

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

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Nebraska 'School Spirit' Did Find an Outlet.

That long delayed and much heralded "climax of Cornhusker spirit" was finally reached Friday when a youthful riot and revolution took place on the university campus. At least it is hoped that the climax has been reached. If demonstrations of greater intensity are demanded by spirit-fostering organizations, it will be advisable for instructors to carry sawed-off shotguns in self defense.

Predilections of certain Corn Cobs the effect that there would be no classes Friday, a discreet suggestion in an anonymous advertisement in The Nebraskan announcing a "rally, from 9 o'clock on," and exhortations by "the Rally Man," writing in news columns of The Nebraskan, bore fruit Friday morning when several groups of students started on their campaigns to make class meetings impossible. The campaigns were, for the most part, successful.

Everywhere on the campus, classrooms were invaded by howling maniacs who assured the individuals in the rooms that the only suitable means by which they could prove conclusively that they were loyal Cornhuskers was to leave their classes and aid in the general disturbance.

A few instructors were able to point out to their classes the folly of the performance, either directly or indirectly, and to hold their meetings through the entire hour, regardless of interruption. Parenthetically, those instructors are entitled to, and are receiving, the respect of the students because of that achievement.

The number of classes held through an entire hour was few. The "ralliers," unsatisfied with their milder attempts at disrupting study, became more enthusiastic. And in this enthusiasm, a variety, undoubtedly, of mob spirit, the most outrageous incidents of the demonstration had their foundation.

The insult of students doing physical violence to Dean A. L. Candy, one of the most venerable and admirable men on the faculty, is utterly unseemly. The mitigating circumstances—that the perpetrators of the offense were temporarily insane—is an excuse to some degree, but the fact still remains that Nebraska students were incited into a state of mind which is not justifiable under any conditions.

Other "loyal Cornhusker" activities, such as breaking down doors, hissing and booing instructors who had something to say to the mob, preparing a fire hose for use in breaking up one class—the hose was disconnected fortunately, and further catastrophe avoided—and other similar activities, are of course, deplorable. In all probability, the participants are at this time deeply ashamed of their conduct. If they are not, no further time need be wasted on them.

The whole procedure was outrageous, inexcusable, degrading, and indefensible. Its general undesirability is simply evidenced by the frantic scramble which organizations are making to disavow all connection with the outbreak.

The history of the spirit brewing for the Saturday game dates back to the first school day of last week, when the Scarlet and Cream coaching staff and football team met at a joint luncheon with the Lincoln junior chamber of commerce. At that time the prevalent dormant attitude of the Nebraska student body toward the squad was lamented and plans for giving the students a genuine shaking up were tentatively framed.

That this action should be necessary at the University of Nebraska seems to be incredible. In former years, the students have ever been ready to step forward and cheer their team to victory. The house to house canvass of members of the coaching staff imploring fraternity and sorority members to show some love for their alma mater by getting out and rallying is a characteristic which only the 1929-30 school year possesses.

The reason for all this "necessary action" to instill "school spirit" is not the vital factor at this moment. It's the hangover—the aftermath—that hurts and demands explanation. And the problem that stares us in the face is who is to be blamed for the upshot?

The Nebraskan does not claim that the unfortunate events which occurred Friday were the culmination of a deliberate campaign con-

ducted by the Corn Cobs or the Innocents or the athletic department. But the fact that we do not wish to place the blame on any of these agencies does not signify our acquiescence that everything is rosy and the matter settled.

In a statement, appearing on the front page of The Nebraskan this morning, Dean of Student Affairs Thompson declares that the matter is still under investigation. There are many things to be considered before the case is brushed aside or final judgment made and The Nebraskan believes that justice can be accorded only after a thorough examination of all the facts connected with the happening is undertaken. That it is the desire of the dean to realize this goes without saying.

There is probably no one in the university at the present time who is not sorry for what transpired Friday. But the harm is done. The whole business came about as a result of efforts to arouse a passive student body into an active expression of enthusiasm it did not feel. The Friday rally had gone beyond the "school spirit" stage. The majority of participants had apparently forgotten what it was all about. They remembered nothing but that the "rally" was an excuse to skip classes.

Assurance that there will be no further demonstrations of the kind made Friday is furnished in a decree made by university authorities. Quoting an extract of the official notice of the dean of student affairs, we supply the following information:

"Suffice it to say that from this time forward, organized rallies must be dispensed with until after 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Classes may sing between class periods, but should an individual attempt to foment a class rally which disturbs classes he should be reported to the dean of his college and to this office.

The Nebraskan appreciates the position taken by the dean and highly commends him for his tactful manner in trying to avoid further indulgences of this sort. Rallies have always been more or less of a problem on this campus, but, fortunately, before this time there have been, with very few exceptions, no dastardly displays of student pep as that which took place this week end. The time had to come and now it surely has.

The responsibility for the enforcement of this late edict though not expressly stated, is given by the dean to the spirit building organizations of the campus: Innocents, Corn Cobs, Tassels. These groups are supposed to quell any provocations of rallies or any semblance thereto in classes during the regular hours. This is not a new responsibility for these bodies—they have always had the prerogative of controlling wild animal tactics at rallies and similar gatherings as well as the right to arouse and stimulate student interest in these affairs.

Whether these organizations have been fulfilling their obligations as religiously as they might be open for debate. Perhaps the Friday stampede could have been averted had there been some attempt on the part of these "pep raisers" to control the situation. But, of course, the leaders, wise as to what might happen, hid themselves away to some sublime spot and never showed themselves until the mob had subsided.

True, the game was won. Whether it was the superfluous degree of noise generated prior to the team's departure that did the trick no one knows. But the student who interests himself in university affairs, and who has looked askance at the goings on of the memorable date, Nov. 22, 1929, is willing to attribute the victory more to the prowess of the players than to anything else.

Another football game—the final contest of the season—is to be played in Lincoln next Thursday. Another splurge of "school spirit" is in the offing. Certainly sane minded individuals do not want to see a repetition of Friday's turmoil. But unless precautionary measures are taken we may rest assured that the University of Nebraska campus will again vie with Russia in the way of revolutions and uprisings, with the possibility of more unnecessary damage being done to university property and above all to the body and soul of such esteemed characters as Dean Candy.

And it won't hurt one iota to start right at the bottom and suggest that those who exhibited the strong aggressiveness last week in pent up school spirit recede to the background this week and allow the rally business to take its natural course.

Editorial announcement in Wilcox, Neb., Herald: "Owing to the lack of space and the rush of editing this issue, several births and deaths will be postponed until next week." No foolin'.

Dr. Rogers says that marks in our schools and colleges are a disgrace. Some of them have always been so regarded generally—Omaha World Herald.

Echoes of the Campus.

Letters from readers are cordially welcomed in this department, and will be printed in all cases subject to the common newspaper practice of keeping out of all libelous matter and attacks against individuals and religions. For the benefit of readers a limit of 250 words has been set. The name of the author must accompany each letter, but the full name will not be published unless so

Time for Some Real Leaders.

To the Editor of The Nebraskan:
A university tradition of twenty-six years' standing was hopelessly shattered beyond all recognition last Friday when it became known that the mob which broke up classes, smashed doors and windows and threatened instructors with violence was inspired in its work by the Innocents society. The Innocents are supposed to be a group of high-minded leaders, the thirteen most representative men on the campus. Their leadership in school affairs has been a tradition on this campus for more than a quarter of a century, and it was genuinely bitter illusion to the writer to find that the innocents were responsible for the advertisements which appeared in The Daily Nebraskan on last Thursday, notifying students that on Friday there would be a rally "from 9 o'clock on."

When a group with the prestige and responsible position on the campus which the innocents have hitherto enjoyed, deliberately encourages students to halt classwork for a day in order to indulge in a wild juvenile orgy of the nature of the Friday demonstration, one wonders just what is meant by the "leadership" which the innocents society has flaunted in the face of the student body for twenty-six years. Certainly the so-called rally Friday is going to cause more adverse criticism over the state than anything which could have happened, and this rightly, for the whole affair was a disgrace to the university and to those who make up its student body.

If the promotion of this rally is an accurate demonstration of the type of leadership and ideals for which the innocents society stands, it is high time the campus had some new leaders.

AN EX-ADMIRER OF THE INNOCENTS.

School Spirit—What Is It?

To the Editor of The Nebraskan:
All people on or near fraternity row were quite aware that a big rally was held last Wednesday night starting at the corner of Sixteenth and R and ending, most of us know not where. The Corn Cobs had promised some and threatened others that such rallies would continue throughout the week, night and day. They even predicted that starting with the 9 o'clock rally Friday classes for that day would undoubtedly cease.

Is this sudden open agitation on the part of the Corn Cobs and others easily aroused by yells, vehement speeches, and more yells, true American spirit or does it border somewhat on anarchism? Are these rallies true pep sessions, or mob scenes, public show, and anti-study groups? Are we in school primarily to "rah-rah" or to obtain an education? To be loyal to Nebraska must we break up classes and carry red flags?

Wednesday night the rally was emphatically announced at every house. That was not all; the mad crowd "crashed" every sorority door and demanded "Every girl out!" Many followed the crowd. Every freshman went regardless of the fact that a few instructors were still giving midsemesters. "A" students and "F" students all followed the call of the "rah-rahs." They returned two hours later, cold, tired, and some bruised—yes actually bruised—and not an ounce more of school spirit. An evening of precious time wasted.

Then what is the matter with Nebraska? True, the student body lacks spirit, but it is no remedy to destroy the primary object of school in an attempt to revive the football spirit. Listen, you Corn Cobs and spirit radicalists: Hereafter start that "Right 'em" and "rah-rah" spirit earlier in the game. Contract some of the pep the Tassels have shown at games and rallies. Talk it up. Show folks you're there and why! We're for you and a

Dean William M. Cobleigh, of Montana State college at Bozeman, Mont., was on the Nebraska campus this week inspecting the engineering college laboratories, chemical laboratories, Morrill hall.

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rally in its place, which is between classes, and before the game. But keep the bolsheviks from demoralizing the school and killing true spirit.
W. D.

That Football Support.

To the Editor of The Nebraskan:
The football team and coaching staff of the University of Nebraska put forth last week a great deal of effort to bring home the Big Six championship. A howl went up from the camp to the effect that something was wrong with the student body. There was not, according to the wail, enough pep, enough of the good old spirit among the members of the student body.

To all of this I say: "Just think of that, isn't it a shame?" Yes, it really is too bad. You had for Nebraska that at crucial times the football team, which it has always been behind, becomes too efficient with the mouth and so inadequate physically as has been noted of late.

The majority of the student body is attending the university for the purpose of gaining an education and broadening their views on life in preparation for varied careers after leaving college. They have far more to do than play the part of rah-rah boys continually.

On the other hand, the members of the football team are working for glory, for a sweater and whatever else goes with the making of the team. If the team wishes more support, then let them give performances which will make impossible a restraint of enthusiasm on the part of the student body.

We have bought our tickets. We traveled in large numbers to see the only out of town games reasonably near prior to the game Saturday. We are behind the team. But let them stop this infernal howling by furnishing something that will give the student body reason for an overflow of spirit.
M. H.

A Veritable Cattle Stampede.

To the Editor of The Nebraskan:
"Crowds and mobs are the lowest forms of human groups," says Bernard, the social psychologist. "They approximate most closely to the packs and herds of lower animals."
"Say what you may," the rah rah Nebraskans are telling each other, "the rallies did the trick." Let's hope they did. It is an ill wind that blows no good. What are the results?

The game is won. The faculty is increased. Some students are tickled to death. Some have had a day of school blotted out and are sore about that. A door was broken and several cases of violence actually resulted between instructors trying to hold classes and the mob. A few of the symptoms of war have been manifested.

What happened to the students, most of them rational human beings in their better moments? The normal instinct to seek power was fulfilled when they experienced the sensation of having the power of the whole mob with which they were allied. Their manners were forgotten because their individual responsibility was gone.

The member of a mob feels all the power of numbers. He is suggestible to the nth degree. His responsibility has vanished. It seems rather sad to an observer to watch evolution take such a backslide in such a few short hours, and see the future leaders of the country in a melee that reminds the westerner of a cattle stampede.

But what about it? We won the game. Yes, but unless some of the students in Nebraska who can reason with their minds stop to do it—there will be no more rallies. There can't be. Property cannot be destroyed for the sake of college spirit. The purpose of the university cannot be completely banished in order to win a football game. A whole week of interruptions and a day of wrecking cannot continue.

A few more examples and the University of Nebraska will have to banish one of the finest traditions of the school. Of course, the students can revolt. But then the taxpayers can, too. Then the rah rah boys will have no university to go to. The sensible students, the loyal Cornhuskers must stand up against the whole thing when it begins to get beyond bounds. The loyal Cornhusker must keep his seat and his the thing back during class hours.

If a rally is done right it is a great producer of spirit. If it passes the rally category it destroys itself. Why not band together as sensible, loyal lovers of the old school and hiss down the ambitious fellow with the inferiority complex and keep the tradition?
H. J.

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