with. Still, this year's Council looks for suggestions.

If students are sufficiently interested in what the Council is (and isn't) doing, this questionnaire is the ideal opportunity to offer some "suggestions."—E.D.

'Inferior'

Chancellor Selleck stated during Christmas vacation that the department of athletics is weaker than the academic departments of the University.

While he did not present any evidence which proved his statement (if, indeed, the relative strength of the departments can be tabulated), undoubtedly he knew what he was saying. Certainly the Chancellor knows much more about the affairs of University departments than any student, and probably more than any other individual.

Two exceptions in the matter of "inferiority" however, are worth noting.

First: Athletes are allowed to register first in order to avoid conflicts. Other students must register in their turn — even though earlier registration might have eliminated a number of conflicts.

Second: The percentage of scholarships awarded to athletes far out-ranks the percentage awarded to history majors or engineers or any other group of undergraduates.

Patsy Clark pointed out that any athlete who doesn't have a scholarship isn't considered too seriously by the coaching staff.

In any other department the student who possesses a scholarship is the exception.

In both of these instances the athletic department appears to rank well above its academic counterparts.

Perhaps the Chancellor meant that the athletic department does not enjoy similar advantages in all phases of comparison.—K.R.

The Nebraskan

FIFTY-THIRD YEAR

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of other organizations might well have begun its year with such a prayer, for, as was pointed out in an editorial yesterday, the Council seems interested only in projects which will produce noticeable results.

In the case of the Council's motion to bar discriminatory clauses from the constitutions of honorary and professional fraternities, The Nebraskan editorial called attention to the inconsistency of the proposed action. The Council was opposing racial clauses—but only in the cases in which its members thought they could produce results.

The injustice of the motion is readily evident.

The inconsistencies of pragmatism (in which the result of an action determines the worth of the action) are usually not exposed so readily. Nothing succeeds like success, the old saw goes. And pragmatism is based upon success.

From a practical point of view pragmatism turns out more units of production, earns more money and attains more success for its user than any other philosophy. The employment of pragmatism in the school system is now producing a generation of woodworkers, bookkeepers, engineers and super-market managers.

The coupling of pragmatic thought with a prayer is ironical, since Christianity (and nearly all great religions) places greater emphasis upon the motivation for an act than upon the results of the act or the act itself.

The prayer was well-intended. The organization which used it was simply asking that it not go off on tangents which could lead only to wasted time and effort.

But the students who prayed for foresighted pragmatism forgot that the men who accomplish the greatest good begin work with the odds so heavily against them that no pragmatist could take the chance of wasting his time.

They forgot that men have died—on the battlefield and as Christian martyrs—for refusing to modify their actions and change their beliefs to conform with what was the obviously practical solution.

They forgot that one of the greatest virtues is the unrelenting stand of a man who knows he is right and refuses to bow before the power of practical men. They forgot that the greatest test of a man is his ability to follow his conscience—his belief in what is right—even though the rest of the world were against him.

No one can prove that such a man is right. History, the recording of results, may even call him a fool—if it recognizes him at all. He may be laughed at, scoffed at or persecuted.

But he is answerable only to himself and to his God. No proof of results can change his course.

He cannot pray that he might turn his attention only to things he can do. He prays that he might work toward things only God can do.—K.R.

Merry-Go-Round

The peace merry-go-round in Korea has started to spin again.

At least the initial push has been given by unidentified intermediaries from the United Nations and the Communist stronghold. They are "informally discussing" the possibility of resuming Korean peace talks.

Although the United States is understandably eager to resume talks in the hopes of stabilizing the tottering world situation, the US appears to be conveniently forgetting the heated events which terminated the peace talks so abruptly a month ago.

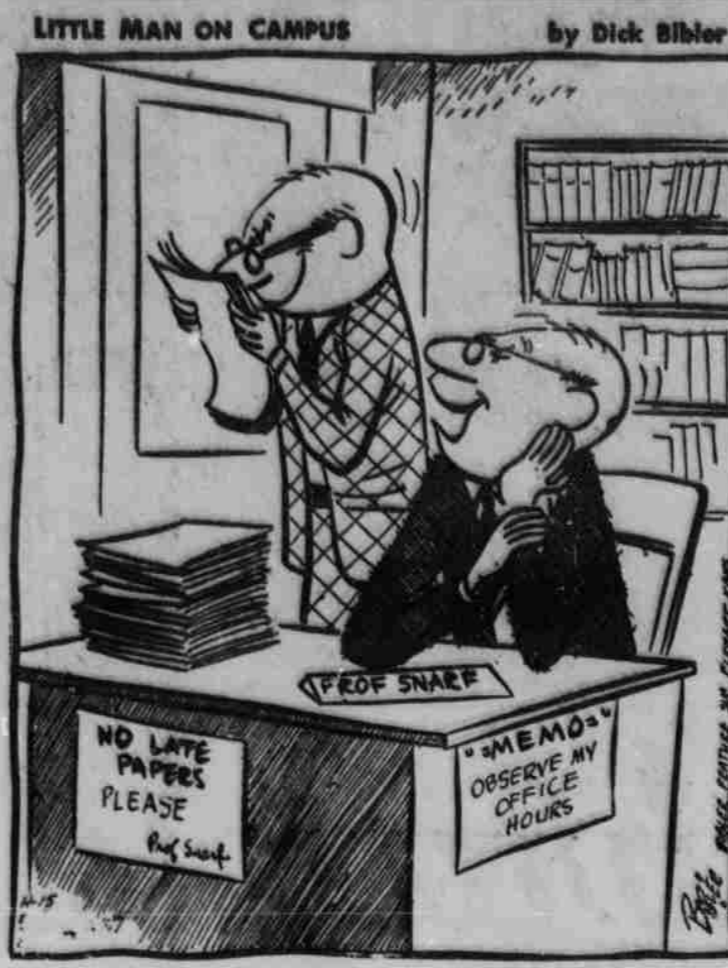
At that time, Ambassador Arthur Dean dropped negotiations with a protest against the Red accusation of perfidy on the part of the US. He demanded that the Communists retract an accusation that American authorities had plotted with President Syngman Rhee of South Korea to release anti-communist prisoners.

Yet no retraction has been made. Apparently the US is willing to sit calmly by as Communists make wild accusations, preferring to "forget" the incident rather than force a showdown.

The best policy would be to face the issues squarely now and stick by our first, and well-grounded, demand that the Reds retract their accusation. Avoiding the whole issue may resume peace negotiations for awhile, but the Communists will have learned a dangerous and obvious lesson: That the United States does not have the courage to speak with conviction and "stick to its guns."

Two mighty world powers cannot indefinitely play coy with each other. Demands, accusations, name-calling; the incidents will grow until it is impossible to ignore the insults and resulting bitter feelings. Then, when action is taken, it will be drastic.

And the merry-go-round might blow up—and stop forever.—M.H.



"I always write my term paper criticisms illegibly so the student won't be able to take issue with what I say."

The Challenge Deferred Rushing Plan Is No Solution For NU

By HELEN A. SYNDER Assistant Dean of Women

(This is the fifteenth in a series of articles treating the problems, issues and challenges of the day as viewed by representatives of various fields of endeavor.)

Some time ago during the annual Panhellenic Workshop The Nebraskan featured an editorial on our University's sorority rushing system. Certain criticisms were leveled at that system and in good constructive fashion a possible solution was offered, namely deferred rushing. As one working closely with our Panhellenic in the capacity of University advisor, I should like to comment on the situation as I see it.

We start by saying we know our system is not perfect. The workshop which gave rise to this discussion is one of Panhellenic's own attempts to turn a critical eye on procedures in order that improvements may be made. At the same time it is interesting to note that at the conclusion of that week announcement was made of a national award citing our University Panhellenic as the outstanding Panhellenic in the country.

Receiving the Leland award was a vote of confidence of national staff members that our local organization was doing an excellent job in administering its program. This still does not mean perfection and, to show we deserve such distinction, we must continue to improve.

Chickles

By CHICK TAYLOR

We heard that: Errol Flynn and Charlie Chaplin have collaborated on a new novel which will be out just any old time. The title is "On Whom the Belles Told."

Have you heard about the devil who backed into a lawnmower, then went into a liquor store because he heard they retailed spirits?

A pessimist is a man who feels that all women are bad. An optimist just hopes so.

One strawberry to another: "If we hadn't been caught in the same bed, we wouldn't be in this jam."

The American way: Condemning a naughty movie; attending it to see it if as shocking as advertised; kicking because the naughty parts have been cut.

My political science teacher says that in America every boy has a chance to be President when he grows up. Guess its just one of the risks we take!

During the last World War, our Marines had a hard fight with the Japs on an island infested with cannibals. After the battle, it was evident the native cannibals did not approve of the Americans. When pressed for an explanation of their attitude, their chief replied: "You are savages. I do not want my people to be spoiled by you. I have watched you for two weeks. Each day you have killed more Japs than you could eat."

Judge to prisoner: "You've been brought in here for drinking."

Prisoner: "Fine, lesh get started."

Letter from a G. I. to his wife: "Please send me \$5 for shaving cream and stuff."

Came the reply: "Homer, here enclosed is 25c for the shaving cream. The stuff is back here."

"In the old days did the knights fight with their battle-axes?"

"Well, the married knights did."

"Like short skirts, Nick?"

"Now, they get lipstick on me shoit fro! when I dance wit 'em."

The Student Speaking

Hey, Arready

The Black Dahlia

By JERRY SHARPBACK The embalming-room humor at the Beckerman Mortuary was certainly unique, as embalming humor goes. Nowhere else was to be found such wholehearted mistreatment of the human body. Maybe it was the fates who, in a playfully destructive mood, tossed that assortment of frustrated comedians under one roof. At any rate, thus it was that these jesters (who constantly regarded that tragedy of tragedies, death, so flippantly) should be the recipients of such a sobering experience.

It was Clancy who answered the phone: "Beckerman's Mortuary." He had almost said "body shop." A somber monotone informed him that George R. Sabini had expired at such and such a place and the body was to be removed immediately. Clancy inadvertently said "check" at the end of the conversation. Quickly, he ran back to the preparation room where the other three embalmers were convened, as usual. "Come on, Mack, we got one."

Mack reluctantly left the conversation and followed Clancy to what was commonly called "The Black Dahlia." It was a converted ambulance; and the siren and one red light still remained—a sort of reflection of the embalmers who, though being in a way reapers of death, were still basically lively and eager young men.

The house of the deceased was a three-story nineteenth-century structure resembling something you might see in a Charles Addams cartoon. The man who answered the embalmer's knock was evidently a butler. Clancy noted his resemblance to Dracula. He invited them into the old mansion and they were led into a large, high-ceilinged living room occupied, for the most part, by three Great Danes. The butler had little information for the death certificate except for the fact that under "deceased-occupation" he had written "supernaturalist."

"Maybe he didn't have no parents, at all," quipped Mack as they were on their way back to the mortuary. They unloaded the body as soon as they were at Beckerman's. Fletcher and the embalmer everyone called "Horrible" (for no subtle reason) were playing cards on the preparation slab, so Clancy received a good deal of criticism will commence immediately if not sooner. Grab your cards if you don't want 'em buried."

It was Mack's turn to do the honors and he deftly went about preparing the hapless Mr. Sabini for his ultimate resting place. And, as was the tradition, the other men gathered at various points of vantage to voice opinions and general comments about the proceedings.

"I don't like this man's looks," said Horrible. "I don't think we should embalm him."

"Who are you to talk about looks?" asked Mack. "Seriously, though, just take a look at that little mustache, the pointed ears. He looks like some sort of ghoul."

"So do you," said Clancy. Horrible became peeved at this last remark and shuffled sulkily to the instrument cabinet. He began to play mumble-peg with a scalpel.

A gurgling sound was soon heard and draining Sabini colored the sink. "Oh my! Oh, my!" said Fletcher, "now you've gone and cut him. Someone fetch a Band-Aid. Horrible looked surprised. "I didn't know ghouls had blood," he said. (To be continued)

Slide Rule Terrace At Capitol Rebuilt Three Times

The repair on the terrace or walk-way which surrounds the Nebraska capitol building is essentially completed. Many people have been curious as to why the terrace had to be repaired and why it wasn't capable of lasting as long as the rest of the building. This is the third time that the terrace has been repaired or rebuilt, and I suspect that within another 25 to 40 years the whole process will have to be repeated.

When the capitol was first built, each of four or five contractors was allowed to complete a separate section. Occasionally there would be a discontinuity when two sections of the building met or were joined. When the terrace was built for the first time, the contractors were mostly concerned with the terrace as a walk-way and not a roof. Consequently, it served very well as a terrace, but poorly as a roof for the offices beneath.

Just recently the terrace has been replaced officially by a roof, a 20-year bonded roof. The removal of the old terrace was undertaken by forces of men from the State Reformatory. The old yellow tile that was on the surface has been salvaged and used to rehabilitate a dormitory floor in the State Reformatory. About three or four inches of asphalt was removed and used as resurfacing for roads.

No one knows what the previous costs have been to repair the terrace, but it is estimated that the present installation will cost from \$75,000 to \$80,000. The copper flashing which was salvaged from the old terrace amounted to about \$3,000.

Present installation costs will include about \$50,000 for the chipped Georgia marble which covers the roof. One becomes aware of the size of the roof if one realizes that the building measures 400 feet square, which means about one-third mile of construction, as wide as a highway.

The ceilings in the offices under the roof are mostly suspended ceilings. They are hung from either a pan and girder or ordinary beam system that supports a structural concrete slab; this slab serves as a foundation for the roof. The old terrace was removed down to the surface of the structural concrete slab and then rebuilt. A hot mix asphalt was used to refill the roof area. A pitch membrane was then spread over the asphalt for water-proofing and the Georgia marble spread on top of that. The entrances to the main north door and the two side east and west doors were laid with 4 inches of reinforced concrete.

The Highway Department designed the roof and then let contracts for its construction. They had originally planned to lay a concrete roof all the way around, but contractors would not supply a bond on such a roof, and cost estimates varied between 100 and 180 thousand dollars. The design was then changed to allow for both cost and a bond.

The main problem encountered was that of expansion. Henry Schlitt, Deputy State Engineer who supervised the job, states that temperatures may approach 150 degrees on the roof surface during the summer although the air temperature may only be 90 degrees. Mr. Schlitt thought that the leaks in the old terrace were caused by the inability of the expansion joints to compensate for the expansion of the concrete and steel.

Visitors are now restricted from walking on the roof area except where the concrete is provided at the entrances. Perhaps now the offices below the roof can be replastered and repaired without fear of another leak for at least 20 years, J. A. MARKS.

Use Of Fifth Amendment By Faculty Condemned By Ex-President Of Yale

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Faculty members who invoke the Fifth Amendment as ground for refusal to answer questions are "unworthy to serve on a university staff," according to Charles Seymour, President Emeritus of Yale University.

At the same time, he emphasized that the university must "guarantee to a professor that he will not be penalized for an honest opinion that is supported by adequate evidence, even though it runs counter to that of a disapproving majority and evokes strong criticism."

The university faculty "must themselves represent a variety of opinions," the former Yale president stated. "This means

that the university not only tolerates but invites a diversity of view upon current problems and will protect its teachers from any compulsion of conformity."

Mr. Seymour, who served as Yale's president from 1937 until his retirement in 1950, criticized professors who invoke the Fifth Amendment pointing out that "the university promises the professor freedom; in return he owes the university complete candor."

When it comes to a question of communistic affiliation, every member of the faculty should be above suspicion, he stressed and added that if charges are brought by an authoritative agency, the teacher must be frankly cooperative in clearing himself.

Student Council Questionnaire

Do you feel your Student Council is adequately handling the problems in the following areas? Yes No

- 1. All University elections such as COA, UMOG, Nebraska Sweetheart, Prince Kosmet, etc.
2. University Parking facilities and systems of financing.
3. Promotion of unofficial migration.
4. Campus improvements such as the series of lectures on love and marriage, the addition of the traffic light on 16th & R.
5. Complete representation of the entire student body on the Council—such as through organizations and colleges.
6. Do you feel your Student Council is reflecting student opinion.
7. Do you believe campus honorary and professional organizations should be allowed to function with restrictive racial and religious clauses in their constitutions.

Please attach any ideas that you feel the Council might take action on. Completed questionnaires should be placed in the Student Council box outside the Union Crib.