

Nebraskan Editorials The Great Ideal

On the 86th anniversary of the University of Nebraska, those who comprise it can accept the day apathetically or they can throw back their shoulders, settle down comfortably in a soft easy chair and meditate upon the G-R-E-at advances made at this G-R-E-at University of the G-R-E-A-t State of Nebraska in true subconscious oratorical form.

Or, they can seriously and intelligently ponder the problem of where the University is headed. An anniversary calls for retrospection with an eye to the future. It is not the time for glorified words hung from pink clouds extolling the greatness of its faculty, students and alumni. The advances of the past 86 years at this time should be accepted gratefully and with pride, but that pride should not prevent us from observing the shortcomings of the University.

Thanks to the men who have administered the University's long range building programs (and to the legislature for appropriating the sums needed), we have made great strides in the last decade. But there are still plans and dreams to be realized. As long as we have antiquated buildings such as the pharmacy building, the University administration cannot relax. The answer is not simple, but an answer must be found.

The physical plant of the University is only a small part of the factors which measure a

UMOC Abandoned?

Last week AUF abandoned sponsorship of the Uglyest Man On Campus contest, instigated as a soliciting "gimmick" a few years ago.

UMOC was designed to pressure organized houses and dorms in to contributing more money to AUF during its annual fall drive. The idea was to set up an elective contest with candidates based on the amount of money their houses or dorms contributed. A maximum money goal was set and if the houses met this goal they were allowed a UMOC candidate.

AUF has been under criticism for using this method as a money soliciting device. A charity organization, AUF was accused of misinterpreting charity principles. The purpose of AUF was not to force students into contributing money by setting up a competitive situation in which students had to participate or "lose face" but to create a desire on the part of students to contribute money to worthy causes by their own volition. This is the basic principle of charity and this year AUF seems to have renewed its responsibility to that principle.

UMOC, by virtue of its purpose, has no place in the program of a charity organization unless that purpose is changed. AUF could have maintained an annual UMOC election if they had so desired only on a different competitive basis. Had the organization merely abolished the purpose which UMOC served and maintained the contest as an annual campus election on a personal competitive basis it would have been more compatible with the campus spirit.

UMOC has been accepted as an annual tradition, not because of AUF in particular, but because of the interest it has created in the past among the campaigning candidates and the student body in general.

The Nebraskan hopes UMOC will not become a past frivolity. The energetic support per se that UMOC has had in the past is indicative that the campus wants and is willing to participate in this activity. All UMOC needs is a new "face."—J. H.

university's worth. Its administrators, faculty and students, backed by the people of Nebraska and particularly the alumni, contribute to the real University, which in essence is an ideal or goal. This ideal is something which has never been satisfactorily defined but which hinges on the word education. The basic problem of a university is to define education. With this definition in mind its personnel then have a direction towards which to bend their efforts.

In this respect the students and faculty have let the University down. They have missed the real meaning of the word education. Each member of the University population is so close to his individual position that he "cannot see the forest for the trees." Students think of college as a four-year sojourn without responsibilities other than to mind their own business and protect their interests. Professors become so concerned with their particular courses that the courses are isolated from the broad stream of knowledge called education.

The colleges too are guilty of a sort of isolationism. Administrators and faculty members must place greater emphasis on re-examining the goals of each college as they fit into a University education as a whole. They must conscientiously evaluate the consequences of this trend toward specialization and recognize its place complementing liberal education.

A new chancellor has attempted — through close contact with students—to unite the self-interested student with that ideal or goal of a university which gives its buildings and personnel meaning. But in his effort to understand the students' individual problems, he has not been met with a similar attempt to understand the over-all workings of a University.

Unfortunately, students and faculty members have developed a self-satisfaction hinging on selfishness that is depriving the administration of the moral support and understanding that is necessary before the University of Nebraska can fully realize the ideals in the minds of its founders 86 years ago.

Our University is a good one. On its 86th birthday we have no right to ignore the strides which have been made during this century. It is not the time to glory in these strides, but rather it is the time to continue the strides through a greater understanding of what education is all about.—K. N.

Spring Preview

Warm weather and optimism seem to have a definite relationship.

The warm spell, which should remain for a few more days, makes the carefree young man more carefree and the spirited young woman more spirited.

A campus hero, inspired by visions of verdant picnic acreage, attempts a flying leap over one of the many small, muddy streams which flow through the campus streets. He fails to reach the required distance and becomes very wet.

A group of students pick up the remains of previous snowfalls and snowballs and loud words are exchanged. But spring really isn't here.

The mud may mix with the white snow, and it is definitely much easier to journey to classes in 40 degree weather than in temperatures of very few degrees above zero.

While this pleasant weather is here, why not enjoy it, and when it leaves, as the weathermen say it must, we can look back on this diversion as a preview of coming spring months.—S. J.

Campus Circuit

Businessman Stresses Need For Humanities In College

Reprinted From The Daily Tar Heel University of North Carolina

We watched a Business Administration major thumbing through his class cards yesterday (economics, business organization, accounting, corporation finance) and reflected on a speech made this year at State College by William Ruffin of Durham, president of Erwin Mills and former president of the National Association of Manufacturers.

The over specialized college graduate, said Mr. Ruffin, who ought to know, "can feel the lack of enough training in the humanities, in language and literature, in the arts."

And he added: "Describing a man as a 'well-rounded' man, I suppose, long since become trite, but give me a better expression. At least give me a man for leadership in industry and commerce who is on good speaking terms not only with the technical phases of his own business but with many other important facts of life to which he will find himself exposed—the languages, literature, the arts and, neither last nor least, religion.

He will find himself sorely in need of them and in my opinion cannot develop his full potential without them. He will even find it difficult to hold his own in the lower echelons of industrial and business leadership unless he is a well-rounded man.

"I predict . . . there will be more demands from industry and business to give broader education on the liberal arts courses to the college man working for the specialized degrees."

These are not, we repeat, the sentiments of an English professor, but of a businessman. They have been echoed, in the last 12 months, by such distinguished Southern businessmen as the personnel director of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, the president of Carolina Power and Light Company and the vice president of the Norfolk and Western Railway.

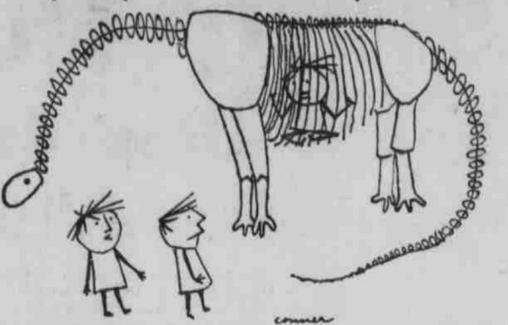
The General Electric Company is spearheading a convincing national crusade for the humanities. The Ford Motor Company is emphasizing liberal arts education as training for its new employees. There is, in all this, the suggestion that a graduate of the University may be a whiz in accounting and business organization and still not be prepared to succeed in business without a little Plato under his belt; that, in fact, the progressive corporations of the day might prefer an employee made intelligent through humanistic studies and sciences humanely approached to the most aggressive business-trained graduate.

There is one consideration more: that the strength of a democratic society is directly proportionate to the number of its citizens whose thinking is not limited by their occupation and their class. If, in the end, democracy has any implications, one of them is that its citizens must become involved in it, and not just through their jobs, but through their lives.

This seems to us to place the one-track mind behind the times and to form a sermon to the student with the one-track batch of class cards: Greek civilization may be as important as corporation finance, to your employer as well as to yourself.

Campus Capers

By Bruce Conner



"Emil put it together as a special project in geology and he hasn't figured out how to get out of it yet."

Where There's Smoke High Schools Fail To Prepare Student

By JOHN GOURLAY and MIKE SHUGRUE

Nearly 50 per cent of fraternity pledges will not have made their initiation averages first semester if University statistics hold true. This is miserable and inexcusable.

We grant that fraternity pledges represent only about 25 per cent of freshmen at the University. However, this fraternity problem highlights the existence of a well-recognized freshman problem.

This percentage should make every University student pause to consider. What is the problem?

Much of the blame for this poor showing goes to our state high schools. Many school graduates, even those with high grades, are not well prepared for college work. They don't have what college professors call "foundation."

Nebraska high schools are too easy. Too many teachers are mediocre. Schools do not require students to work and study. Attendance for three years is almost a guarantee of a diploma. A minimum of effort lands adequate grades. Courses are watered down. Emphasis on "adjusting" and "developing personality" is placed above the acquisition of solid knowledge.

High school athletics are over-emphasized. They are the only thing many schools care about. Social life is ridiculously out of proportion. The attitude of most students is one of indifference and even scorn toward the pursuit of knowledge and the preparation for later life.

The result is that our schools are turning out graduates unprepared for college; immature in their outlook on life and mediocre in their ability to think and reason.

Turning again to fraternity pledges, we may say that these men are also hampered by their initial contacts with fraternities during the summer rushing period.

Most future fraternity pledges get their idea of college and college people at this time. The constant round of wining and dining early

inculcates in them the partying principles of the College man. They are given no reason to believe that their free-as-a-bird high school attitude must change. This breeds in them a desire to conform and they tend to accept these "college" habits.

Individuals often cause their own downfalls through laziness. If they had to learn to work and produce in high school they would probably have continued to do so in college. Some, of course, are naive about college. Many, learning little while receiving good grades in high school, are over-confident of their college abilities.

The University has a responsibility in this situation. Every student should be here to get an education. People who are in school but don't want an education have no place here. If University graduates are not going to be prototypes of high school graduates, the University should demand more from its students and weed out sluffers maybe those who survive would graduate with more than a diploma.



Shugrue



Gourlay

solid knowledge.

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Letterip

Editor's Note: Letters to The Nebraskan must be typewritten, double spaced and must not exceed a maximum of 150 words. The Nebraskan reserves the right to edit letters submitted. No letter will be printed if it is not accompanied by the name of the author. Names will be omitted from publication upon request.

Yes, Americanism!

Dear Editor:

In view of the strong efforts being made by many individuals and groups to curtail free thought, the impact of the new J. Leroy Welsh Americanism Award on the problem is worth considering. Many hatemongers claim they are for "Americanism" This is only natural, since Americanism is an acceptable ideal which is hard to define.

I am glad Messrs. Carson and Holmes are aware of the dangers, but I don't believe the award is as dangerous as they fear. The first quality upon which it is to be awarded is "outstanding effort in upholding the fundamentals of constitutional government and the basic principles of free institutions."

Unquestionably these aims include rather than preclude free thought. The second quality is to be "extraordinary interest in civic affairs, and in governmental affairs of his community, his state, and his nation." Nothing subversive about that; it's downright sensible. The third quality is "active support of the basic virtues of the Judeo-Christian tradition dedicated to the dignity of man." It's meaningless, but harmless.

On the whole the award is worthwhile. The real challenge will be to select the staff members who have made genuine contributions to Americanism.

F. Jay Pepper

For The Record

Dear Editor:

To set the record straight and to terminate question to me on the subject, please record that I am not the "John Carson" who was signatory to a letter of advice to the faculty concerning Leroy Welsh's Americanism award.

John W. Carson, Graduate Student, Department of History

Givin' 'Em Ell Arise, Proofreader! Ye Vengeful Ghost

By ELLIE ELLIOTT

I shall not continue this column where I was so rudely interrupted last week, because what I was going to say would have made my readers awfully unhappy; and I certainly do not want to make you unhappy. Far be it from me to disturb one's peace of mind. Instead, I shall descend from my pedestal and muse.

I have been brought face to face with reality . . . or, rather, with the ghosts of reality. I have been shocked into the realization that the pencil of the proofreader is more powerful than the mind of man . . . and more powerful than the typewriter that is the instrument of this mind.

Shakespeare in all his glory could not have imagined a character so sublimely non-existent as a proofreader. In fact, Big Bill might have learned a considerable amount of technique in his creation of ghosts, had he had the



opportunity to observe this twentieth-century ghost of our. The myriads of vengeful ghosts appearing in "Richard III," Julius Caesar," and "Hamlet," were mere apprentices, in both vengeance and the art of ghosting, compared to the proofreader.

The proofreader, for reasons obvious to all newspaper readers and writers, dwells in a cave deep beneath the river Styx. There, with his eyes closed, enveloped in nebulous meditation, he sits. Before him, stretched upon the rack, are the stories and columns for tomorrow's paper. As he reaches blindly for his Leviathan of a black pencil, tremors of omnipotence levitate his whole being.

He manipulates his tools — the rack and the pencil — with a magnificent dexterity equalled only, perhaps, by the executioner in charge of the guillotine. The bodies upon the rack are stretched so out of proportion that their maker would not recognize them. The foot becomes indiscernible from the head, and either might be indiscreetly delegated to oblivion, as the demon cries "Touche!" and thrusts his lead point home.

The cave reeks with the honest sweat of industrious labor. His head throbbing in three-quarter time, his fingers numb, he diligently propitiates pronouns, instigates insipid similes. On his wall, flashing in red neon, is his motto: "Mine not to reason why; mine but to confuse. The final paragraph must go; leave the reader to peruse."

Finally, the proofreader, exhausted, slips the bloodied pulp into a clouded bottle and tosses it into the Styx, whence it drifts soggily down to the newspaper mill, and thence to the reading public . . . And so I muse . . . ah, wilderness.

Quick Quips

Slogan on a restaurant near the Hoover dam: "Best by a Dam Site."

The Maharajah of an interior Indian province decreed that no wild animals could be killed by the populace. Soon the country was overrun by man-eating tigers, lions, panthers, elephants and bears. The people could stand it no longer and gave the maharajah the heave-ho. This was the first instance on record where the reign was called on account of game.

Some people have no respect for age unless it is bottled.

A self-made man is usually an example of unskilled labor.

USE NEBRASKAN WANT ADS

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