

Editorial Comment:

Frivolity Inherent in College-But Free Choice There Too

A story in this week's Saturday Evening Post by Jerome Ellison, journalism teacher at the University of Indiana, throws down the gauntlet to university students

Real Rush Rules Appear at Last

Congratulations to John Glynn and company for proposing a rush week schedule that gives some meaning to the words "rush week" that are not completely literal.

In the past "rush week" has been just that. The rushees rush, the fraternities rush and from this turmoil an unsuspecting freshman is expected to make a decision affecting his entire life.

The best addition to the schedule is a definite system of bidding.

At last the poor but honest clod who struggles through rush week may know definitely which houses he has managed to impress.

Under the proposed system, a rushee must have a bid card signed by the rush chairman of a fraternity to pledge that house. In addition as an added check at pledging time this card is matched with a duplicate card filed by the rush chairman with the central authority during rush week.

What could be finer. Instead of having a half hour of vertigo trying to interpret the meanings of bids all the way from a down the throat "we'll just curl up and die if we don't see you walking over here at 4:00" to a casual "we'll see ya" the cards are literally on the table—and for a respectable period of time.

Not only will this system if adopted relieve the cause of hurt feelings and remorse among the rushees but it will require each house to have a definite idea of who they have asked and who they haven't, something which we understand has not always been the case in the past.

In addition to avoiding inner conflict this system will also avoid the rushees having to run the gamut of houses after hesitatingly making up his mind.

For under this system the decision is made, signed, sealed and delivered during the meditation hour.

This is done by matching the rushee's card with the card turned in by that fraternity's rush chairman. The rushee pays his dollar and can proceed unbothered to move into his house.

In addition to this just addition the open house time has been doubled having eight hours instead of four, giving each fraternity and each rushee a better chance to make the choice that will so greatly affect the future of both.

Mr. Ellison says that these concerned

with the youth of the present and the future they are making for themselves would like to see "some love of truth and intellectual achievement, of discovery and high adventure, of beauty, harmony and design and great precision, of mankind and its farthest destiny."

This is a noble wish—one worth the efforts of students all over the country. For formulating it just so Professor Ellison deserves a nice pat on the back.

Unfortunately, however, Mr. Ellison has fallen into a trap that no journalist can ever afford. He has taken specific instances and from them drawn a generalization that is not consistent.

Mr. Ellison has attempted to label all college students playboys, not serious enough about education to accept the challenge inherent in his wish.

This is a sorry thing because there are many students who share Mr. Ellison's wish. What is more important, however, is the grain of truth which rescues his article from the shifting sands of innuendo, aspersion and generalization.

When Mr. Ellison says that all college students are entirely too interested in the frivolous "second curriculum" he strikes home because even the casual student reader will recognize that frivolity plays a large part in college life.

So let's consider his main thesis aside from the inherent weaknesses of the "everybody in college is a party doll" generalization.

There is no doubt that a Russian style educational system produces results. The Russians are dead serious about going to school—so much so that most American college students would find it a somewhat joyless existence compared to their own institutional way of life.

But then, there was a fellow who once said that if a nation fighting a tribe of barbarians had to resort to barbarous tactics to defeat them, the war was a victory for the barbarians.

In other words, there is no freedom at all if there is no freedom to be frivolous as well as noble.

This is no justification for frivolity when it is carried to extremes. And some of the frivolity on this campus is pretty extreme. We, too, elect a queen at the drop of a hat, we, too, hold our Derby Day and Spring Day, our fraternities still cling petulantly to their hell weeks and everyone puts in their share of tobacco stained Union time.

But there are still PBK's and Sigma Xi's; there are still Fulbright scholarship winners; Scrip hasn't yet been laughed out of business; Sheldon Art Galleries are on their way and University Theatre still maintains its excellence.

And the individual still has his freedom to choose.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



Considerable Speck

by Ken Freed

An article appeared in a magazine during the past week that aroused a great deal of interest among people connected with college and the various activities that surround college life.



Jerome Ellison, writing in the great family journal, The Saturday Evening Post, attacks everything in university life that moves outside of the classroom. Mr. Ellison indicates that all extra-curricular life is detrimental and leads to the lowering of the academic standards of a university.

pedantic; tired attack of men who cannot see life as anything but a book.

Assuming the University of Nebraska to be a common college, I can look around me and note that six of the seven members of this year's Phi Beta Kappa Pledge Class were members of fraternities or sororities and very active in extra-curricular affairs.

Another thrust is made at universities where more than 50 per cent of the students own automobiles. The University of Nebraska is included as being a member of this evil group.

Letterrip

Howler

To The Editor: To judge from the howler which appears on page two, column two, line three of the Daily Nebraskan for March 6, 1959, a study of the dead languages is not a prerequisite for a position on your editorial staff.

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Photoplay

Last Friday's sneak preview of a new and delightful Walt Disney opus, "The Shaggy Dog," prompts some reflective thinking on a career that has not only been successful but brilliant.

Some Flops

There was a time (the mid 1920's) when Walt Disney, movie producer and distributor, television personality, toy industrialist, educator (by way of his science and nature films), and amusement park operator, was only Disney, the struggling cartoonist.

A decision to star a theretofore unused cartoon animal, a mouse, put Disney on the map. "Steamboat Willie" was released in 1928 and Mickey, the mouse that Walt built, immediately built Walt. Studio space, employee numbers and production expanded.

Walt Disney had to borrow \$1,500,000 to put "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" on the screen. Despite a tremendous eight-year success with sound and color short subjects, most of Hollywood was dubious in 1937 about the chances of success for a full length cartoon feature.

Recent Disney success is well known. The reason for his success should be obvious. His pictures have combined

a definite originality with an excellence of production values. Their appeal is universal. But, not all of the Disney output has been worth of merit. His "Fantasia" (1940), a financially unsuccessful attempt to illustrate classical music with pictures, was Disney imagination in an area in which most people preferred to supply their own.

"The Shaggy Dog" is Disney at his very best. Combining live action with a fairy tale quality of storyline, we are presented with some far-fetched, and yet hilarious, situations.

The story, based on Felix Hound of Florence, deals with a teen-age boy turned by medieval magic into a part-time Bratislavian sheep dog.

Fred MacMurray, Jean Hagen and Tommy Kirk are excellent in their roles and it was a pleasure to see Cecil Kellaway again. Charles Barton directed.

The Union offering this Sunday is the Stanley Kramer production of Herman Wouk's "The Caine Mutiny." Presented by request, the picture nicely portrays navy life, love, war and mutiny in World War II.

Jose Ferrer, Van Johnson, Fred MacMurray, Robert Francis and May Wynne star and, of course, Humphrey Bogart was perfectly cast as the tortured and neurotic Captain Queeg. The picture is in Technicolor.

Controls by campus persons would better regulate this University problem. Basically, overindulgence would not be a problem for a person is more likely to have one brew than one case.

The Spectrum

Looks as if a couple of things have generated a little activity and conversation on campus in the past few days.

One is the house contest to try to get the Kingston Trio for dinner the night of their Lincoln visit and another has been the increased debate on the drinking and social problem the campus reportedly has been facing.

The Trio competition has amounted to an activity in itself in some houses, with functions, etc., planned if the sorority-fraternity combination can come up with enough tickets sold to win the visit.

And besides these coalitions, the entire campus has seemed to show quite an interest in seeing the group perform.

But what about these so-called coalitions? A few comments have been made that if a house can't win a contest by themselves, they shouldn't have another house act as a crutch for them.

But what can really be wrong with a desire for a pleasant thing (the Kingston Trio visit) and competition (which actually is occurring constantly, from rush week through intramurals and activities).

And if a fraternity happens to be allied just a little more to one sorority than any other, certainly there is little wrong with working together to earn what would be a treat for both groups.

Politics? No, just a little dealing and work.

No Privileges

As far as the drinking or social scene stands, it seems a little silly that the University student should expect special privileges because he is a student.

Drinking on campus (state property),

underage drinking, drinking on public highways—all these things are prohibited by state law—and the University, a part of the state's system—certainly can't be expected to condone violations of these laws.

A student can't expect special privileges because he is a student. But the darker aspect of the situation is the double jeopardy, the lowered morale and the feeling of persecution that arises when a "crack-down" really is in effect on the student—not just in his natural habitat of the campus, but anywhere he goes.

The University feels it is looking out for its good name by putting restrictions on the student in places other than the campus where he is arrested for an infraction of the law. So in addition to whatever local or state punishment meted out to the offender, the University adds their own rules that have the student sweating doubly hard. If he's in activities he's apt to be out if he's caught for some altercation, for instance.

It all amounts to more frustration, which just about everybody has to some extent all the time, at least according to my psych text.

Smoke Clouds

By request: An informal study of the smoking habits of NU students shows that it's quite an expensive habit, according to a sophomore coed.

Figuring 9,000 students, half of whom smoke a pack of cigarettes a day (at the reasonable price of a quarter a pack, which provides for less mental strain), NU students burn up about \$378,000 in tobacco each year.

And my cigarette cough is getting worse and worse.

Carroll Kraus



Kraus

Daily Nebraskan

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Porcupines

by Robert Prokup

It's too bad our legislature, regents and factions of our administration still do not realize that some of their horse and buggy ideas are being lost in changing times.

Society demands that our rules and regulations be modernized. The first of these demands is social drinking.

Modern business and state have diverted from the old idea of enterprise being accomplished over the desk to the present method of selling at cocktail parties and social gatherings.

Regulations at school have hindered this side of education. In essence, we all know present drinking regulations and can sympathize with our administrative enforcement since their hands are tied.

But I cannot sympathize with our rule-making bodies and our governor who now seems to be more interested in cutting his throat in national politics. Since they are so old-fashioned, it hurts us education-wise.

Nebraska University for the last four years has been turning out intellects which are by no means educated in the fields of modern day social graces. In the past, the word alcohol has not been taboo. Today, however, fraternity, sorority, and independent parties are not able to mix drinks for people so inclined.

What are the arguments and amendment which would alleviate the above

problem? First, it is interesting to note that since 1954, the year of the big crackdown on University drinking, student arrests by the local city police have gone up percentage-wise. The reason is quite obvious, the rigorous enforcement of rules on campus has caused people to go outside of University control.

Controls by campus persons would better regulate this University problem. Basically, overindulgence would not be a problem for a person is more likely to have one brew than one case.

Secondly, our state legislature should re-examine their present position as compared to our neighbors, Kansas and Colorado. There is no doubt that our adjacent states have had tremendous success with 3.2 beer for eighteen year olds. Universities at Kansas, Kansas State, Missouri, and Colorado have not had the problems Nebraska has had in the field of drinking.

Of course, as long as our misinformed legislators and our governor continue to listen to the minority whose major object is to distort facts about alcohol, we won't get any place. Religious convictions which have been misconstrued by the opposition also give our rule-making bodies a wrong impression of the true view.

Logically, anyone could take anything and construe it to appear evil. Third, we must face the problem, are students able to think for themselves? Contriving a student's social actions by rigid, unjust rules prevents the individ-

ual from acquiring reasoning powers from within. What are some of the answers?

First, a forum or meeting of the regents, governor, if he isn't too busy keynoting Harry Truman's visit, and the chancellor should sit down with a few of the more knowledgeable individuals on campus and see what solutions could be brought out. The columnist would love to see this problem brought to light and reasons for decisions be made explicit to the general student body.

Second, let's stamp out minority rule in our legislature with majority rule. Maybe mother's little boy isn't so little after all. It's time Carrie Nation was axed but good.

Third, let's not blame Dean Colbert, Dean Halgren, or the so-called "campus gestapo" for carrying out policies they are required to enforce. These gentlemen are doing a fine job in their capacity.

Last, let's have a little better communication between student and administration. Let's all get together and straighten out this misconstrued problem. With the regents, chancellor, governor, and proper student representation, a better solution of social drinking could be brought about.

He who represents the people, must share the ideas of the people.

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