

Council Confusionism

The Student Council action to bar racial and religious discrimination in honorary and professional fraternities is the beginning of a fine half-job.

The project, begun last Wednesday, if fully successful will force removal of discriminatory clauses from the constitutions of several comparatively small groups, leaving another much larger group of social fraternities having discriminatory clauses in their constitutions free to continue their discriminatory practices.

The Council has blandly explained the reason for not taking action against discriminatory social fraternities by saying it does not have jurisdiction over social fraternities. On the surface, this excuse is a valid one, but like the Council's action of last Wednesday

it is a departure from the usual action pursued by the group.

If the Council has no jurisdiction over social fraternities, why has a new social fraternity Delta Alpha Pi been forced to submit its constitution to the Council Judiciary committee? Jack Clark, president of the fraternity said he was told his organization must submit a constitution to the Council or not receive University recognition.

Ironically enough, Delta Alpha Pi members stated clearly in their constitution that no person shall be denied membership on religious or racial grounds. This group has gone to some effort to show they do not favor discrimination.

The Council maintains it has no authority over social fraternities, yet it kept one waiting for approval which the Council president said was necessary for "University recognition." The Council has shown its desire to end discrimination in fraternities but has limited the scope of any corrective action to a small area—professional and honorary fraternities.

Why is this the case? The only answer which completely explains this muddle of reversals and backtracking is the Council doesn't know what it may or may not regulate or control.

This Council action is unfortunate in any case. An organization set up to act as a control of student activities with control over these activities is an important campus organization. It should be expected to take the lead in good projects and to supply leadership for those projects. Yet how can the Council ever fulfill these capacities if it does not know exactly what it can do and then do it?

The Council has shown real interest in a problem that is common in universities and colleges throughout the United States. It has attempted to take the lead in combating racial and religious restrictions, but it has shown marked shortsightedness and a lack of understanding of its own power. The Council has reversed its policy regarding social fraternities and shown hesitancy in taking social fraternities to task for a crime for which they are considering to take action against honorary and professional fraternities.

Clearly the Council is groping. Mistakes caused by this groping are costly to its present project. It will be an error the Council will have to claim as its own.

It will be a shame if the anti-discrimination movement, a week-old today, splutters out before it ever gleams.—T.W.

Attn: Council

The plan for expanding the University housing facilities to accommodate enlarged enrollments is about to bear fruit. The men's dorm will soon be in business.

But, as with new projects in general, the opening of the dorm will bring with it problems. One erroneous view held by some is that eventual compulsory housing of freshman men will be undertaken by the administration.

This is not the problem facing the administration, according to Acting Chancellor Selleck. On the contrary, the Chancellor said that because of the very reasonable rates to be offered, more applications are anticipated from upperclassmen than can possibly be handled and still take care of incoming students.

Chancellor Selleck said that the most important problem in connection with the opening of the new dorm is how many rooms should be reserved for new students at the cost of limiting space for upperclassmen.

The Student Council, anxiously seeking problems to explore, has an ideal opportunity to conduct a survey of the proposed allocation of housing units between upperclassmen and incoming students. Its recommendations, if any, would offer the Chancellor at the very least an indication of student interest and at the best the basis for a system of allocation based upon student desires.

If it is worthwhile projects the Council is seeking, this question is one which is begging for attention.—E.D.

Margin Notes

Functions Of A Paper

The New York City newspaper strike ended today. Several million people had been denied complete and accurate world news coverage through the medium of print; but the great voice of the press is no longer dumb.

Newsstands were shut down; paperboys were silent; the thundering presses of the nation's largest newspapers didn't roll. But the strike had still another effect upon the world's largest metropolises.

Litter, which is accumulated each day, had dropped 25 per cent since the strike began, the city sanitation department has estimated.



"—On th' other hand — This 'F' JUST MIGHT reflect a poor job of teaching."

The Challenge

Academic History Made By Regents' Policy Move

By WILLIAM F. SWINDLER
Director Of The School Of Journalism

(This is the eleventh in a weekly series of articles treating the problems, issues and challenges of the day as viewed by representatives of various fields of endeavor.)

Something tremendously important happened at the University of Nebraska on Nov. 21. It was not the game with Oklahoma, but the action of the Board of Regents, a few hours earlier, which spelled out a clear, unequivocal set of principles by which freedom of study, discussion and inquiry should be insured for this institution.

It was the kind of manifesto which an American university should have issued months ago when the present wave of hysteria, intolerance and reaction was beginning to gather momentum. Everyone associated with the University of Nebraska should be very proud that our institution actually took the step.

What is a university? There are probably almost as many answers to that question as there are people connected with universities. One of the answers I like best is that a university is what the word originally meant when groups of thoughtful scholars began to meet and live together in the Middle Ages—a "little universe" in which every conceivable area of human knowledge is open to exploration, and anyone who wishes to study anything is welcome to membership.

What is a great university? Again, there will be many different answers. One of several which I prefer is that it is an institution which is continually zealous to acquire the most complete facilities possible for further study, in the form of library and laboratory materials; and is staffed with instructors who are intensely interested in their subjects—believing them, in fact, to be the most important subjects in the institution but respecting all their colleagues in other fields because those men and women, too, believe passionately in their subjects.

This adds up to a totally intangible but extremely valuable asset—an environment or atmosphere which invigorates and stimulates everyone in it. Even if you never come into direct contact with certain areas of university activity, the whole institution is richer for them and the intellectual life of everyone benefits.

One institution which I attended had one of the country's outstanding medical schools; and although we never had the slightest opportunity to take any courses in that school we were proud to be associated with a university which had nurtured such a curriculum—it was a yardstick by which we could measure the other curricula

in the institution, and it suggested to undergraduate students that these things mattered intensely and deserved study.

In another institution we had one of the world's outstanding libraries on international law; and we had teachers of the subject who held eight o'clock classes spellbound with their lectures—half the time the bell at the end of the hour would go unheeded while questions flew and if students were in a hurry to leave, it was because they were impatient to get into that library to dig. These teachers came fresh from that library to class, or from manuscripts they were writing or from meetings in which they presented papers; they came literally loaded with material for class discussion.

The University of Nebraska, I believe, is such an institution as this. It seems to me that the average Nebraskaer is completely unaware of just how rich an intellectual resource the state possesses in this university. One has only to remember that this institution produced both Roscoe and Louise Pound in law and literature; and Charles E. Bessey in zoology; and offered refuge to Edward A. Ross (one of the country's great sociologists) when he was forced out of Stanford by the type of unworthy pressures which our Board of Regents has so magnificently rejected.

To refer again to the other events of Nov. 21, I do not envy the University of Oklahoma its magnificent football team nearly as much as I envy its magnificent university press—one of the half-dozen top publishing centers for publishing research in the United States. I do not envy Oklahoma the oil money for its athletic scholarships nearly as much as I envy the oil money which went into its annual awards for master teachers among its faculty. These things, not the million-dollar gridiron lineup, are what make Oklahoma outstanding.

Nebraska can take equal pride in its brilliant museum and art collection, its top-flight school of dentistry, its leadership in various fields of agricultural research. Its charter membership in the Association of American Universities (a kind of Phi Beta Kappa for institutions of higher learning) puts it in the first rank of schools throughout the country offering balanced and well-stocked facilities in many fields for students fortunate enough to study here.

These are the things that are important in a university—these, and the unrestricted right to use them in the further extension of knowledge and the expression of views on any subject. Our greatest asset of all is the courageous far-sighted statement of policy by the Board of Regents which was made Nov. 21.

Post-Dispatch

Regents' Stand On Mitchell Seen As Gain For Freedom

(The following editorial, appearing in The St. Louis Post-Dispatch Sunday, was written by Robert Lasch, a graduate of the University School of Journalism.)

It is a pleasure to record a gain, in contrast to the all too frequent losses, for the cause of academic freedom and common sense.

At the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture in Lincoln, there is a vigorous young professor of agricultural economics, C. Clyde Mitchell, with strong opinions on price supports.

Mr. Mitchell is in favor of fixed price supports. He believes that Secretary of Agriculture Benson's plan for flexible price

supports would expose farmers to the hazards of an unsupported market in a society where subsidies to business, labor and other groups would put farmers in an unfair competitive position.

Mr. Mitchell may be right or he may be wrong. In any case he expressed his views freely in public speeches and in his classroom. He came under attack by some Farm Bureau leaders in Nebraska who disagree with him. He was accused of radicalism, of advocating "destruction of the free enterprise system," of "indoctrinating" students.

The university regents opened an inquiry. The result of that inquiry which we reprint on this page. At many universities today Mr. Mitchell would have been lucky to escape with a reprimand. At some, he would find himself on the skids because he had become "controversial." The University of Nebraska regents courageously took his stand against these trends when it said:

Bulletin Board

WEDNESDAY
Union Open House, 7:30-10:30 p.m., Union.
Red Cross Caroling Party, 7 p.m., Union steps.
Departmental Recital, 4 p.m., Social Sciences Auditorium.

The Student Speaking

Hey, Arready

The Jinja Story

By JERRY SHARPBACK

"Look at this," said Mr. Rystrom, tossing an opened New Yorker magazine at my person. There was a circle around a paragraph on Page 42. "It's a circle, sir," I said after only a moment's hesitation.

"No, you idiot, read the article."
I read it aloud. "One of the rules of the Jinja Golf Club, of Uganda, Africa, permits the ball to be lifted without penalty from the hoofprint of a hippopotamus."

I took a rather dim view of the information for I have never cared much for golf. Hippopotamus don't affect me one way or another. "Very nice," I commented, looking carelessly at the Editor.

"Do you know what this means?" he asked.
"Not precisely," I said. I had no idea what it meant, other than just what it said.

"I think this thing's a gigantic hoax. I doubt if there is one hippopotamus in all Uganda."

"Probably not," I said.
"Of course, there isn't," said the editor, "and I'm sending you to Uganda to expose the fraud. It will make a great story for Friday's Nebraska. Besides, we're short on material this week."

"Just a minute, chief," I protested, "you promised me the Bermuda assignment."
"Pshaw. Anyone could cover the Big Three job. I'm sending Gibson."

So I set out for New York within the hour.

The train jostled and jistled, and I thought, Revise your column—don't use profanity—sweep the office—and now, ex-

pose a hoax in Uganda, Africa. It's always something.

Finally, after some two thousand miles of jostles, jistles and thinking, I arrived in New York. I headed for the dock and my trip as quickly as anyone heads through New York City at five o'clock in the afternoon and arrived at the place of my debarkation in about three hours.

And there in the water floated (after a fashion) my ship. It looked like the wreckage of an overgrown "Kon-Tiki." It would have seemed more natural to see it equipped with a set of canvas sails rather than the four stacks that emerged from its topside, or whatever the roof of a ship is called.

I boarded with some apprehension, and shortly thereafter the vessel wheezed, groaned and we were steaming towards Africa, "the land of contrasts," as the travel posters say.

I was sailing with two other men, a woman and 50 tons of pig iron. The pig iron, I am sure, had the best quarters.

We were two days, and about 50 miles from New York harbor) before I saw any of the others.

It was one of the men I saw. He was fat and wearing tweed knickers. He was staring out at the sea. I approached him and he spoke without looking up. "What are you doing aboard this floating debris?"

"I am going to Uganda to expose the Jinja Club hoax," I said, innocently.

The fat man turned abruptly towards me, his face becoming quite red. A monocle dropped from his left eye as he shouted, "You keep your bloody body out of Uganda, unless you want a woncha through your stomik!" (To be continued)

Daily O'Collegian

Tax Relief Sought For Cost Of Education; Letters Urged

(The following editorial is reprinted from The Daily O'Collegian, student publication of Oklahoma A&M. Since our Student Council has endorsed this proposal also, it is interesting to note that the O'Collegian feels letters from the entire student body rather than from the Council alone will be more effective.)

Congress is considering changes in the income tax law this year. In January Senator Burnett R. Maybank of South Carolina will appear before the senate finance committee in hopes of providing an amendment which would make educational expenses deductible.

At the present time, it is very hard for a man of moderate income to retain enough money over living costs to meet present education costs. In most states, perhaps all, education is required by law in varying degrees. It seems only just that education expenses, along with medical expenses, be deductible from income tax payments.

The student senate decided at its Wednesday meeting to write a letter to Sen. Robert S. Kerr, a member of the senate finance committee, as well as a letter to the committee itself, endorsing the proposed amendment.

While this is a very good move, we fear that one letter may not do the trick. However, if a sizeable proportion of students (yes, students should have a voice in this matter also, especially if

they are working their own way through school) and students' parents were to write their senators and congressmen, such an overwhelming approval of the proposed amendment could not be overlooked by those in Washington.

Each student can do his part toward making the income taxes more just if he will write the state senators and his district's representative, or at least persuade his parents to do so.

These representatives should be urged to appear before the senate finance committee to request the inclusion of this proposal in the tax bill for the next fiscal year.

In essence, the amendment if passed would provide that educational expenses, along with medical expenses, would be deductible in the amount that they exceed 5 per cent of net income.

Passage of this amendment would relieve the unwarranted financial burden of today's cost of education. This would enable more persons to afford a college education, and raise the education standards of the United States in a manner which would be second only to the GI bill benefits.

Postage stamps are inexpensive. So are sheets of stationery. Even the busiest student should be able to spare five minutes in order to contribute to the passage of this important amendment.

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FOR SALE—Tux. size 28, excellent condition. \$12.50. Phone 6-5881.

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FOUND—Maroon & silver monogram pen, size of Andrews Hall. Come to the business office of The Nebraskan.

RIDE WANTED

WANTED—Ride to Florida over Xmas Holidays. Will share expenses, driving. Phone 2-7324.

RIDE WANTED

Wanted—Three riders to California during Holidays. Share expense. Leaving Sunday, Dec. 20th. Be back Jan. 4th. 1954. Buick 4 dr. Phone 2-6454. References desired.

Wanted—Riders to California. Leaving Dec. 19th. Call Miss Layon, Unit, ext. No. 3385 after 7 p.m.

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HELP WANTED—Some Junior or Senior Holidays. Will share expenses, driving. Phone 2-7324.

The Bible As Law

The United States' last community of polygamists apparently has been broken up. An Arizona Superior Court judge gave suspended sentences to the 26 leaders of the colony.

He warned them, however, that "a violation by any of you and the individual will be sentenced to prison."

Although the polygamists had protested that the custom was based on religious convictions, the judge re-read his Bible and ruled that "the Bible didn't commence with ploysamy and the Word of God shows no warrant for your action."

The judge, citing the sixth chapter of Genesis, said, "You have hidden your crime behind a religious banner."

And so the Bible, long employed by professors of literature and of history, enters the law field. Take note, Dean Belsham. You may soon have to institute a course in the Laws of Solomon.—K.R.

The Nebraskan

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