



Daily Nebraskan Letterips

'Tri-Sig' Story

To the Editor:

Recently an article concerning the "Tri-Sig" party in Crete appeared in the Daily Nebraskan under the byline of Mr. Herb Probasco. This story, which incidentally was run in almost every newspaper in the state, was highly erroneous and full of incongruities. I pointed out to Mr. Probasco just what power he possesses as a staff member of newspaper; and therefore, what a great responsibility he has to report the absolute facts.

First of all, it was printed that there was \$800-\$1,500 damage done to the Izaak Walton League clubhouse. This is an outrageous figure and one that most people would stop to consider much more closely. The actual maximum damage will amount to one-sixth of that amount.

Maybe I am a badly misinformed man; but I had the privilege of working on the Rag staff for a year; and I have always been under the impression that it is the DUTY of a journalist to get all the facts and then make sure that they are correct. It is plain to see that this was not done. Persons reading articles in papers will naturally take them as the absolute truth because of the fine reputation of most our papers. Therefore, it is totally disheartening to read such an unfounded story.

I am not dodging the fact that there was an illegal party held nor am I saying that the Rag should not have printed an account of it; but it is rather the content of the article that I am wholeheartedly condemning.

I do not believe that Mr. Probasco fully realizes just what the resulting ramifications are from his article. The article that appeared in the Rag was lifted almost verbatim by the Lincoln Journal and from there spread to every newspaper in the state and as far as Dayton, Ohio, to the radio, and to television.

In other words, this greatly exaggerated account was brought to the people of Nebraska through every medium. Not only has the entire Greek system at Nebraska suffered a severe blow, but also the prestige of the University of Nebraska itself has been handed an unjust setback.

I would think that a man in Mr. Probasco's position as news editor of the Rag, as a Greek, and as a student at the University of Nebraska would want to be plunging wildly into something of this cope.

It seems evident to me and to countless other persons that Mr. Probasco's biased article labels him as not only a rabid anti-Greek Greek but also as an anti-University University student. I hope that Mr. Probasco will change his now defunct journalistic ethics before applying for the highly important office of Editor of the Daily Nebraskan.

TOM DAVIES

Probasco's story was biased seems to indicate a hasty judgment of the story and of the attribution of the facts.

Although it was printed that damage to the Izaak Walton League clubhouse was extensive, the statements were not those of the Daily Nebraskan, but those of Saline County Sheriff Tesar and of Dean of Student Affairs Philip Colbert who incidentally said damage was "pretty bad."

Perhaps the statements by the sheriff were not entirely correct; however, this hardly seems like a basis for condemning the story. First Mr. Davies does just this thing. Then he later says that an account of the illegal party was properly printed.

And it may be said that generally statements of our publicly-elected officials are accepted unless there is cause shown that the statements made are not true.

As far as facts are concerned, several members of the Tri-Sig fraternities were invited to bring over statements concerning damage or other facets of the story which would better present the fraternities' side. One individual asked this privilege the day the story appeared in print; he said that he and several other members of the fraternities were going to Crete that day to try to obtain some concrete information that could be used as a rebuttal-type story; however none was brought in.

The offer is still open.

If Mr. Probasco erred in discharging his duty of presenting the story, then it must be assumed that Mr. Davies really does not mean what he says when he says "nor am I saying that the Rag should not have printed an account of it (the Crete party)."

In addition, the Crete newspaper carried an account of the party and it seems safe to assume that wire services and other newspapers would have got their information from that paper—and from Sheriff Tesar—if not from the Daily Nebraskan.

In addition, since the Board of Regents took action upon this case—and further action than probation was planned before any published accounts of the incident came out—it also seems safe to assume that after the Regents' meeting the resulting action surely would have been reported.

For instance, the Lincoln Star and Omaha World-Herald carried stories on the decision to repeal the three fraternities' rushing, pledging and initiation privileges in their Thursday morning hours before the Daily Nebraskan was to come out again.

Charging that Mr. Probasco is anti-Greek because he wrote this news story is similar to saying the New York Times is anti-American when it prints stories concerning racial problems in the South—stories that may not place this country in high

esteem elsewhere, but stories which cannot be covered up while we proclaim we have a nation with equality for all.

No Pleas

To the Editor:

Armed with the facts (\$800 to \$1,500 damages, one truckload of liquor consumed, evidence of immorality) the Board of Regents sat down Wednesday afternoon and decided the fate of three fraternities.

According to one higher-up in the administration, these three fraternities caused an inestimable amount of damage to the prestige of the University of Nebraska.

This might be, but how many years would it take Crete, Nebraska, to send 200 students to the University, including several innocents, varsity lettermen, PBK's, etc.?

The damage caused to the prestige of the University outstate was due mainly to the misrepresentation of the facts related to the newspapers.

I'm not too sure that I'll be proud to say, "I graduated from the University of Nebraska," when, in this supposedly democratic country, three groups of college men were tried, convicted and hanged without ever voicing a plea.

Ron Reagan

Group Reaction

To the Editor:

In far more than one respect Ivy Day has become the most tragic of all Greek tragedies.

The tragedy of the Tri-Sig party lies not so much in the party itself but rather in the way in which two groups on campus reacted to it. One of these groups—the Board of Regents—may be partly justified in its actions because it had to do something to satisfy the inflamed Cretans along with other segments of the uneducated populace.

Taking no action on this matter would be in effect condoning what the Tri-Sigs had done and that would never do because it would "reflect badly" on the University. In other words it doesn't matter in the least what students do or do not do in college as long as it doesn't reflect badly on the University.

On the other hand I can't help but think that the action taken against the Tri-Sigs is far too severe. This "outrageous" affair was publicized because people like to read about "outrageous" affairs and not because of the actual crime involved. What a mockery of justice!

The IFC is the second group which impressed me negatively with its condemnation of the Tri-Sigs. This group now proposes to set up an Interfraternity Judiciary Board. Second only to the Student Tribunal this would probably be the biggest farce on campus.

At one time the IFC was thought of as a group organized to help the fraternity system. Finally high-up leaders decided that it was impossible to help the fraternity system so they de-

cidated that they would lay down an Administration-appearing smoke screen under which they could hide in their own houses.

Now after a large wind from Adminny Hall, the smoke is gone and the Greek system is wounded with the approval and recommendation of IFC.

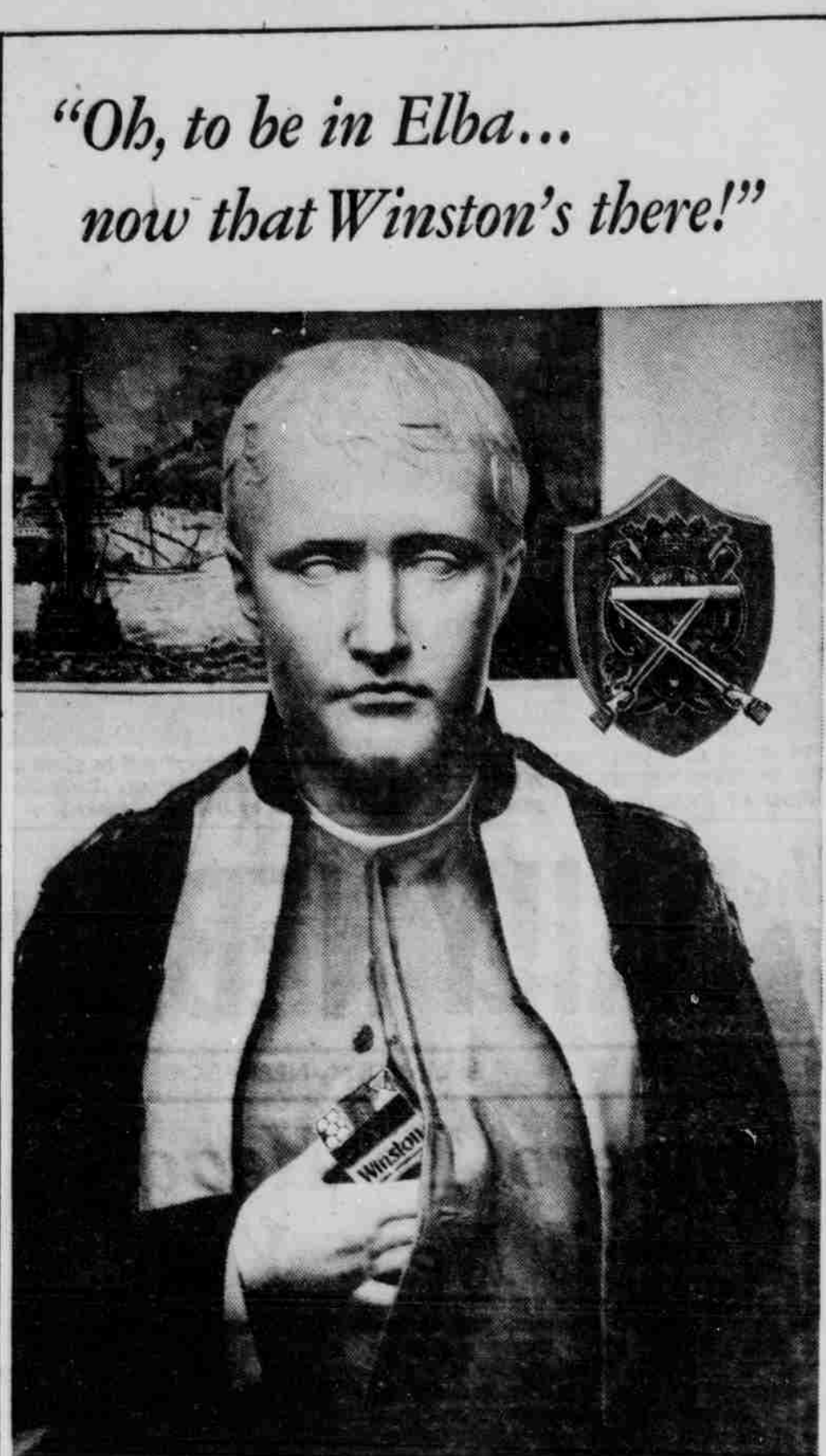
Even though I am thankful that I am not a member of one of the Tri-Sig houses, I have just a few qualms about being a member of a shoddy, poorly-organized fraternity system. Maybe the time has come for every fraternity man to take a good look at the fraternity system and ask himself whether he would rather be a "Big I" or a "little i."

Horace

Mueller Tower To Ring for Peace

Mueller Tower will ring out at 6 p.m. Saturday as part of a nation-wide prayer for peace with justice as President Eisenhower leaves for the Summit meeting.

One of several thousand bell installations participating in the May 14 effort, the Mueller Tower will ring out simultaneously with bells of churches and organizations of all denominations.



"Oh, to be in Elba... now that Winston's there!"

IT'S WHAT'S UP FRONT THAT COUNTS

The mystery is solved! Napoleon's famous gesture was just to reassure himself that he had plenty of cigarettes. His army may have traveled on its stomach, but the old boy himself wouldn't have been caught at Waterloo if he hadn't been checking the Belgian bistros for a spare carton of Winstons! There's a rare smoking treat that comes from Winston's famous Filter-Blend—which means a careful selection of fine, mild tobaccos specially processed for filter smoking. Try a pack real soon, and you'll agree that...

Winston tastes good—like a cigarette should!

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This month our annual spring buying season starts. — A time when representatives of our organization will go to over 200 campuses in the 50 states to buy books from more than half a million students. These books are purchased for resale at University of Nebraska and hundreds of other schools throughout the U. S.

The expanding demand for our experience and knowledge of true book values enables our representatives to buy books on campuses across the country from New York to Hawaii. You as a student here at the University of Nebraska also receive the benefit from this knowledge by receiving more cash for all books whether used on this campus or not.

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