

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

TWENTY-NINTH YEAR

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Nebraska Spirit.

One of the most salient contributions of the Aristotelian philosophy to humanity is that which concerns definitions. Everybody, says Aristotle, the father of the science of logic, should be able to define the terms they use in order that they themselves and others might know what they are talking about.

Were this staid Greek dignitary of old to have visited the University of Nebraska campus this fall he would have undoubtedly been the most disgruntled character of the times. He would have seen the fruits of his mental actions come to naught, for right here university people were constantly employing a term which was pitifully begging description and definition—that popular expression called "college spirit."

So much (evidently too much, according to some of our most ardent readers) has been said in these columns about the after effects of Cornhusker spirit asserting itself on a memorable Friday not long ago, that no opportunity has been given to offer a clear cut, unadulterated explanation of the combination of school and spirit. But we alone should not be subject to censure for there are many others who have brought that figure of speech into play without knowing the full significance of it.

Several times during the course of the current semester, The Daily Nebraskan, editorially, has alluded to the deeper meaning of this intangible thing, but never has it given full expression to it. And all along there have been these cries springing up from various agencies for more display of school spirit.

School spirit is not something that extends only over a period of two months, from, say, the last week of September to the last week of November. School spirit is not something that can be thrust down the throats of a normal student body. School spirit is not something that can cause classroom doors to be battered down, classes to be broken up, and professors to be mauled about as if they were football scrimmage dummies.

Real, genuine, untinted, unalloyed school spirit is, as we have always maintained during our term of office, something more profound, something more enduring, something more precious than that which was displayed in the recent upheaval. True, we agree with a brother columnist, that the term comes very near escaping a logical definition; yet we believe there is such a thing as true Cornhusker spirit—the love, the admiration, the respect, the loyalty that one has for this university.

The executive staff, the administrative staff, the instructional staff, and the student body alike share in this feeling toward the University of Nebraska. The fact that the executives and administrators are giving their time, their efforts, toward the maintenance and advancement of a great institution, constantly bearing in mind both the taxpayers and the students, is an indication that they have some regard for the university.

Because a professor does not get up before his classes and whoop and yelp like mad is no sign that he is devoid of Husker spirit. But when he spends practically his all in the interests of the school of which he is a part, and which exists primarily for the purpose of giving the youth of the state an education and a chance to become the future leaders, he should be given credit for having the right kind of attitude toward the university.

Who can deny that a professor who has served the university for exactly thirty-six years possesses school spirit? And painfully enough, it was this particular educator—Dean A. L. Candy—who was destined to be one of the prey of the famous "no class" hounds.

Professors are not alien to school spirit. They show allegiance to their university through fulfilling their part of the program—the holding of classes. They also show loyalty through other channels, research work, the writing of textbooks and the doing of numerous related tasks, which occupy the greatest share of their time.

There are many ways in which the student can manifest fidelity for Nebraska's foremost educational plant. He can, and should, begin the very first day he is here to feel himself an integral fragment of this school. He can start right away to sense the ideals and purposes of this leading midwestern university, and place them above everything else during his time here.

The student can prove he has the proper brand of school spirit by setting the part of what he is supposed to be—a student. Not devoting all of his time to this, understand, but at least interesting himself in what the hours spent in concentrated study will do for him in years to come.

The student can also unroll school spirit by attending those functions which the university and its acceptable organizations sponsor. There are the dramatic offerings, the musical presentations, the convocations, the social gatherings, the athletic contests—in fact, all that assist in the educational process.

The student who takes part in worthwhile extra curricular activities in a serious, conscientious and faithful manner, having in view the benefits rather than the honors that are to be derived, can likewise be classed among the owners of school spirit. Since very few of the non-scholastic enterprises carry with them any emoluments, the student who spends most of his time outside of the classroom and the study hall in the pursuit of these undertakings is to be given praise for his untiring efforts and for his indomitable spirit.

Unfortunately, certain extremists on the campus deem school spirit as inextricably interwoven with animal spirit. They seem to regard it as a sort of vague, irrational sentiment for the institution, and have the impression that the only way this pride can seek an opening is by backing the football team, and,

incidentally, by interfering with the educational workings of the university.

If they do not entertain the idea of disrupting the classwork, they, at least, hold in contempt the keeping of classes at the time of approaching football games. They little realize that by so doing they bring the institution itself into contempt and show themselves to be enemies of good sport. They faintly realize that there can be ways of showing spirit other than via the hey hey route.

Organized cheering at football and basketball games is a wonderful medium for the demonstration of university consciousness. If the student has the highest type of school spirit he will be ready without the slightest hesitation to yell "Fight, Nebraska, Fight," and to sing, "There is No Place Like Nebraska," and "The Cornhusker." And the beauty of the whole thing is that the football and basketball squads for whom all the noise is intended, will be able to tune in on the utterances.

The Nebraskan presents these ruminations on school spirit for it feels that love for one's alma mater is one of the most cherished and most worthy aspects of university life. It stoutly believes that school spirit—natural and not forced or artificial—should be maintained at the University of Nebraska but should be freed from unnecessary exterior proddings.

It must be an awfully funny feeling to be jealous of those who are on the "inside." But it must be still worse for those who have been on the "inside" to be envious of those who are now on the outside and able to do their own thinking.

Even the politician who has always had his own way doesn't have anything to say about the Rhodes scholar appointment.

Echoes of the Campus.

Off the Beaten Path.

To the Editor of The Nebraskan: One M. L., a more contemplative, philosophical and astute student than the general run of students, wrote a letter to you yesterday, in which he expressed his ideas about college journalists, student editors, and the eccentricities of human nature. May I add a bit, if I can, to this dissertation?

There are many people, in this funny world of ours who can't stand criticism. They resent it. They hate it. They may be brave and manly in all other respects, but they abhor criticism. Though down deep in their hearts, they are keenly aware of the fact that the institutions which others are criticizing, and to which they pay homage, are not worth the breath and the ink which are wasted upon them, still it rankles them to see and hear any critical estimate being made of them.

These are the people who dread, more than anything else, to make any changes in the system of doing things to which they have been habituated. They start school doing certain things or watching those things being done. They are accustomed to certain modes of living, they are saturated with the standard desires of attaining certain stereotyped honors. Being thus trained to follow a certain stream of events, they tremble at anyone who dares to stem its flow.

And when this chap encounters criticism, what is the thing he does? Does he inquire into the merits of the criticism, to see whether the inquiry is based upon fact? Does he attempt to stop and evaluate the institution which the critic is attempting to analyze, and see whether the faults which have been indicated are due to the institution itself? Does he try to call into question any part of that mass of customary ways of thinking, and judge in the scientific spirit which is the proud boast of this scientific age of ours?

Not this fellow. The trouble is all with the critic. If evils have been indicated, then the evils all exist in the critic's mind. Probably the critic is sore about something, maybe it's a case of sour grapes, maybe he's airing his personal spite. Whatever logic is used to refute the contentions of the critic, the logic is all ad personam. The critic is jealous, he's this and he's that. But as to the things he criticizes, glory be, there can't be anything wrong with them. They are perfect, for aren't their roots sunk into the past? And what greater sanction does a thing need than the adherence of the past?

It is manifestly true that there are editors who distort the facts, but it is also true that there are myriads of readers who misinterpret and distort the views of those who dare to question their precious preconceived measure of values.

And may I conclude by saying, that one editor who is brave enough to adversely criticize institutions which have so far been removed from the atmosphere of criticism simply because of the force of inertia, tradition, and cowardice, and who is man enough to voice opinions even though he knows they will irritate the "right" people, can do more for his school and his reading public than a decade of blind mouthing of empty ideas and still emptier establishments behind those ideas. THANK YOU.

Contemporary Sentiments

Courageous Editorial Writers.

Lincoln Journal: A recent critic of university affairs in a magazine article referred to The Daily Nebraskan, university publication, as "showing little courage." That may be true and it may not be true. The paper recently published a paragraph saying: "At \$8 per couple the proceeds from the military ball should help materially in paying off the debts contracted by the United States in the late war." Then again: "In the light of recent happenings on the campus one wonders whether the innocents are so innocent after all." These may not indicate courage but let the doubter try something of that sort.

Years ago W. J. Bryan denounced the University of Wisconsin as ungodly and the seat of atheism. Now that university offers a scholarship to Mr. Bryan's grandson and the grandson declines to accept. Lincoln Journal.

INTERCOLLEGE CAGE TEAMS PLAN SEASON

Four Games Open Schedule Next Thursday Night In Coliseum.

Intercollege basketball will get under way Thursday, when four games are scheduled in the evening.

The Teachers will meet the Arts and Sciences team on floor two at 7 p. m. The Dentists and Farmers will meet at 7:25 p. m. The latter game will be started at half time of the first game. This plan will be followed in both intercollege and interfraternity basketball this year.

The first of the other two games brings together the Pharmacists and the Engineers at 7 p. m. on court three. The Lawyers meet the Bizads in the other tilt of the evening.

TRI DELTS WIN FROM PI OMEGA PI ORGANIZATION

Delta Delta Delta won from Phi Omega Pi in the intramural Nebraska ball tournament. The schedule for this week will be as follows:

Tuesday, Dec. 10  
Sigma Eta Chi vs. N'Ergettes.  
Pi Beta Phi, team 2 vs. Sigma Kappa.

Wednesday, Dec. 11  
Kappa Kappa Gamma vs. Delta Delta Delta, team 1.  
Alpha Omega Pi vs. Alpha Delta Pi.

Thursday, Dec. 12  
Kappa Alpha Theta vs. Pi Beta Phi, team 1.  
Delta Zeta vs. Alpha Delta Theta.

Friday, Dec. 13  
Delta Gamma vs. Sigma Delta Tau.  
Alpha Xi Delta vs. Alpha Phi.

The cornerstone of the original United States Capitol building was laid by President Washington, Sept. 18, 1793.



A FEW STEPS From The Street

Almost anywhere in Lincoln you are within a moment's walk of a public telephone.

You can always communicate quickly with your home, your office or anyone else you wish to reach.

There are approximately 250 public telephones in Lincoln. Here for instance is a sketch of a public telephone in the Y. M. C. A. located on 13th street at P.



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