

Sincerity... The Necessary Element

Witnessed over the weekend was an event which would be well taken by University students, especially AUF members. Over KMTV Sunday from 2 a.m. to 2 p.m., viewers in the Omaha TV area saw television stars, telephone operators, stage

The Battle Ground

The battle of Dien Bien Phu which has filled long columns of newspaper space for several days has been called, "an agony of conflict—a testing ground between dictatorship and freedom," by President Eisenhower. This statement was made in an address by the President in an informal speech at Transylvania College in Kentucky. The President's general remarks about the battle in Indo-China and particularly those about the surrounded French forces at Dien Bien Phu seem to be a summation of the feeling of many Americans. Almost all the persons who read and listen to accounts of the battle feel the desperation of the struggle. Should the French stronghold fall, the Communists will have an even more advantageous vantage point at the Geneva conference, not to mention the effect the defeat will have on the already hard pressed French public.

However, on a more practical plane, the President might have picked a better example of the battle between "dictatorship and freedom."

More than a few persons who have followed the news about the attacks on Dien Bien Phu have wondered how the fortress has managed to hold out as long as it has. They have also wondered at the statements about the battle which carry the tone of "if the fortress falls"; to them, the question would be more logical if it were prefaced, "when it falls."

The defense of the French bastion has been heroic, gallant, wonderful, but seemingly hopeless. The only thing that kept the fortress from being taken long ago was the fact that the French were able to parachute in supplies and men and able to evacuate the wounded by helicopter flights.

Now, however, the parachuting missions have become even more hectic with the addition of several new Chinese anti-aircraft batteries equipped with radar tracking devices. The helicopter flights were made impossible some time ago when Communist forces knocked out the remaining air-strips around Dien Bien Phu that were open to the French.

The Communists with 40,000 men around the fort are sure of victory, and their boasts of triumph may soon be based on facts rather than empty air—not a pretty end for the "battle between dictatorship and freedom."—T. W.

Regulations In Order

The American public has been given a first-hand picture of what is happening within their government by the TV "eye" which has focused glaringly on the Senate Committee investigation into the Army-McCarthy battle.

One of the interesting sidelights to this over-sized production has been the controversy over the acceptability of transcripts made of telephone conversations by persons connected with the present squabble.

Many persons on the anti-McCarthy side have been strongly in favor of admitting the evidence, hoping the "investigator-prober" will be forced to explain even more about his actions. Pro-McCarthy persons have maintained that the view that these transcripts were made without his (McCarthy's) knowledge, and should not be used in the hearings. Even those persons who have tried to remain aloof and "impartial" (no easy task in this case) have noted a danger in using transcripts of telephone calls.

The Nebraskan feels that the explanation that the Senator did not know the transcripts were being made is not valid. If the complaints were to be written into rules governing use of telephone conversations as evidence in a hearing of the type being held in Washington today, the American public would never be quite sure they were hearing the real thing or a polished, smoothed over, publication-type "conversation."

The Nebraskan does feel, however, that evidence gained from transcripts of telephone calls is often of limited value in finding the truth of a matter. The Nebraskan also feels that transcripts of telephone conversations could be useful in manipulating the facts, especially when the transcript admittedly has some holes in it missing a few words. The evils of using statements taken out of context and consequently shaped to mean something completely different from what was intended are well-known.

Unless definite rules and regulations governing the use of telephone "taps" and transcription evidence are made and enforced, the procedure will develop in little more than a way in which to manipulate facts to suit the purposes of the person who presents the "facts."—T. W.

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 opinion 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 Board, 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."

crews, orchestra members and civic workers participate in an all-out soliciting campaign for the Cerebral Palsy Association. Presented on the stage of the Paramount Theater in Omaha, these people literally knocked themselves out for subscriptions that would help children crippled by cerebral palsy. Omaha citizens and those from the Omaha area telephoned or brought in money and pledges which finally exceeded \$100,000. Many of the pledges were presented by cerebral palsy victims themselves.

The manpower and showmanship was entirely voluntary and the sincerity with which these people threw themselves into the canvassing was inspiring.

They knew they were helping in a great cause and because of this their pleas sometimes took on an almost desperate note.

No activity points were involved. Their time and expense was their own. They did not have to walk a few blocks to solicit a few dollars from a set list of names. They talked, sang, danced, played and worded for twelve straight hours without stopping. There were no shifts.

If soliciting is to be done for such organizations as cerebral palsy and cancer, the way to the contributor's heart is sincerity. A little sincerity can open the pocketbook far wider than a couple giggles and a cold stare.

Perhaps one needs to be a television star to show sincerity but this is doubtful. At any rate the old familiar gripe on campus when AUF drive time comes around could be soft-pedaled if a few solicitors would really believe in what they are supporting. It's not AUF you're supporting, it's cancer, and cerebral palsy, the deaf and blind, polio victims, orphanages, and hospitals.

If every student on this campus felt sincerely that money is needed for these organizations for life itself, the AUF drive would be a huge success.—J. H.

The Deadly Season

As any fool can plainly see, things in general have changed at the University.

On a normal weekend afternoon, to wit, last Saturday, one needn't look far to find a ready and captive group of willing students for a picnic (or so they are called, for somewhat obscure reasons). One could only hazard a guess as to why the picnics are so popular year in and year out.

On any afternoon—providing, of course, the sun is out—any inquiring male can find a few hours pleasant entertainment waiting on the roof of some unsuspecting, innocent, yet very, very hopeful "house."

On Monday morning, more than likely each professor wondered what he said that made his attentive (?) students appear so red in complexion and coloring. The only reasonable explanation, that we can find, was uncovered by noting the quick rise in market quotations on golf courses, tennis courts, beaches, parks, lawn mowers, screens and automobiles—providing they were convertibles.

The ROTC boys have again taken to the field, totting 9.5's around in seemingly suffocating winter uniforms, each Wednesday afternoon.

Therefore, as any fool can plainly see, SPRING IS HERE.

But lest we forget, the ultimate of spring has not been overlooked—Finals.

As everyone, fool or not, will soon realize, there is an imposing list of exams on page 4.

It seems a pity to have to interrupt such pleasant spring activities to remind the student body of those unhumane braintwisters of knowledge, supposedly assimilated long ago.

But the issue cannot be overlooked. Finals, by decree from on high, are a part of normal spring activities.—D. F.

Margin Notes

Embarrassing Situation
Nowadays it seems that you even lose for tryin', or at least it seemed that way to two Philadelphia patrolmen.

While booking six prisoners, "somebody bad stole their car."
Ninety minutes later, the two very embarrassed patrolmen, on foot, stumbled across the missing car seven or eight blocks from the station house.

Stop The Music!
Some people certainly get "darn right nasty" about having their own way.

Recently, a Bellingham, Wash., man complained to police that he was playing a jukebox in a tavern when a stranger walked up to him, objected to a particular number and waved an automatic pistol to stress his point.

However, the complaining man said that he didn't play that number any more, so apparently the man got his own way.



"Ed and I have been drafted Professor Snort - - So it looks like we'll have to drop your course."

Copped Copy

Dance Floor 'Etiquette,' 'Silent Week' Explained

By BRUCE BRUGMANN
The Purple and Gold of College View gives a few tips if you should happen to fall down on the dance floor during a fast number.

- 1. Just lie there—they'll think you've fainted.
- 2. Start singing—they'll think you're part of the act.
- 3. Start mopping the floor with your handkerchief—they'll think you work there.

At Mississippi University a student made a \$17 bet that he could go for a week without saying a word except in class. He bought a couple hundred note cards on which he scribbled notes to his friends during the interim of silence.

His dating didn't even slow down. He would give a friend a number he wanted called and jot down what he had to say. Then he would take the girl out, keeping his end of the conversation with a quick pencil and a packet of cards. He won the \$17, but practically "paralyzed his right hand with cramps."

Ibn Hosed, Ag. Fr., imaginary

From The Cornell Daily Sun

Another Freedom—From Conformity

We are approaching the end of a four-year association with the University and with this newspaper. A little more schooled in the ways of the world, perhaps capable of expressing ourselves in terms a little bit more cogent than when we first set foot on campus—we sit down to analyze the undergraduate experience now being completed.

Academic life, activities and social life are integral parts of the educational process—the last two supplementary and subordinate to the first. Each of these parts has problems of its own, but today we would like to devote our attention to a problem which faces the educational process as a whole, a problem which is greater than those which beset its components.

One year ago, when we first assumed responsibility for the material appearing in this space, we wrote:

"We recognize that the major purpose of the University is to provide a place where the scholar can pursue the truth unhampered by any disturbing influence. . . . We stand opposed to any entity that would obstruct this process."

These words are still significant today, as we not the singular, drab-hued shroud of conformity that is beginning to cloak the American campus. It is conformity that we make light of when we notice such superficial items as the clothes we wear—the white bucks, the grey flannels, the button-down collars.

It becomes harder to shrug this off, however, when the community begins to conform in the realm of ideas. That is what is happening; knowingly or not, students are adopting the social practice of corrupting the definition of certain words until a Communist has become almost anything under the sun, an athlete has become one who never "cracks a book," a scholar has become one buried deep in the stacks of the main library and the campus patrolmen are concerned only with finding out and ticketing student parkers.

Needless to say, such absolutism, such conformity is not in keeping with the spirit of education. The student with preconceived ideas, the student with a closed mind is, as the expression goes "wasting his time at Cornell."

Not only this, he is failing to perform his obligation to society—a society that thrives on dissent, on a variety of ideas which provide the intellectual and materialistic progress on which civilization is based.

At times we appear very brave—we flock to Olin M to hear academic freedom defended or the Republican foreign policy excoriated. We openly discuss the problem of Communist teachers, Congressional investigation, and loyalty oaths; we confront each other with the latest stories of right-wing aberrations ("did you hear about Robin Hood being banned")—but all this is done in

The Student Forum

A Second Glance

By PAUL LAASE
What does it take to be elected President of the United States, besides luck? First, you get nominated by one of the major parties, then you have an election, and the man with the most votes wins—isn't that it? That, very briefly, is the usual way we elect our officials. But not so with the President of the United States. He is selected in a special manner, employed only once every four years in the election of the President and the Vice-President.

Although Grover Cleveland received 100,000 more votes than Benjamin Harrison in 1888, he was not elected President. In 1876 Rutherford B. Hayes was elected President over Samuel J. Tilden despite running 250,000 votes behind. Had less than 4,000 voters in California shifted from the Democratic to the Republican ticket in 1916, Mr. Wilson would never have enjoyed a second term, in spite of a 600,000 vote lead over the Republican candidate.

And if a total of 29,000 voters in California, Ohio and Indiana had shifted sides in 1948, Mr. Dewey would have been the first Republican President in 16 years, although he would have received two million less votes than Mr. Truman.

This phenomena is possible only because of a venerable institution known as the Electoral College. The election of a President is conducted on a state basis. Each state has as many electoral votes as it has Senators and Representatives in Congress. Nebraska thus has six electoral votes in the Electoral College. The presidential candidate receiving the most votes receives the entire electoral vote of the state. For example, if the Republican candidate carries Nebraska, by one vote . . . by 300,000 votes, he receives all six electoral votes. Thus a large majority in one state may be over-

ridden by a tiny majority in another. This makes possible the election of a candidate who is not the "peoples choice." The Electoral College also causes other unusual situations in presidential elections. In 1948 one electoral vote in South Carolina represented 12,000 voters, while in New York the same electoral vote represented 134,000 voters. A citizen of South Carolina carried eleven times more weight at the polls than a citizen of New York. In Nevada one electoral vote represents 53,000 persons, while in California the ratio is one to 423,000, giving each Nevada eight times the influence of each Californian. This occurs because each state receives two electoral votes representing its Senators regardless of the state's population.

At present we select almost every single one of our elected officials by a direct popular vote. Senators, Representatives, Governors, Mayors and other state and local officials are selected directly by the people. Why not the President? The only elected official who represents each and every single American citizen is the President of the United States. Why, then, do we not allow those he represents to choose him directly?

It would be a sad commentary on American democracy if, in 1956, we should have a President who is not the "peoples choice." How would this appear to our friends and allies abroad, coming from we who preach the doctrine of the "will of the majority." We talk about equality, yet we find no such thing, for the voter, in electing our President.

Criticism of totalitarian methods would be difficult in the face of such a situation here at home. Until and unless the Electoral College system is abolished completely and the President is chosen by a direct vote of the people, the possibility of a defection of our democracy will always be with us.

Letterip

Pepper, Cooper Use Of Ignorance' Noted As 'Unusual' By Student Writer

Dear Editor:
If the contention of Mr. Pepper, Miss Cooper, et al. is that religion thrives only because of ignorance and that an extension of knowledge in the various disciplines would erase all religious convictions, then I can't help but feel (despite the "authority" of Mr. Pepper on religion) that they are naive and question their presumptuousness in putting such ideas into print.

If on the other hand, they are merely saying that any person with religious convictions cannot argue their validity with the same conclusiveness as an argument with self-evident premises,

then they are quite right since in every case the major premise is one accepted through faith. To say that faith in a supernatural Being is the result of ignorance is defining "ignorance" in a manner other than the common meaning of the term. Their use of the word can only indicate a marked bias which has been too apparent in the letters they have written thus far. (And I have no doubt there are more to come).

P. Jersild

University Bulletin Board

- TUESDAY
Dr. Alfred Washburn Lectures, 1:30 p.m., Union Faculty Lounge; 8 p.m., Ferguson Hall Auditorium.
Farmers' Fair Rally, 5 p.m., Ag Hall.
Dr. S. Vaiter Schytt Lecture: 7:30 p.m., Love Library Auditorium.
French Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Union Room 316.
WEDNESDAY
Dr. Alfred Washburn Lectures, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Union Faculty Lounge.
AWS Workshop, 7 p.m., Union Ballroom.
THURSDAY
Annual Engineers Open House, 2 to 10 p.m., starting at 11th and R.
Lab Theater Plays, 7:30 p.m., Room 210, Temple.
FRIDAY
Lab Theater Plays, 7:30 p.m., Room 210, Temple.
Engineers' Convocation, 11 a.m., Love Library Auditorium.
Pink Elephant Party, 9 to 12 p.m., Union Ballroom.
German Club Picnic, 12:30 p.m., Pioneer Park.

Dob's Dillies

Some women who won't clean up the house will gladly pick up all the dirt in the neighborhood.

A girl in a low-cut dress asked her doctor what to do about a cold. "The first thing," said the doc, "is to go home, get dressed and go to bed."

Then there was the guy who was so conceited that he walked down Lovers' Lane by himself.

I serve a purpose in this school. On which no man can frown. I gently enter into class. And keep the average down.

First Senior—"Let's cut philos. Second Senior—"Can't I need the sleep."

Classified Ads

WANT TO MAKE MONEY? Earn \$50-100 weekly working evenings and Saturdays. Self confidence, pleasing personality, at least one more year in school and use of car are absolutely necessary. Phone 6-6642 for interview. This isn't kitchen utensils, appliances, insurance, magazines, books, door to door canvassing, collecting, or delivering.

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