

EDITORIAL PAGE

A Description Of No One

Newsweek magazine this week writes off our college generation with 50 inches of column space.

Here is how the article ends: "Sizing up the collegians of 1953, they might seem dull in comparison with their predecessors of less-troubled eras. But, though they wanted to conform, they were thoroughly and solidly American. Their kind had fought two world wars for the United States within their memory. And they could do it again. Most of all, they were young and wanted to make a million dollars. Some of them would. And you couldn't beat most of them anywhere else in the world."

Must every magazine in America analyze us? Must we be categorized like so many potatoes? Must writers conclude that all college students are alike?

After looking around in seven colleges,

Inequity Of Sexes

Standards are set by women—not by men. So stated J. P. Colbert, dean of student affairs, in a speech before University coeds Monday.

The same idea was expressed last year by C. Vin White, pastor of First Presbyterian Church. Dr. White's statement drew a number of comments, a large number supposedly disagreeing with him.

A great deal of truth, however, must rest in the idea that women set the standards of society. Else why does the University control hours, overnights and other social actions of coeds, while male students are placed under few restrictions?

In general society, the truth of the idea is easy seen. The mother is generally the center of the home, and her sense of morals becomes standard for the children. It would therefore appear that women have exerted more influence on the morals of future generations than have men.

Another factor, however, is worth considering. During the last hundred years the barriers which have separated women and men have been dissolving gradually. The two sexes are in the process of attaining equality in nearly every field.

On the way out is the so-called "double standard" of morality. At some time in the future the "masculine, untethered" activities of men will perhaps be viewed in the same light as shady conduct of women. Attitudes toward actions of both sexes will be modified.

At that time, the mother will work at the office as long as the father. Curfews will sound for men and women at the same hour—if at all. Liberal sex conduct will be viewed in the same light for both male and female. Social standards will be set by men and women alike.

The only difficulty encountered in this Utopia is this: Pregnancy shows on women. And as long as this is true, they will undoubtedly continue to set our moral standards.—K.R.

Is Anyone Boss?

With all due respect to the "new" administration which is, perhaps, having difficulty developing campaign promises into effective policy, it remains somewhat depressing to read headlines which continually state "Secretary of State Refutes Secretary of Air Force," "Statement Denied By Cabinet Official," "Bureau Head Contradicts Congressman" and "Senator Issues Denial."

It would seem that before the United States can achieve any real success in world problems, we ought to be able to agree on what policy and whose policy we are following.

The administration, regardless of party, is saddled with the responsibility of a somewhat united front on various issues, and in so doing, put into effect the platform upon which it was elected.

A party certainly cannot effect its promises if it cannot agree on which bureaucrat is running which office.

When the dignity of cabinet officials is reduced by making, then retracting statements, precious time and energy are wasted which could undoubtedly be better used pushing a common policy.

The President, while not directly responsible for intra-cabinet squabbles, certainly is indirectly responsible, because the cabinet is an extension of the presidency.

Perhaps the time has come when the President would do well to remind his cabinet that he is still the boss and that internal bickering is a reflection on him as well as on them.

In fact, maybe the time has come when the President should wonder whether his subordinates are even going the same direction he is. For, if dissent and variance with campaign statements continue to be demonstrated by cabinet activities, the people may well wonder what direction the President himself is going.—E.D.

The Nebraskan

FIFTY-THIRD YEAR

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The Nebraskan is published by the students of the University of Nebraska as an expression of student news and opinions only. According to Article II of the By-Laws governing student publications and administered by the Board of Publications, "It is the declared policy of the Board that publications under its jurisdiction shall be free from editorial censorship on the part of the University, or on the part of any member of the faculty of the University, but the members of the staff of the Nebraskan are personally responsible for what they say or do or cause to be printed."

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Newsweek comes up with these blanket statements

1. "Shrewder, more mature than their grandfathers, more cautious than their fathers, they worked harder and were more likely to think things through." We bet our dads would challenge that statement.

2. "Socially, economically, politically, emotionally and philosophically, they wanted to conform and to have security." This is not a special characteristic of college students; the attitude is prevalent throughout the entire nation.

3. "... there was little urge among college students to set the world on fire—or even to change it much." If we did, we'd have Sen. McCarthy and the state legislators on our tails.

4. "Today's young people have revived some of the rah-rah spirit which the vet and the war killed, but it's nothing like it used to be." The reason must be a series of poor football seasons.

5. Newsweek claims that college students have no fads—and then proceeds to name a dozen or so (including dum, da, dum, dum; haircut patterns; "crazy," "George," "fabulous"; beer).

6. Following the pattern set by the veteran, students drink "to relieve tension and boredom . . . This does not mean that college drinking is heavy now." The writer should have been around campus last Saturday night; a lot of people surely relieved their boredom.

7. "As far as more serious sex activity is concerned, most administrators feel the trend is about the same or slightly on the downgrade (students keep this information strictly to themselves)." The article ruins its own point, of course. If the students aren't talking, how can administrators know all about their sex life?

The article goes on to say "Fifty per cent of the students of one institution favored sexual intercourse before marriage in a poll taken a few years ago; another school estimates that not more than 35 per cent of the student body has intercourse during any school year."

Following these figures indicating shady morality, the author calmly concludes, "There is probably more talk about a wild sex life than the actual facts warrant." Just what does the "talk" accuse us of?

8. "No fad was the renewed interest in religion." The only support of this premise is mention that a couple of football stars have shown an interest in religious affairs. Should we be convinced?

So there we are—neatly wrapped up in a package to be filed under "C"—college, student, 1953.

Does the Newsweek description fit anybody or any campus? Probably not.

It certainly doesn't describe the University of Nebraska. Undoubtedly the article doesn't even present an accurate picture of the individual schools included in the survey.

Characteristics and trends on these campuses were lost in the "averaging-out" process.

Perhaps the article describes "average students" on "average colleges." But no one is average.

The Nebraskan believes that articles such as Newsweek's, while interesting, serve little useful purpose. On the whole they are superficial, generalizing and limited in their field of investigation.—K.R.

Brilliance Misnomer

A Syracuse University survey of 40 of the "most brilliant" freshman students on campus revealed that the brightest student is likely not to be the most popular.

The director of the study said that they were the most maladjusted students you could find. He added, "They had trouble getting along with others. They tended to be unsympathetic with those who didn't learn rapidly."

Since the brilliant students are generally conceded to be the source of leaders, their inability at "getting along" with their fellow students is a serious matter. Leaders with no followers are a losing group.

Perhaps schools ought to make an adjustment in their definition of "brilliance." Students could be right when they assume brilliant student is necessarily the cold, bookish, non-social type.

At any rate, the problem is serious. Our top-ranking students are repulsive to the rest of their book-mates. The brilliant students must make a change in their attitude toward others; the non-brilliant must change their view of their more scholarly companions, or the institutions who apply the title "brilliant" must change their judging scale.

Unless, that is, we should like to have the "leaders and no followers" situation.—T.W.



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The Challenge A Student Can Learn -If He Only Wants To

By COL. C. J. FRANKFORTER Associate Professor of Chemistry (This is the seventh in a weekly series of articles treating the problems, issues and challenges of the day as viewed by representatives of various fields of endeavor.)

Many freshmen know the line of work in which they wish to major. They recognize the value of the study of subjects other than those of their major field. They desire an education and are willing to work for it, but there are too many individuals who do not work.

Any student can learn any subject. If the student has intelligence, not necessarily a brilliant intellect, but average or normal mental alertness, he can learn. If he has the will power to apply himself, he can learn. He may need to put in more strenuous mental effort than another individual to accomplish the same ends, but learn he can if he so wills.

These statements are old and obvious to every informed person, young or old, in or out of a university. However, the behavior of far too many new students compels one to believe that they do not realize their importance, or recognizing, do not care. Somewhere in the years preceding entrance into the University, these young people failed to understand the meaning of education.

This writer is at a loss to understand the attitude of some freshmen. Neither scolding nor praise has any effect. These people appear to be bored by efforts made to aid them and resentful if they are compelled to do what an average student does with evident satisfaction.

If a "quick look" in a book furnishes an answer to a question, some students condescend to acquire the information involved. If a "second look" is needed, it is not taken. It is too much work.

Some students will not bother to ask questions when the opportunity is offered. They miss lectures, laboratories and quizzes. There is no evidence that "the book was ever cracked."

These people do not worry. They appear to believe they will "get by" somehow; to "get by" being all that is necessary. Is there any valid excuse for such behavior?

Why are these people in school? No doubt our freshmen wish to be regarded as "smart," sophisticated young people

Slide Rule Bridge Units Tested At Engineering Lab

Last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday the first pre-cast concrete bridge unit was tested in the Materials Testing Lab. Perhaps some of you have noted the beam upon passing through the laboratory, and wondered what it was.

It is a unit of a bridge floor structure 25 feet long and 3 feet-8 inches wide. One of these units is used longitudinally for the complete span of the bridge; occasionally they are butted end to end to make up a multiple span.

This test was performed by the State of Nebraska Department of Roads and Irrigation, using the facilities of the Department of Engineering Mechanics. The machine used was the 400,000 lb. compression machine, and it is one of the few machines available in the United States where a structure of this size and shape can be tested.

The beam weighs 12,000 pounds and consists of reinforced concrete cast to form a double-T section. Upon failure, the steel reinforcing simply passed the elastic limit and stretched, thereby causing the concrete to assume the shape of the steel.

After failure, the beam remained in the shape of an arc; this is a strange sight to behold if you have never seen concrete "bend" to conform with the arc of a circle. Electric strain gauges were used to measure strains at various points in the beam; their

The Student Speaking Hey, Arready

By JERRY SHARPNACK Story: Grandma Flowers looked down upon her three grandchildren playing on the floor 'round her feet. Her soft, wrinkled face crinkled into a smile and, laying aside the lavender afghan, the one she had been six months working on for her daughter's birthday present, she leaned over to watch the children more closely.

They were forcing hot coals down the throat of Bowzer the pet Fox Terrier she had given them for Christmas.

Grandma couldn't see what they were doing for she was nearly blind, so she asked, "What are you doing my darlings?" "Shut your yakk'n' head," said George, her favorite, and hit Grandma Flowers on her bandaged foot with the poker. It hurt Grandma and tears came to her twinkling old eyes. "Ouch," she said. The children went on with their play.

Soon it was eight o'clock and time for Grandma to go to bed. But as she hobbled towards the kitchen for her sweet warm milk and crackers, she dropped the lavender afghan. Before she could retrieve it George had thrown it into the fireplace. Grandma didn't see what had happened to it and started crawling about on the floor trying to find it.

George told her he knew where it was and then aimed her towards the fireplace which she then nearly crawled into before realizing where she was. The children howled with glee at this and George kicked her bandaged foot. They then hopped upon her back and demanded a "horse-back" ride.

The merriment, however, was halted before Grandma collapsed by the entrance of Lolly Belle, Grandma Flowers' daughter. "What are you doing to the children?" she screamed at Grandma and, carefully lifting them off Grandma's back, kicked her mother's bandaged foot.

"Crawl into the kitchen," she said to her mother, "Frank and I want to talk to you."

Grandma crawled to the kitchen and pulled herself into a chair. "Can I have my sweet warm milk and crackers now?" she asked quietly.

"Sure," said Frank, "here's your mush, ya silly old bat." And so saying, poured the food over Grandma's gray old head. Grandma blinked hereyes as droplets of milk ran into them. She didn't know why Frank would do that to her. He usually just kicked her bandaged foot.

Grandma looked so silly with the food all over her head and running down her pink shawl that Frank and Lolly Belle laughed with glee. Finally, Frank pushed her off her chair and that was so funny, tears came to their eyes from laughing.

Grandma smiled a little, too, and tried to tidy herself up a bit with her lace handkerchiefs. This was hard for her to do as both her hand were thin and warped from arthritis.

"Let's get down to business,

Flowers," said Frank. "You probably thought you'd willed everything to Lolly Belle and me, but we ain't that dumb. Ya didn't say nuttin' about your weddin' ring in da will, I'll take it now."

"Oh, Frank," said Grandma, "I meant to give it to you as a surprise, but yesterday at breakfast I accidentally dropped it into my porridge. I swallowed it, I guess. Oh, Frank, Lolly Belle . . ." she said, touching her daughter's hand and beginning to cry a little.

She set her lips and peered apologetically from the floor at her loved ones. "I'm so sorry."

MORAL: Never trust grandma.

Chickles

By CHICK TAYLOR My political science professor says that not all the teeth put into the laws these days are wisdom teeth.

Jim: "Do you file your nails?" Joe: "No I just cut them off and throw them away."

I won't have to look for a job for a while. An awful lot of people want to bet I didn't have the brains to graduate.

"I don't want any callers this a after noon," said the Chairman of the board to his secretary. If they say their business is important just tell them that's what they all say.

That afternoon a lady called and insisted on seeing him. "I am his wife," she exclaimed.

"That's what they all say," replied the loyal secretary.

Judge—"Officer, what makes you think this man is drunk?" Officer—"Well, Judge, I didn't bother him when he staggered down the street or when he fell flat on his face, but when he put a nickel in the mailbox, looked up at the clock on the Methodist Church and said, 'My God, I've lost 14 pounds, I brought him in.'"

Then there is the television singer with a very wide range—from high C to low V.

The English language is a funny thing. Tell her that time stands still when you look into her eyes and she'll adore you, but try and tell her that her face would stop a clock!

Sweet senior to fellow: "And you've got something that makes you different from other fellows—ME!"

A sensible girl is more sensible than she looks because a sensible girl has more sense than to look sensible.

Advertisement for Miller's Handmacher Suits. Features a woman in a suit and text: 'AT MILLER'S tailored by Handmacher SUIT of SHEENTEX We predict you'll "live" in this suit, for it's wrinkle resistant and unlined . . . a wearable garment for year around. COLORS: Green, Red, Blue, and Gold MILLER & PAINE "AT THE CROSSROADS OF LINCOLN"'

Slide Rule Bridge Units Tested At Engineering Lab (continued from page 2)

University Bulletin Board WEDNESDAY Sigma Delta Chi Meeting, Noon, Parlors ABC, Union. Panhellenic Banquet, 6 p.m., Ballroom, Union. THURSDAY IVCF Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 316, Union. Journalism Convention, All Day.