

Friday, Nov. 1, 1963

GUEST EDITORIAL

Class Shopping

ONE DAY LAST SPRING a slender, dark haired student slipped into the back row of an upper division literature course. When the bell rang on the hour and the professor began to pass out bluebooks, the student tried to slip out unnoticed, but the professor caught him. The student left the building five minutes later, but not until he had been reprimanded by the professor. This student wasn't trying to miss an examination or steal a test paper, he was a "shopper."

Although a good many faculty members frown upon the practice, students are in a sense the consumers of the product education and the faculty members are the retailers. Some students like to shop around before they commit themselves to a three month course or in some cases a full year. These students are looking for good teachers. Some educational authorities would maintain that every member of every faculty is good for at least one student. This philosophy assumes that there is no ideal teacher.

Some students shop to discover the particular professor's approach to the subject matter. Prof. Nevitt Sanford of the Human Problems Study Center at Stanford contends that the student who loves order and organization will react negatively to a teacher who wanders off the main material.

What the presence of shoppers in the classroom underlines is an appalling lack of information about faculty members at the University. Although we realize that traditions like the Harvard undergraduate guidebook to courses and the instructors don't spring up overnight, we recognize the lack of adequate material about faculty members which is available to students.

The faculty member who has published widely and done considerable research may enrich his instruction. He may draw on his material in his lectures to impart new inspiration and understanding. Material regarding a professor's publications, honors, travel and other experience is not really available to students.

Students look for many qualities in a professor and probably no two students are in agreement. We believe that some effort should be made to establish a faculty guidebook, which sets up objective criteria, perhaps just disseminating complete information about a professor's education and credentials for teaching in a particular course. Along with the description of the professor, a description of the course, far more substantive than the one in the university catalog should be presented. As the University grows larger and classrooms continue to be overcrowded shopping will become less practical than it once was. The guidebook — although a mail order approach — would make the student shopping easier.

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

The Music Man—

Jerks Into Quality Production

"A coward dies a thousand deaths, the brave man only five hundred," said Professor Harold Hill of the "Music Man" on opening night at University Theater. In saying that, Fred Gaines pretty well summed up the theatrical effort made on the first night of the first production of the theater season.

Review

The "Music Man" jerked to life in the beginning scene

on the train thanks to mumbled lines, poor timing on the parts of the traveling salesman in their actions, and the ear-splitting agonies the orchestra went through in an effort to keep up with the rhythmic dialogue of the actors.

However, as the play went on, it picked up speed and quality. Fred Gaines as the delightful, convincing Music Man carried a commanding stage presence and sounded remarkably like

his movie counterpart, Robert Preston. In this case however, the resemblance was all to the good. It is only a small shame that his singing did not make his performance perfect in all respects. Gwen Waldo charmed the audience from her first song, "Goodnight My Someone," to the play's end. She did a creditable job of acting and with Gaines through some especially enjoyable scenes—notably her demise to his persistence in the library

when he is assisted by the kids of River City.

Stage Director Dallas Williams backed up the two main characters with almost ultimate perfection of stage direction. Alma Hix (Bonnie Benda) was almost too prim, brittle and grimacing. Linda Mead as Ethel Toffelmeier portrayed in such precious detail the chubby, nearing-middle-age, giggling, fluttery pina-ola player.

Adding to the reality and humor displayed by the Misses Benda and Mead was the ferocious silliness of River City's upped mix. I mean mixed up mayor, John Guinty, who did a fine job of acting. Jan Healey played Mrs. Schinn, the mayor's wife with a finesse of comedy timing.

A blight in the play was the acting of the young children. Winthrop Paroo (Gilbert Morgan) came through, once, with gusto when he sang with true child-like gusto, "Gary, Indiana." The older "kids" of River City formed a well coordinated unit that radiated enthusiasm and talent

in dancing. Not to be forgotten is the barbershop quartet that sang at various times throughout the play. These four should go professional if any one of the members is ever short for money.

It is only too bad that the singing of the whole cast was not as good. Through all the boisterous noise it was hard to tell what the chorus was singing at times. And of course the unhappy sounds issuing out of the orchestra pit throughout the performance did not help out the songs much.

The complicated staging of the play was well done. The costumes were magnificently fitting in many ways (as anvil salesman Tom Crawley riotously attested to when ogling Miss Marion). The stage design remained happily fanciful and quite faithful to my image of Iowa corn country, front porches and town meeting halls of American early 20th century. The choreography was unimpaired at the beginning of the show, particularly in the scene where Prof. Hill sets the children to marching with make-believe instruments. It got better as it went on.

Perhaps the "Music Man" did not die even five hundred deaths on opening night. "The Music Man" is a difficult work to stage. Everyone involved made an ambitious attempt to put on a professional performance. In spite of the occasional jerks and imperfections of first nightitis, if this is indicative of what can be accomplished on opening night of the season, the other works to be put on (Long Day's Journey Into Night, Madame Butterfly, Hamlet, and The Rivals) throughout the year will be well worth seeing.



The Daily Nebraskan

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CAMPUS OPINION

On Church-School Aid

Dear Editor,
How can government aid to church colleges be justified? Do we justify it on the grounds that they need the extra funds? They do! They would be very happy to accept them.

It has been argued that they are doing the state and government a great favor by taking part of the load of educating the nation's youth. Not subsidizing these colleges forces them to establish a somewhat higher tuition, but a church college should be able to develop a program that is tailored much more closely to some particular types of individuals.

Those who are against raising the tuition to provide better instruction and facilities seem to forget that tuition is not the most expensive part of a college education. The social life of a student is often as much of his budget as the tuition itself, particularly in the case of nationally-affiliated housing. Isn't what tuition pays for more valuable than fraternity dues?

Government support implies government control. Is government control good? Has it helped the railroads? How long did they have to fight just to get rid of a few feather-beds? They are not free to set up a really efficient system for handling freight, nor even set their own rates. Another example is the farmers. At the present farmers are still free to decide when to plant their allotted acres, but there has been talk...

At any college worthy of the name there is a constant battle to maintain intellectual freedom, and accepting government subsidy and control does not help preserve this. A church supported school should be able to create a system with an important individuality,

and this is very hard to do with the government setting the standards.

I wouldn't mind paying a

Cool Welcome

Dear Editor:
Isn't it a great honor to be Homecoming Queen at the University of Nebraska? Judging by the reception Queen Carol Klein received during half-time at the Nebraska-Colorado game, it isn't.

Queen Carol, an independent, was elected Homecoming Queen from among ten finalists. All the finalists were qualified, but Carol was elected.

Because the student body did elect her, we cannot understand why her reception at the rally and game was so cool.

In the future, let us give visible support to our royalty. It is an honor to be Homecoming Queen.

Sincerely Yours,
A Student

Good Column

Dear Editor:
"The New Guard" is an excellent column. A point might be made about the following statement of Mr. Weaver's, however: "Let's hope that the state's Legislators can rise above traditional political motives..." The implications of this widely held belief are a bit disturbing.

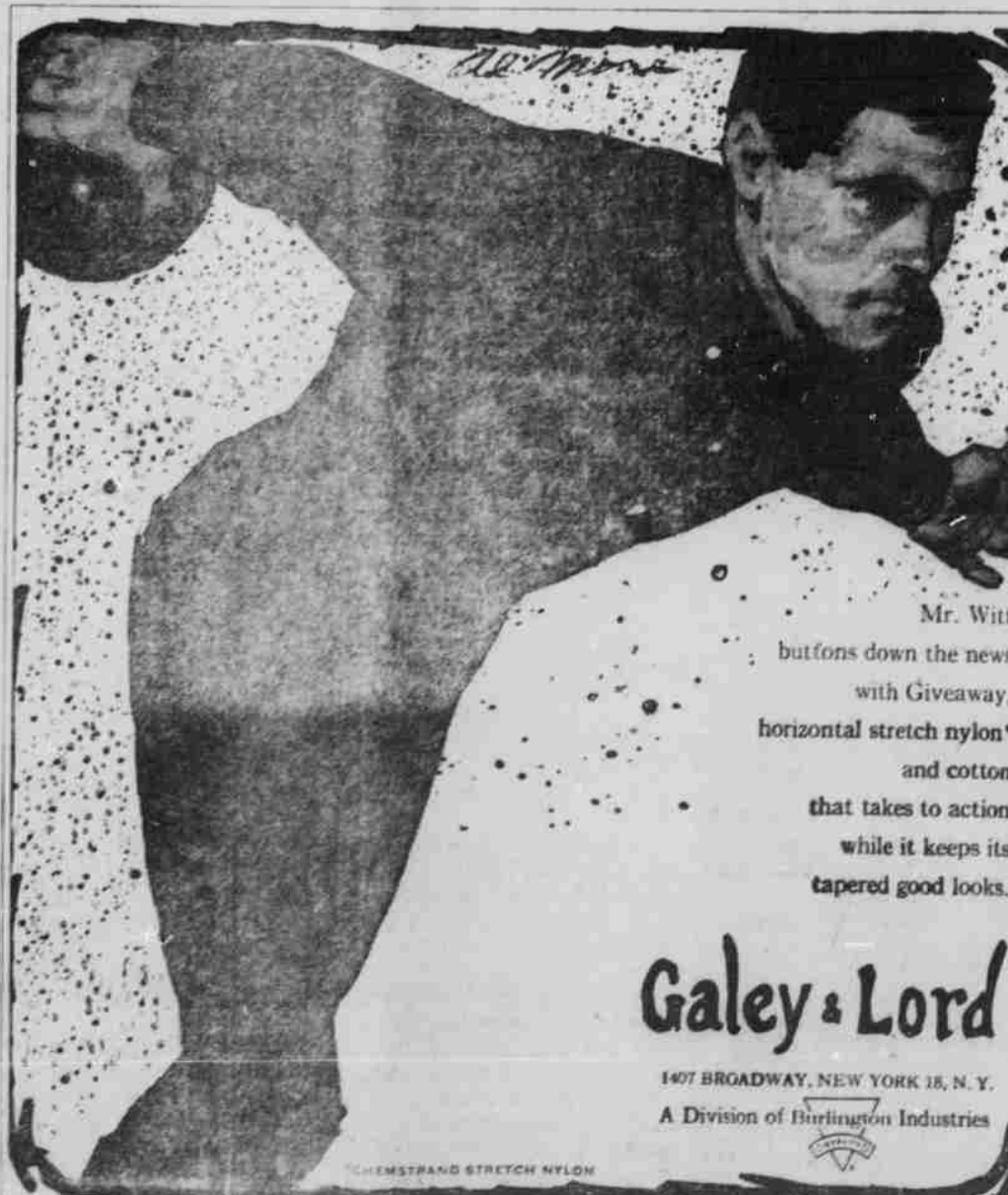
In a democracy, at least in theory, the will of the people is supreme. Isn't a politician who acts on the basis of political motives simply trying to act in accordance with the will of the people? Thus to "rise above traditional political motives" would be to rise above the will of the people—something few American politicians, at least, would wish to say.

J.F.S.



Yours truly,
Phillip Groetz
1025 Charleston

Use Nebraskan Want Ads



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