

Nebraskan Editorials:

Stifling The Liberals'

Several facts stand out in the recent demotion of Clyde Mitchell as chairman of the department of agricultural economics:

1. No member of the department denied (and The Nebraskan contacted all but one professor in the department) that the implication of "outside pressures" was brought out in the special meeting before Easter vacation as influential in the administrative decision to relieve Mitchell of his chairmanship duties.

2. Several professors in the ag ec department have told The Nebraskan in specially arranged interviews that they were "certain in their own minds" that "special interests outside the University" have influenced Mitchell's demotion.

3. Mitchell has been subjected to the severe opposition in the past, notably attacks from the Hall County Farm Bureau and Regent J. Leroy Welsh of Omaha.

4. Many powerful political organizations and farm groups have been displeased with Mitchell's policies which he has presented in his many speaking tours and personal trips throughout the Midwest.

These "outside pressures" can never be proven. Yet, the indications are so unavoidably strong that they cannot be denied.

First of all, in applying this material, it must be remembered that removing an administrative official is not, in and of itself, a legal abridgement of academic freedom.

But nevertheless, it must also be remembered that removing an administrator because of "outside pressures" or the influence of "special interests" is a moral abridgement of the spirit of academic freedom and the principles upon which the integrity and future of our university and every university rests.

Moreover, this action is nothing more than a clever ruse to officially discourage the independent thought of a university professor—while carefully avoiding censure by the American Association of University Professors, which handles only cases involving academic privilege and tenure (neither of which is vested with an administrative official.)

But whether or not such action is legally, morally or ethically justified, or whether it can continue to slide by the jurisdiction of the AAUP, the effect which such administrative action can impress upon a university is irremediably dangerous.

In the specific case of Clyde Mitchell his views—liberal, but far from radical—have been officially discouraged by the administrative demotion which he received.

But in the larger and more important sense, the right of free speech, the right of dissent, the right of free inquiry, the right of a University professor to speak freely without the fear of losing his job or his administrative position has been seriously endangered at the University.

And it is becoming distressingly apparent that this atmosphere is prevalent not only in the agricultural economics department—where professors have been very hesitant in talking about the Mitchell case—but has impressed itself deeply upon other departments and colleges here at the University where similar administrative changes have taken and will be taking place.

The questions which remain before us are indeed serious.

Is the University weakening to the sociological pressures of conformity, is it becoming politically compatible with the special interests in the state, is it seeking to identify itself with the arch conservatism of the traditional Nebraskan?

In short, is the University of Nebraska trying to stifle the independent thought of its more liberal professors?—B.B.

Athletic Focal Point

University athletic squads are preparing themselves for the focal point of the spring season, All-Sports Day. April 28 has been selected as the date of the annual affair.

A complete schedule has been set up for the Saturday, starting with a baseball game between Nebraska and Offutt Air Base at 10 a.m. and concluding with a swimming exhibition at 5 p.m. Sandwiched in between these events are tennis and gymnastic matches and a track meet pitting the varsity against the freshmen.

The highlight of the day-long affair is the varsity-alumni football game which will allow Husker fans to witness two factors which will probably make this year's festivities the largest crowd drawer in the history of the event.

First, Nebraska followers will receive their first look at a football team coached by their recently appointed mentor, Pete Elliott.

Secondly, Elliott's squad will be facing a seasoned group of alumni, including such former standouts as Bobby Reynolds, Tom Novak, Fran Nagle, Bob Smith, Charlie Toogood, Moon Mullins and a host of other all time greats. Ed Weir, former track coach and All-American during the golden decade of Cornhusker football will kick extra points for the Alumni.

All-Sports Day has been built up to one of the top athletic events of the year to Husker followers outstate. Nearly all of the Nebraska high schools send representatives and the University coaching staff invites all top prep athletes to be the guests of the department in viewing the events.

If anything is lacking in the All-Sports Day program it will not be the prowess of the athletic department; it will be the support given it by the student body.—B.C.

Toward A Better Council

The Nebraskan, in a campaign for better Student Council representation, is inviting all candidates to submit platforms to the paper, citing their beliefs on student government, and their opinions on campus issues.

These platforms will be published in The Nebraskan's editorial pages. They should be brief, to the point, and the opinion of the candidate, not any particular group with which he might have connected himself.

The Student Council is the only medium

through which students can actively participate in the governing of their affairs. So that the students are well-represented in this vital medium, it is only logical that those candidates which are the most interested and the most qualified be supported.

If candidates are interested in the Council as the main student governing body, and not as just another lucrative activity, it is expected they will try to voice their platforms before the voting student body.

It will be interesting to see.—F.T.D.

Functions Of An Honor System

Student opinion on the possibility of integrating an Honor System into the University's academic program will be polled in a student vote May 7. Student feeling on the honor system and on a student tribunal is being sought by the Student Council.

If the vote should indicate that general student opinion is in favor of an honor system or a tribunal, or both, the Council would recommend to next year's Council that plans be drawn up providing for the development of these systems. These plans would be subject to approval of the administration.

In order that students might go to the polls better informed on the functions of the honor system and the tribunal, The Nebraskan presents this second in a series of editorials.

Today's editorial will explain the purposes and workings of an honor system, based on those at Stanford University and the University of Virginia.

At Stanford, the honor system rests on the carrying out of a "Fundamental Standard" by the students and the faculty. This standard assumes that persons in the university have respect for order, morality, personal honor and the rights of others.

If this basic code is followed, the school assumes there is no need for heavy restrictions or supervision. By obeying the Fundamental Standard, each student will act in accordance to all school rules, both academically and in his relations with other students and faculty.

The Honor Code for classroom work and examinations follows this at Stanford. Students are expected to follow the Code, and see that others do so.

They pledge not to receive aid on examinations, class work or reports. The faculty manifests its confidence in the students by refraining from proctoring exams and by accepting a student's word that his work is his own.

The Stanford Honor Code is enforced through collective responsibility. The university believes that the success of their system results in trust.

of students and professors with each other, resulting in mutual respect and friendship.

The Virginia system works the same way, in that students pledge that the work they hand in is their own, done in accordance with requirements as laid down by the professors.

There is a slightly greater emphasis, however, on student support of the system. If a student sees another breaking the code, he should investigate, and report the matter to the Honor Committee if he believes his suspicions are based on fact.

Cheating at cards, lying, falsifying checks or identification or cheating on debts can result in expulsion from both universities.

Stanford and Virginia have faith in their honor systems. They believe a greater respect for personal honor and the honor of the school is built up by adherence to the honor code.

By putting the greater part of the supervision of the code itself with the students, it becomes each student's personal responsibility that the code is maintained.

If an honor system were to be planned for this university, it would most likely be along the lines of the systems at Stanford and Virginia.

In case of breaches of the code, violators could be sent before a purely student tribunal, a combined student-faculty board or a faculty supervisor. They would then be dealt with as violators of one of the University's prime rules.

The actual success of an honor system would rest with the students, however. To make it work, each student would have to pledge not to break it himself, and to either warn or report anyone he would see violating the code.

In voting on an honor system, the students of this University will have to realize this responsibility. Support of an honor system would go far beyond a student election. It would extend through an entire academic career.

It would be a student's responsibility to his school, his fellow students and to himself.—F.T.D.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS by Dick Bibler



—OR THERE'S FORESTRY—I MAY DECIDE TO GO INTO THE LUMBER BUSINESS

Nebraskan Letterip— Mitchell Unjustly Demoted

To the Editor:

As a senior in the college of Agriculture, I would venture this: Professor Mitchell is being unjustly demoted because he has been out of tone with prevailing socio-economic concepts—concepts that add slack to the thing called "social lag" and inhibit the quest for new ideas to cope with the problems confronting agriculture and the nation.

Will he be out of tone tomorrow? Is it logical that we can know if our conclusions are correct conclusions? I believe that men like Professor Mitchell are to be cherished rather than rejected.

If we do not provide such men with a suitable environment in which to work—an environment of academic freedom—then what purpose is there in uttering the word "freedom"?

If we must acquiesce to the control of our educators by special interest groups who have vested interests to protect, then we have lost the most valuable principle upon which a university is

based.

In my opinion it would seem that the decision to demote Professor Mitchell is in direct conflict with the principle of maintaining an atmosphere of academic freedom within the confines of our University community.

Such a conclusion, if correct, suggests that the highest principles of our institution have been placed in jeopardy. This is an unhappy turn of events and one that demands our serious concern.

In view of the controversies that have arisen with regard to Professor Mitchell, during his tenure here at the University, it can be reasonably inferred that his demotion will have the effect of warning other faculty members of the dire consequences of freely discussing their convictions on issues that are controversial, especially if their convictions in any way deviate from the "accepted" consensus of opinion prevailing within the state.

Dean E. Bucy Vice-President, Ag Economics Club

Explanation Needed

To the Editor:

It is too bad that the willful person responsible for the "pressures" and subsequent firing of Dr. Mitchell could not have been at the honors convocation Tuesday.

Dr. Frank Baxter said, "The wise man must not knuckle under to mass pressure and be reduced to a statistic." This was the main idea that this noted educator presented to the college convocation which is very applicable of the Mitchell case.

Dr. Mitchell saw his duty as an "institutional economist" and declined to be reduced to a statistic when the outside pressures demanded it.

Dr. Mitchell will be long remembered by the many students of agricultural economics regardless of any kind of pressure exerted because of his challenging lectures which provide a stimulus of thought both inside and outside of class.

Still many facts of the case are vague and covered with the dirt of politics. What of the graduate faculty and their repeated refusal to admit Dr. Mitchell membership at that faculty even though the chairmen of departments are usually the first to be admitted?

This outright denial of what might be called seniority and the purposeful blindness to Dr. Mitchell's capabilities known nationally, and yet not rewarded by the faculty, should be explained.

A Student Behind Mitchell

Speaking Freely

To the editor:

This letter is in response to many inquiries I have had in regard to the Dr. C. Clyde Mitchell case. I have been accused of being the unnamed College of Agriculture senior who has been making statements to the press but withholding his name for fear of reprisal from the administration.

I am not that student, and I am sure that both the Chancellor and the Dean are above reproach when it comes to letting the students concerned with this case may speak freely without fear of reprisal in this University.

Dr. Mitchell is an outstanding professor but if, as Dean Lambert stated, the reason for the demotion of Mitchell is true and a new chairman is being sought to stimulate beyond present levels the research and extension programs in agricultural economics, I am frankly for the demotion of Dr. Mitchell.

However, if Dr. Mitchell is being replaced by a new chairman, who is afraid to speak his own opinions, I am certainly not in favor of the demotion. The agricultural economics department's progress under Dr. Mitchell's leadership has been excellent.

It perhaps can be even better under a new chairman. Dr. Mitchell is an excellent teacher, but progress cannot be made unless research and good teaching go hand in hand.

Frankly, when I first heard the rumor to the effect that Dr. Mitchell was being demoted, I felt it was primarily due to pressure on the administration.

Their duty was clear: While the pressures were hot in 1953, protect him and pacify the faculty with a few platitudes on academic freedom; but when things have died down, when the faculty isn't looking, then quietly begin the removal.

Probably nothing will be done. The faculty will sit quietly and call their own fear and cowardice academic respect and aloofness.

They will accept the cheap excuses, the hair-splitting, the trickery of glib administrators.

But which one will go next, Mr. Professor?

A Disturbed Student

Who Will Be Next?

To the Editor:

Although Dr. Riesman's lectures last week seemed to cause some slight embarrassment to at least two of the people who appeared on the stand with him at various times, his perceptive comments on academic pressures were coughed away and flutteringly ignored with the publication of the recent hatchet notices against C. Clyde Mitchell.

The "good people" have spoken, the barometer has sensed and a teacher is gone. They didn't like Dr. Mitchell, or they were told that they should not like Dr. Mitchell, and they did their duty.

Are there any questions you'd care to ask me?" said Alfreda. "Just one," said Ed. "How big is your house mother's window?"

A tear ran down Alfreda's cheek. "Well, that's the way it goes," she sighed. "You work and slave and study and then they catch you on a trick question! ... Oh, well, that's life, I guess."

Fortiori and bereft, she rose and shambled to her bed and fell upon it and wept for several days. But finally she pulled herself together, and today she is with Byrd in the Antarctic.

You don't have to be a PhiBeta to know that Philip Morris, made by the sponsors of this column, is the gentlest, tastiest cigarette that money can buy.



Columnist Needs Paper's Defense

My column last week brought in the usual flood of congratulatory letters, and I spent the weekend frantically trying to buy all the acid in Lincoln. One can't take too many precautions now that columnists are in season.

This is my day to tell you about all the important campus issues, and no amount of wheedling is going to stop me, so you may as well give up right now. And if you will excuse me for a moment, I'll slip into the wings, change my make-up, leaver at the chorus girls, and be back on stage in a flash.

I see that the Pi Xi's met last week, and this reminds me that it shouldn't be long until another issue of the Pixie Press is on the doorstep. I wonder who will be

ceived from this University, Mr. Mitchell has been handled like touring royalty, but no one has risen as my champion.

Picture a man with the looks of Montgomery Clift, the wit of H. L. Mencken, the grace of Gene Kelly, the strength of Charles Atlas, the song of a lark, the head of a state, the birth of a nation and the ghost of a chance; picture such a man, I say, and you may have C. Clyde Mitchell, but you won't have me.

Why this brawny University should pick on me is a puzzle in monstrosity. In my present condition, I can hardly operate a can-opener, let alone perform all the tasks set upon me.

I wish the editors of this paper would consider my situation, and give my case a little publicity. I haven't even had time to go into training for Ivy Day.

Jess Jestng

lucky enough to gain mention on those pages this year? Golly, I hope I make it, Mummy loves to see my name in the papers.

As far as a... Honor System at the University is concerned, I'm for setting one up right now, before finals. Concerning my own qualifications, anyone will tell you that the merest hint of an affront to my honor is enough to make me gather up my possessions and flee for the border.

But the affair that is getting the biggest play in the papers is the case of C. Clyde Mitchell. I am glad that Mr. Mitchell is being so well defended, and nothing gives me greater pleasure than seeing the Chancellor and a few Deans on the ropes.

Yet, I feel that you might have found someone in greater need of defense, namely me. Why, compared to the treatment I've re-

Vic Vet says AS A GI INSURANCE POLICY-HOLDER, IT'S UP TO YOU TO KEEP VA INFORMED OF THE BENEFICIARIES YOU WISH TO RECEIVE THE PROCEEDS OF YOUR POLICY AND HOW THE MONEY IS TO BE PAID THEM

On Campus with Max Shulman (Author of "Barefoot Boy With Cheek," etc.)

PHI BETA KAPPA, I LOVE YOU!

Once there was a Chi Omega named Alfreda Pectate who was beautiful and well-formed and wore clothes of the most tasteful cut and smoked the gentlest of all cigarettes—Philip Morris, of course!—and had, in addition to these admirable qualities, a brain so massive and retentive that she used to read the Britannica just for kicks.

Alfreda had one great ambition: to be elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Consequently she was all a-dither when she heard a rumor one night that a man from the Phi Beta Kappa selection board was coming over to the Chi Omega house to interview her. Being all a-dither, Alfreda sat down and lit a Philip Morris, as she always did when she was all a-dither, for gentle Philip Morris, as wise Alfreda knew, is comfort to the troubled, balm to the beset, and a haven to the vexed. But gentle Philip Morris, as Alfreda, with her mighty intellect, was well aware, is not only a cigarette for times of stress and strain, but also the perfect accompaniment to happiness and light. For gentle Philip Morris is sunny and cheery and jolly and merry and yummy! All this Alfreda, with her giant cerebellum, knew.

By and by there came a loud, masculine knock on the door, and Alfreda, composing herself, went to answer it. "Won't you come in?" she said to the man outside. "I am Alfreda Pectate."

"And I am Ed Fester," said the man, entering with a friendly smile. Ed had found that a friendly smile was a great asset in the Venetian blind game, which happened to be Ed's game. He had nothing to do with Phi Beta Kappa; he had come over to see about a new blind for the house mother's bedroom. But, of course, Alfreda knew nothing of this.

"Do sit down," said Alfreda. "Thanks, hey," said Ed. "But I can't stay long."

"Of course," said Alfreda and proceeded without delay to demonstrate how wide and comprehensive was her learning. "Deer," she said, "have no gall bladders."

"Is that so?" said Ed, who until this moment had believed deer had gall bladders.

"Ben Jonson," said Alfreda, "was buried in a sitting position."

"Hmm," said Ed. "Fortnight" is a contraction of 'fourteen nights,'" said Alfreda.

"What do you know!" said Ed. "Many people think it is forbidden to wash an American flag," said Alfreda. "That is not true. It is perfectly proper to wash an American flag."

"Learn something every day," said Ed. "The smallest fish in the world," said Alfreda, "is the Panda Pygma, which is under a half inch when full grown."

"How come they buried that Jonson sitting up?" said Ed. "It's terribly crowded in Westminster Abbey," said Alfreda. "Oh," said Ed.

"Ann Boleyn had six fingers on her left hand," said Alfreda. "Heavens to Betsy!" said Ed.

"Are there any questions you'd care to ask me?" said Alfreda. "Just one," said Ed. "How big is your house mother's window?"

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