

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

On Conformity

William Morris, the embattled editor of the University of Texas Daily Texan, has made a number of observations about today's college students and college papers in the current issue of the Nation. His words deserve some attention.

Morris is the college editor whose fight to keep his paper from the clutches of the Texas Board of Regents has drawn nationwide attention and support from such sources as the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the New York Post and the Texas Young Republicans and Young Democrats.

The issue at stake was whether a paper in a state university has the right to criticize the actions of state officials or others having a connection with the university. The Regents based their censorship edict on a rider on state appropriation bills which says that no state money "shall be used for influencing the outcome of any election, or the passage or defeat of any legislative measure."

The applicability of this rider was refuted by supporters of the Daily Texan, who pointed out that the Texan was financially independent since its funds were derived from advertising and student activity fees, the same sources tapped by the Emerald.

On the basis of this and the widespread support given the Texan, that paper has won at least a temporary victory.

Morris says the Texan's fight calls attention to "one of the less noble of our American traditions: the tradition of a 'kept' college press badgered by the state legislatures, college administrators and students themselves, and all but ignored by professional journalism."

The lines of control from a state legislature or a college administration to a college paper vary widely from school to school, but there is no question that the college or university has the power to control a student paper.

It does not follow that they have the moral right to do so. One of the marks of a great university is an unhindered campus paper, free to speak out on any issue it sees fit. Unfortunately, this is not a common characteristic.

Morris says "The preponderance of censored college dailies is an affront to the dignity of the nation. The 'kept' ones pour into our office from all corners of the land, speaking their shameful, tongueless idiom. They hide their shame by imploring students to turn over a new leaf at the start of a semester, give blood to a blood drive, support the football team, use their leisure more wisely, collect wood for a bonfire."

Fortunately, however, there have been and still are some papers who will fight back with all the strength and influence they possess if they feel that their right to speak freely is in danger. They are the ones who are still free.

More important, Morris believes that the conformity and lack of individual freedom

in college papers is only an indication of the same characteristics in American college students as a whole.

He says "I have lived with this stifling conformity on my own campus, and I have been frightened by it. . . . One sees it everywhere: in the classroom, the coffee session, the committee meeting, the Greek lodge."

Our generation has been resentful when it was called the "Silent Generation." We did not believe it—perhaps because we did not want to believe it, or because we were sure of ourselves and believed those who coined the phrase did not understand us.

But now the charge comes from a member of our own generation. Perhaps another look at ourselves and our goals is in order.

Being Typically Spring

Now it's spring term and by definition it's that time of year when in us as the University of Oregon doth appear that "country club" spirit in its fullest blossom. Not that it hasn't been present before. That was what was apparent just last final week, aided by several thousand convertibilized high school students and "unusual" winter term weather.

But all the planning and pre-season work we've done these last two terms in anticipation of the official spring term activities will be for naught if the weather runs according to usual spring term form.

Remember back to last year and all the baseball season that suffered slightly less than a disastrous washout. Of course, that may be only one year—last year—we say, but from the looks of the registration day variety handed out by the weatherman, it's going to be tough being typically spring term active again—until final week, that is.—(C.H.M.)

Footnotes

The telephone company's new full-dial system may be all right for future long distance purposes, but for getting from a University extension to a living organization, it hurts. By the time you've finished dialing the eight numbers and letters required and received a busy signal, the ol' finger is too worn down to try the alternate number.

* * *

The Arizona State college golf coach was startled when a 60-year-old freshman reported to him as a candidate for the golf team. Remembering the many times my grandfather has given his longer-hitting grandson a lesson on chipping and putting, bet he makes the squad. Unless the problem of setting up old age benefits in the slush fund is overwhelming.

* * *

And this is the latest on the Millrace: the cornerstone which was laid with such great care last term has been completely hidden in the construction of the boathouse.

Early-Term Conference



INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Allies' Satisfaction Shows Continuity

By J. M. Roberts
AP News Analyst

In 1952 America's allies abroad were satisfied with the policies of Harry Truman and quite wary about changing to a Republican administration.

They knew Dwight Eisenhower and respected him in many ways, but in general they preferred the election of Adlai Stevenson.

No clearer testimony to the continuity of American policy could be given than the overwhelming expressions of satisfaction coming from abroad since Eisenhower's decision to run again.

The Republicans now refer to foreign policy as though it were their own. The Democrats mostly support it and point out that they started it and are better qualified to carry it out. They are bitterly critical of some administration tactics, but seldom of strategy.

Actually it is an American policy, produced by the exigencies of the time and carried out by men who have been offered few alternatives. The degree by which one or another of them has excelled has been determined primarily not by what they have done, but by how quickly they have recognized the necessity for doing it.

Prior to 1948, the men were slow, most of them. The clan-

gor of the hammer and sickle in Czechoslovakia, when Jan Masaryk "died," woke them up. Korea sent them bustling.

Truman and Acheson, Eisenhower and Dulles, taking advantage of generally better information, emphasized by the actions of Russia herself, have not been slow in a relative sense. Sometimes, when they appear to fumble, they have not been able to tell the public how many directions the wind was blowing from nor how strong it was.

Eisenhower and Dulles have acted firmly at times, even to the risk of war, as in the case of Formosa.

Yet the reaction of Europe to the possibility that Eisenhower will remain in office signifies assurance there that the United States is making every move in the hope of promoting ultimate peace. Europeans subject to annihilation in a modern war, consider peace as a "must" to a degree not fully realized here.

They win either way, they think. They have the Democratic record and the Republican record. They realize that there is a Republican faction which is less internationally minded than some.

Now they figure nothing can happen to them in November.

Letters to the Editor

Emerald Editor:

How does a timid woman get active politically is a question on many women's minds today. As vice-chairman of my county Democratic committee, I'm probably asked that question more often than the average citizen. I think an answer at this time is particularly timely.

I feel that becoming a precinct committee woman in your own neighborhood, be you Democrat or Republican, is the quickest and easiest way to "get into politics."

Most precincts are composed

of approximately 300 voters. As precinct committee woman, you perform the service calling personally on your neighbors, telling them where and how to register, furnish them with candidates' literature and sample ballots. In general, you become the hub around which your voters can revolve.

Timid souls will find the work stimulating, informative and one for which she'll receive "many thanks" from her neighbors as well as candidates running for office.

Filing for precinct work closed March 9, but you can be-

come a precinct worker by writing in your own name on the ballot at the May primary under PRECINCT COMMITTEE WOMAN. If you want to make sure that you are elected, ask your neighbors to write your name there, too.

Take the first step, ladies; you'll get lots of help. You will soon be living. Hasn't everyone said that more women should take an active interest in politics?

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