

BOOK REVIEW

To Kill a Mocking Bird

By WILLIAM KEMPER

It is presumed by this corner that University students, since their intellects are supposed to be somewhat more highly developed than that of the average pea picker, occasionally read for pleasure.

Therefore, this corner further presumes that University students might like to read something a bit more sophisticated than the usual paperback, newstand offering—something off the current best seller list perhaps.

And that brings this corner around to its initial offering—*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, which has been on the best seller lists for a good long while now.

It is refreshing to read something by a contemporary author which is not full of the deep, dark, dreadfully hard to understand symbolism of a Faulkner or the blood and sand, coarse and crude of a Hemingway.

Miss Lee tells the story of a little girl growing up in a small southern town. She tells it from the viewpoint of the little girl. She tells it straight out and you can understand every word of it.

It is not a Pollyanna story because Scout, the little girl, is a real person, which Pollyanna never was. As a matter of fact, all the people in the book are real people whom anyone familiar with small town life will easily recognize.

Miss Lee is deceptively simple. Her plot is uncomplicated; her prose direct and uncluttered. She so completely captures the peaceful, unconcerned flow of provincial life that the reader hardly realizes that the theme of her book is the violent, constricting subject of race and that she has produced a wholly subjective conclusion from completely objective material.

This, of course, is the author's purpose. She intends to show that there is no way to mix a set of facts about race and come off with any conclusion but the one she draws. She uses a totally objective reporter, a little girl who doesn't really understand what's happening, and makes her point so unobtrusively that the reader never feels the knife.

Read this one. It is one of the rare really good ones.



Writer Commends IFC Action

It was interesting Wednesday night to hear at the IFC meeting the justification of the famous dollar fine of Greeks for failure to vote in the Student Council elections. The standards, "We just want students to vote. We aren't telling them whom to vote for."

"Our primary purpose is to promote the Greek system." and "This rule insures a heavy vote which general interest would not achieve." were used. This is exemplary of the general attitude of the Greek system which was prevalent not long ago. This same attitude is now a very small minority opinion — and it was defeated when the IFC voted overwhelmingly in favor of abolishing the fine. This action represents a significant turn — and the IFC is to be commended for it.

The IFC, as the coordinating body of the twenty-four fraternities certainly does have the right to encourage its most competent individuals to seek and accept responsibility in student government. It is proper for the IFC to offer group support to those individuals worthy of election to the Student Council as long as that sup-

port does not infringe upon the political rights of others, just as it is proper for every other sizable group to support well qualified candidates. The trouble in the past has been that the IFC used a few methods — most notably the fine to insure a vote from its probable supporters — which were felt by many to be unethical. THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE.

The IFC is truly taking a gamble: it is risking its past position of dominance. But this is the gamble all political groups in a democratic society must take. The IFC is reflecting a sincere confidence in its own prospective candidates and platforms in taking this risk. It is reflecting its confidence in the Independent leaders to accept this step as proof of a desired healing of the former Greek-Independent division. It is reflecting its confidence in the entire student body to judge candidates on their merits, not their social affiliations or lack thereof. I believe these confidences are well founded. The IFC, in abolishing the dollar fine, is proving to the student body its willingness to work hard for elections. IT IS

DEPENDENT NOT ONLY ON THE QUALITY OF ITS PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES, BUT A FAIR, DILIGENT EFFORT TO MAKE ITS IDEALS AND PERSONALITIES KNOWN TO THE VOTERS. In this it is to be congratulated.

The challenge now is transmitted to Independent leaders to continue this same attitude in the spring campaign. Progress cannot be made by one side alone. We have seen from both parties in the past year many indications of a sincere desire to conduct Student Council elections fairly, and to base competition on objective, non-social grounds. If both sides will sustain this purpose, and act accordingly, everyone concerned will benefit.

We are learning that when we compete to serve the University, our own interests are served, also. The IFC can now say with much greater force that it is trying to serve the entire academic community. It has shown, by defeating the "our purpose is to protect ourselves" reasoning, that it is maturing and leveling its interests on goals greater than itself. It is making tremendous progress, and recognition is certainly due.

J. L.

H from H

Dear People:

I came. I saw. I wrote. Now, I have chickened out.

Alas, readers, I am just as apathetic as the rest of you. Last week, at 4 on Wednesday, the ten or so of you who came to the Student Council meeting heard violent and stimulating debates on the following subjects: first, the dissolution of five nonexistent organizations which the activities committee had attempted to contact for more than three months, and second, the question of one-way traffic around the Love Library mall. (Incidentally, Carl Donaldson, university business manager, the Chancellor, and Mr. James Pittenger, who are in favor of the proposal, have asked for your opinion on the change.)

Finally, Council members chatted briefly on whether or not the band should sit in the stands with the student body.

The whole meeting was a challenge, a fascinating battle of intellects and a vivacious display of interest.

After the meeting, alas—for this is the core of my depression — I was asked by an outstanding student leader how I could criticize the Council when, last semester, I myself had not introduced one resolution or made one significant contribution to Council "progress."

Well, this was a worthy query. We decided that I had just "become aware of my presence on Council," that now my first column had established a basis for doing something really constructive. The problem now arises:

What can one do that is constructive?

This whole unorganized collection of sour nothings boils down to a warning: Elections are coming this spring for Student Council.

DO NOT VOTE FOR PEOPLE WHOM YOU SUSPECT OF BEING MOPSI! Mopism is a serious disease shared by about twenty members of the present Council.

Its symptoms are: reticence, perfect attendance at Council meetings, little or no knowledge of what's really going on, little interest in what is really going on, lack of

initiative, and a typically stoic expression during meetings.

The minds of mops are easily maneuvered, in fact, mop-minds can be pushed into voting for just about anything. The stage represented in this epistle is commonly called the "blind lashing out" stage. Sometimes mops feel guilty. They want to shake themselves. Therefore, all of you are being warned: BEWARE OF MOPSI! BE ALERT!!

Ahem . . . the dust is choking me,

P.S. This is an after-

(Continued to p. 3)

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