

The Daily Nebraskan

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SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 1927

TURNIP PATCHES

In the Campus Pulse column is another letter in defense of those who are opposing any restriction of downtown fraternity parties.

Its main points are: 1. Fraternities are restricted now to two downtown parties a year. 2. The Interfraternity Council decided unanimously against further limitation. 3. Denial of selfishness of the Student Council or of the Interfraternity Council as seems to have been indicated by the editorial columns.

Point number 1 would be well taken if it were only true. The ruling has been a dead letter for such a long time that some University and Interfraternity Council officials do not even know about it.

The proposal to have only one downtown party a year is only a tangible statement of a desire to bring back fraternity social functions to a more sane and simple foundation.

In this respect the writers of the letter are quite in harmony with the editorials of The Nebraskan. The only difference is that they emphasize the good sense of those groups which come under the classification of two downtown parties or less.

Point number 2 that the Interfraternity Council decided unanimously against further limitation is true only in part. There were several dissenting votes.

Point number 3 is a difficult one to answer as the accusation is somewhat personal. It might be interesting to the writer of the letter to know, though, that some of the fraternity members of the Student Council tried their best to keep the Council from passing the ruling to prohibit house dances on the night of Varsity Dances.

The Nebraskan has never accused the Student Council of selfishness, but it has accused some of the fraternity members of that Council with selfishness. The record of those members in their opposition to any measures to help out Varsity dances, and in their more recent opposition to limitation of downtown parties is quite sufficient proof of this.

Fraternities on this campus have so long confined themselves to their own little turnip patches, that they rise up in indignation when a suggestion is made that they abstain somewhat for the benefit of the common good.

This is closely tied with point 4 concerning reiteration of the popular cry of personal liberty.

Personal liberty was a great cry many years ago. It still is. But personal liberty has always given way and always must give way when the public interest is effected.

And the ones who are preaching this doctrine, if they would only consider it, are guilty of its most flagrant violations. No free person in the state of Nebraska has as little personal liberty as the young man or woman who is a pledge to a fraternity.

The fifth point voicing denial that the fraternity system is on trial before the public, is only another evidence of the placid security in which fraternity men imagine themselves. Hardly a member was aware this winter that a bill is under consideration to make mandatory second-year pledging. Only a few seem concerned about the bill now that they know about it.

If fraternity men would only read the report of the alumni committee on dormitories, they would read in those lines that alumni are beginning to think seriously about the snobbishness and supposed superiority of the fraternities, and that they are thinking seriously along lines which will some day result in every student having at least one democratic year of equality on this campus.

If fraternity men only knew that there are many of their own alumni who are no longer quite so sold on the proposition, and who are beginning to show some concern over the frankenstein they helped create and perpetuate, they would not be so touchy about reasonably limiting their downtown parties where the display cuts most deeply the people of the state who themselves were in great numbers unable to afford such luxuries, and whose sons and daughters even now possibly cannot afford them.

In short if fraternity men and women could for only a brief moment lift themselves out of their own little "exclusive" castles and see themselves as others see them, they would be just a little bit more tolerant, not quite so reluctant to mix with others, and would be glad to regulate their conduct to bring about the least amount of public disfavor.

THEY'RE ALL WRONG

As an example of the weird ways in which statements written or spoken can be twisted, drawn out and expanded, when they have gone through several hands, might be mentioned the editorial comment in a few recent issues concerning one of the maiden efforts of the drama editor of The Daily Nebraskan in his first issue back in February.

was made that college papers have become more and more cold and impersonal in many cases.

Only a few days passed before a paper of 100,000 and more circulation took up the statement and made a number one editorial out of it with a rubber-stretched generalization encompassing the whole University and even the whole state.

A week later a daily in one of the smaller Nebraska cities in a fatherly editorial assured The Nebraskan and the big paper that they were both right. But by this time there had crept into The Nebraskan editorial, it seems, a statement that the editor of The Nebraskan seems to believe that the modern newspaper is too much dominated by the business office.

The Nebraskan had not even mentioned the business office but so long as it was only said that the editor seems to think this or that, it was all right.

But yesterday our old high school paper reached us in the morning mass of exchanges. And what did we find in the first editorial but a positive statement that The Daily Nebraskan thinks that the business office controls the personal opinion of the editor too much these days.

Having dismissed the matter from our minds more than a month ago, it was amusing to see the thing still being bandied about, and a little bit more added to it each time.

That the same thing is probably happening everywhere to verbal statements of people with the only difference that the exaggerations are probably on a grander and more spicy scale, is evident without any great stretch of imagination.

BETTER ATHLETICS—OR WORSE?

Condemned from various sources across the country, collegiate athletics have furnished a subject for intensive criticism in recent years. Whatever may be the situation at other institutions, athletics have exerted a most beneficial influence at the University of Nebraska.

During the football season some one hundred fifty freshman and varsity candidates go through two hours of intensive drill daily. Physical stamina, bodily coordination, quick thinking, perfect control of body, mind, and temper, are necessary requisites to any continued degree of success. Similar qualifications are necessary for all collegiate sports.

Athletics at Nebraska's is serving two vital functions among these men. In the majority of cases it is proving a substantial aid in assisting them to keep in good physical condition while attending school. In other cases, it is furnishing a clean, healthy, normal outlet for physical vigor that is going to be disposed of in some manner. Much better that it be put to work on efforts which develop bodily and mental power and co-ordination than that it be squandered in a pool hall, an excess of "caking", etc.

Athletics encourage a sane, normal life. They encourage sound living. The man who gets his sleep off and on, and eats when and where he pleases, as well as what he pleases, finds the going tough. Training, by virtue of the competition involved, has become a necessity to any great degree of athletic success. This means, that as a result of collegiate athletics, at least two or three hundred students are leading a better, healthier, saner life, than they might otherwise lead.

Nebraska has maintained her athletics on a high plane because a sufficient portion of the student body has realized the necessity of hard work and faithful training in achieving athletic success and has striven for the benefits which clean, vigorous competitive athletics may give. As long as Nebraska keeps her social system from becoming a business instead of a recreation just so long will the word "Cornhusker" carry a vital significance as to competitive ability as well as to the higher standards of sportsmanship.

In Other Columns

The Athlete's Scholarship

While cynics may say that the reason why an athlete's marks are higher than the average student's is because they have to be for eligibility reasons, it cannot be denied that his grades are slightly superior to those of the mythical average student, Richard Roe.

But it would seem that the underlying reason for the superiority of the athlete's marks is the fear of becoming ineligible rather than greater desire for improved scholarship. While it is true that the athlete's rank is slightly higher than the "Richard Roe," the difference is not great. While much has been done by authorities regarding the academic standing of the participating athletes, a difference of one per cent between their average and that of the non-athletes can hardly justify one's waxing eloquent with praise.

An Indoor Sport

Next to notebook sketching, clock-watching appears to be the most popular classroom diversion. The clock-watcher seems to be acutely conscious of the passage of time, and observes each movement of the minute hand on the clock with great concern.

Apparently the clock-watcher is unable to realize the value of time. In the world outside, time is the measure of work. But with the clock watcher, time is an obstruction to the work which is to be performed. He is so appalled by his awareness of time that he never gets to the work itself. This disposition seriously impairs his personal efficiency.

The disposition to make the most of time constitutes a part of business training. For this reason, the period allotted for classroom exercises ought to be held valuable. Conceivably, something of interest or value might be presented while the clock-watcher is engaged in staring the clock out of countenance.

The attention given to the lecture or discussion will pay dividends not only in increased interest and knowledge but also as a valuable training for later life, if one needs such training.

Skeptics? Not for Long

Young people at Northwestern university, according to a questionnaire, are largely "indifferent and independent" in the matter of religion. We may take it that Northwestern is not the exception, and that this condition is fairly general in our bigger institutions of learning.

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 keeping out all libelous matter, and attacks against individuals and religions.

Are Two Too Many?

To the Editor of the Daily Nebraskan: Are Nebraska fraternities giving too many parties? Many statements have been made that they are, but as yet we have failed to see any logical proof that such is the case.

The matter was brought up before the Interfraternity Council and this body unanimously voted against further limitation. Also it was considered by the Student Council and the matter dropped, indicating that the change was not desirable.

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Why not treat Nebraska fraternities that way? They are composed of some of America's finest young men. Give them the credit of a little sense. Let them work out this party problem by themselves.

You say that fraternity men are on trial before the people of Nebraska. They may be, but we doubt it; we doubt because we see no strong evidence founded on facts indicating that they are. Even if they are on trial we doubt still more that they are being tried because they give too many parties.

These persons admit and believe that some parties are desirable. All the difference of opinion, then, seems to be in the matter of degree. The limit now in force provides a little leeway so the number of parties can be determined by each individual organization, but at the same time definitely restricts that number so it is always within conservative bounds.

The greatest of all American principles, a principle handed down to us by our forefathers, is personal liberty. It is not American-like to force an opinion on an individual who does not believe in that opinion.

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ther, associate professor of advertising, went to Grand Island, to attend the annual convention of the Nebraska Retailers' Association.

One Year Ago

"The Mad March Hare" from "Alice in Wonderland" was selected by the members of the general tea committee as motif for the A. W. S. tea which was held in the Ellen Smith Hall.

Ellsworth DuTeau, Arts and Science junior, discussed "Some Evils of Our Present University Social System," at the World Forum luncheon at the Grand hotel. DuTeau was one of the leaders in the recent campaign against the use of rent-a-fords.

J. H. Frandsen, dairy expert and agricultural editor, who for ten years was head of the department of dairy husbandry at the University of Nebraska, accepted a position as head of both the departments of dairying and animal husbandry at Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst, Mass.

Dean J. E. LeRossignol of the College of Business Administration prepared the program for the convention of the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business which was held at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire.

Prof. O. R. Martin, chairman of the department of business organization and management, Prof. T. Bruce Robb, chairman of the committee on business research, and Dr. E. T. Gra-

Two Years Ago

Dean Amanda Heppner attended a national conference of Deans of Women at Cincinnati, Ohio.

"The Masqueraders," stage and screen success by Guy Bates Post, was given by the University Players in the Temple theater.

Mrs. G. W. Stevens, the only woman member of the first graduating class of the University of Nebraska, was among those who heard the charter day program broadcast from here.

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