

Editorially Speaking

IT'S ALL RIGHT, MR. GRIMES

Mr. George Grimes,
The Omaha World-Herald.
Dear Mr. Grimes:

Do you remember writing:

"Somewhat disconcerting, journalistic-ly, is the news from Lincoln that the offices of the Daily Nebraskan, the student newspaper (affectionately 'The Rag') will hereafter be in the new Student Union building.

"No more cockroaches. No more falling plaster. No more dank smell from insufficient basement ventilation in tumbling down U hall. No more battered desks and tables, littered floors, unkempt walls.

"The picture is all wrong . . ."

You are right, Mr. Grimes. There are no more cockroaches. The plaster still clings firmly, and there is no dank smell. But the Rag is still the same. And what is more, so is its personnel.

The Rag staff is still "inflamed with the spirit of reform," it still cries "out against the smugness that, like a pestilence too often spreads over a college campus, infecting the faculty, isolated from reality, and the students, depending upon Dad's earnings." Its staff members still average their periodic visits to various dean's offices to salve offenses which threaten them with being "fired from their jobs and kicked out of school."

But of even more importance, Mr. Grimes, is the Rag staff's appreciation of the University of Nebraska. They, more than any group on the campus, perhaps more than any person on the campus, accept readily the challenge to benefit by all the privileges our institution offers. They learn early the great value of time well spent, of a program involving a little work, a little play, a few true friends.

Here are real people. They are not attending college for a good time. They are not

here for the purpose of learning how to make money. They have set as their goal the very aim of education itself. When these young people graduate they will look back at something tangible they have created, at something worthy they have accomplished. That something, Mr. Grimes, won't be a building or a service or a reform; it will be a person.

And when they look back after four years, they will find that instead of missing the frivolity and the financial trainings their less ambitious mates sought, they will discover that they have received it all. Then, for perhaps for the first time in their college lives, they will fully realize the depth of their enjoyment, the completeness and abundance of the pleasures that campus life has bestowed upon them.

The Rag staff, Mr. Grimes, even with new desks and only a few pictures on the walls, still appreciates humility and sentiment, it still loves the sagging floors of old U. hall, the vines clinging to the walls of Administration, and the green grass and trees of the Triangle. At the shallow of the campus it looks with disgust at chronic complaints of "no beauty."

With all sincerity, with all its collective hearts, the Rag declares the Nebraska campus to be the most beautiful in the world. Beautiful in its Cornhusker spirit. Beautiful in its honesty and sincerity. Beautiful in its western friendship.

No, Mr. Grimes, the picture isn't all wrong. On the contrary, it's all right. Because essentially it's the same picture. It wasn't really the cockroaches, the falling plaster, the littered floors, which you loved. It was the gay American spirit, the zest for living and loving, the fight against "sweet acceptance of the status quo," which kept those college memories forever so near to your heart.

The DAILY NEBRASKAN is still fighting. Its floors are still littered, and its new waste baskets are battered and bent. But that is unimportant, Mr. Grimes. The Rag is still fulfilling your dreams. The Rag is still progressing.—H. K.

Parade of Opinion

by
Associated
Collegiate
Press

GRAFT Thoroughly in accord with the current drive to clean up the government of Kansas City and oust those who corrupt it, collegians are applauding the move to make government more efficient. They are urging other cities to follow the lead of Kansas City reformers.

Many believe, with the University of Minnesota Daily, that "those persons who are inclined to be shocked at the vice and corruption often need look no further than their own city to see the same condition exist. Machines and corruption exist only because the public is apathetic, and Kansas City, with its Pendergast, is not much worse than many other cities that have escaped having their records scrutinized."

Going just a bit deeper, the Jamestown College Collegian, analyzes the problem: "We have often heard people say jokingly, 'Laws were made to be broken.' Judging by the way American citizens practice those words at every opportunity, they might easily be the country's slogan."

ROYALTY Most collegians are warmly cordial in their views on the coming visit to the U. S. of the king and queen of England. Many believe that their tour of the country will bring us closer to the English people and their government. However, a few are just a bit skeptical, believing that the visit is just another attempt to sell to America the idea that we must aid England in war. The following editorials aptly summarize the two viewpoints:

From the Santa Barbara State College El Gaucho: "The king and queen are coming to the United States to sell England to us; to make us buy English goods, consider the English as our best friends, and if possible, agree to help England in case of another war. Like any other merchants, George and Elizabeth will try to

make a good impression. They will do their utmost to win our approval."

PLAN President Roosevelt's plan to reorganize the executive branches of the government to make them more efficient and less expensive is approved by the majority of today's collegians. There is little, if any, comment today that would indicate undergraduates believe the move will make the president a dictator.

Of the plan, the University of Wisconsin Daily Cardinal says: "Now that its original inertia has been overcome, the reorganization movement will be hard to stop. While President Roosevelt has indicated that he will submit no more 'general reorganization plans' to congress during this session, he can go ahead with lesser changes thru the instrumentalities of executive and military orders. If congress can be persuaded to enact a large-scale expansion of the merit system, President Roosevelt and his colleagues will have set up a series of administrative landmarks."

The University of New Mexico Lobo hailed the plan as an answer to the dictators' charges that democracies can never be strong because they are inefficient.

Schools neglect importance of geography, says Lackey

Survey shows students' lack of information

Important features of the American landscape that are associated with the history of the country are recognized by less than half of the nation's high school students today, finds Dr. E. E. Lackey of the department of geography. More than 30 percent of a sampling group of about 2,000 high school students whom he tested did not know, for example, that the Mississippi river is a south-flowing stream.

Dr. Lackey's investigations show that although historians and geographers agree as to the importance and nature of a geographical background in studying history, the great majority of high school students recognize only a small number of landscape features, such as the Appalachian barrier, the Atlantic coastal plain, and the like, at the close of their course in American history.

Dr. Lackey was interested in determining the degree of correla-

tion between geography and history as taught in high schools. He had three geographers, three historians and three educators help him select 48 landscape features that every school pupil should know. He then had each of the features rated as to their importance by 12 prominent historians and 10 leading geographers. Out of more than one hundred exercises based on these landscape features, 60 were selected for a test which was given to a sampling of 4,765 high school students selected from 43 states.

The tests revealed that although historians and geographers agree that geography is important in teaching American history, many students, after they complete their work in history, know little about the important topographical features that are outstanding in American life. Pupils who had just finished their course in United

States history achieved only a small percent in the test, whereas those who expect to take history next year achieved a still lower percent in the test.

University of Michigan's men sported corsages of vegetables at a special party given for them by their coed friends.

Daily Nebraskan

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