

Library Director Explains New Plan For Book Checking at Love Memorial

BY SAM WARREN.

Sitting ominously at the head of each stairway approach to the second floor of Love Library (that's the floor Humanities reading room is on) are two silent, wide-eyed men who, if not drowsed by late study, come to an alert each time anyone passes with books, boxes, zipper notebooks, bird cages, strong boxes, treasure chests or boarded-up barrels.

To conceal from them an illuminated library manuscript of Boccaccio's "Decameron" or a copy of Thurber's "Is Sex Necessary?" comes near to the physically impossible. If history majors take an outside-class interest in the colorful love-life of Louis XIV or Charles II, they can take home all the absorbing details, so long as they check out books officially.

Desk Men.

Here's where the little men at the desks come in, and the students go out if every book they carry is either a duly-stamped library copy or a personal textbook. No tom-foolery, this check on books that leave the library is serious business, but at the same time as simple as Chesterfield's abc's.

A change from the former system of having a check-out desk in each of the four reading rooms, where attendants were also supposed to check over each book a student carried out with him, the new system accomplishes three improvements in library service.

To Wit

First of all, it saves students' time for now they can go from one reading room to another without being checked "every time they turn around," as library director Frank A. Lundy put it earlier this week in an interview. "We thought it would be smart to centralize circulation by having only one check-out desk in the main lobby instead of having four."

In the second place, the librarians who are subject-specialists in the several fields by which reading material is organized—humanities, social sciences, edu-

cation and natural sciences—can now devote their time to helping students locate reference material. Heretofore, "half their time was taken up with clerical work at the check-out desks," Mr. Lundy said. "Each room was a little library in itself, circulation desk and all." Seventy-five man hours are saved each week, this way.

Important.

But most important of all, the check-up against loss of books—careless or intentional—guarantees continuation of the system of open-shelf reading rooms. "At present there are 25,000 on open shelves," said Mr. Lundy, "and that number eventually will be doubled. If these books disappear in any number the system won't work. We haven't been losing a lot and we don't intend to. In any group of 10,000 people, some will steal if encouraged," Mr. Lundy pointed out. "Books are the students' to use, not to destroy. They'll cooperate, once they understand. But if we don't make it clear, they'll take books every time."

Recalling his experience as librarian at the University of California he described a graduate reading room which had to be discontinued because graduates were careless. "At the University of Chicago, a reading room with 10,000 choice books lost 300 in six months. It would cost us \$3,000 to replace and catalogue 500 books." In the old library system, books in effect were locked up from students in stacks and could be obtained only by looking up the call number in the card catalogue, filling out a call-slip and waiting for the book to be "paged" from the stacks. "Now books are no longer locked up, but put right before the student."

"This check as he leaves the building is only a protective device to continue our open-shelf system. If the students like this system, they must cooperate and make the check work. Cooperation will encourage even greater freedom, while failure to catch the occasional thief will make us return to the Dark Ages plan of

inaccessible stacks. In that system a student never would see 80 percent of the books he now uses because he wouldn't know how to ask for them."

Student Reaction.

On the whole, student response has been good. "They were puzzled at first, and didn't want to be bothered," one checker told us as Mr. Lundy and I strolled thru the building. "The rare student who takes the 'Why are you checking ME?' attitude doesn't understand that if he were King George himself, he'd be stopped."

Faculty members, who are fully as careless as students, often living up to their "absent-minded" reputation, are checked, too. And yet the faculty reaction expressed to Mr. Lundy is "It's a wonder you didn't start the check long ago." The absent-minded person who walks off with a book is, by the way, far more embarrassed at the check-desk than the real book-lifter. "The veteran group," Mr. Lundy added, "is the most serious and able bunch I've seen. We've had no discipline problem there whatsoever."

The fact that 1,850 volumes were circulated in one day this month, 1,600 of them on a two-hour basis from the third-floor Reserve Desk, shows how much student use of books would suffer from any loss. "We have no idea how many books were taken off the shelves and read in the reading rooms. We might guess an over-all circulation of three or four thousand books daily."

It Says Here

By Tottie Fiddock.

Well, people, we have buried the old date bureau, Ragged Edges, that is, for a good long time. The howl that arose when it appeared no more made our illustrious society editor decide that something must be done to replace it.

Lots of people are tired of hearing about who went where with who, so if that's all you're lookin' for here, read no farther.

So now we'll get on with it. Have you heard about Bill Moorhouse? He's one of the few men on campus who have free access to second and third floors in sorority houses—when he has his Cornhusker camera . . . and the little picture-snapper is what gets Bill into trouble. He develops his pictures on the third floor of the Union in the Cornhusker darkroom, but the other day he developed a Noah complex . . . seems Bill left the water running in the sink and got involved in conversation with one of the fascinating Jensen sisters, who so entranced poor Willy that he forgot all about the modern plumbing and didn't come to until he felt water gurgling around his ankles . . . for the next hour Bill turned janitor and mopped madly to save the Union from damp destruction.

Susie Storz is having a lot of trouble these days . . . nobody has nosed the news around that Susie and Don McKay are no longer

going steady. But Lee Knight has the scoop and is taking up an option on the Storz property starting Friday night.

And speaking of Lee Knight, he and Curt Hasselbach and Al Burke decided that school wasn't worth it, and quit. However, after a hard two weeks' vacation, the boys felt rested enough to make another try and will stick around for a while longer.

Life gets pretty lonesome for the engaged-gals-gang, especially when the gentleman in question is far from the Nebraska prairies. But Jackie Carothers has solved her problem nicely, by spending most of her free time with John Ayres, an old admirer.

Bouquets of cabbage to the fellas who managed to get in to see Coed Follies Tuesday night . . . you were really nifty. Can't understand why John Cover didn't get booted, though, for he wore his own shoe 'cuz he couldn't find a girl with feet as big as his . . . but John stayed for the entire show, and 'tis rumored that he especially enjoyed the Tri-Delt act.

The Phi Delt Mothers Club must really be a fine bunch of people . . . according . . . to eligible (for the night) bachelor Duke Derry, the dinner they served to the fellas and their best girls last Sunday evening is the answer to the perfect way to entertain.

That's about all for this issue . . . so see ya around.

Gas Turbine, Jet Propulsion Manual Explains Progress

BY IRIS FRAUEN.

"A large reserve of young engineers given the proper 'know-how' is priceless insurance against our country becoming a second-rate power in aviation," Gen. Carl A. Spaatz, Commanding General, U. S. Army Air Forces, declares in the preface to the new, enlarged fourth edition of "Gas Turbines and Jet Propulsion For Aircraft," by G. Geoffrey Smith, M.B.E., internationally known British aviation authority.

This is the only book in the world on the most important wartime aviation development. It has been adapted as a text by the Army Air Forces and the Bureau of Aeronautics, and by many colleges, universities, and technical institutions, including Minnesota, Kansas, and others, and has been designated as the textbook at Westinghouse's Gas Turbine Division and other civilian plants engaged in jet work.

The book contains an exhaustive study of gas turbines as applied to aircraft, and brochures possible use in ocean liners, railroads, and automobiles.

A complete analysis is made of all known jet-propelled planes and engines today in operation or projected in the United States and Britain. German jet fighters and bombers are also described in detail.

Smith's comprehensive work contains the first complete review of American, British and German gas turbines, fully illustrated with detailed drawings.

Students and engineers will be especially interested in his chapter on tailless aircraft and the flying wing—future trends and possibilities. Other aspects of the new aviation development which are included for the first time in the new volume are: Metallurgy, problems associated with turbine discs and blades, testing and maintenance, fuel equipment and control, turbine components,

radial and axial compressors, and thrust and performance.

Quotations from papers delivered recently by aeronautical and turbine engineers are freely cited, so that the reader will have a broad survey of the trend of present thought and progress both in the United States and Britain.

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