

Nebraskan Editorials:

'Rag' Goes To Bed

For many semesters, editors of The Nebraskan, at one time The Daily Nebraskan, have written their final editorial with a bit of whimsy, nostalgia and a smattering of hope for the future.

Each time, the editor has spoken of "checking the files" to see what his predecessors wrote and thought before writing "30" and closing the page on his own college newspaper career.

Each editor has spoken about his staff—in tribute—extolling their virtues while usually forgetting the grief and aggravation and embarrassment and futility, yes, futility, that the staff has caused at one time or another.

But, it was always the last editorial. And who wants to hold a grudge about triflings?

Oddly enough, at least to the student who at best has spent somewhere between one and six or seven years on the campus, the problems of the editor, The Nebraskan and the student body at large have changed but little, though outside conditions have gone from depressions, to wars, to Great Peace and now to a period of Great Wonderment.

Today, one wonders how long the United States and its citizens can sit on a pedestal never before occupied by one nation for such a long time. This worry of the nation is reflected clearly in the student body of this university, as it is everywhere else. With it all, however, this campus and this newspaper will keep on going.

Fortunately, this campus has a free college

press. The administration, though often constricted by the local press, has seen fit to maintain its freedom. They have been wise in doing this.

This freedom of the college press is not alone the freedom to criticize; and neither is it the freedom to remain separated from guidance and advice. It is freedom with responsibility.

It is freedom to learn by doing, in a situation like a laboratory in its controlled conditions but like a classroom in its ultimate limits. Stated a little more realistically, it is a good place to play big league ball, knowing all the time one is still in the minors.

But every student newspaperman, from reporter to editor, forgets this and continues playing. This too is good, for life is conceived in the mist and not in the crystal.

As this paper "goes to bed" just as all the other issues of The Rag, this editor wishes it and its staffs for many years to come, the same opportunity and the same breadth of experience that it has offered him and his predecessors.

At times this demands aloofness to be able to see, for one cannot be near unless he is far, far enough away to see. At other times, it means a struggle—a struggle to awake students to issues, important at the time, that they refuse to recognize.

But at all times the experience is typical of a newspaper, as it is and as it was meant to be. This is exactly what the student newspaperman or woman wants and needs.—D. F.

The Winners

Today in the news columns, The Nebraskan recognized one outstanding faculty member and one outstanding student. The winners were selected by a vote of the paid staff.

The Nebraskan feels that the winners, Dr. Arthur Westbrook and John Gourlay, are particularly deserving of the honor. Both have brought distinction to the University. Both have earned positions of merit on the campus and both are liked and respected by their contemporaries.

Dr. Westbrook, director of University Singers and professor of music, has displayed an unflinching personal interest in his students, regardless of major. He has earned a sort of veneration and sense of loyalty among his students. He has encouraged their cultural development in all the arts, and he transfers his own vitally living passion for beauty to them.

Last year, when he announced to the Singers that he would retire following this year, some wept and all were effected. A man who can so deeply impress usually callous, skeptical college students with his sincerity and art is truly outstanding.

Gourlay, as president of Innocents and editor of the Cornhusker, has two positions which rate the title of "big shot." The term, with all its slightly unsavory connotations, could not by any stretch of the imagination apply to him. Gourlay is unpretentious, although he is quite intelligent (Rhodes Scholarship candidate) and the acknowledged leader in the senior men's honorary which recognizes scholarship, activities and service to the University.

In Gourlay's four years in school, he has intelligently and prudently exercised any authority delegated to him. He has wisely administered organizations, without the egomania common to the stereotyped "activity man." The Nebraskan thinks that he is truly deserving of the honor it has conferred on him.

The Nebraskan had great difficulty in selecting this semester's "Outstanding Nebraskans." All nominees were outstanding and all deserve recognition.

The Nebraskan extends the award to Gourlay and Dr. Westbrook as a true tribute to their service and ability.—J. B.

The Top Ten

The Nebraskan, like most other newspapers, recently published its choices for the Top Ten Stories of the semester. This announcement was given top play in the paper, and was accompanied by pictures on the front page and a story on the year's activities on the back page.

The Nebraskan made a real big deal about it. Some readers, on seeing the list, may have scoffed and hinted at "blowing one's own horn," and "space filler." Nothing could be less true.

Many of these stories will be continued in repercussions or further developments, long after the original stories broke. Other events, like the resignation of Coach Bill Glassford, result in other top stories, like the hiring of Pete Elliott to replace Glassford.

As explained in the original article, the Glassford story was the top news event of the semester because of its national import. The resignation came after a series of events stretching from a nationally-rated team in 1950 to a player revolt in 1953.

The resignation of Glassford brought one era of Nebraska football to a close; the signing of Elliott began another.

The second-rated story—the defeat of the one-week exam period—was an outstanding illustration of how student opinion can influence action by a faculty body. The faith of The Nebraskan and the student body in the University was given a big boost by this action.

The banning of the Kosmet Klub Fall Review by the Faculty Subcommittee on Student Affairs rated third in The Nebraskan's choices.

The suspension of any student activity or production is always top news. It is made all the more important because the Kosmet Klub still has a chance to get their show back.

Of the other stories, some may never be brought up again, such as the deaths of three students on the highways, and the voting down of legalized spiking in the IFC.

Yet, all these stories aroused campus interest on their release, and most of them aroused controversy which was carried on in editorial columns and conversations for days.

The Nebraskan is proud of its Top Ten Stories. They may never come up again, but they certainly made themselves known when they did.—F. T. D.

The Other Side

As has been pointed out in previous editorials, the University has faced a problem in the leaving of good professors in many of its departments. No one denies that many good professors have left the faculty nor that this is a very real problem. There is, however, the other side of the picture to be considered.

There are many excellent new professors in many of the departments. Visiting professors from various schools annually swell the ranks and compensate for University professors taking one year leaves of absence.

For example, among the additions to the English department are Dr. Oscar Mandel who was born in Europe and specializes in world literature, and Dr. Louis Crompton, a Canadian who had been teaching at the University of Toronto. Two of the English department additions received their doctorates from the University of Chicago, which holds a unique position among American universities. This is only one example.

Among the visiting professors is Dr. John Anton, who was graduated from the University of Greece, and received three degrees from Columbia University. He is teaching philosophy.

In almost any department, a similar situation exists. Many excellent new professors have been hired, in some cases the total number has been increased, and visiting professors from other colleges have joined various departments for the year.

All in all, according to the Dean of Faculties, the quality of the University faculty is as high as it has been in the past ten years.

Changes in faculty, if they do not result in a net loss, are a healthy sign in a progressing University. This is not to say that there is not a problem with losing good faculty members. When faculty members leave for reasons of higher pay or to enter some other field, it indicates problems which can be corrected.

The University recognized the problems which do exist in this regard. They can be rightly proud, however, of the ability of this University to attract particularly good professors in almost every field. The many members of the faculty who have received recognition in their fields is evidence of this fact. From every indication, the faculty additions made this year will probably continue in this tradition.—L. S.

The Nebraskan

FIFTY-FIVE YEARS OLD Member: Associated Collegiate Press Intercollegiate Press Representative: National Advertising Service, Incorporated Published at: Room 20, Student Union 14th & R University of Nebraska Lincoln, Nebraska

The Nebraskan is published Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday during the school year, except during vacations and exam periods, and one issue is published during August, by students of the University of Nebraska under the authorization of the Committee on Student Affairs as an expression of student opinion. Publications under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Student Publications shall be free from editorial censorship on the part of the Subcommittee, or on the part of any member of the faculty of the University, or on the part of any person outside the University. The members of the Nebraskan staff are personally responsible for what they say, or do or cause to be printed. February 8, 1956.

Entered as second class matter at the post office at Lincoln, Nebraska, under the act of August 4, 1911. EDITORIAL STAFF Editor: Dick Fellman Editorial Page Editor: Bruce Brumman Managing Editor: Hans Jensen News Editor: Fred Daily Sports Editor: Bob Cook Copy Editors: Judy Bost, Babe Jagerbus, Ag Editor: Jim Feather Night News Editor: Mary Shelley Secretary: Barbara Sharp, Arlene Erick, Sara Alexander, Carolyn Butler, George Meyer, Wes Fitzsch, Bill Olson, Bob Island, Bill Pitts, Jack Carlin, Julie Dowell, Mary Peterson, Marjorie Thompson, Mary Hartman, Sylvia King, Germaine Wright, Mary U. Hill, Nancy De Long, Aylce Fritchman, Pat Tatro, Marie Hornady, Germaine Stoler, Ann Hale, Cynthia Kachan, Cathy Gumb, Mary Lee Egan, Janicee Barnard, Nancy Coover, Monroe Usher. Editorial Secretary: Maurine Newhouse BUSINESS STAFF Business Manager: George Madson Asst. Business Managers: Bill DeWalt, Barbara Elze, Conna Hunt, Nick Hoff Circulation Manager: Don Cook



Lowell Vestal

Barb Weakness Due To Apathy

It's all over now. The classes, this semester's Rag, this column and a thousand other things that cannot be listed. It has been a good semester.

The classes were the same as ever: professors told why their courses were the most important ones on the campus and then gave lectures that effectively challenged the student's ability to stay awake.

The Rag was better than ever (and I mean it): it sincerely and honestly said a lot that should have been said a long time ago. It showed no fear of the high and the mighty and dared criticize the people who run this school when there was cause for criticism.

And this column? Well, I'll leave that to your own opinion. I have tried to represent the independents (in case you hadn't guessed) . . .

The Silent Majority

If such a group can be represented. This attempt has led to the discovery of a few discriminations against the Silent Majority but has led to far more conclusive evidence that the much-belabored "plight of the independent" is nobody's fault but his own.

Dear old NU is one of the few campuses where independents are content to do virtually nothing. Few indeed are the campus newspapers of the size and quality of The Nebraskan which go year after year with practically no independent students in the paid staff positions. Most other activities have only a small number of independent students in them.

It is different on other campuses. At Missouri, for instance, the situation a few years ago was much the same as the situation at Nebraska now. Instead of saying nothing could be done about the problem, the independent students got busy and formed a political party. Not just a few leaders, but ALL

independents supported the party. Not just residence halls and co-ops, but off-campus independents, city students (of which Columbia has fewer than Lincoln) and even the we-want-to-be-let-alone married students supported their party. The result was obvious.

The party ruled the campus. There came the inevitable split from the inside as the party became two parties. The other forces (Greeks to you) joined the two parties in about equal proportions.

The result is a healthy, realistic political system. In some respects it is similar to the national political system. This is a desirable attribute because it tends to acquaint students with party procedures like nominating conventions and so forth.

The most important value, however, is that the party system promotes competition and controversy where they belong—in the political field. A party system would end much petty hickering. It could turn discussion to the making of campus policy instead of endless lamentations about there being no independent innocents this year.

The list could go on and on. But most independents know the power they could exert. And they have tried to exert that power.

Several years ago an Independent Student Association was formed. After a long struggle for support it folded. Independents could not spare the time they spent loafing in the Crib. So the ISA fell into oblivion.

Last year all of the independent organizations worked together to present a single, qualified slate of candidates for Student Council positions. But again the Silent Majority was too busy to vote. It was spring and convertibles and beer busts seemed more important.

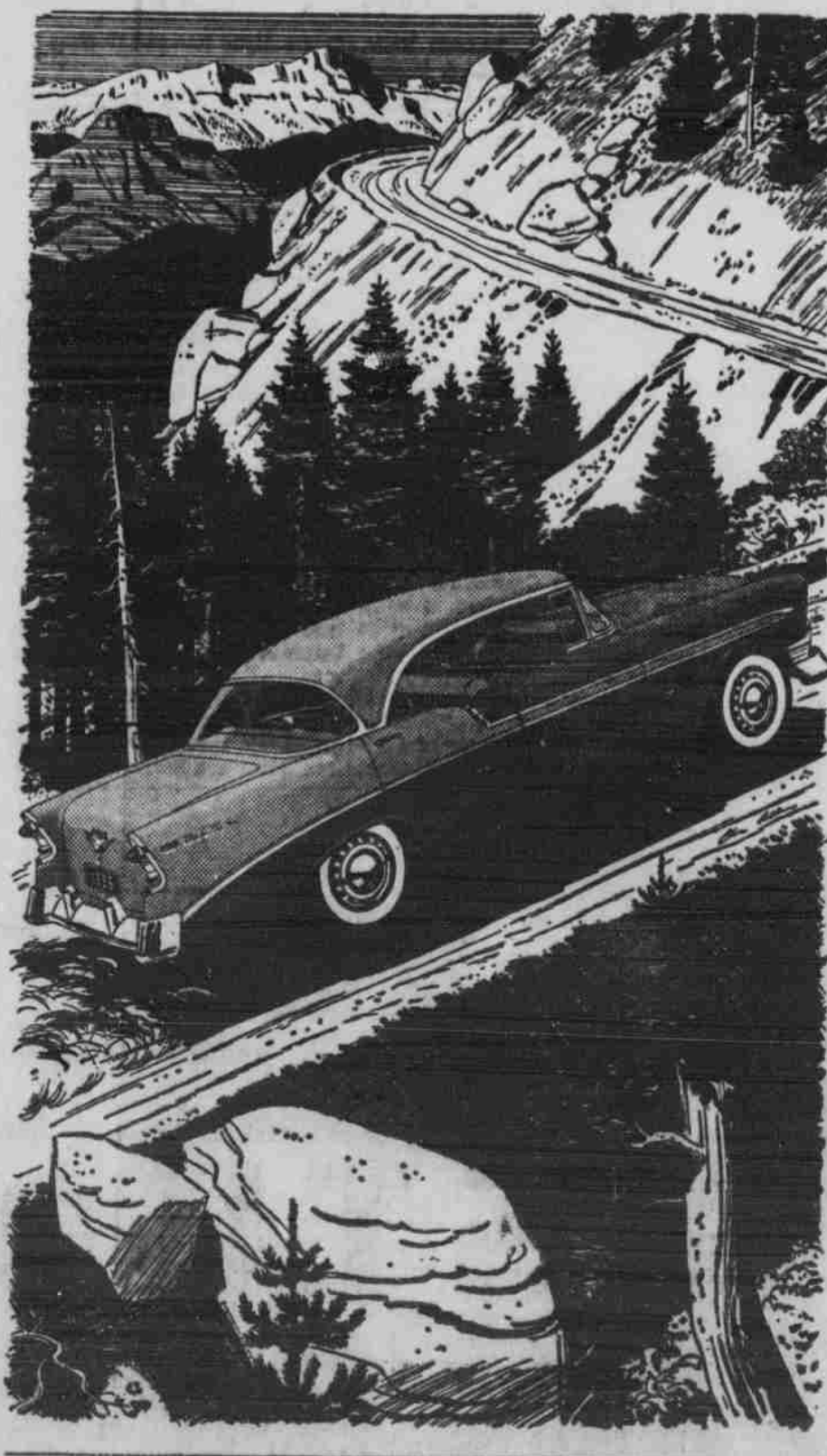
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