

Students Label Law Professor 'Fearless Freddy, Tough Prof'

By Mary Lou Reese
Prof. Frederick K. Beutel may be known best locally as one of the University of Nebraska's most "controversial characters."

Nationally, the former dean of the University's College of Law is probably known best as an authority on commercial law and the science of jurisprudence.

In academic circles, he is recognized as the man who reopened the Law School and reorganized it to fit modern concepts of legal practice after World War II.

To students, who sometimes know from experience that he is as fearless in his own classroom as outside it, he is known as "Fearless Freddy."

Student Respect

But as a "tough" professor he is backed by the respect of his students. When State Sen. Jack Romans attacked Beutel's political views in 1959, his students were among the first to defend him.

But the students and Beutel insisted any liberal statements of his were intended to stimulate thinking. And Beutel explains that he is a "tough" professor for the same reason.

Leaning back in his swivel chair and smoothing his fringe of hair with one hand, he said, "Law is the most competitive field there is. If a student can't get through the difficult law school, he'll never get anywhere in practice."

One corner of his mouth turned up slightly as he elaborated.

"Ninety-five per cent of a doctor's patients will get better no matter what he does to them. The other five per cent he'll bury. A lawyer has to lose half his cases, and his clients will be walking around talking about it."

Victorious Lawyer

He rocked forward again and explained earnestly, "If a man believes in his case enough to go to court with it, he'll expect his lawyer to win it."

Beutel began helping Nebraska graduates to win their cases in 1945 when he took on the job of reopening and reorganizing the College of Law.

Before it closed in 1943, the law school emphasized the

common law, based primarily on court decisions. But the massive legislation of the war years shifted the practical emphasis from common law to statutes.

In 1946, the new dean said, Legislation had replaced the common law as the basis of the legal rules in society to a degree scarcely recognized by the practitioners themselves.

More Lab Work

Today he is even more emphatic. The courts, he contends, are trying to make law. Only the legislatures and Congress can do that, he insists. Students today need even more laboratory work and study of statutes than when he reorganized the law school.

To meet that dual task Beutel drew upon his experience as dean of the College of Law at Louisiana State University and as a faculty member of the law schools of the College of William and Mary, Northwestern University and the University of Pennsylvania. Even more important, he had spent the war years in Washington, working where the new legislation was born. He came to Nebraska from his post as associate solicitor for the Department of the Interior.

The "new" college of Law opened in 1946. By 1948 it was recognized as one of the nation's leading schools. New York's Russell Sage Foundation commended the school "for its recognition of the important role of lawyers in public life" and said it was "well ahead of any other law school."

Public law had received a new emphasis and a greater share of the students' class time. Students under the new program also had laboratory practice in court procedures, studying cases in progress and dissecting pleadings.

No graduate of the reorganized school was to be the butt of the old joke that a new lawyer's first job is to find the courthouse.

Four-Year Program

The "new" school offered a program leading to the non-professional degree Bachelor of Science in Law after two years, then the professional Bachelor of Law degree.

A special program for veterans offered the degree of Bachelor of Law after three years of undergraduate study and three years of law school. A holdover of this accelerated program allows students with a Bachelor of Arts degree or its equivalent to finish law school in three years.

In 1949 Beutel resigned as dean to return to teaching. "Administration is a pain in the neck," he grinned.

Teaching also lets him work more closely with students. "I work closely with those who want to work with me," he said seriously.

Student Problems

As a professor he is quick to recognize the problems of students. He has had a few problems of his own, one of which led to his decision to teach.

From 1925 to 1927 he prac-

ticed law in Pittsburgh. When he wasn't practicing or helping to break the Mellen political machine, he was a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

"I was teaching because I had to make enough money to pay my debts for going through law school. I worked my way through," he said.

Torn between politics and teaching, he settled on teaching because "A poor man couldn't go into politics." A fellowship to study for his doctorate at Harvard was the final weight in favor of teaching.

Disastrous

But he can only help those students who tell him they have problems. Students who don't tell him when real problems interfere with studying for his classes may find it disastrous.

His students tell the story of a law student whose wife and children were sick. Day after day, with no explanation, he showed up in class without adequate preparation. Finally Beutel interrupted the student while he was stumbling through an answer. "Get out of here," he roared. "You'll never make a lawyer."

The student picked up his books and started toward the door. At Beutel's desk he hesitated, then blurted out the words he could expect to cut off any chance he had of getting back into the class. "You'd flunk Clarence Darrow himself if you had the chance," he yelled and marched out the door.

'After All'

Before the door had swung shut behind him, Beutel "Get back in here, Son. You might make a lawyer after all."

But he expects hard work from his students. The man who first selected University law students on the basis of ability and aptitude stands firmly behind his program of extra experience for the better students. He heartily approves of such programs as the Legal Aid Bureau, the Law Review board and moot court.

His own quick mind has not satisfied itself with teaching. The former dean is the author of seven law books, as well as numerous articles published in law reviews.

According to one student, "You find Beutel's name in footnotes all over the place" in commercial law texts and reports.

Beutel insists, however, he is best known for his book "Experimental Jurisprudence."

Bad Checks Law

He has also helped to draft state legislation, including the present bad checks law.

But locally he is probably still known best as a controversial figure.

In 1953 he came under fire as a former member of the Lawyers' Guild when Attorney General Herbert Brownell included that group in a list of "subversive" organizations. Beutel explained he had dropped his membership "two or three years" earlier,

when he found himself "out of contact" with the group's work.

The next year he was in the middle of a controversy over academic freedom. "It is the duty of the administrators to protect" the teacher whose freedom is threatened, he maintained.

'Boy Scoutish'

In the midst of this, Beutel protested against required loyalty oaths for professors. "If you don't believe" what it stands for "you are guilty of perjury, and if you do, I don't believe you are competent to teach," he stated in his denunciation of what he termed a "Boy Scoutish" oath.

When Sen. Romans attacked Beutel and another law professor, C. Merton Bernstein, in 1959, Beutel countered charges of his membership in "organizations of a dubious character" with membership in the American Legion, Americans for Democratic Action, Lawyers' Guild and the American Law Institute.

He might also have claimed membership in the Bar Associations of Pennsylvania, Washington and Nebraska; the Federal Bar Association; and the American Association of University Professors, of which he is past president for Nebraska.

Law Building

The details of his busy life include the building housing the law school of Louisiana State University, which he planned 30 years ago and will see for the first time in April.

And through the years he has been a family man. The Beutels' two daughters, Flora and Beatrice, are both graduate students at the University. For them he will even brave the "modern insanity" of modern art galleries and modern plays.

Speaking proudly of his daughters, Beutel leaned back in his swivel chair with a contented smile and began to reminisce, letting his mind skip from his family to his books to such memories as that of Huey Long, a "brilliant, amoral man" he knew briefly during his year in Louisiana.

"But that's another story," he said, "and one I may write myself." An autobiography? "Well, I've written seven books already," he said with a thoughtful upturn of his mouth.

Faculty Drive Ends Friday

The All University Fund faculty drive contributions are only \$372 short of the goal as the second week begins. As of Monday, contributions reached \$528.

According to Jean Carlson, chairman of the drive, the goal for Friday is \$900.

Although the drive ends Friday, donations may be sent to the All University Fund office in the Union any time after that.

As soon as all the money is received, it will be divided and sent to the five charities chosen through a University student and faculty poll. The five charities are the Nebraska Division of the American Cancer Society, Orthopedic Hospital, Lancaster Association for Retarded Children, Tom Dooley and World University Service.

Pair Breaks Tradition Ring, Pin-Then Band

This was a big week for one engaged couple on campus.

The couple, Jim King and Peggy Beggs, decided to break with tradition and were engaged earlier in the year, announced their pinning last Monday night following Jim's initiation on Friday, and will be married next Saturday.

Pinnings

Jim King, Delta Tau Delta sophomore in Business Administration from Lincoln, to Peggy Beggs, Chi Omega freshman in Teachers from Lincoln.

Ruth Hentzen, junior in Arts and Sciences from Seward, to Roy Neil, Delta Tau Delta senior in Arts and Sciences from Lexington.

Lynelle McManaman, Towne Club junior in teachers from Lincoln, to Ernest Chaput, Delta Sigma Phi senior in Business Administration from Omaha.

Eileen Poder, sophomore in Teachers, from Kansas City, to Mike Ernan, Sigma Alpha

Main Feature Clock

Varsity: "Cry for Happy," 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20.
State: "Sword of Sherwood Forest," 1:00, 4:06, 6:56, 10:02.
"Hell in a City," 2:30, 5:26, 8:26.
Nebraska: "I Want to Live," 1:15, "Man Without a Star," 3:25.
Lincoln: "Ben-Hur," 1:45, 7:15.
Stuart: Lincoln Symphony, 8:30.

Mu alum from Omaha.

Engagements

Judy Wilson, junior in Art from Lincoln, to Larry Roderrick, Theta Xi graduate student in Speech from Battle Creek, Mich.

Nancy Jane Ristau, junior in Teachers from Lincoln, to C. Richard Morris, Sigma Chi senior in music from Philadelphia, Pa.

Jane Foster, a member of Phi Beta Phi, and a sophomore in Arts and Sciences, was selected Kappa Sigma Sweetheart, Saturday evening at the annual Kappa Sigma Stardust Formal.

Cadets Complete Safety Training

Twelve cadets of the Military Police Platoon, Pershing Rifles completed the standard course of instruction in first aid on March 7th.

Conducted at the home of Sgt. 1st Class Calvin VerMeer, the course included proper treatment of wounds, shock, poisoning and fractures, and the proper application of bandages.

Cadets of Company A-2 participating were Wilber Jacox, Marshall Jones, Tom Kaspar, Steve Knee, Peter Mazurek, William McCarthy, Gene McCreight, Marvin Rozmarin, James Sackett, Ron Smith, and Kenneth Yeager.

Lost, Found Has It If You Lost It

The University Lost and Found Department has an accumulation of many articles which have been either misplaced or lost and which can be claimed in 101 (old) Administration Building.

John Dezk of the Department asks that any student missing any article of any kind come to the department and search through debris for whatever it may be.

The Department is particularly interested in returning many of the items before Easter vacation.

Included in the numerous items are: one man's gray suit, one tambourine, two or three dozen pairs of eyeglasses, one small decorative pocket size ash tray, numerous slide rules, one woman's green yarn hat with sequins, one Pi Beta Phi white wool jacket with green blouse and skirt, one pair of men's slacks.

One pair of blue jeans, numerous coats, jackets, gloves, scarves, high school rings, one fancy key chain, pipes, socks, hats, women's gym shorts, one pair of women's black flats size 8 1/2 AAA, two women's dresses (shocking pink and light green), blankets, umbrellas.

One life preserver cushion, numerous fraternity sweat-shirts and jackets, books and any other items imaginable.

Dezk also requests that those students wishing to claim items have some kind of identification as to ownership. This helps the Department in finding the rightful owner of the lost article.

Documentary Film Reviews Peace Time

"Power Among Men," a documentary film backed by the United Nations, will be shown in Love Library auditorium this Thursday at 4:30 and 7 p.m.

The film is a feature length exploration of four major problems of America's post-war era: the problem of rebuilding after the war; raising standards of living; providing power for industrial expansion and adapting the atom to peaceful purposes.

The movie, produced by British film maker Throld Dickinson, relates four stories set in Italy, Haiti, Britain and Norway that deal with these problems.

The first episode of the film is set in an Italian hill town reduced to rubble by the war.

The next sequence occurs in Haiti where a French-speaking U.N. official works with the natives on a community project to improve agricultural methods.

The scene then shifts to British Columbia and the problems involved with the construction of the hydroelectric project at Kitimat.

Norway is the setting for the final scene. A bee keeper who has lost his bees demands an explanation from a nearby nuclear energy reenergy research laboratory.

The explanation given involves an explanation of the dangers of radioactive fallout as well as an insight into the possibilities of peaceful use of the atom.

"Power of Men" underlines the precarious balance between men's constructive and destructive instincts.

University Educators Highlight Convention

By Karen Long
University educators will take leading roles along with internationally famous personalities at the Association for Childhood Education International conference in Omaha April 27.

Students from Nebraska will have a unique opportunity since the location of the conference enables teachers college classes to participate. This is the first time the international conference has been held in this area.

Listed as featured speakers are Leland Jacobs, professor of education at Columbia University; Frank Graham, representative to India and Pakistan from the United States; Gill Robb Wilson, editor-publisher of Flying Magazine; Ruth Sawyer Durand, well-known storyteller; and Joe Zaffaroni, University professor of Elementary Education and television science director for Lincoln schools.

Other University professors participating in the program areas will be Dr. Milton Ploghoff, associate professor of elementary education; Dr. Frank Sorenson, professor of School Administration and Director of Summer Sessions; Dean Walter Beggs, Dean of Teachers College, Miss Ruth Moline, instructor in school administration; Dr. Robert Stepp, head of the Bureau of Audio-Visual Aids; Leroy Neal, instructor of Elementary education; and DeWayne Triplett, instructor in Elementary Education.

'Today's Child'

Several thousand principles, teachers, students and staff members are expected to participate in the conference titled "Today's Child in Tomorrow's World." Sessions and displays will be held in the Omaha Civic Auditorium and Sheraton Fontenelle Hotel.

Students who have registered for the conference will be entitled to attend the general session, study groups, functional displays, workshops, forums, visits to Children's centers and the Omaha night pageant.

Late registration fees of \$5.50 can be paid before vacation in Miss Sue Arbutnot's office in Teachers College.

The University ACE chapter will host the student banquet Wednesday evening for branches throughout the Unit-

ed States. Gloria Erickson is in charge. Tickets may be purchased in the Elementary Education Office before spring vacation or at the door the night of the dinner.

Activity Workshops
Special activity workshops during the noon hour will feature audio-visual aids, arts and crafts, choral reading, drama, rhythms, storytelling and talk-over sessions.

Opening Sunday April 2 with an Easter Musicales the conference will have its first full day program on April 3. Leland Jacobs will address the group at 9:30 a.m. on "Building with Children a Better Tomorrow." Buses will leave from the Student Union that morning at 8 a.m. Those wishing to make travel arrangements must sign in Miss Arbutnot's office.

The afternoon will feature forums and regional receptions. Ruth Sawyer Durand will relate "The Way of the Storyteller," at the general evening sessions. Buses will leave Omaha after the session.

Tuesday will consist of study groups and the Omaha pageant presented by Omaha school students.

Buses will be providing transportation for the Student dinner Wednesday. They will leave the Student Union at 2 p.m. Following the dinner Gill Robb Wilson will address the group on "Our Aero-Space World."

Opportunity

"This will be an excellent opportunity to meet and talk with students and faculty as well as staff members from leading school systems in the United States," said Nancy Miller, president of the local ACE branch.

Dr. Joe Zaffaroni will speak on Thursday concerning "Improving Elementary Science." That evening Dr. Frank Graham will relate the role of "The United Nations in the Atomic Age."

Dr. Graham was recently appointed by the Security Council as the new United Nations Representative for India and Pakistan, succeeding Sir Owen Dixon of Australia. He was nominated jointly by the United Kingdom and the U.S.

Special tours to Lincoln as well as some in the Omaha vicinity are being offered to outstaters on Friday.

On-the-Go, Miller's
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New York
Contest

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