

A Return to Reason in 1953?

The calm voice of reason cut through the current Communists-in-colleges hysteria Wednesday with the announcement that the Oregon American Legion would not (1) ask the state legislature for loyalty oaths or (2) push for investigation of Oregon schools.

The statement released by Karl L. Wagner, state commander of the American Legion, declared that "existing affirmative loyalty oaths now on the statute books are sufficient, if enforced by school authorities" and added that "... school officials and the Board of Education should be fully qualified and should have the opportunity, if it is necessary, to clean their own house without being harassed by outside organizations."

The American Legion action is an encouraging sign at a time when the House un-American Activities committee, headed by Harold H. Vede (R-Ill.), and the Senate government operations committee, under the leadership of Joe McCarthy, are preparing to investigate U. S. colleges and universities for signs of "Red Leanings."

The freedom of U. S. education is threatened by the Communist bugaboo. The principles of free and open discussion have, in recent years, been trampled upon by men who saw a chance to turn the Red scare into a political advantage.

The declaration by the Oregon American Legion may have national significance. It could mark the beginning of a return to reason in respect to Communism and education in the U. S.

Frosh Council: Democratic Experiment

A few enterprising freshmen have gotten together and formed the "freshman election council" which will attempt to pick a representative slate of officers to run in the Jan. 28 frosh election.

It's the first time, in our recollection, that freshmen have taken the initiative in organizing for the selection of their class officers. We interpret it as a healthy sign of interest in student government.

Too often in the past freshmen have become the tools of Greek houses who wish to secure prestige by shoving one of their pledges into a top class spot. The council lists as its goal three points: (1) to further direct participation in student government; (2) to create an awareness of the responsibilities of the class officers; and (3) to acquaint candidates with the needs of the freshman class.

There has been some question as to the legality of the group, but both ASUO President Pat Dignan and ASUO vice-president Helen Jackson Frye have stated that the whole thing is on the up and up.

The council has no real power but can only make public recommendations. It works like this:

The core of the plan is the council as a representative group. It will consist of two members from each freshman living organization, chosen from high school activity sheets filled out last term.

They suggest candidates who are then screened individually. Four candidates will be chosen, one from each bloc of voters.

This is not a case of a few people wanting to grab a balance of power, said John Feliz, council member. Vote trading is exactly what they aim to prevent, he said.

"Freshmen elections are usually popularity contests," Feliz explained. "That's all right for Joe College, but not for class officers."

It's hoped the council can turn the emphasis toward the competency of candidates.

By virtue of its representative character and political support, the council is expected to hold elected officers responsible.

"A candidate who is elected by a personal following is responsible only to himself," Feliz explained.

Feliz felt the group had lost support because of adverse publicity. He said there was organized opposition in some dormitories.

"Is the council a political party?" we asked. The answer was emphatically negative.

Feliz termed it a democratic experiment. The results may be interesting. (H. J.)



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In Europe

Students Hiss, Stamp Feet, And Rap Pencils

By GUNTER FRIEDRICHS
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A German student is completely free.

At Frankfurt university there are studying about 5,000 students. There is no one living in dorms, fraternities or rooming-houses. They all have their own rooms on rent, with no kind of regulations or restrictions.

And there is no student party inside and outside of the University without alcoholic drinks.

Hissing Popular

Students greet their professors in class by knocking with pencils on the desks. If they are not agreeing with their professor, they will demonstrate their contrary opinion by scraping with feet. Today, because most are wearing crepe-shoes, it is more popular to hiss by mouth.

Agreeing is expressed by knocking with pencils or by trampelling. It happens very often that one part of the class agrees, while the rest is hissing—in the same moment.

A Fundamental Difference

Between high school in the U.S.A. and in Germany there is a fundamental difference. The kids in Germany enter high school at the age of 10 and stay there for nine years. During this time they have to take:

Nine years English, six years Latin, four years of a third language (French, Italian or Spanish), one year of biology, five years of chemistry, nine years of geography, six years of physics and nine years of mathematics. In addition, they must take sports, history, German, religion, music and drawing.

About 45 per cent of all German children are going through high school.

Study at Home

German universities expect that a student will do the most important part of his studies at home by reading books. Courses have only the functions of introductions. There are no textbooks.

The professor names a certain number of books. The student has to decide what he wants to read. In this way, it is possible that a German university has about six months vacation during a year.

Register and Read

But a serious student has to study rather hard during this time.

Many students renounce certain classes if the professor is not outstanding. They will register for the class and prefer to read good books in the field at home.

There are no tests and examinations between the studies. After three to four years the student will pass a big and difficult examination to get the master degree.

Only Two Degrees

He will apply for permission to take the examination if he has the feeling of being well prepared. But almost 30 per cent will fail and can repeat the exam after a certain time.

You can get only two academic degrees at a German university, the Masters and the Doctor. Between German and other European universities there is no real difference.

From the Morgue

Ten years ago today:

- Greeks were celebrating a victory in Freshman elections.
- Women's co-ops reported that they were forfeiting two desserts a week, the money saved to go into war bonds.

The College Crowd

Campus Headlines Elsewhere

By Rae Thomas

Two universities, one northern and one southern, met the racial problem last term in exactly opposite ways.

New York university announced it was striking questions of race and religion from its application forms.

And the University of Alabama refused two Negro women admittance to the graduate school. The women plan to file suit against the University in federal court, on grounds that their constitutional rights have been violated. The Crimson-White, student newspaper there, sided with the administration. It declared in an editorial. "We maintain there is no race hatred among the vast majority of southerners. Certainly we segregate our schools, buses and social meetings. It's only good sense.

"...Equal rights for all can never become a reality until we all feel it, and want it, and think we can live together without hating each other..."

But the editorial granted that, "These Negroes do, technically, by the Constitution of the United States... have the right to enter the University. A court will confirm it we are sure."

Princeton university administrators discovered last term that two members of the 1952 graduating class forged their senior theses in "one of the most flagrant examples of plagiarism" ever attempted at Princeton.

Both men, members of the English and Modern Languages department, were found to have submitted almost exact copies of master's theses stolen from the Columbia university library last winter. When faced with the evidence, both admitted the work was not their own, but denied outside help or having paid for the theses.

No disciplinary measures have been announced. Two years ago there were numerous reports of New York agents receiving up to \$700 for the forging of theses for Princeton seniors.

The new GI bill is tougher than the old one. A veteran now must declare his major as soon as he enters school, and he's entitled to just one change during this college career.

And the change is not easy to get. The vet has to show he is not guilty of misconduct, neglect

or lack of application. Then he must take a battery of tests. If he gets through unscathed, he can change his major.

Here are the main points in the new bill: The veteran will be paid a lump sum each month. Out of this sum he must pay tuition and all other expenses. Tuition payments generally run about one-third of his total allotment.

It's up to the campus vet's instructors to turn in monthly progress reports to the Veterans Administration. Serious trouble can result if these reports are delayed or if they are not turned in by the instructors.

The time-honored custom of hazing is still a long way from refinement on many campuses; but at some colleges hazing is actually becoming civilized.

At Valparaiso university, Ind., the custom is somewhere in between. The Valparaiso Torch last week proudly pointed to its "class float, stunt night," and other evidences of sanity.

But the paper averted its eyes from the "brick parties, gang wars, painted signs and nocturnal processions of imprisoned freshmen women..."

The Torch concluded with a plea to "let this thing (hazing, that is) slide slowly down hill. It's so much quieter that way..."

The girls at Texas State College for Women are still pulling variations on the old gag of selling the Brooklyn bridge to the uninitiated. A freshman there proudly told a friend that she had bought a ticket from a senior guaranteeing her a free ride in the administration building elevator.

Men, if you think the ratio of males on your campus is too steep, try attending Davidson college. Its enrollment: 825 men, one woman.

This letter was sent to the editor of the Vermont Cynic, University of Vermont:

"To the Editor: I like your newspaper. It is good. It is sometimes funny. My roommate lets me read it. I read it. I have a dog. His name is Rusty. He likes to read it. I have a cat. Her name is Kitty. She reads it. I am in the 1st grade. I am 69 years old. Mother says I'm crazy. Mother is always right. I like your newspaper. I am crazy.

A friend."

Liberal Education



"This is rather hard to understand. Miss Shagnasty is generally quite strict with her classes."