

The University's Baby Out on the Doorstep

SOMEbody else has been minding the university's baby, and as usual when trouble arises, the university carefully pretends to have no part in it.

Twelve Negro men students in a recent Sideshow letter protested alleged unjust eviction from the Emerson street Y.M.C.A., a Negro organization. The secretary's reply is printed today. Much bad feeling has arisen, but the basic blame in the case rests neither with the boys nor the Y.M.C.A., but on the doorstep of the university.

It is the responsibility of the university to provide adequate living quarters for its students, in its own interests if for no less selfish reason. When students are directly under the control of the administration there is less chance for clashes with community interests, which inevitably cause bad feeling against the university in general. It should not favor one group of students and ignore another. But it does.

The administration has often smoothly evaded responsibility by pointing out that dormitory regulations exclude no student for race or color. This is brutal hypocrisy. On one pretext or another, factual history shows that no Negro student has remained long in a dormitory. Inevitably they are thrown on the community, to drift about from one lodging to another as best they can.

The Emerson Y.M.C.A. has sheltered many of these students. Animosity aroused by situations such as the present one make it more difficult for Negro students in succeeding years to find a lodging. The student is always on the receiving end of the kick.

Neither Evanston nor the Emerson Y. M. C. A. are obligated to provide for any group of students. What is the psychological effect on a student away from home, bitterly aware that neither the university nor the community are interested in his happiness and welfare? Certainly it does not breed respect for the sincerity or altruism of the men who run the university.

You can shut the door, Northwestern, but the baby is still on the step.

Primaries in the Raw: Practical Politics

ON THE EVE of a state-wide primary with bossism or leadership as the issue, it is cynically amusing to observe the complacent attitude of students such as political science majors and student-government advocates who, theoretically, ought to care.

Their flippant indifference is just the reason why the Kelly-Nash outfit can continue to warp Chicago government and intimidate its citizens.

Chicago politics is the best laboratory in America for the politically awake and aroused student. The need for such people is gigantic, yet the response is nil.

Chicago is the place where anything can happen, and usually does. April 12 is the fire-works day now. It is the day when all citizens enjoying the suffrage have a chance to vote down an entrenched machine.

The primary is important. It is an ideal system of allowing the voters to choose between the candidates of a party, thereby becoming an elimination contest for the November finals. Political power is local, and the primary is the yardstick for measuring it. The candidates in the field are necessarily interested in every precinct and ward, because from these units of government the more impressive posts get their strength.

The politicians will be out in full regalia on Tuesday to win by hook or crook. How many political science students have ever hung around a polling place to watch practical politics, as the politicians run it? How many even know a Chicago primary is being held next week?

Let the political science profs send their classes down to Chicago for a lab lesson.

JUST THINK

Sidney J. Jacobs

" 'Tis the Final Conflict"

I was relaxing in the DAILY editorial office, trying to take my mind off the economics and dialectics of Marx. My lantern by my side, I was idly thumbing through the pages of a dime-store kiddies' edition of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

Suddenly there was a bang as the door flew open, and before I could turn around my hand was being pumped vigorously and someone was thumping me resoundingly on my back.

I choked and blinked my eyes. It was my friend, Leo the Leftist, in all of his bohemian disarray.

"What's up, Leo?" I asked.
"What's up, man? Why do you realize that you've become one of the pioneers of the revolution. Just think of it—bringing Karl Marx's teaching to the stodgy Northwestern campus! I was worried for a while when you made some dirty cracks about soap-box orators; but now that you've quoted Lenin in your column, you're O. K. What about writing something for the Midwest Daily . . ."

"—don't listen to him, Jacobs!" A new voice was shouting. I turned around and there was my friend, Kenneth the Leftist.

"Shut up, you lousy Social Democrat!" yelled Leo. "Murderer of the masses!" screamed Kenneth. I was getting nervous.

"Gentlemen," I said. "Aren't you both Marxists? What's the quarrel?"

"The Communists believe in force and violence! Look what they've done in Russia!" shouted Kenneth.

Leo Enraged

"The Social Democrats believe in peaceful methods in achieving their so-called Marxist program, but they ally themselves with the capitalist classes and betray the workers! Look at Germany! Look at Austria!" Leo was stamping up and down.

"Quiet, both you renegades!" roared someone behind me. I jumped. Turning around, I saw my friend, Martin the Leftist.

"Hello, Marty," I said, feeling kind of sick inside.

"Don't listen to what these anti-Marxists, these betrayers of the Revolution say!" said Marty.

"Shut up, you Trotskyite, fascist!" the other two yelled at him.

"Hey, wait a minute!" I shouted, to make my voice heard. "Aren't you a Marxist, Marty, like Leo and Kenneth?"

"I am a Marxist, my fellow worker, but they are not!" answered Martin heatedly. "The Communists have betrayed the Revolution! Instead of working for a world revolution, they have been content with the uprising in Russia! How can you build Socialism in a world of capitalism? You must have all the nations Socialist! On to the international revolution! On to proletarian victory with Trotsky!"

"Down with Trotsky who plots with the Fascists against the workers' homeland, the Soviet Union!" screamed Leo.

"On to Socialism through peaceful means. Ballots, not bullets!" yelled Kenneth. "Forward the Second International, the Socialist world-union!"

"Forward the Third International, the Communist world union!" roared Leo.

"Forward the Fourth International, the Trotskyite world union!" shouted Martin.

The door opened again, and in walked my friend, Edwin the Leftist.

Wants Lovestone

"What's all the shouting, you betrayers of the working classes?" he asked sarcastically. "You have killed the chances of Marxism in America. Only under the Lovestone faction of the Communist Party will we have a Soviet America!"

"Deviationist!" the other three screamed.

"Forward the United Front, the People's Front in America, led by Comrades Browder and Foster!" shrieked Leo.

"Down with the dishonorable promises of the Moscow agents. Down with the false United Front!" shouted Martin.

"Give Roosevelt a break!" yelled Kenneth.

"Lovestone says . . ." shouted Edwin.

I thought I'd try a new approach.

"Comrades!" I bellowed. "War threatens and you quarrel! Why don't you unite?"

"You're right, Comrade Jacobs!" trumpeted Leo. "Collective security of all democratic nations with the Soviet Union, the stronghold of world peace!"

"No collaboration with the capitalist powers in their imperialist wars!" roared Martin.

"The Ludlow Amendment . . ."

"Lovestone says . . ." shouted Edwin.

I went over to Howard street. When I left, Leo the Leftist, Kenneth the Leftist, Martin the Leftist, and Edwin the Leftist were still at it.

Sideshow

Information Given

Editor, Daily Northwestern:

The facts relating to the alleged difficulties which certain students at Northwestern university have experienced at the Emerson street YMCA are briefly as follows:

1. For twelve years or more Negro students at Northwestern university have more or less used the Emerson street YMCA as a meeting place and a community center for many of their social activities. Many of the young men have lived in our residence section. It has been the purpose of the YMCA over the years to provide decent rooms for decent people, especially young men away from home.

The YMCA has done this in Evanston by providing a modern, well-equipped, but small community type of YMCA building for the people of Evanston. There are nineteen rooms with accommodations for twenty-five men. Most of the time these rooms are all occupied, and there is a considerable waiting list of persons desirous of renting our rooms. We also keep a list of homes in the community where persons may be accommodated, and often send persons out to these homes when we are unable to accommodate them at the YMCA.

Must Keep Balance

2. Because the Emerson YMCA is an Evanston community project, by and for the Evanston people, we feel that first of all we are duty bound to keep a reasonable balance between Evanston citizens and out-of-town citizens who desire to use our facilities. Thus a ratio of 1 to 4 is arbitrarily set as a sort of guide in the placement of students in our residence rooms. One student to every four Evanston citizens seems to me a fair ratio.

However, this balance is not always enforced, for many times there has been a ratio of 12 to 13 in favor of the students. At present there are nine students living in our rooms. Most always the student is given the benefit of the doubt because of the difficulty people have in getting good accommodations in Evanston.

3. All of the other men who live in our dormitory section have regular work and wish to use the YMCA living quarters for sleep and rest—the purpose for which they were originally designed. Consequently many complaints come to me weekly about the unnecessary noise made by students who play their radios loud and long, congregate in their rooms—often late at night and after 11 p. m. for discussions, debates and card playing. Often times fraternity meetings have been held in the rooms by students, and once or twice political meetings. Of course, these complaints were always investigated and the guilty parties were asked to be more quiet and careful about the rights of others. In most cases the students are very cooperative, and over the years we have had very fine cooperation from the vast majority.

Discusses Dyer

4. Recently it was complained that Joseph Dyer was often seen in the dormitory and was noisy, loud and profane. I investigated and found that he was frequenting the dormitory at will, and was a disturbing factor. I called him in and talked the matter over with him and requested him to be more careful, or I should have to ask him to stay out of that section. He not only did not stay out, but also continued to come in and to be a disturbing factor. Again and again I requested him to stay out; the desk man also requested him to stay out. I reported him to Mr. Nims of the counselor's office at Northwestern university.

Notwithstanding all this he continued to go in the dormitory. He would go up with William Prince and Mynor Payne who would let him into their room. I warned them, but to no avail. Finally, I had Dyer arrested on a disorderly conduct charge. He was found guilty and

ordered by the judge to remain out of the YMCA.

5. Later I found it necessary to ask two of the students to vacate their rooms, because I felt them to be undesirable, due to the attitude they had taken in cooperating with me by paying their room rent and membership fees as agreed. Both of these students refused to vacate their rooms, notwithstanding they were given reasonable time in which to do so.

From reports which came to me from reliable sources these students who had been asked to vacate their rooms in the YMCA dormitory began to agitate among their fellow students and community. However, it is definitely known that they would congregate in the YMCA lobby and would talk against the YMCA and me, planning what they were going to do. People coming through the lobby could hear them.

Must Keep Out

This matter was discussed with the committee of management and two of them reported that they had heard these unfavorable comments in the YMCA lobby by several of these students. After a thorough discussion by the committee of the factors involved as indicated in this statement, they voted to request those students to refrain from using the YMCA at all, and ordered me to write them letters accordingly. Notwithstanding, those requested to refrain from using the YMCA were duly notified, they continue to come in whenever they feel like it. Their attitude from the beginning has been one of disrespect and defiance of my authority.

In every case I tried to talk the matter over with them and to get them to see the reasonableness of the request before any definite action of suspension of privileges was taken. This they absolutely refused to agree to and to cooperate in. They continued to agitate by writing open letters in which false statements are made, and at the same time continue to come into the YMCA.

Must Know Real Facts

I cannot believe that the fair-minded portion of the student body of Northwestern university and the intelligent fair-minded citizens of Evanston will uphold these students in their attitude and conduct when they know the real facts. I have always cooperated with the university officials and they have been very fine and cooperative with me. At present there are eight students who are working on the NYA project here at the YMCA, and with one exception, they are all doing a very fine piece of work, are happy in their relationship, and are loyal and respectful to the YMCA program.

For twelve years I have taken the major responsibility in helping to room Negro students who come to Northwestern, and this is the first time that I have had any difficulty of this sort among the hundreds whom I have helped. The YMCA officials are agreed that I was justified in the actions which I took, and we are sorry that these misrepresentations have been spread abroad.

P. J. Hauser,
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Emerson street YMCA.

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