by Dick Bibler

Mediaeval Traditions:

Autonomy 'Essence' Of University

Professor of History

ton thereto of intellecual freedom, peal for protection. for without these two features it. They had also to protect them-

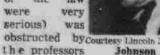
an autonomous guild of scholars they fought. They had to resist chancellor, directing him to pubsit, (universitas) was such a guild, cials, and ultimately of the king theses. arising quite spontaneously and himself, who was their second freely with the desire and need source of appeal. for learning.

the craft of teachers.

The university was thus a self- leges locally abused. perpetuating, self-governing asviolence, to maintain this free pression

The university of students at

Bologna (Bolo-) gna began as sity of students) found that its liberty to pursue learning it saw fit (and these students the law very serious)



who were in league for certain purposes with the citizens of Bologna. students were regarded as clerics surpress.

It should cause no surprise that ral chapter, the bishop and the ately omitted the mention of the when required to elect a new chanteachers and scholars separatley. the University of Nebraska is be- archhbishop, and against the car- Pope, ing agitated by the issue of in- dinals and legates of that Rome Yet, he was not hindered in his the old ones. stitutional autonomy and the rela- to whom they often had to ap-

would cease to be a university selves against the burghers who fore the University, by the chanin the proper and original mean- more often resented their liberties cellor. Robert Rugge. Before the ter to respect its privileges. and license than they understood The notion that a university is the essential freedom for which archbishop was served upon the is mediaeval. In origin a univer- the encroachments of royal offi-

This fight on many fronts to pre-Such guilds organized them- serve the liberty of the universelves in a democratic manner, sty was stubbornly conducted. Its elected their own officials and as- chief weapons were the migration sumed full responsibility for lay- and the cessation. Professors who ing down the rules and regula- needed nothing much more than tons necessary for those to fol-student fees to carry on their low who sought membership in work were quick to move to another town when they felt their privi-

About half of the universities sociation of masters or students or of mediaeval Europe, and among both. When once its free status these some of the greatest, owe had been secured and recognized, their foundation to this willingit sought fiercely, and often with ness on the part of teachers and a too easy mediaeval resort to students to tolerate any local op-

> When the matter was not importstop lecturing (cessation), And lished." with the death penalty.

and thus amenable only to the After his opinions had been con- mass as usual.

progress toward a degree. On Corday arrived, an order from the lish the condemnation of Wycliffe's

The chancellor flatly refused to sermon on that day, Hereford went The Nebraskan by Edgar Johnson, on with his defense of Wycliffe professor of history. The theme, and, "as the chancellor retired in state from the church, followed by the whole concourse of doctors and masters, he made a point of waiting for the preacher at the a dissolution of the University were that we depart from this tradichurch door, and walked home

The chancellor professed that he dared not, for fear of his life, publish the condemation of Wycliffe in Oxford, "Then is Oxford," replied the archbishop, "the uniant enough for an exodus or mi- versity of heresies, if he will not gration, it was often sufficient to allow orthodox truths to be pub-

while the refusal of the professors In 1411 the archbishop, in sptie hissing of serpents, and every sort to go on talking was not always of a papal exemption, cited the of insulting exclamation. regarded as intolerable, revolting University to appear before him. universities were never without The chancellor and the proctors floors of those unsavoury dwella welcome elsewhere. This im- refused to allow the archbishop ings were poured uopn the cowled pluse to get out the town council to enter Oxford. The church at heads from above: mud. stones. of Bologna tried finally to curb which they were to appear was sometimes blows, greeted them

church: the officials of the cathed- cliffe, and in his prayer he deliber- sity decreed a cessation, and, peace, to house the respective cellor and proctors, it re-elected

> It was difficult at Paris to get pus Christi of the same year he the impudent friars to obey the that "universities . . . could devlop was again appointed to preach be. statutes of the University and the

To tame the latter an election

Upper Chamber

Today's "Upper Chamber" comply with the injunction. In his column was written specially for "The Medieval University", was given as a lecture to Johnson's History of Western Culture class.

tried. The general of the Domiwith him, 'laughing, and great nicans complained that his friars dependence of our universities and joy came upon the Lollards (Wy- were hard put to it in the course thus tend to destroy their usefulloliffe's followers) at such a ser- of their subjection. "It was dan- ness in these days so critical for gerous for a friar to be seen freedom." abroad . . No sooner was he caught sight of . . . than he was surrounded by the human swarms that poured forth from every house and hostel in the narrow street 'hurrying as if to a spectacle.' Instantly the air was full of 'the tulmult of shoutings the barking of dogs, the roaring of bears, the

Filty rushes and straw off the from below." Arrows were shot

of a University church and said "by the superior numbers and athletic prowess of the young Masjurisdiction of the church, the uni- demned by Rome and by the Arch- When the archbishop, complainters of Arts, and their younger versity of masters (here the uni- bishop of Canterbury, a former ing with "what insolency he had pupils . . . forcibly expelled from versity was first composed of teach- disciple, Nicholas Hereford, in a been received by a company of he Rector's chair of State in the

> After a riot or two he even succeeed in acquiring the dignity of sharing "in solitary grandeur," up the rear of public processions.

These struggles for institutional doubt upon the integrity of the adlists.

> In some of the German univerist and nominalist approach to was it followed?

> > WHAT'S THIS?

For solution see

PARACHUTIST

John Arterbay U. of Okishoms

PILLOW FOR PERSON WITH MARROW MIND Wynn Debigren U. of Oregon

poragraph below.

Mitchell Statement **Needs Clarification**

has made mistakes, to be sure, but the overall value of his contribution outweighs those errors.

Former President Conant of Har-

vard took care to point out to

his Board of Overseers in 1948

only in an atmosphere which per-

mitted 'that liberty of assocaciton and that juridical autonomy which

are not only the condition sine

qua non for the formation of the

He argued that such "a group

of devoted and loyal men united

for a special purpose, governed

by its own traditions and perpet-

uated by its own rules, yet given

recognized status by a higher au-

thority, must be an unconscious

agent for the spread of ideas hos-

He then said that "to the extent

tional ideas we endanger the in-

tile to all forms of tranny."

esssence." "

The Mitchell case has seemed to me rather nebulous from the beconclusive evidence.

to clear the air, although it is by discrepancy in terminology? no means conclusive.

white

1. Mitchell states that attempts documentation. freedom were paralled by some were made "to tone down, modi- In view of Dr. Cohen's advice. tempts successful?

for many months, and second, the sities at least the dispute between vised to curtail my speaking and In any case it seems obvious that I will defend to the death your hot that it was necessary to offer specific nature of the advice, how demic freedom has been grossly Or do we prefer Alice's Queen the statements by Hardin, Lambert in the arts courses both a real-strong was it, and to what extent and despicably violated. It is small whose entire vocabulary consists

each book on philosophy and, for 3. He states that he was notified been so silent; they have irre-their heads"?

THERE'S A MEETING OF THE MINDS in the Droodle

above: Board meeting out for Lucky break. All in

NOW LOOK HERE! FOR LUCKY DROODLES!

First of all may I commend that "if any reasons be demanded, sponsibly mutilated not only their Brugmann for the vigorous and an official statement would be explanations but also a man's reppersistent way in which he has made that I had performed my utation and the spirit of academic handled the Mitchell situation. He professional duties inadequately." freedom,

Ellie Elliott

"OK, YOU 'PLEDGES'- IT'S TIME FOR BED."

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS

As I recall, the official statement referred not to Mitchell's profes- of loyalty. We are, first, men, and sional duties but to his adminis- second, citizens. As men and as

Given' 'em Ell

trative duties. Professional duties Now we finally have at our dis- involve teaching and research, but posal a statement by Dr. Mitchell not administration. What, then, if himself. This statement does much any, is the basis of this apparent I raise these questions not sim-

I believe that several points in ply to be ornery or to criticize Mitchell's statement warrant clari- Dr. Mitchell. I wish only to point fication, for his case is not, as ou that the case is by no means with the Bishop of Paris bringing some have claimed, "black and closed; that we now have need of more specific substantiation and

efforts to secure an adequate re- fy, and even to censor my publi- it is understandable that Mitchell world?" presentation of more than one cations." What is the difference has not contacted the Committee Our loyalty, then, is not to the point of view, Mediaeval philoso- between attempts at modification on Tenure and Academic Privi- Chancellor or the Board of Regents main schools, realists and nomina- to what extent were those at- ever, why he has not appealed to letter of academic freedom. Re-2. He states that he was "ad- demic freedom, such as the AAUP. disapprove of what you say, but

The question is not one of lack

citizens our loyalty is not to other men but to principles: the principles which make our government in all its facets our tool and not our tyrant. Academic freedom is one of those

principles. It is a principle which stands above the level of politics and Regents and social-economic ideology.

It is a principle which has led the AAUP to confirm the right of Communists to teach in our universities: "How else are Americans to know the nature of the ideological currents in their

other available champions of aca- member what Voltaire says? "I

wonder that the administration has substantially of the cry "Off with

Nebraskan Letterips Statement 'Shocking Proof'

C. Clyde Mitchell came as shock- ure Committee. ing proof that academic freedom has been violated at the Univer-

two salient points. First, The Nebraskan's reporting of the facts comment. prior to the statement was obly questionable.

Several weeks ago The Nebrasmanship. Adam Breckenridge, resorting to what was clearly semantic duplicity, "scotched these rumors" with a statement to the before the Regents since he had assumed his position July, 1955.

high administrator in the College of Agriculture had told a meeting ism. of 16 members of the Agricultural Economics department that Mitchell would not be retained as

chairman. It was well known at that time the University had contacted men outside of the state for the job. At least one of these men had visited the campus.

Dean Lambert publicly denied all knowledge of these facts, though they could hardly have been unknown to him. As persons associated with the Agricultural Economics Department began to

their articles "ridiculous." before the Liasion Committee or Dr. William Swindler, Dr. Herbert

The long awaited statement by the Academic Freedom and Ten- | Jehle, Kris Kristianson and Ernie

It was inconceivable that the the developments in the Mitchell chairman could be relieved for any case as reported in The Nebraskan cause or no cause whatever. Foladministration wisely declined to

jective. Second, the integrity of vered shrewdly, but has placed the administration in its handling both feet squarely in its mouth of the Mitchell case has been high- each time it has taken a stand on

clearly a case of slander.

First Step

rect reflection upon the profes- who has kept in close touch with sional competence of Mitchell, are student groups since leaving

I am sure I am joined by many

other alumni in being proud of our on the campus they will be righted.

first step in this process, by showing what is wrong. For a job well done, thanks,

To the Editor:

Would not the accused, then, be Dr. Mitchell is being or has been A tribunal enforcing the legis- guilty until proved innocent. Who replaces as chairman of the deworkable policies such as the Uni- be subpoened? What if they re- member of the department while fuse to testify? Could such a silent Clyde Mitchell was chairman and (2) What qualifications will be re- witness be expelled from school, I enjoyed very much both the Mitchell.

Unfortunately, these controver-

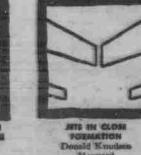
sial issues are often the most important ones and also the areas which need more information. It is good to see students take an active interest in the academic

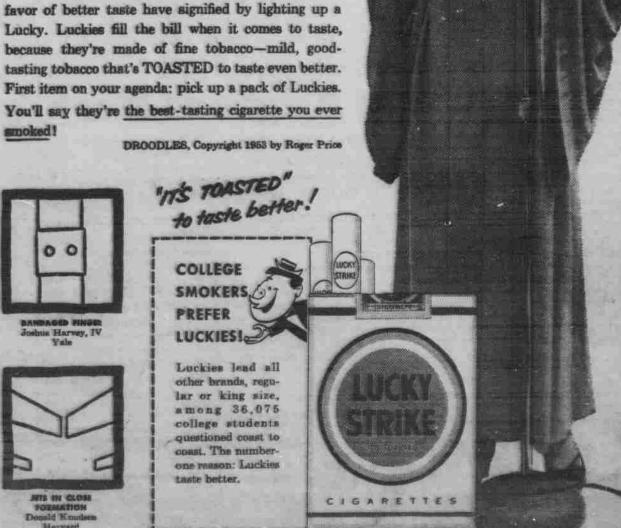
alfairs at a university. P. C. Chayton

economies stall memb



smoked!





BETTER - Cleaner, Fresher, Smoother!

PRODUCT OF The American Tobacco-Company AMERICA'S CRADENG MANUFACTURER OF CHAREFTER

(1) What law would tribunal en- and present the University's eviforce? Will the student justices dence? Dean Hallgren? Or student merely enforce regulations handed inquisitors? Or will the justices Clayton 'Sorry' down to them by the University themselves confront the accused administration or will the regu- with such evidence as they may lations be those which students have?

ative fiats of our administration would defend the accused: Law partment of agricultural ecomay well be only a scrapgoat for students? Himself? Could witnesses nomics at the University. I was a quired of candidates for posi- for example, because he wouldn't work and association with Dr.

3) What rules of evidence will a successful honor system requires be used: In honor cases especial a genuine belief that it is wrong ly will intent be proved? Will an to cheat or lie in any form. Lack-

unthinkable. It is equally obvious (4) Will someone who knows that on this campus, cheating is

Charles W. Comun

during the past weeks, brings out lowing the Mitchell statement the during the past weeks, brings out lowing the Mitchell statement the result of outside political pressures." What was the the spirit, if not the letter, of aca-right to say it. This is a direct contradiction of

The administration has maneu-

the Mitchell issue. This should not be construed as a slam at the adkan reported that C. Clyde Mitchell | ministration's political skill, for I was being relieved of his chair- doubt that anyone could have successfully suppressed the evidence. The administration has not been without support in its stand. I am

sure that they appreciated Dr. effect that the case had not come pfeiler's letter, in which he eloquently questioned The Nebraskan's motives, and concluded that The Nebraskan reported that a The Nebraskan's handling of the Mitchell case was yellow journal-

If The Nebraskan has at times approached the limits of yellow journalism, then the demotion of C. Clyde Mitchell and the reasons given for it, which are a di-

sidered the issue could doubt that staff for a job mighty well done. Mitchell was demoted because in-

submit statements to The Nebras- few days ago that both sides were put meaning into its own freedom kan, the administration labeled liberally endowed with "brains," but that men of honesty, honor and published. Two weeks ago Chancellor Har- integrity have rallied to the supdin issued a statement asserting port of Mitchell. The Nebraskan is to the credit of the way our that academic freedom had not can be proud that such men as University is organized. That it been endangered because no case Dr. Edgar Johnson, Dr. Nathan has said what it has is to the had been presented for Mitchell Blumberg, Dr. Frederick Beutel, credit of the editor and staff.

Answers Needed On Tribunal

To the Editor: In considering the possibility of is not required to report violations a student tribunal and honor sys- under penalty of punishment, few tem, satisfactory answers must be indeed will be the cases brought provided to several important before the tribunal.

Persity "drinking policy."

had a hand in drafting?

tions on the tribunal? Law student tell on someone else? status? Over 21? Open to anyone? It should be borne in mind that

'overt act" be necessary, or can ing this, the community on which "conspiracy to cheat," such as such a system is imposed must be lic employees try to avoid. preparing crib-notes before class so rigorously policed that everywithout actually using them, be a one is constantly watched. violation? Who will obtain "evi- In an American University comdence?" Student spies? University munity the second possibility is plain-clothesmen?

of an instance of cheating but not considered dishonest. who says nothing be subject to An effective tribunal and honor such punishment for not inform- system seems remote until these ing? If he is subject to such punish- difficulties are resolved. ment a vast atmosphere of fear

and suspicion is created. If one

(5) Who will prosecute the cases

mon.

fortified against him.

It is worth citing some of the The scholars appeared in the against their convent, "which had incidents of this large struggle for streets armed with bows and ar- henceforth to be guarded night institutional freedom. Oxford in rows and showed themselves quite and day by royal troops." the fourteenth century was the prepared to use them against the It was a special satisfaction for academic home of a master, John primate and his retinue should the the mere rector of the masters Wycliffe, whose heretical opinions attempt be persisted in. When the of arts at Paris, when a dean At Paris and elsewhere in north- the strenuous efforts of neither town was laid under an inter- of theology, who was also an ginning. The fault has not been em Europe where masters and Pope nor archbishop could totally dict, a proctor broke open the doors archbishop and a papal legate was the Rag's but simply a lack of

ers) had to struggle to maintain on Ascension Day, 1382, boldly as- boys" took the matter to the king, choir of S. German-des-Pres." its privileged autonomy against serted, as he had done on many who required the chancellor and

> Peder have supported Mitchell. The Mitchell case has cast serious Chancellor, surrounded by his capable advisors, did not know that a

> > and Breckenridge. I am certain that what Chancellor Hardin meant, when he commented several weeks ago that "The Nebraskan was doing a disservice to the University," was that The Nebraskan was doing a disservice to the present ad-

ministration. The courageous stand of The Nebraskan in the Mitchell case is a credit to the editor and the University. Though this The Nebraskan's final issue, I know that the fight for academic freedom

will not end at Nebraska.

As a graduate of the University school, I wish to thank this se-No one who has objectively con- mester's Nebraskan editor and

The free press is a wonderful terests outside the University did thing, but can sometimes be pretty not agree with his economic views. meaningless. The Nebraskan, with A faculty member told me a both courage and hard work, has by publishing what needed to be

That your paper has been free

University, and in having confidence that when things go wrong The Nebraskan has taken the

I am very sorry to learn that

There is no question about Dr. Mitchell's professional ability. In my opinion Dr. Mitchell should be commended for dealing with controversial issues which many pub-

Former agricultural