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THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1927.

ETERNAL VIGILANCE

Accompanying the Senate's sudden approval of the second-year pledging bill, came a sudden verbal onslaught Tuesday against the University in the House of Representatives during the course of debate on a proposed measure to investigate the University and other state institutions of higher learning.

A critical attitude toward the University was displayed in both houses. The solons, at least some of them, are not quite certain that all is well at their state university.

That this attitude is not peculiarly that of the senators and representatives but is based in part at least on sentiment back home among the people, is indicated by the scattered newspaper comments appearing now and then out in the state, and even more by the private comments of the people themselves when they talk with returning students during vacations and over week-ends. The Omaha World-Herald of course is always on guard to protect the University.

The people back home seem to have no doubts at all concerning the high standards of academic and professional work in the various colleges of the University. They have nothing but praise at all times for the splendid faculty of the University. And though they may at times regret the lack of better physical plant facilities they do not spend much time complaining on that score.

There one great doubt in the whole scheme of university education is centered around the question of student morals. More particularly their one great doubt is centered about the fraternities and sororities, those organized student groups which put on the greatest amount of social display and are only too often justly censured and punished for the excesses of unthinking members.

Just like the unfortunate preacher's son who is expected by every member of the congregation to be an exemplar of the Christian life, but at the same time can hardly make a move without censure and exaggeration, the college fraternity stands out before the public as a definite, concrete example of student life of which much is expected, and about which every rumor and report is believed and exaggerated along the way.

No reason for the fraternities to raise a howl, though, they formed themselves and perpetuate themselves of their own free will, unlike the poor preacher's son who had nothing to say about his lot. It is up to the fraternities, then, to buck up manfully, accept the situation which is of their own making, and by their conduct justify themselves in the eyes of the public.

Last winter when the campus was heading at a faster and faster rate to a stage of more and more parties (which incidentally are one of the causes of criticism). The Nebraskan saw the troubled waters of public disapproval toward which such a pact will lead, and helped along a movement to curtail the excessive numbers of downtown parties. The fraternities through the Interfraternity Council disdainfully asserted their right to "spend the old man's dough" as much as they like.

The chances are that if the fraternities had followed the example of the sorority women and decided to have only one downtown party a year, their common-sense action would have won them so much favorable comment among the people of the state and especially among the senators and representatives assembled here at Lincoln that the second-year pledging bill would have been definitely killed, and there would have been very little talking about student morals.

The Nebraskan agrees with the Lincoln Star and Omaha World-Herald when those two papers deny that University of Nebraska students are misconducting themselves any more than any other fair cross-section of Nebraska life. The young men and women here at Nebraska, with the exception of a few social hounds and butterflies, and a few athletics and activity boys incidentally students, are probably a harder working and more serious a group of young people than can be found anywhere in the state with the possible exception of other colleges and universities. They are all planning and working for careers. They have good overseers who give them plenty to do, and they probably have much less time for rousing than the average young person back home on the farm or in the store. And the number of cases of actual reported cases of delinquency or other misconduct is probably surprisingly low in view of the 6 or 7 thousand students enrolled.

Even the much-criticized fraternity and sorority people—few people here realize the extent of some of the wild rumors and charges circulating out in the state—yes, even these fraternities and sororities as a whole have just as hard-working and sober-minded a group as can be found anywhere else.

But the unfortunate thing about it is, that there are a few fraternity men and a few sorority women who are bringing discredit on all their brothers and sisters, and on the University as well.

And the blame there lies squarely with the fraternities and sororities. They know, each and every of them know, which of their members and pledges are misconducting themselves or associating with those that do. If they had had the will to do so, had an aroused chapter opinion behind them, they could eradicate mighty quickly practically all of the evils complained about.

By their lack acquiescence in such conduct of their members and pledges, fraternities can have very little to complain about when the public singles them out and attacks them in none too complimentary terms. If fraternities were known to be doing some housecleaning of their own accord very little could be said against them. There might even be much praise for them, but the unfortunate thing again is that there are on every campus one or two, perhaps even more,

fraternities which as a group have a shady reputation on the campus. The conduct of one fraternity like this reflects on all, and innocent and guilty suffer alike before the wrath of the public.

Despite all the ravings of fraternity patriots about rights, privileges and what not, the ultimate success or failure of the whole system especially he state universities, will depend in the final analysis on the public's approval or disapproval. If fraternity men conduct their affairs so that they are beyond reproach, the system will endure. If certain of them periodically go down the wrong or permit their members to do so, the outcome may be different.

ITS A BIG ENOUGH JOB NOW

Just a few days ago the House passed a bill creating a new state department of publicity which is to be connected with the University of Nebraska conservation division. Yesterday the House passed a bill for an amendment to the state constitution taking control of the state deaf and dumb school from the board of control and vesting it in the University board of regents. A few weeks ago a bill to establish a hog serum manufacturing and storage plant at the college of agriculture was only narrowly averted.

Every session of the legislature finds the thrusting of new and unconnected duties upon the University and its governing body.

The University and the regents no doubt are always willing to be of the greatest service to the state whose creatures and servants they are, and they are willing and glad to do all the extra little chores which the solons decide shall be done, but there may perhaps be a question as to the wisdom of burdening a university with so many outside and unrelated activities. Taking care of one great state university with its many colleges, schools, departments, divisions, extension services, fraternities, athletic teams, coaches and all, is a big enough job for any one governing body without all the extra side shows thrown in.

The greatest good will be accomplished by this University when it sticks to its primary purpose of higher education and general educational service to the state. Dissipation of its energies in other enterprises will only sap away strength from these primary functions.

RAIN AND SQUEAKY SHOES

The aneroid barometer in the Mosk in front of old University Hall still points to Fair and Changing, but the old rain keeps pouring down just the same as when it started six days ago.

One of the most annoying features, leaving out of account troublesome, smelly slickers, is the water puddles in the sidewalks of the older parts of the campus. In front of U hall and down R street from Law building to "Facing Campus" walking is a trick of hopping from one stone to another.

The only compensating feature of it all is for those who have squeaky shoes. This is great weather for them and the water puddles help immensely. We've had a squeaky pair of shoes for six weeks or more, and have intended all that time to follow the advice of friends and finally soak them in water or oil to silence some of the squeak. The shoes haven't squeaked a peep for four days now, and if the water keeps coming down, the chances are they won't squeak again until next Roundup.

In Other Columns

A State University Crisis

Undoubtedly there were rash, unfounded and unjust criticisms among those launched against the state university in the legislature yesterday. The university is no sink-hole of iniquity, no breeding-ground of depravity, and no sensible person thinks it is. It is a large and representative gathering of the young manhood and womanhood of Nebraska, seeking training and inspiration for life under a large group of instructors who are clean-minded and devoted. It will show probably as high a level of morality and decency as any other similar large segment of Nebraska life.

The board of regents, however, will do well to take judicial notice of these sweeping criticisms and of the large vote that supported the demand for an investigation. If the regents are wise they will admit to themselves that there is here ominous evidence of the fact that the feeling is growing that all is not well with our university. For this feeling must be, and we believe there is, something more than a mere shadow of excuse.

It was written of old that where there is no vision the people perish. That, in our humble opinion, is what is the fundamental trouble with the University of Nebraska. Its responsible and dominant leadership lacks vision, lacks idealism, lacks the inspirational quality which is the first essential in a university's work. Where eight or ten thousand young people are assembled, living away from home in fraternity and sorority houses and boarding houses, they cannot be left to live by bread alone, by tuition alone, in an atmosphere more material, more pragmatic, more commercial and technical, than it is scholarly, and spiritually and intellectually stimulating.

The making of a great and useful university requires something more than attracting a large attendance, building a big "plant" and turning out famous football teams. These cannot begin to compensate for what is lost by skimping on the quality of instruction, by jealously keeping good and big men away or driving them away, by subordinating sound scholarship and a zeal for pure learning and the search for truth to the demands of an overgrown and somewhat technical high school.

Young folks at school need real leadership. They need to be inspired—genuinely inspired—not merely by precept but by example. They need to be brought to love the true, the beautiful, the good. And, at the plastic and impressionable age, they can be thus influenced and won—but only by men, hi-minded and devoted men, big enough for the job.

Nebraska's experience has been that men of this type, never numerous, have either become superannuated or are leaving the school. Even more unfortunately, they have not been and are not now being replaced by men who are their peers. Inadequate salaries have not been the only reason. Most of this caliber seek naturally for congenial surroundings. And furthermore small and peevish minds have a tendency to conspire to keep them away.

The regents are searching for a new chancellor. They are threatened with the loss of Dr. Alexander, an educator and scholar of the first water. And they are confronted with a rising tide of popular dissatisfaction with university conditions and university progress. Unless they are able to rise above petty things, to cope boldly and wisely with a critical situation, the university stands to suffer a series of blows from which it will be many years in recovering.

—The World-Herald, Omaha

The Campus Pulse

Letters from readers are cordially welcomed in this department, and will be printed in all cases subject only to the common newspaper practice of leaving out all libelous matter, and attacks against individuals and religions.

Dear "D. N.":

Why didn't you say so in the first place?

What good will come from still more "independence and self-expression" among the "Barbs"?

Don't you believe the "Greek" need it more?

What is the difference between "Activities" and "Politics"?

Who would want to be an Innocent?

Why distract the "Barbs" from their purpose of acquiring an education?

Will the Greeks ever monopolize learning, achievement, and greatness of character?

What election looms up in the near future?

Would dues in the "Barb" organization be large enough to make fraternity assessment seem reasonable?

Would the political allegiance of the "Barb" organization be with the "North" side or the "South" side?

Inquiringly yours,
Lon.

P. S. What difference does it make?

To Editor and Campus Pulse:

Cheers! The voice of another "Barb" has been heard to resound through the realm of those most worthy gleanings of literature: His views are rather distorted, rather vague, yet his article was really signed "A Barb"—who like John doesn't like to be called Johnny.

I wonder if this so-called "Barb" really meant what he said though in some of his citations—some of his explanations—some of his remonstrances? It would certainly take a blind man with a cup and a dog to be unable to see the snubbing which is prevalent on this campus. What promise a neat appearing youth has until his coat is "unintentionally" blown aside only to reveal no semblance of a badge of distinction or brotherhood or whatever it is termed. Truly a revelation—truly a damper on misdirected attention ensues, and results are very easy to see—that is,

if one is really observant.

Another statement of the "Barb" proclaims that a nonfraternity genius has chances for social fame and recognition if this being exists—wouldn't it seem possible under the rule of dirty organized politics which now hold sway on this campus?

Politics and politicians who control the student council—every office—every activity—Politics which sanctions cheap breaking of voting rules—putting on cheap vaudeville at a supposedly representative University night—capitalize on all would-be revived school functions—say for instance that wonderful old Junior Prom—I ask you, what superhuman genius could surmount such a secret and powerful organization unless as I advocate it be by popular acclaim. My "Barb" organization which will soon be swelled by entrance into the "Barb" ranks of those who are tired of such cheap political tendencies.

R. E. W. does considerable harping himself only in the wrong chord. He proves nothing—possibly and all probably the decrease in attendance at said institutions ultimately meant an increase in scholarship.

The sun shines on "Gil's" article—read it!

The salvo of letters really is what is needed to help conditions—the "Barb" situation—for they can not but help reveal the story in its true light.

Signed D. N.

To D. N. and Those Concerned:

Karl Marx once said that "History is made-up of class warfare." Whether or not we choose to believe that Karl's conception was exaggerated we know that the story of the world and its people contains an immense number of events involved by class

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SENIORS

TODAY—TOMORROW—SATURDAY

OFFICIAL
GRADUATION INVITATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS 1927

Selected and Approved by
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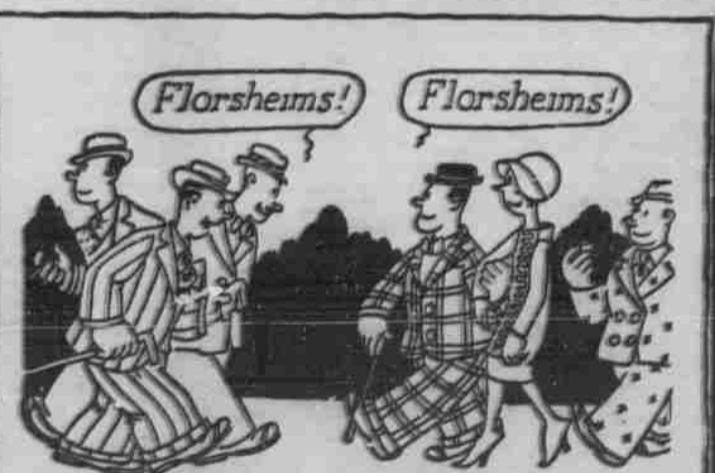
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antagonism. Universities with their supposedly enlightened atmosphere have not escaped "Class" warfare, or social difficulties either. There is no warfare here but you are reiterating D. N. Marx's theory regarding class antagonism; and is that uncommon; is it peculiar only to our university, can it be curtailed by words?

I fully sympathize with the principle of what you advocate—the abolishment of the sharp distinction between fraternity and sorority members and non-members, but I still maintain that you are going about in the wrong manner, and that granting the good principle involved, your efforts alone are doomed to the memories of ethereal dreams unless money and power are behind you. In the first place you alienate the class of high-spirited non-members by declaring they are subservient to the Greek letter members; they resent such a statement because their pride will not admit such subservency. You still insist upon flinging sarcastic remarks at those who differ with you and your methods sneeringly describing their literary efforts. Your conceit is admirable.

Create an antagonistic "Barb" organization D. N. and you will defeat your own ends by accentuating the class antagonism and the distinction between Greek-letter people and "Barbs".

Reflect awhile and consider the "Barbs," the university or anyone would thank you for that. That or—

organization need only be mental in that it renders the "Barb" more antagonistic to the people who term him "Barb". Don't mis-direct your efforts. You want the chance of social development to be equally extended to the "Barb," you want him to be regarded without any taint of inferiority or contempt. Then why stir antagonism, why fling taunts at those whose attitude you want to change?

Rather present constructive argument showing why the existing attitudes are unjust and undemocratic. Nothing will be done until the Greek-letter organizations are brought to the realization that a superior attitude is not right. Nothing will be done until such a place as a Union Hall provides a common, social meeting place for all campus students.

You are building dreams, nothing more. You are antagonizing where you wish to eliminate friction. Remember that greater minds have frequently coped with such a situation in India, Egypt, France and England

(Continued on Page Three.)



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