

Nebraskan Editorials:

A Speaker For Commencement

In their last meeting before Easter vacation the Student Council rejected the proposal to have a commencement speaker at graduation exercises this year.

Suggestions to include student speakers on the program were also discouraged. General opinion seemed to be that the seniors themselves didn't want a speaker, the commencement ceremonies were long enough anyway and it would be difficult to get a top notch speaker for the occasion.

The Convocations Committee, the student-faculty subcommittee which is preparing the report for consideration by the Faculty Senate, has also pretty much decided, from all indications, not to have a commencement speaker this year.

The committee, however, has indicated that it would like to hear the opinion of the student body, the Council and especially the graduating seniors concerning the desirability of a commencement speaker.

The reasons for not having a commencement address may all be valid; nevertheless, it seems

a shame that the University could graduate its seniors without the traditional commencement speaker.

There are already too few opportunities to bring outstanding personalities to the campus, and, if the commencement address is to be discontinued, one more avenue will have been closed.

The appearance of a noteworthy speaker for graduation exercises is not only good for the University and the University community, but also makes commencement more than a ceremony for dispensing diplomas and honorary degrees.

Graduation and the commencement exercises should be a symbol for scholastic achievement and, as such, should demand a program worthy of this accomplishment.

Without a speaker, or some worthwhile program for the graduates to attend, the graduating seniors may as well shed their black robes, dangling tassels and sloping mortar boards and wait for their diplomas in the mail.—B.B.

Welcome Situation

With the announcement of the Interfraternity Council slate for Student Council positions and the scheduling of interviews by an independent student coalition for Council posts, it seems quite likely that campus politics may reach a new fervor this spring.

Last year's try by the independents was a late and rather unorganized attempt but this year's campaign should bring out one of the largest votes in independent history. The IFC committee is in its second year of filtering and endorsing candidates having taken over the reigns dropped by the faction after its demise.

One thing is certain. If a two-party system would improve the caliber of Council members, then a two-party system is what student government needs and has needed. After a meteoric rise in the quality of Council members last year, the membership of the campus governing body slipped back into its more usual mediocrity of past years.

This year's Council has done little besides attempt to clarify its duties and functions. On several occasions, it has acted without thought concerning precedent, deliberation or forethought. At other times, the Council has attempted to stand for something—right and wrong—but these times have been altogether too few.

The only way that qualified people can be elected to the Council is for qualified persons to seek election. If two parties—if they can be called parties—attempt to put forth the best possible candidates within their constituencies, then it seems only logical that student government at the University will improve.

The only rotten apple that would remain in

the basket is the selection of women and representatives of those organizations which have positions on the Council. Too often, organizations elect students to the Council only as an afterthought without much deliberation. Last year, one organization had to be pushed several times just to select a rather hesitant representative for the Council.

The appearance of an active opposition to Greek control of Council elections is a healthy and welcome situation. Although it does not seem likely that many independent students will be elected, it does appear likely that the quality of candidates for office will improve—and the Student Council might actually take its constitutional position as "supreme student governing body."—S.J.

Voting Booths

With the approach of the all-University spring elections, it might be well for the Student Council to review the accessibility of its polling places.

Last year, the only voting booths on the downtown campus were in Love Library. The lines of prospective voters became so long and confused that many people were discouraged and never cast a vote.

This situation can and should be remedied in this year's elections. Especially when the interest in the Student Council elections will probably reach an all-time high.

A preliminary suggestion would be to have two voting booths in both the Library and the Union—thus accommodating nearly three times as many voters as the previous method.—B.B.

Freedom Of Campus Press Vital For Free Expression

By FRED DALY Editorial Page Editor A constant source of discussion, and occasionally violent action, is the matter of freedom of the collegiate press. In most universities and colleges, the press is given free reign editorially, with the responsibility of picking staffs and allocating funds left to a faculty-student publications committee.

Recently, however, there has been wide dissension in southern schools over the editorial freedom of their press. In three outstanding cases—Florida State University, the University of Georgia and the University of Texas—suppression of the press is coming directly from the administration.

At Texas and Georgia, political forces outside the schools are pressuring the editorial staffs as to what should or should not be printed. At Florida State, the newspaper staff is fighting to keep their paper away from editorial control by a faculty committee.

This control has come about mainly because of the paper's opposition to the school's president. The paper—the Florida Flambeau—claims this control stems from the president's efforts to squelch any opposition to his administration. At Texas U., the state government itself has opposed the policies of the newspaper. The

paper has repeatedly spoken against Gov. Allan Shivers and the Harris-Fulbright natural gas bill and has asked for moderation in racial integration.

The Texas University Board of Regents, appointed by Gov. Shivers, has led the attack on the paper. They claim The Daily Texan has "gone out of bounds" in discussing such matters.

Editors of the Georgia University Red and Black have supported Sen. George to run again for the Senate, while outside interests connected with the University seem to approve former Gov. Herman Talmadge.

After an editorial advocating the end of racial segregation in 1953, Georgia U's Board of Regents clamped a board of control on the paper. The staff is slowly putting life back into its editorial issues.

The papers in each of these three schools have the support of the student body. They discuss campus, national and state issues, frankly expressing their opinions and what they believe is the general opinion of the students.

Where they get in trouble, however, is when they pick up issues deemed "sacred" by their peers. The lid is then clamped on. If no lid is available, a new one is rapidly fabricated by administrative or even state action.

The University of Nebraska is fortunate no such situation exists here. True, there have been occasions when opinions of The Nebraskan and the administration have been quite different.

Aside from informal conferences with the paper's editors as to the advisability of policies differing from those of the University, no indications have been made toward control.

This is as it should be. As long as a college paper is rational in its arguments and fair in its opinions, it should be given absolute freedom in the statement of its policies.

The ultimate purpose of the editorial columns of a campus newspaper is to provide an outlet for student voice, and a means of fair, constructive criticism of campus affairs.

The final result of the suppression policies of the above-mentioned southern schools and others like them will not work for the good of their respective universities, as they seemingly are intended.

Instead, they stifle the very freedom of thought and expression that is so vital in education. Intellectual curiosity goes for naught if its outlets are controlled.

The students and the faculty of this University should be thankful that its press is free, even if they don't always agree with it.



Jess Brownell

First Sight Of University Proves Awesome To Boy

When I was just a toddler, not more than nineteen or twenty, my parents had a very special way of rewarding me for being nice. If I had been a good boy for a whole week at a time, Mummy would give me a bag of horehound drops and Daddy would take me off to visit that fountain-head of wisdom, and den of iniquity that is called the University of Nebraska.

How well I remember those trips. I, in a new pair of knickers, and Daddy, impeccably attired in a simple but expensive-looking shirtwaist and stout corduroy breeches, would first hitch old Tower to the dog-cart.

Then Mummy, wiping her eyes on the hem of her skirt, would slip out of the house, press a pack of fags into my hot little hand, and bravely bid us farewell. And off we would go, across the rolling prairies of the Golden West.

These excursions were the high points of my young life. I would gaze longingly at the strolling sun-drenched students, idly flinging oaths at snow-bound professors, and look forward eagerly to the day when I too would be a college student.

But on one occasion, our visit was not only untimed, and what I saw that day changed my entire view of college. (That I finally matriculated anyway is a tribute to my courage and fortitude, not to mention my mother's desire to

get me out of the house.) A few days before the particular afternoon of which I write, a student had been convicted of drinking beer, and now he was to be sentenced. What an awesome sight that ceremony was!

Row upon row of students, in various attitudes of fear and despair, were drawn up on the Mall. The Chancellor, resplendent in a beige uniform, his chest draped with form letters from the Division of Student Affairs, sat astride

Jess Jestng

a magnificent stallion. Behind him stood the rest of the administrators, gazing watchfully over the crowd.

The offender, hardly able to stand, was pushed forward by the security police. The Chancellor, without looking at him said in a bored tone, "Not an acceptable member of Our University Community."

Then with a negligent wave of his hand he consigned the poor fellow to the laboratories of Bessey Hall. No voice of protest was raised, and his screams soon faded in the distance.

Daddy inquired of a near-by citizen, and learned that this had merely had been a warm-up for the real business of the day. A writer for the Nebraskan had been

No Student Interest In National Politics

By JACK FLYNN I attended the Republican Founder's Day Banquet the other night and in looking over the coliseum I found that I could count very few Republicans.

I doubt that all the students not in attendance profess the Democratic political faith and it does not seem likely that there has been a great falling out among Republican students.

I do not like to think that the consolidation of government and throwing off of responsibility which has been going on since the passing on of the town council form of government has developed a robot society and political automation.

The marked absence of students at the banquet would suggest that such has happened. If so, John Dewey's leaders, who should be a great force in directing our democratic society, have failed in their duty.

The key to the successful functioning of any democracy is the individual's vote. However, the marking of an X or the pulling of

a lever at the polls is secondary to the selection of nominees. It is the duty of every citizen, and especially the "highly-educated" college student, to insure that the names of the best men, not the good or better men, are placed on the ballot.

If we are to continue the practice of selection of candidates for public office by political parties we must make sure that these political parties are directed by the has at her command.

People who come from out universities and colleges make up the majority of this group. You are one of them.

The broad generalizations, selected because of their emotional value and put forward in political speeches, are an indication of the

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politician's estimation of the intelligence of the voter. This should not be. You can change it.

Join a party and demand that its members be both honest and objective. If you do not desire to actively participate in one of the recognized parties or to form a new one you should at least demand honesty and objectivity from your soap box on the sidelines.

Some may point to the recent mock convention as a contradiction of my thesis. I do not deny that mock conventions and the like are worthy.

However, a mock convention is not reality and the value of participation in unrealistic situations such as mock conventions lies in the knowledge gained.

And if the participants do not follow through by putting this knowledge to work in future political activities the mock convention is a failure.

A meeting of the Mickey Mouse Club, a panty raid, a dog fight a burlesque show — all would have a large college attendance while a political meeting goes unattended. Why? Where do the student's values lie? They seem a bit perverted to me.



MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING

I have asked the makers of Philip Morris — an enterprising and aggressive group of men; yet at the same time warm and lovable; though not without acumen, perspicacity, and drive; which does not, however, mask their essential greatness; a quality evident to all who have ever enjoyed the beneficence and gentleness of their wares; I refer, of course, to Philip Morris Cigarettes, a smoke fashioned with such loving care and tendered with such kind regard that these old eyes grow misty when I think upon it — I have asked, I say, the makers of Philip Morris — that aggregate of shrewd but kindly tobaccoists, that covey of enlightened Merry Andrews, that cluster of good souls bound together by the profit motive and an unflinching determination to provide all America with a cigarette forever gentle and eternally pleasing — I have asked, I say, the makers of Philip Morris whether I might use today's column to take up the controversial question: Should a coed share expenses on a date? "Yes," said the makers simply. We all embraced then and squeezed each other and exchanged brave smiles, and if our eyes were a trifle moist, who can blame us?

To the topic then: Should a coed share expenses on a date? I think I can best answer the question by citing the following typical case:

Poseidon Nebenzal, a student at Oklahoma A and M, majoring in hides and tallow, fell wildly in love with Mary Ellen Flange, a flax weevil major at the same school. His love, he had reason to believe from Mary Ellen's sidelong glances and maidenly blushes, was not entirely unrequited, and by and by he mustered



up enough courage to ask her the all-important question: "Will you wear my 4-H pin?"

"Yes," she said simply. They embraced then and squeezed each other and exchanged brave smiles, and if their eyes were a trifle moist, who can blame them?

For a time things went swimmingly. Then a cloud appeared. Mary Ellen, it seems, was a rich girl and accustomed to costly pleasures. Poseidon was bone-poor and he quickly ran out of money. Unable to take Mary Ellen to the posh places she fancied and too proud to tell her the reason, he turned surlily and full of melancholy. Senseless, violent quarrels developed. Soon it appeared that the romance, so promising at the beginning, was headed for a breakup, but at the last moment, Poseidon managed to blurt out the truth.

"Oh, beloved agrarian!" cried Mary Ellen, grasping him close. "Oh, proud husbandman! Oh, foolish reaper! Why have you not told me before? I have plenty of money, and I will contribute according to my ability."

Poseidon, of course, protested, but she finally persuaded him of the wisdom of her course. From then on they split all expenses according to their incomes. Rather than embarrass Poseidon by handing him money in public, a joint bank account was set up to allow him to write checks. Into this account each week they faithfully deposited their respective allowances — 35 cents from Poseidon; \$2300 from Mary Ellen.

And it worked fine! Gone was all the arguing and bickering. They were happy — truly happy! And what's more, when they graduated they had a nice little nest egg — eight million dollars — with which to furnish a lovely apartment in Lubbock, Texas, where today they operate the local laundromat.

So you see? You too can salvage your failing romance if you will only adopt a healthy, sensible attitude toward money.

Lucie is no obstacle when it comes to Philip Morris. Popular prices still prevail for this, America's gentle cigarette, whose makers bring you this column every week.

Nebraskan Letterip Fraternity Discrimination Clauses

The Nebraskan editorial on the Colorado "discrimination Clause" action is to be commended for a logical interpretation of what "to be discriminating" means.

It falls, however, into the trap so often laid by promoters of this type of thing. No matter how laudable the cause, individuals and organizations try to turn the issue to their own ends.

On other campuses the adoption of anti-discriminatory resolutions has been step No. 1. Step 2 is the one which Colorado has just taken — the required abolition of the "discriminatory clauses" from House charters.

Step 3 is to require a gesture of "Good Faith" on the part of those Houses who removed the clauses. This act of "Good Faith" is the activation of a member of the group previously excluded.

Sometimes no suitable candidate has been available on the smaller campuses. The promoters of the change have then provided one.

Blunders In Interpretation

To the Editor: In reply to Mr. Gardner's letter, I would like to point out a few blunders in his interpretation of the reasons for the failure of the Mock Political Convention.

He states, for instance, that the Democratic delegates to the convention attempted to add a touch of reality to the convention. I do not agree with this statement. Since when are the Virgin Islands and Hawaii in favor of segregation?

Yet the delegates representing these territories voted with the Southern states on this issue. I could list many other such instances which point out the shortcomings of the Democratic delegations, but I believe this to suffice.

Mr. Gardner thinks that the attempt of the radicals to dominate the convention was a success. This appears to make as much sense as saying that Nazi Germany was successful in World War II.

After trying in vain to muddle the convention using typical Democrat procedure, they led their puppet delegations into walking out. Is this success?

Mr. Gardner repeats the phrase which has become the byword of the defeated radicals on campus:

To refuse to accept this candidate is to say that one hasn't "Good Faith," according to the promoters.

To say, as The Nebraskan does, that Houses (or any other social group, for that matter, which selects its members) can still utilize their free choice over membership on an individual basis is simply not the case.

The selection process which we call membership goes out the window, in effect, cannot reverse activation to anyone from the previously excluded group. To do so, would be "discrimination" no matter what the grounds.

This situation is an example of an issue which is seemingly legitimate, but on examination begins to smell of coercion of the vilest sort.

Before any campus group takes action on this topic, it would be well to examine what is really going on.

CAUTIOUS

The Republicans didn't have enough people present to cast their entire vote. I can't imagine how he can gather enough effrontery to make this statement.

The Republican delegations were challenged several times, each time proving that everything was legal. What delegations were found guilty of fraudulent acts, such as voting for delegations not present, etc.? The Democrats.

I suppose that Mr. Gardner and the radicals cannot realize why the Democrat delegations failed to elect their man. The simple reason that the students of the University selected Dwight D. Eisenhower as their candidate for President of the United States is that he is the man, the only man, qualified for the office.

J. L. F.

Thank You

To the Editor: We would like to express our appreciation for the good publicity and the accurate reporting you gave to our Eleventh Annual Social Casework Institute held here at the University March 16-17.

Thank you so much! Avis Kristenson Associate Professor

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