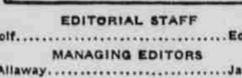


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Freedom of Our College Newspapers.

Editors of four eastern college newspapers in a symposium published Sunday in the Daily Nebraskan give their views on freedom of the collegiate press, including the propriety of administrative censorship of undergraduate publications. The articles were written for the New York Times following the expulsion of Reed Harris, ex-editor of the Columbia Spectator, for his attacks on the Columbia administration. The consensus indicates the high value college editors attach to freedom of their papers. The Harvard editor, because of the liberal attitude of that administration, is not hampered by control from above. Benton H. Grant of the Yale Daily News defends attacks on the administration as a final measure when other attempts to secure what the editor believes are necessary reforms have failed, but warns against the abuse of this powerful medium by overhasty assaults or those not justified by fact. Charles S. Snyder, editor-in-chief of the Pennsylvania, believes anti-administration fights are justified if necessary and when all else fails, but believes the fire of the flogging editorial should more often be reserved to whip up lagging student interest in student needs. The Princeton editor would stick to fairness and truth, regardless of whom the bolt may strike if it is necessary that a bolt be shot. But he doubts if attacks are often necessary and prefers a "constructive" policy. He recognizes that attacks may be constructive when they would destroy what should not exist. Singularly, this representative group of leading college editors does not, in general, defend Editor Harris. Altho they support freedom of the press as a theory, they indicate that Harris did not act with due tact and might have accomplished his end without the resultant damaging publicity both for his paper and his school. They do think the Columbia administration acted unwisely in using such strenuous measures to point out Harris' rashness.

The Columbia case is an important one in the history of collegiate journalism. It has aroused probably the greatest interest and discussion of any such case. Nevertheless, the thing was fortunate in that the main issue of freedom of the college press from administrative censorship is belocled by other circumstances which seem to justify Columbia's action. While full information is not available, it is indicated that Harris refused to present evidence to prove his assertions, particularly in that attack on the university cafe management following which he was expelled. As the Nebraskan has said before in reference to this case, there is a law of libel which limits what newspapers in general may print. This law can be applied only awkwardly as regards college newspapers. An administrative censorship, then, replaces it. Whether or not this censorship is exercised with fairness is the whole question. Accusation without proof constitutes libel. It would seem that the Columbia administration exercised a punishment for this offense.

While in general freedom of the college newspaper from administrative interference is desirable, there are cases where this interference is necessary and justifiable. This, it appears, is one of these. In fact, regrettable tho it may be, college editors are often motivated by other things than their own burning desire to promote improvement when they stir up crusading and attacking editorial campaigns. When an editor has but a single semester, or a year at most, in which to round out his collegiate editorial career, there is an appeal to make himself heard—by whatever means are necessary to accomplish this. The editor who quietly fills his post, interpreting college news and, to some degree, directing student thought on student questions, refusing to raise a stir when no stir is necessary, may pass unnoticed. Add to this the inexperience and youthful enthusiasm of the college editor, and the result is a tendency to radicalism.

The case for freedom of the college press is little advanced by the Harris case. The whole controversy, as it centers around his reprimand, is beside the point. The real issue was not at stake at Columbia. When a case arises involving the direct and real issue unencumbered by justifying circumstances, the Nebraskan will support freedom for the college newspaper.

We Are Not Drunken Sots. Nebraska students are not "the drunken sots"—the carousing jazz hounds that some of our morbid politicians and over-ambitious

newspapers would have you believe," according to Harold D. (Three Gun) Wilson, federal prohibition agent for Nebraska. Too, Mr. Wilson adds some more to one side of the controversy as to whether students now drink more than students in the saloon days. Says he: "In my days they used to almost promote a man for staying drunk—new they expel him."

Considerable attention has been centered on the alleged university "liquor situation" since the Coliseum episode some months ago. The incident, of course, was deplorable. Nevertheless, as Mr. Wilson points out, no students were in any way involved, and that fact, at least would tend to support Mr. Wilson's statements in praise of Nebraska students.

While the Nebraskan cannot vouch for Mr. Wilson's open-mindedness or lack of prejudice in his point of view—he receives his salary for helping enforce prohibition—it does feel that facts are facts. Mr. Wilson has seen both sides. He went to school in the east when students were saloon patrons. In his work he has become acquainted with present day student life. Others have presented more evidence to the same conclusion. And at present students are not too young to have heard tales of the old days from those who knew them.

We do not pretend to believe that students do not drink. They do. The question is whether the practices is on a decline. We do think students drink less than before prohibition came in. As to comparing any recent year with another to get the same conclusion, Mr. Wilson says nothing and we sometimes wonder.

Whether or not prohibition is responsible for the decrease since saloon days has not been proved. Mr. Wilson of course likes to have us believe prohibition did the trick. Each man's opinion to himself, it is commendable that occasionally a person acknowledges the younger generation may not be the "hell raisin' outfit" others would have us think.

APOLOGY: Inadvertently, the line crediting the editorial "Student Newspapers" in the State Slants column of the Sunday Nebraskan to The Lincoln Star, from which it was taken, was omitted.

To Fraternity Snobs and Sluggards.

A student letter attacking the fraternity system and an editorial warning the fraternity group against slipping up on the things for which they should stand in Sunday's Nebraskan, have provoked two more student letters which appear in the Morning Mail column today. One is an enthusiastic and sentimental justification of the system on the grounds of friendships developed. The other is an intelligent attempt to analyze some of the problems which face fraternities at the present time, including the financial question.

Two interesting assertions are made in the latter letter, signed G. B. First, it says that the eastern fraternities face a more difficult financial problem than do those of the middle west. Second, he declares that the small college fraternities are finding going easier than those in the larger schools.

This last we are inclined to doubt. We are aware that many University of Nebraska houses are finding it hard to keep going. But taking Lincoln as an illustration close at hand, fraternities at one smaller school are now contemplating mergers to save their lives. One merger between two sororities has already been consummated and another is probable. Nebraska fraternities have not yet gone to that extreme—for it is an extreme, particularly to the particular fraternities—and is hotly opposed by alumni members, altho such action might be beneficial to the fraternity situation as a whole where it is admittedly over-populated. Be that as it may, Nebraska fraternities are, many of them, in a bad way financially.

But it is not the financial problems which is the fraternity's greatest problem. Perhaps the financial difficulty is bringing the other to notice.

The fraternity's greatest problem is to be more than a high-priced boarding house. Fraternities are not democratic. They continue, in a school supported by the state where education is theoretically open to anyone regardless of wealth, to nurture a spirit of class distinction and social prestige based on money. But non-fraternity men are getting wise to the game. The barbs are often "barbs by choice." Not every barb is a "sour grapes" critic of fraternities. There may be "barbs who regret," but there are "barbs who are glad of it." This is a severe criticism of fraternities.

Fraternities are supposed to stand for development in the students of those characteristics which are most beneficial to the man. They are supposed to stand for scholarship. The tendency is rather for them to stand for snobbery and for academic "getting by." All this, except the taking-to-task on scholarship, applies as well to sororities as to fraternities. If anything, sororities are even more snobbish and undemocratic.

Nebraska student affairs are at present firmly in the grasp of the fraternity group. But that hold may weaken and must, if fraternities continue in their present manner. A move is now underway to organize the unaffiliated students and to give them a part in student affairs. This is a small thing, but it is a beginning. That the fraternity is not entirely oblivious to the fact that it should exist for the good of the school is indicated in that fraternity men are the leaders in the present move to better the position of the barbs. That is not, however, the real motive. Back of any attempt to help the barbs, is the desire to divide the spoils more evenly between the two fraternity groups and to prevent the majority group from bursting of its own internal dissension. But it is a recognition that no man is better than another because he wears a bit of jeweled gold upon his vest.

We do not advocate abolition of the fraternities. We do not say they are yet failing entirely to justify their existence. They are going that way. But they have many admirable points, too. However it is not these they stress. Neither do we believe that things have always been this way nor that the situation is inherent in the system. We feel that fraternities could do something about it. We sincerely urge them to do so.

In the first place the upping of house rates and dues makes the fraternity restrictive, and eliminates many worthwhile men. Small schools have from the first been handicapped by not being wealthy enough to build large houses. But perhaps they are not handicapped.

Perhaps now that they can maintain low rates allows them to keep up their membership. Perhaps they can initiate men of small means as well as men with money. And because the fraternity of the small school can maintain a variance in its membership it appeals to more men. In other words it seems that fraternities could first begin a solution to their problems by looking at their finances, trying to economize with the idea in mind of lowering rates and attracting desirable men who can't afford fraternities at present.

But if we listen to the barb in his "Fraternity Spirit" attack, we can see another reason why national officers say that fraternities in the smaller schools are having fewer problems. True fraternity spirit developed in some small schools at least should be deprived of those of the larger. In the first place wealth is more completely disregarded in the small, and for this reason cliques within a group do not develop. The fraternity is considered a place for any man. The fraternity of the larger school is not a place for any man. There is something in it that one cannot explain that often determines membership. There is a discriminative attitude that is repulsive.

Should the fraternity live for its members, or should its members live for the fraternity? There are alumni who live for a fraternity. For them graduation did not break bonds of fraternal life and often times you see men well along in years who do more for a fraternity than they ever did in undergraduate years. Such alumni say they receive unmeasurable satisfaction from doing something for a group that is doing something for young men. For such men a fraternity is a unselfish project. To the undergraduate the fraternity is different. The fraternity should live for its active members; it should have something worthwhile to add to their college life. It should be careful not to detract from any purpose for which universities are established. Herein fraternities are severely criticized.

Fraternities which live only for their name, for their self and not for their individual members are likely to be called selfish. Activities on a campus should be for those students who for some special reason are interested in the thing that activity sponsors. Yet activity participation is often encouraged by fraternities for other reasons. If a fraternity wishes to save a strong heterogeneous group it must realize that it may have some members who are not adapted to activities of any kind. So it is in many other fraternal undertakings, even social. The fraternity fails to recognize that some of its group are not adapted to those undertakings. All kinds of people make a world. It takes many kinds of men to make a fraternity. If a fraternity is to live for its members it will have to recognize individual characteristics and peculiarities. In fact striving for individualism may not be such a bad thing to encourage. Fraternities which try to make themselves adaptable to the thorough student, athlete and socialite alike, trying to promote understanding between such people, may be more attractive. Fraternities which encourage individual, self-determined attainment may be first to rank high as an organization.

—G. B.

MORNING MAIL

More Fraternity Spirit.

TO THE EDITOR: Recent contributors to the Morning Mail column of the Daily Nebraskan have launched bitter barbs at the fraternity system as exemplified by the Greek organization on the Ne-

"THREE GUN" WILSON SAYS UNIVERSITY ONE OF BEST INSTITUTIONS IN AMERICA

(Continued from Page 1.) is some plain horse sense, and plain horse sense is just "stable thinking." We listen to the walling stories of disappointed politicians—to the clamour of brewery manufacturers, and last but not least, to the poor wretched individual who is not strong enough to resist the outcries of his alcoholic eaten stomach," he said.

"It is a popular misconception," he added, "that people want to break the law, because it is the law. Take for instance: should the municipality of Lincoln pass a law prohibiting the housewives of the city from throwing their kitchen swill out the front window—do you think they would do it? Of course not. For aeons of time we have had God's Ten Commandments, and do you believe that people break them because they are laws. No, people obey laws or break laws because of their own convictions, not because of the fact that it is the law."

"Thus we see the absurdity of believing heresy and newspaper propaganda. Newspapers today—for reasons unknown, tend to play up any apparent weakness in the prohibition law. As an example of this I wish to cite an incident that happened in pre-Volstead days. In an important newspaper I found an article of four lines, describing the death of one young man, and the serious illness of three other young men, from drinking grain alcohol. If such an incident should take place today, it would be broadcast throughout the United States, headlines and pictures in every newspaper, placing the blame on prohibition. I appeal to the people of Nebraska, use your head—don't believe this propaganda, investigate and find out the truth."

"The purpose of prohibition," he continued, "is not to take away liberty—but to preserve it. It is to give those people who want to be good a chance to do it." "We often hear the comment today, that conditions are worse than before prohibition. College students, don't believe it! I was a student myself at one time, and I know whereof I speak. In my days they used to almost promote a man for staying drunk—today they expel him. The recent episode which happened on your campus indicates that conditions are nothing like this. None of your University students were connected with it in any way, but still, wrong impressions are cast out in many instances."

"It is interesting to watch the gullibility with which some of us still watch the Literary Digest straw vote," said Mr. Wilson. "The only surprising thing is that some of us are still flabbergasted to find that the results are always wronging wet. Here is another glaring

braska campus. The controversy between Barb and Greek is not new arguments on both sides have been presented so often that almost everyone is familiar with the thing each side is expected to say.

Fraternity men, replying to the Barb's salvo of criticism enter into the fray with gusto. Hair pulling and catcalls ensue. Barbs are charged with bitterness because they are outside the fold of Greekdom. The pointed phrase "sour grapes" is invariably called into use. And the battle rages, Barbs, advancing in spirited attack, claim that fraternities, "theoretically based on friendliness and the spirit of fellowship" desert these standards for advancement of their own selfish interests.

And the war goes on. It is not too bold to prophecy that the war will continue to go on for a long time. Both sides, it must be admitted have points in their favor, but being a somewhat ardent fraternity man I fail to see how the Barbs can make a case for their segregated lives as against the camaraderie that prevails within even the most snooty fraternity group.

The value of friendships, it has often been pointed out, exceeds all else. That is one of the theories which first led to the founding of fraternities. And where else but in a fraternity does the college man have such ideal conditions for development of friendships? True, non-fraternity students make friends of their own. But they have not the medium for perpetuating those friendships that is afforded the fraternity man. There is a bond uniting fraternity men, even after college days are over, and the friendships formed there are perpetuated by alumni organizations, fraternity publications, and so on. True fellowship has its roots in mutual interests, and the necessity of working together within a fraternity group is wonderful soil for the cultivation of that fellowship.

As may be gathered from all of that, I am strong for fraternities, and the above paragraphs do not even begin to list all of their advantages.

FRATER.

Analyzing the Greeks.

TO THE EDITOR:

As Nebraska becomes conscious of increasing fraternity problems let her find consolation in the fact that hundreds of other fraternities of many other schools are finding similar problems. But wise it is for Nebraska fraternities to look to these problems. It is no idle talk that depression is bringing criticisms of campus fraternal life to the front. In dollars and cents is the fraternity worth it? Local chapters are finding it difficult to maintain their financial programs because insufficient members stay in the house. National offices find they have to be conservative, even Scotch, because fraternity membership is not increasing, because new chapters cannot be installed.

But while midwestern fraternities are worrying a national officer was heard to say the other day that we don't know what hard times are. In the east fraternities are really in trouble. Also this officer suggested that it is the fraternities of the large schools that are finding it hardest sledding. Small school fraternities do not seem to be having as many problems. In this statement perhaps Nebraska fraternities should look for a solution to a problem.

Diversity in membership is always a thing needed in fraternity life. The local chapter finds that it needs all kinds of members to make itself versatile and successful. The national organization finds that it needs chapters in all types of schools to endure. To secure this type of membership is the first problem of a fraternity. To secure a healthy membership will be a first step in the remedying of finances.

Drunkenness, prostitution and gambling go hand in hand. Take liquor away and the other two will starve to death. Honest officials are all we need to enforce the law, and we are enforcing it in Nebraska, and elsewhere.

In examining the great amount of wealth amassed by Al Capone, we find that only 20 percent accumulated was from liquor sales, while the other 80 percent accrued from his gambling devices and houses of prostitution.

"If I sent one of my men down to Lincoln with a warrant for a crook, he wouldn't go to any of the

EXTENSION ISSUES BULLETIN TELLING OF RULE CHANGES

Statement of the standards of rules for the government of schools in the Nebraska North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools with changes for the present year has been published in a bulletin issued by the extension division of the university recently. Changes in the regulations for the present year are: three year senior high schools must require a minimum of eleven units for graduation. Four year high schools must require a minimum of fifteen units for graduation; these units are to be carried in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.

University officials or church officials to find him, he'd go to the places frequented by such characters. Any person who tells you that he can go to thirty places and get a drink either in Omaha or Lincoln, is either lying, or else he isn't the type of person desirable for you to be associating with."

"The bootlegger is worse than a thief—he takes your reputation as well as your money. The detection of speakasies is not difficult. They all have living advertisements, a human trail leading down the alley or into dusty, dirty places of ill repute. I might add that some of our "shyster" lawyers who defend the bootlegger are in the same category."

This is my advice to University students. "There never was a more red blooded fight than the one today for prohibition. The welfare of our government hinges upon it. With our high powered automobiles, aeroplanes, etc., there can be no existence with liquor. It is up to you—the future generation to handle it.

CHILD STUDY IS TOPIC TUESDAY PSI CHI TALK

(Continued from Page 1.)

ceived his Ph. D. from the University of Iowa. He has been a member of the faculty at the Iowa institution since 1922, where he teaches social psychology, psychology of art and the psychology of advertising.

He is a member of the American Psychological Association, the American Sociological Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Iowa Academy of Science, the Midwest Psychological Association, the Society of Sigma Xi, the Western Arts Association, the College Art Association, and the executive committee of the Conference for Research in Art sponsored by Carnegie. At the University of Iowa he is director of the Art-Psychology Laboratory.

The third University of Iowa team to be captained by a married player has started its schedule. It is the baseball nine of which Elmo Nelson is captain. Last fall a shot putter on the track team captained the football team and another married man headed the gymnasts.

The board of publications at North Carolina gave \$1,000 to the student loan fund.

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1931 MADE HISTORY IN SHIP ELECTRIFICATION

BECAUSE the combined horsepower of turbine-electric equipment installed and now in process of construction passed the one million mark during the year. BECAUSE the President Hoover, first all-electric ship built in America for commercial transoceanic service, completed its first round trip to Asiatic ports. BECAUSE the Talamanca, the first of the largest electrically propelled fleet ever laid down, was delivered to its owners. BECAUSE electrification—an American contribution to marine transportation—was adopted by the leading shipbuilding countries of the world. BECAUSE, on the high seas and on inland waterways, electrically propelled ships established new records for speed and continuous operation. • General Electric engineers not only pioneered the application of electric propulsion, but have made many contributions to its development during the last two decades. By the complete electrification of the President Hoover, and the six new ships of the United Fruit Company's fleet, college-trained General Electric engineers have made another striking contribution to American shipbuilding and world trade.

GENERAL ELECTRIC logo and text