

Editorial Comment

ROTC Or Not ROTC? That Is The Question

The current issue of *Look* magazine contains an article that will give hope to all University males who periodically have to trot across campus to take part in ROTC drills.

The article says that the end of the ROTC program on the U.S. college campuses may be near. The cause for the apparent loss of confidence in the ROTC program: "failure to produce a sufficient number of high-caliber officers," a publicity release of the magazine says.

Look says that the Army, Navy and Air Force are all reviewing their ROTC plans and checking on the value of continuing them. On the University campus, however, opinion by the military leaders in charge of local ROTC programs seems to be contrary to this nationally expressed opinion.

Two local ROTC heads say the services can't afford to discontinue the program, while a third said he preferred to withhold comment until he was better informed on the proposed changes or possible elimination.

A review of Daily Nebraskan Letterip columns clearly indicates that a goodly number of University males are tired of the present setup. The complaints have run all of the way from the time ROTC holds labs to the fact that the department heads sometimes send out notes to the students' parents when the males decided they preferred a day of rest to an hour or two of ROTC.

As a landgrant college the University has no choice but to require undergraduate male students, without prior service or physical disabilities, to take part in the mandatory military education.

Even a majority of first book psychologists can tell you that compulsion, especially when the person being compelled doesn't see an immediate purpose, doesn't motivate a person to get going about something. In this case it is male undergraduate students being forced to take two years of ROTC without seeing where it performs any really constructive service.

During peace time—even though daily newspaper headlines scream about the cold war and the impending danger of World War III—a college student isn't likely to get inspired about sitting through a lecture on the nomenclature of the M-1. It seems only reasonable that he doesn't see any reason to get excited.

First, two years of dilly-dallying around in ROTC lectures and labs won't make

him much more fit to do battle in emergency than watching a John Wayne Marine Corps thriller. Military units are effective only when they train together as a unit, only when they have spent hours together working out numerous field problems. Even if every member of a fighting team knew the secrets of military strategy inside and out it wouldn't make them an effective fighting team unless they were coordinated—this comes only through "boot camp" training.

Second, a college student should not be required to pay double service to military organizations. A college student completes his two years of ROTC work and what happens? He is still eligible for the draft. In other words, the ROTC program—unless he chooses to go into advanced ROTC, which an extraordinarily small number do—has only been an extra burden.

The Marine Corps, which has been noted repeatedly for its esprit de corps, recognizes the failure of trying to draft or compel persons to take part in reserve programs. Leaders are best, the Marines recognize, when they are volunteers. It seems time that the other services recognize this also.

★ ★ ★ Theatre Month

International Theatre Month, which has been proclaimed by Gov. Anderson to be celebrated during March, gives every person in the free world a chance to exchange ideas, art concepts, and acting techniques.

In some countries the theatre month celebrations will be limited to an occasional play here or there.

In the United States the opportunities for the cultural exchange through the theatre arts are innumerable. Greats of the theatre such as Helen Hayes have praised the concept of an international month to celebrate the theatres.

And the little man, too, has a chance to partake in the theatre months. Here at the University, for example, everyone involved in the work of the University Theatre from the ushers to the director of the participating play *Ondine*, which opens Wednesday evening can share in the excitement, the rewards of promoting international peace through the ancient medium of the drama.

Each student, too, by supporting the University Theatre can do his part to promote good-will among men in this International Theatre Month.

From the Editor

private opinion

... dick shugrue

No exams for seniors?

I was shocked when the nervous little girl approached me with the idea. Not so much because she was nervous (she had been drinking coffee all evening at the Cornhusker) but because the idea seemed so out of character with the University's time-table personality.

Then when the shock wore off she smiled and said to her, "Good idea, Ruthie." She seemed pleased that someone did care about the feelings of seniors. They are very tired after four years of hard work and deserve a little treat just for graduating.

This idea is not new around here, of course. It has been an old practice in P.S. 101 to exempt eighth graders from taking history and geography exams. Whether it would work here is, as I say, another question. If enough seniors got behind the project, why the student council could be called on to earn its bread and butter and present such a resolution to the Faculty and Administration.

I can just see them fuming, "What! These young whippersnappers want more concessions! Huff, puff."

No, really, I have been told that many instructors would approve the idea wholeheartedly for no exams for seniors would mean 1,500 fewer papers to red-pencil.

Just been to the pep rally. it was surprisingly well attended. No. That's an understatement. It was wonderfully attended. Jerry Bush, the chancellor, the team, the band, the noise... all those things went into making up for the



Shugrue

small attendance at the rally for the track team which was so pitifully attended.

Maybe it's the time element which is important to a good rally. Maybe it's the weather, or the cause or the organizers. But whatever it was, all the elements added up to making the most spontaneous, well-managed rally of the present year... bar none, in my estimation.

The K-State Collegian representatives to the game last evening dropped in to the office Monday afternoon.

They were the opposite of Daily Nebraskan staffers. Here they sat well-dressed, clean-shaven, hair combed, smiling, refreshed after traveling 130 miles to watch their team play.

And here I sat unshaven, unkempt, feeling like a rat in the cage ready to spring on any Mortar Board who happened along. From the description of me in the little letter from the girls you would think that my fangs were drooping as I searched the office for innocent prey. You'd think I was concerned only with causing trouble, not with listening to the problems of the staff (whose word I accept as truth, by the way) or with aiding worthy organizations.

Then the ex-K-State editor told me to relax. "Personal accusations always flew my way," Roger stated. I sighed a breath of relief. I'm not alone and unsheltered from the charges that I run the newspaper like the Irish counterpart of the Mafia.

Boy, if there weren't fellow newsmen who happened to come along at the right time, I might think that just because I'm charged with being power-mad, I couldn't stand up for the staff in the face of the challenges of the Smart Set.

"It is far better to suffer the slings and arrow..."

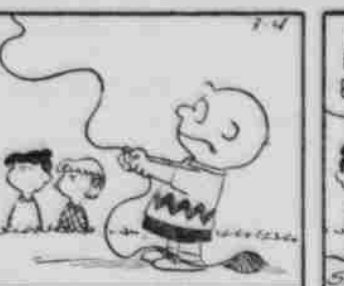
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Buck Shot

By Melvyn Eikleberry

"Other than that, how did you like the play, Mrs. Lincoln?"

—joke told by an NU student.

Even were my column for serious purposes only, I would have to tell jokes: Nebraskans, especially, have to be in a good humor before they can think straight.

It can happen to you. You might be charged with a crime you didn't commit, and your mail could be censored while you were in jail awaiting trial.

Caril Fugate, for example, has been receiving her mail only after censorship—and she hasn't even been convicted! I don't know whether or not this censorship is legal, but it is being done.

This is serious because freedom of expression is vital to free government, and when individual rights are abused, every last one of us is threatened. "It's not serious," you may say. So what are you doing, waiting until it is too big for you to handle? Nationally respected magazines have lately carried articles which advocate censorship to "clean up" magazines and books. After that, what?

"Being an intellectual means smoking a pipe." —an NU student

Did you know that the U.S. Constitution prohibits those who have been convicted of felonies from voting? After a felon has been released from prison, he certainly can-

not be expected to obey the law if he has no part in making the law.

Here in Nebraska, our representatives recently failed to repeal a state law prohibiting racial intermarriage. If all of us wore a Nebraska uniform, we would all have to wear a spot of mud, for that spot of mud would have to be part of the uniform.

What can you do about these unjust laws and practices? In the first place, you can get angry. They you can sound off. Write home, write the newspapers, write your representative in the state legislature. Ask candidates how they stand on these issues, and then put your almighty dollar where it will do the most good in campaigns. When you're old enough, don't be afraid to run for office, or find someone to run for you. History is full of minorities who gained support for their issues through their determination. Established politicians often win by taking up minority issues.

Slavery requires work. Freedom requires work and concern. Both have their rewards. Take your pick.

"Even pornography gets sickening after awhile." —an NU student

Three days before the K-State-Nebraska game, tickets were still unsold to see the nation's number one team. Lots of school spirit, ay?

"When in trouble, When in doubt, Run in circles, Scream and shout." —U.S. Navy proverb

Don't worry, Navy, Nebraskans will just sit calmly while the ship goes down.

Nebraskan Letterip

MB's Reply

Feeling powerful, Editor Shugrue? Rage around the Union like a wounded dictator, because the Mortar Boards collected a measly dollar from timid, ill-trained Rag reporters who failed to tell anyone they were reporters in the first place.

Maybe you should pin press badges on your representatives of the Fourth Estate so that we can recognize them, as they seem to be afraid to introduce themselves.

We intended to admit, in the true spirit of the First Amendment, any representative of the press to our news conferences for Ivy Baker Priest. We thought we did this, but it is claimed that we denied the press free access to news.

We are sure that your staff members do not recognize each Mortar Board on sight unless they are in uniform. Nor can we be expected to recognize on sight each member of the Rag staff.

The only authorized news conferences for Mrs. Priest were held at the airport when she arrived and at 10:30 a.m. the day of the Women's Conference. Many persons came into the Union Saturday morning, and unless they announced themselves as reporters, we assumed them to be persons attending the conference. These persons were charged for the conference, which was not and could not have been free. The conference was put on at considerable expense to the Mortar Boards.

Anyone who introduced himself or herself as a member of the press was admitted free of charge to the news conference.

Several students came through the doors announcing that they were covering the conference for a class assignment. Anyone can say this; the Mortar Boards could not afford to let innumerable and unauthorized persons into the entire conference for a "class assignment." It is also our

understanding that professors made such assignments with the stipulation that students could do an alternate assignment if they did not want to attend the conference or pay a dollar to do so.

Editor Shugrue, we do not know what you're yelling about, but it sounds like rather immature and unreasonable yelling. I'm sure you will find that anyone who introduced himself or herself as a reporter for a publication was admitted free.

Marilyn Heck
Bev, Buck
Shari Hall
Bobbie Holt
Barb Sharp

Petty Slander

To the Editor:
I hate to see so much space devoted to Dick Basoco's petty slander of A Farewell To Arms. Why not point out such things as the terrific comedy; the scenes which made the viewer feel that he was almost participating in the story?

He cuts down this movie for such important reasons: because the picture was out of focus several times; because he didn't think it rained at the right time. It takes a cynical attitude to condemn a movie as great as *A Farewell To Arms* for its minor faults.

RAY TRAUDT

Now Hollow Flames...

By Dave Rhoades

At the end of the 13th Century, the University of Bologna formed the following rules restricting their professors: "A professor might not be allowed absence without leave, even a single day, and if he desired to leave town he had to make a deposit to insure his return... If he failed to secure an audience of five for a regular lecture, he was fined as if absent. He must begin with the bell and quit within one minute after the next bell... He was not allowed to postpone a difficulty until the end of the hour... No one might spend the whole year in introduction and bibliography."

One of the reasons college instruction—at least in a few of the above respects—is the institution on many campuses of student evaluations of teacher instruction although such evaluations have been discussed on this campus, it is only recently that the Student Activities Committee of the Student Council has undertaken the preparation for these surveys. Soon the evaluations will be brought before the Council for formal approval and later made available for all University instructors.

There are teachers who claim, as does an article I have recently read on the subject, that these questionnaires are anonymous and hence irresponsible; that some of them are colored by a desire to shift responsibility from the student's own shortcomings; that some confuse teaching with entertainment and kindness of heart.

I can remember a professor commenting that every freshman class revives his own strong personal conviction of the worthlessness of student-instruction evaluations. He was once a victim of such scales (and there's the rub, as Hamlet would say.)

I do not believe, however, that one can discount the opinions of college students merely because they are not endowed with infallibility. Here are a few areas in which student-instruction evaluations have proved useful: 1) in measuring student opinion of the total teaching effective-

ness of a professor; 2) as a scale in determining relative points of strength and weakness of instruction in departments or staff members; 3) as a scale in evaluating teaching effectiveness in various course levels, such as beginning and advanced courses; 4) as data which might be presented as evidence supporting recommendation for promotion within the department.

The Department of Speech at this University has, under the direction of Dr. Leroy Laase, conducted some interesting research on this subject which proves almost without doubt the validity of these measurements.

Since 1949, individual speech instructors have been rated on 25 items ranging from "knowledge of subject" to "fairness in testing." Of the eight faculty members who were on the staff in 1949 and still there in 1955, a comparison was made of their evaluations. It revealed that the average score improved in all of the items on which they were rated and that the greatest improvement in instruction came in those items originally marked lowest. Dr. Laase reveals that student opinion can measure teaching effectiveness and such scales can be helpful in improving instruction.

Unfortunately, many faculties view student relations as camped, as Matthew Arnold said, "on darkling plains swept with confused alarms of struggle." Most students would welcome the responsibility of evaluating a profession which is now subjectively graded on the professor's research, committee work, publications, and lectures before the Rotary or PTA.

If students respond because they believe the professor has something to offer them, no matter what his colleagues may think of him as an administrator or in research methods, he must be a good teacher.

Boys to Spare?



In all races of mankind, more boys than girls are born; generally life span of men is shorter than that of women.

arnold

