

Nebraskan Editorials:

The New Model

A new era is about to begin in Cornhusker football Saturday when Pete Elliott officially signs up to play on the University's team for the next three years.

The Nebraskan is happy to see Elliott assume the coaching reins. With loyal fans throughout the state, The Nebraskan wishes Pete Elliott the best of luck, a bit more co-operation than has been present, at times past and a lot more success in turning out a football squad that will perform in grandstand fashion.

Further, The Nebraskan has the greatest of confidence in Elliott as a coach, as a leader of men, as an organizer and even as a good looking gentleman with a very attractive young wife.

All that can be said regarding our new coach is "Good luck," and "we're with you now and we plan to stay with you, as we've done with our other coaches, whether we finish second, first or even seventh in the league."

For a good many months now The Nebraskan has heard a lot of rumors and gossip. This gossip has come from many quarters: from students, faculty, former athletes, alumni and interested fans in and outside of Nebraska. Nobody likes this sort of gossip; and The Nebraskan is definitely no exception.

Yet the constancy and the consistency of the gossip, of a nature that amounted at times to nothing more than idle barber-shop chatter and at other times of a nature that amounted to cold facts, has worried The Nebraskan. This worry has been publicly expressed.

Quite recently, the editor of The Nebraskan received a well-meaning letter from one student that spoke of all this. This student worried about it all and thought that possibly something should be done about the rumors, which he believed.

The Nebraskan feels that everything about the athletic program should be above and beyond criticism. It wishes, like all fans of college sports, that all the rules will be closely observed. It believes that an honest attempt is being made to do exactly this at the present time.

Now, since these rumors persist and at times amount to what might be called "rumors plus" and since The Nebraskan's hope is to quell this situation and give everyone the essential faith in the local program, The Nebraskan makes the following suggestion.

This weekend Pete Elliott will be in Lincoln to "formalize the agreement" with the Board of Regents. This weekend will mark the beginning paragraph in a new chapter of Husker football.

Therefore, The Nebraskan thinks this is an ideal time for a new statement of policy by the proper individuals within the University. Pos-

sibly nothing new will be incorporated in this statement; but its effect will be that of "clearing the air" around the entire specter of collegiate athletics.

This would help Pete Elliott make a good start. It will help all the other coaches who daily face similar problems. It will help the University itself once again re-assess its own good name.

And most important, it will, if anything possible, put an end to the malicious gossip that has yet to be proved by fact.

The Nebraskan feels the time is opportune for such a statement of policy and hopes that it will be forthcoming. It would be the ideal way to introduce the new 1956 model which we are now unveiling.—D. F.

'A Fine Step'

The advisability of more student participation in University government has come up time and again this year.

The Nebraskan has stood firmly on this principle. Chancellor Hardin has indicated several times in Cornhusker Roundtable discussions that he favors more student responsibility.

Dean Colbert told a Nebraskan reporter Thursday that he also is interested in added student representation in certain governmental areas.

Wednesday the Student Council heard an interesting report on this subject from two of its members, who were representatives at the annual Student Council Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

Each mentioned that student government in Nebraska is one of the weakest in the Big Seven, pointing comparatively to other Big Seven schools which serve as appropriation centers for handling money for all activities, take an active part in influencing legislation concerning their university (Iowa State and Oklahoma) and, in at least four schools (Kansas State, Colorado, Oklahoma and Iowa State) operate an effective student tribunal.

Perhaps the most interesting and most provocative item for consideration, both for the Council and interested students and faculty members, is the idea of a respected, effectively operated tribunal—which would have appellate, or perhaps even original jurisdiction, on all matters of discipline, morals and scholarship.

If properly worked out and presented, it could be a fine step towards more student responsibility in University government and a healthy trend towards educational rather than punitive discipline.—B. B.

Toward A Better University

This is the sixth editorial in a series dealing with common problems of the University community.

The editorial below deals with the problem of acquiring and maintaining professors of exceptional caliber. The departure of several faculty members with academic reputations last spring is a topic that bears examination.

This series will feature two more editorials and is continued in the hope of acquainting both faculty members and students with common problems and encouraging in both a needed interest in bettering the University.

Our Vanishing Professors

A situation is developing at the University, which, in the near future, might prove very serious, both to the University's reputation and to its students.

This situation involves the alarming number of excellent instructors who, for one reason or another, are leaving their positions at the University and taking teaching jobs in other schools or going into private business.

There is also the problem of replacing noted professors who are nearing the retirement age. Some of these men, long fixtures in the University's ranks, will leave gaps not only by the loss of their abilities, but also by the loss of the prestige the University receives from the presence of nationally-respected figures on its campus.

The reasons for professors leaving a school are varied. Many leave for the simple reason of getting a better salary, either at another school or in business; others feel another position would be better to their liking, or would offer better opportunities for scholarship or research.

In recent years the University has lost such outstanding individuals as J. R. Alden, professor of history, to Duke University; Dr. E. N. Anderson, professor of history, to the University of Southern California; Dr. Werkmeister, professor of philosophy and very well-known nationally, to USC; Dr. Nathan Blumberg, assistant professor of journalism, to Michigan State; Dr. Thomas Storer, associate professor of philosophy.

Dr. C. J. Schneider, associate professor of political science, to Duke University; Wilford Wortman, instructor in economics and business administration, to private business; Dr. B. E. Burma, associate professor of geology, to private business.

Dr. Lowery Wimberly, professor of English, Dr. L. W. Lancaster, professor of political science, Dr. E. W. Frantz, professor of English, and Dr. Arthur Westbrook, professor of music, are due to retire in the next year, and adequate replacements must be found.

In addition, a number of professors have taken leaves of absence from the University for the year, leaving staffs short-handed. Other instructors must work double-time to take up the

slack. All these factors together point toward a progressive shortage of professors at the University.

The effect of these departing and absent instructors is perhaps seen in the School of Journalism. With the departure of Dr. Blumberg, who taught both basic and advanced courses, the school is now operating short-handed with only two professors—Dr. W. F. Swindler, director of the school, and Dr. L. J. Martin.

These two men are burdened with courses usually handled by three or four. Dr. Swindler carries the double burden of a directorship. As a result of this short-handed situation, a number of students have left the school, preferring to get another major, abandoning their journalism altogether or being satisfied with a minor.

This is altogether an unfortunate circumstance, since the University's journalism graduates have for years been in position to get good jobs, and the school itself has a fine reputation. Unless more instructors are found to supplement the ranks, the School of Journalism may well find itself disappearing.

This is not, of course, the case in other departments in the University, nor is it important to remedy the situation in the School of Journalism. The problem is in the possibility that other schools or departments in the University may find themselves sliding because of the loss of their top men. Something must be done, in the immediate future, to find a solution.

One basic trouble seems to be the matter of salaries. It is possible that the University is lagging in the raising of salaries, probably because not enough money can be appropriated from the legislature, or because available money is being funneled into other channels.

It is obviously vital to the life and reputation of the University that the causes of this losing of professors be found, and if at all possible, be remedied at the source. The Nebraskan, in its efforts to build a better University for both faculty and students, is urging that these troubles be investigated. Our prominence as a leading middle-western school is at stake—especially in liberal arts.

The finding of a solution rests with all of us.—F.T.D.

The Challenge—Humanities Must Be Kept Humane

By EMERSON SHUCK, Dean Of Liberal Arts College, Bowling Green State University

The humanities are those studies which are intended to interpret the possible order, meaning and glory of human endeavor. Although of ancient heritage as part of academic discipline, they have in recent years not held the place in American education which they merit.

Now, with strong institutional emphasis on general education, and with society's practical request for breadth as well as specialization in our educated citizens, the humanities have a renewed chance to prove their pragmatic worth.

However, it is doubtful whether they will meet the test unless they are kept truly humane—unless they perform adequately their unique function, and avoid the lure of false gods.

I take the major goals of the humanities to be four: (1) intellectual and moral honesty with the facts of life as they are today, (2) intelligent appreciation of the artistic and philosophic ordering of experience achieved by civilized men, (3) satisfying self-expression by each individual and (4) a wide and integrated view of human life.

Certainly these are sufficient for any kingdom. Yet, many are the messes of potage for which this birthright may be sold. To avoid such false bargains, students and teachers alike must beware of those apparent goods which threaten humane learning when they are permitted ascendancy. For they lead to the oldenness of the humanities: dullness, smugness and impracticality.

For example, the humanities share with the social studies a tendency toward enthusiasm for fad or coterie. It is good to be abreast of the latest trends, but to ride them like a hobby horse too often leads to sham, to mutual backpatting and to snobbishness. These are deadly deterrents to respect and attention.

Similarly, an excess of either the antiquarian or the neoteric may repel good sense. The love of things just because they are very old or very new is natural to all men.

But veneration of the ancient for its own sake, or fascination with newness itself are insufficient goals in the long run. Neither survival nor invention automatically confer worth, though worth may be enhanced by either.

One of the most prevalent and stultifying of practices is that of virtually ignoring the actual subject matter of the humanities—the original records of human experience—in favor of a body of peripheral lore and description that has grown up about them.

Once-tentative notes become gospel, critical platitudes of secondary sources become unquestioned fact. If the original source is not regarded constantly with an open mind, it dries up to a neatly classified fossil. The humanities are concerned with order, but never at the expense of life.

A closely related danger lies in amoralism, most often expressed in the declaration that the humanities cannot be scholarly unless they restrict themselves to purely technical, esthetic or factual matters.

Respectability for this position is claimed by analogy with science. But the business of the humanities lies with human values, the interpretation of meanings which can lead to judgment and choice.

This is what the world wants most from the humanities, and to avoid its difficulties by a washing of hands is to deny one of the major reasons for the existence of the humanities themselves.

The humanities are the business of all men, even though entrusted in our schools to a relative few persons. Both the specialist and the average man must see to it that the humanities perform their key function as well as these many others.

College Campuses Shaping Society

By WALTER WINCRELL, Nationally Syndicated Columnist

Thank you very much for your kind letter, though, by a curious circumstance I would like to reverse the question.

It is my opinion that the society in which we live and the forces shaping it are more likely to be affected by what is going on at your college campus than almost anywhere.

For example: The United States turned out five college graduates last year for every two turned out by the Communists. Yet they produced twice as many engineers, three times as many doctors and two times as many technicians.

The answer is, of course, that they are turning out cops in a vast technical machine, while we are turning out well-rounded people as our objective.

The fact is, however, that the emerging technical superiority may well be their margin of victory. My suggestion is that the only possible answer is the broadening of American education to include more people, not narrowing the courses to meet the red standards.

This is why I think the problem rests upon the campuses of the country. After all, not only must they bear the actual burden, but Rome—and technicians—aren't built in a day.

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For an appointment, see Dean J. Phillip Colbert, Director of Student Affairs.

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LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS by Dick Biber



PAPER & PENCIL EVERYONE—REMEMBER I SAID WE'D HAVE A TEST TODAY!

'Faith In God'

Strength To Face The Coming Year

By DON BLISS, Student Pastor, Methodist House

It has been twenty days since we made those determined resolutions to ourselves and toward others. Assuming that all of these promises were good ones, how many remain unbroken for you?

"Give me a day or two in which to render an evaluation on my resolutions, and I will give you my answer because I'm feeling mighty low. Why shouldn't I be low with all of these tests staring me in the face?"

There is great wisdom in this principle. After a post New Year's resolution evaluation of our efforts to meet the future, we can see what we have failed to do.

We face this challenge of change, and as we do there is a great need for faith and power. Not one of us can know what 1956 will hold for us of joy and sorrow, success or failure, life or death.

As important as physical and mental health are to each of us, please do not disregard your spiritual health as you reevaluate your promises.

The spirit of the best in us is reflected in the story of a farmer in Kentucky who watched the swollen Cumberland River carry away his material possessions, his stock, his crop, his home.

When the flood had receded he drove to town to borrow money for seed and to attend a flood-control

meeting. He knew that he faced difficult times, but he rejoiced that his family was safe; and his weary face lighted with a smile as he said, "With the help of God, we'll lick the old river yet."

To remain calm when faced with minor irritations, to find fun in simple things, to have faith in the basic goodness of mankind, although recognizing the evil done by men, and to have the courage to work to change conditions—these things I believe should be part of your revised or reinforced resolutions.

To meet these challenges, you are not expected to go it alone. In God we have an inexhaustible source of power. With this strength from God and the fellowship of like minds, may we find communal strength to face realistically, but joyfully, the New Year.

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John Gunther, author of the current best-seller "Inside Africa"

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ARE EUROPEAN STUDENTS SMARTER? In Europe, pupils learn more, work harder, and play less than in America—but fewer get to high school and college. Which system is best? Here's a chance for you to compare for yourself.

THE FEARSOME ATOMIC SUBMARINE. Here, told for the first time, are the capabilities of the Nautilus, and why atomic submarines will outmode the defense setups of all nations, including our own.

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The Nebraskan

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