

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

TWENTY-NINTH YEAR

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Dizzy Journalism.

Appearing on the front page of The Daily Nebraskan this morning is a refutation by Chancellor Burnett to several misstatements made in a recent issue of the Omaha Bee-News. The matter is a very important one and this newspaper is very happy to bring to light the real facts.

The basis for the chancellor's statement is the following excerpt from a news story which appeared under the headline: "Burnett Raps U. 'Barbarians'"

"Fraternities are not a problem at the University of Nebraska, it's the 3,000 or 4,000 students who are not in fraternities and sororities that cause the faculty worries."

"The fraternities and sororities... handle themselves. It is seldom that anything goes wrong in a fraternity or sorority house, he said."

That such information should be conveyed through one of the leading news dispensing agencies of the state is an abomination. With the appearance of such "facts," as newspapers are supposed to contain, the citizens of this state are led to believe that the head of their educational institution is trying to make the cleavage between fraternity and nonfraternity students more pronounced.

It is apparent that the newspaper men who handled this story and headline were not quoting exactly what the chancellor did say. The chancellor does not wish to "rap" nonfraternity students or "barbarians" as they are dubbed in the headline cited above. Nor does he mean to say that fraternities do not give the authorities any concern.

What Chancellor Burnett was endeavoring to point out was how much the fraternities, because of their compactness, because of their living in groups, because of their apparent solidarity, assist the university authorities in the handling of the affairs of the Greek organizations. He was not trying to place these organizations on a pedestal, high and pure, but was attempting to show the difference in the way the two classes of students can be reached.

To say that nothing bad ever takes place in a fraternity or sorority house would be ridiculous. Whoever put that into the news story must have had his style cramped appreciably for he failed to compete the sentence. Instead of reading as it does, the complete statement made by Chancellor Burnett should read thus:

"It is seldom that anything goes wrong in a fraternity or sorority house BUT that we can place the responsibility upon one person, who will see that the proper recourse is taken."

The omission of absolute necessary facts is an unpardonable deed in journalism—whether intentional or unintentional. Especially is this true with news articles which are supposed to give both sides of the "case." Whether the elision of the fundamental idea in this particular instance was intentional in order to make a "hot" story, we are unable to ascertain, but it does make things look pretty bad on an otherwise smooth-running campus.

The Ever Popular Straggler.

Approximately half the classes in the university are possessed of a chronic straggler who consistently disturbs the peaceful atmosphere of a group just settled down to a comfortable fifty minutes. After the roll has been called, the assignment given, and the lecture or quiz begun, the straggler straggles in, completely disturbing the attention of the class and the instructor.

The nature of the straggler's entrance varies with his (or her) type. One person may burst through the door and charge panting down the aisle to fling himself exhausted and gasping into his seat. Another person may open the door slowly and deliberately, step inside, and strike a pose depicting nonchalance in the nth degree. Coolly he surveys the class, the professor, and conditions in general. Then he saunters leisurely to his seat.

The two classes of stragglers represent people of widely variant dispositions. The perpetual busters are persons to be pitied while they are criticized. They are the ill-fated individuals who are never on time for anything. In all probability they came into this world ten minutes late, and will leave ten minutes late. Perhaps, by making a supreme effort, they could reorganize their schedules and do something on time, but it is doubtful. They are beyond the influence of argument.

But the second type of straggler needs a shaking up. The evidence indicates that the leisurely straggler likes to be late. Some times it almost seems that he intends to be late. The practice is a valuable one for gaining attention. No person can enter classrooms consistently ten minutes late without establishing for himself a reputation. He is placed in the public eye. Perhaps he realizes vaguely that his

means is not all it should be, but the end is highly desirable.

It is the student who straggles deliberately and premeditatedly who deserves censure. He should be criticized in the minds of the people he disturbs, and he would be criticized if his purpose is what it seems to be.

The Struggle of Life.

Convinced from what he had seen of life that it was not worth the struggle, twenty-two year old Herman Moody Low, proclaimed intellectual genius at Columbia university, holder of three college degrees, turned on the gas jet in his Brooklyn apartment last week, thus ending his fruitful life. At the time of his suicide young Low was working for his fourth degree, that of doctor of philosophy.

Sporadically every year the country is shocked by accounts of such acts. Students in the bloom of life with the wide world before them choose to end their lives, taking what they consider is the easy way out.

Certainly hard working students will agree that periods of depression occasionally accompany their diligent efforts. In the midst of their labors they will throw up their hands in despair and query if it is really worth while. Low apparently decided definitely that studying, work, and even life itself were not worth the battle.

There are two points of view one may assume in studying philosophy. He can readily see, if he chooses, the apparent futility of living a life, of meeting its problems, of solving them according to a philosophy evolved after considerable study. He knows that to the uneducated person, life is much more simple and easy than to the student who knows its intricacies and complexities. But he can instead look at life as an opportunity for improvement, of enriching himself, and thereby his state, as a means of approaching the ideal, as an interesting study far too worthwhile to be discarded.

It is happy to note that the great majority of individuals are treading the second path. Countless hundreds of intensely philosophical students in universities throughout the world are energetically pursuing the basic motives underlying all thinking and living.

Nearly all, through their studies, are finding life richer, fuller, and more complete, though a much harder puzzle to solve. The perverted few who become deeply depressed with life and its possibilities nevertheless deserve sincere sympathy. They have sought the light and it has dazzled them to blindness.

Echoes of the Campus.

Grow Up!

To the Editor of The Nebraskan: With the exception only of the football games, the things that have given the University of Nebraska the most newspaper publicity during the present school years have been the "rally-riot" preceding the Kansas Aggie football game and the ousting of the Awgwan because of the publication of obscene material.

Although incidents of such nature are not uncommon to college campuses, it appears that Nebraska students have been most zealous in their attempts this year to give the university a black eye. Stories of the enumerated incidents were sent on the wires of the leading press associations to the whole country, spreading the tale of uncommendable Nebraska conduct. More important is the fact that practically every newspaper reading Nebraska citizen was fully informed of the scrapes.

Perhaps the average student may say, what of it? If there is any doubt in the minds of students as to whether the publicity will harm the university, let it be quickly dispelled with the answer that it most certainly will.

During the first part of the coming November, the members for the next Nebraska legislature will be elected. These gentlemen who are elected will figuratively have the university in the palms of their hands. Strange to say, but it requires money to operate a large university, and it is the generosity or penuriousness of the aforementioned gentlemen which will determine whether Nebraska is to develop or to struggle along with the same old handicap of insufficient funds.

The average Nebraska legislator in the past has not been exactly a godfather to the university. If students continue in their present advertising campaign of the university it is not especially probable that the attitude of the next legislature will be any more favorable to the university. Nor will the probability of a pro-university candidate be greatly enhanced by stories of property destroying university students.

It matters little that it was a very small percentage of the student body which took part in these affairs. It matters little that there are several thousand sincere, intelligent students in the university, taught by likewise sincere and intelligent instructors. The former rates the front page, while the latter has no "news value." The stories of the university that have been featured in the newspapers have pictured us as a bunch of giddy "Joe Colleges," and the impression is not going to fade away immediately.

As a parting suggestion, we offer the consideration of the adoption of a code of conduct by students that is more adultlike. M. A.

In an attempt to refute charges that the fraternity system is "a most undemocratic sort of institution," the University of California is instituting a probe into the system. Which, we may add, is a difficult assignment, especially at schools where money makes as many wheels revolve as do brains.—Oregon Daily Emerald.

In a survey of three hundred and sixty-eight tanks of higher learning, and state universities, too, we found general dissatisfaction with the complexion of student politics existing on three hundred and sixty-seven of the college lots. From the three hundred and sixty-eighth college we received no reply.—Daily Northwestern.

Not so long from now: All right folks, git yer souvenir programs here for the big game! Names, numbers and salaries of all the players.—Oregon Daily Emerald.

A Student Looks at Public Affairs.

By DAVID FELLMAN

PRESIDENT Hoover presented his budget message to congress last week. It contained a statement of the cost of our national government and of its manifold activities that should interest every American. For the fiscal year of 1931, the president asked for a total of \$4,590,915,000 to carry on the affairs of our federal government. It costs the American people about that much more for the support of their state and local governments. Our political institutions are expensive necessities.

Some of the larger items speak for themselves. The request for the veterans bureau amounts to \$589,755,000, for the war department, \$466,626,000, for the navy department, \$380,392,000, for the treasury department, \$348,107,000, for the department of the interior, \$304,302,000, for the postoffice department \$830,000,000, and for the department of agriculture, \$165,088,000.

A great part of the rising cost of our national government is derived from the obligations which the government incurred during the great war. The interest on the public debt of our national government will next year amount to \$619,000,000, and the principal on the public debt will be reduced by \$635,324,000. The sinking fund and other redemption funds relative to our national debt will total \$636,324,000.

The development of the present budget system is a recent one in the history of our money spending technique. Though this matter of framing and passing the annual appropriations bill is the most important job that congress has to perform each year, it was not until the passage of the budget and accounting act of 1921 that any steps were taken in the direction of efficiency and economy in the handling of this business. Prior to the passage of this act, each government institution which needed money to carry on work would apply to the appropriations committee of the house of representatives, and this large committee, lacking in system, accountability and information, would hammer out some sort of a bill.

Under such conditions, the annual budget was a storm center of confusion, money grabbing, and log rolling. No attempt was made or very little attempt was made, to balance income with outgo. No consistent, steady, all year round check was made on the money spending agencies, to see whether the money they ask for each year is in excess of their reasonable needs.

The act of 1921 established a federal director of the budget, at a substantial salary, to work under the president in the preparation of the budget. This director is appointed by the president and is immediately responsible to him, being liable to removal by the president, without cause, at any time. The heads of the departments make their estimates to him for the year, and it is with him that differences are ironed out. Then the director of the budget presents a complete scientific budget plan to the president, whose word is final on the amounts. The president then submits a complete budget statement to the congress, at the beginning of each annual session.

One of the recommendations which President Hoover made to congress in his message was that income taxes should be reduced by one percent all the way up and down the line. The house has wasted no time in acting upon the recommendation. The ways and means committee quickly approved of the cut, which will reduce the national income tax bill by \$169,000,000, and the house followed suit by giving its sanction to the proposal. The matter is now in the hands of the senate.

There doesn't appear to be much doubt but that the tax cut will be approved by the senate. The treasury seems to have a healthy surplus of such size that the reduction will cause no inconvenience.

Besides no group of senators would dare to prevent a tax reduction at this time, as such a step would prove extremely unpopular.

There is a complicating feature, however, which will prevent the immediate passage of the bill in the senate. The senate, with its strong group of insurgent republicans, has at no time been as tractable as the more or less servile house has been. The tax bill will be used by this group to effect some sort of a bargain. They will undoubtedly approve the bill, but not until they can get something out of it.

PATRICK J. Hurley of Oklahoma has been selected by the president to succeed James W. Good as secretary of war. Mr. Hurley was one of the undersecretaries in the war department prior to his appointment. His practical experience with the problems of the war department make him eminently fit for the highly important position to which he has been elevated.

AMONG the interesting and fear-less things which Herbert Hoover is doing in Washington is his development of a new technique of making appointments. Those who have followed his current appointments are struck by the fact that they are not generally of the orthodox political sort. The president is avoiding, so far as he can, purely political appointments. He is trying to find men for the various offices who are best fitted, by their training and ability, for the performance of the duties of those offices. He is also trying, as far as he can, to promote men within the several departments to the higher positions in the departments.

This is a very beneficial step, one which should motivate all appointments in all branches in the federal service. One of the principal criticisms made of the American civil service is that it does not attract the highest caliber men, and one of the important reasons for that is the fact that there are not sufficient opportunities for able men to rise to positions of influence and importance in the various branches of the service. President Hoover's policy of elevating men of the service to the more responsible positions in the various departments should do much, if carried on, to encourage more able young men to go into the government service. The promise of a career will do much to improve the quality of our federal servants.

PRE-MEDS HAVE COED NIGHT IN ENTERTAINMENT

Coed night featured the regular monthly Pre-med banquet held last night at which the coeds of the Pre-med department had charge of the program.

The program featured as speaker of the evening, Dr. Margaret Hammond, who told of the different angles of the medical field and the various lines of special work which a student might take up.

KAPPA PHI HOLDS FRIENDSHIP HOUR

Kappa Phi, Methodist sorority, held a friendship hour last evening from seven to eight at the Wesley Foundation parsonage, 1417 R street. The purpose of Kappa Phi is to make sure that every girl is acquainted with every other girl in the organization and it is for this reason that these friendship hours are held.

Sealock Leaves for Norfolk to Lecture

Dean W. E. Sealock of the teachers college left Wednesday evening for Norfolk where he will address three school groups Thursday. In the morning Dean Sealock will speak to the students of the junior college. At noon he will address members of the Kiwanis club at a luncheon, and in the evening he will speak to the teachers of the city schools on the subject, "The Curriculum or the Child."

Where Do We Eat?

RECTORS

13 & P.

"The Student's Store"

Between the Lines.

By LABELLE GILMAN.

Student Opinions That Were Overlooked in the Rush by a Much Harassed and Swamped Editor.

To the Editor: The Tea Guzzler's society is about to go out of business at N. U. because of lack of funds. This is a worthy organization but the students won't support it. They'll pay for cokes and shows but when a good institution such as the Tea Guzzler's society appeals to them for financial aid, the students are broke. The Tea Guzzlers meet once a week and the membership is made up of a group of our Younger, More Serious Thinkers. Why don't you write an editorial? P. D. Q.

Dear Editor: These engineers are fierce. There ought to be a law. They run around like bums in their boots and beards and they survey everything from a railway line through Social Sciences to coed's lower extremities. They're crude and rude and rough and tough and they're uneducated and lousy and the other day one of them lifted up his steel tape just as I was stepping across it and tripped me into a mud puddle on the drill field. What are you going to do about it? A LAW STUDENT.

The Editor: In re: editorial of recent date concerning special parking space for instructors' cars. What sort of a government is this, where the High and Mighties get all the gravy and the poor student has to park on a red line and get pinched or bumped? I thought a university was run on democratic principles. They taught me that in Bizad college and at my fraternity. A SUDDEN 'CNYIC.

Dear Editor: Do you no what is the wurst thing on this campus? It is a undergraduate English reader. They don't no English wurth a hoop but they think they are better than most average, intelligent English students and they just as lief flunk a guy for spite as not. Mostly they have pets and boy readers pass girl students and girl readers pass boy students. My professor just laughs when I tell him how I stand on this subject. How about it? AVERIDGE STUDENT.

Dear Editor: It is my contention that something should be done about the brick walks on this campus. They are a menace to the human race, to say nothing of the student body. In wet cold weather they are sheeted with ice and one teeters and tatters across them, treading their bulging upturned edges with fear and trembling. If a man must endanger his life to walk from one class to another, he'd better withdraw from school. Q. E. D.

To the Editor of The Nebraskan: What's all this "school spirit" stuff about? Has it got to do with football, rallies, root beer, ghosts.

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AFTER The PARTY and anytime—for a sip and a bite—or a real good meal—follow the crowd to College Inn Sandwich Shop and Cafe HOTEL CAPITAL

class attendance, or mixed company? My girl friend told me that only those on The Nebraskan staff knew and they wouldn't tell. Never mind the oil, ed: just give us the straight dirt. S. O. L.

My Dear Editor: Where are they holding the basketball rallies? I want to get in on these things, being a freshman and desiring to make a name for myself as a loyal Nebraskan. Somebody told me that I could go to a swimming rally the other night but they must have been all wet. A boxing rally ought to have a big wallop. An upperclassman told me I could attend a debate rally but that was just a lot of hot air, I suppose, and tonight I think I'll go to a University Players rally if you'll give me a cue. I might take the cue and go play snooker. COED.

Dear Editor: There's just one thing wrong with this school that I can see, and that is that it isn't run right. Now I have set forth below my plan for governing this institution, and etc., etc.

Again I appear to be "A Student Looking at Public Affairs," judging from Tuesday's Nebraskan. I waive any claims because I don't think I'd know a public affair if it came right up and shook hands with me.

MISSING STUDENT APPEARS AT HIS RESIDENCE ROOM

William S. Kerrigan of Omaha, sophomore in the engineering college of the university, who disappeared from his room a 520 North Sixteenth early Monday morning, and became the object of a search by Lincoln police, returned to Lincoln Tuesday morning, safe and unharmed. During the time of his "disappearance" Kerrigan walked to Milford and back. Kerrigan is an employe of the Western Union Telegraph company and has been putting himself through school by this means.

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