

1968

Editor's Page

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EDITOR'S PAGE

"Extreme remedies are very appropriate for extreme diseases."

HIPPOCRATES, APHORISMS, SECT. I, 6.

*"You might as well fall flat on your face as
lean over too far backward."*

JAMES THURBER, FABLES FOR OUR TIME,
THE BEAR WHO LET IT ALONE.

"Give me a hand, will you?"

"What now?"

"I'm so busy. Would you please write up something for the Editors' Page?"

"Oh no, that's your job."

"What isn't my job?"

"Listen, no one had to twist your arm to get you to run for this office."

"OK, OK, but what could I put on that page? Couldn't we make it more interesting?"

"Why bother. Hasn't the page always just carried those little descriptions of each article?"

"Yeah, but I don't see how they really serve any purpose. In fact they usually just paraphrase the titles. If we can't assume that our subscribers can read the articles for themselves, then why do we publish the Review at all?"

"Well I agree with you, but what could we put on that page that would be meaningful?"

"I don't really know. Perhaps we could put down some news from the college. We could tell all our readers about all the professors who are leaving in June."

"No, the Nebraska Transcript handles that P.R. stuff. Why don't you sound off on some of your political views? Or better yet why don't you print your little speech on the irrelevancy of the legal profession to the real problems of our society? You certainly could write that in a hurry!"

"No, I better not. I think I've offended enough people already."

"That you have. Of course you could change Editors' to Editor's and not involve the rest of us."

"Yes, but what about that resolution that the Executive Council of the Nebraska State Bar Association passed on December 8, 1968?"

"Rather funny wasn't it, recommending that 'the Nebraska Law Review be devoted to matters of interest to lawyers, and that the Council would look to the faculty of the University of Nebraska College of law, to regulate publication.' As if we had been publishing for plumbers or something!"

"Well anyway with three months to go until graduation and the bar exam, we better keep quiet. But, what do we do with that Editors' Page?"

"I've got an idea. Let's go up to the library and see what some other reviews put on such a page."

"Well look, I sure didn't realize this. Many of the best reviews don't have an editors' page at all.

"Well there's a simple solution."

"Hey wait a minute! Look at this! The Harvard Law Review has a brilliant three page 'With the Editors . . .' column in their January '69 issue opposing America's continuing intervention in Vietnam. They say 'the first priority of the new administration must be the withdrawal of American troops.' And two thirds of their current editors voted to publish the statement."

"Wow, did that take guts. I doubt if anyone could get away with that but Harvard."

"Man, would I like to print something like that. After all what is wrong with expressing our views on such an important moral issue? This is supposed to be an independent student publication. Why, we could take a vote and if enough agreed, print the same statement. It might snowball in law reviews all over the country."

"Now wait a minute, stop pacing back and forth, you're getting all excited. You know we can't print something like that, so just forget it."

"Oh, you're right. I'll just write that old traditional page. We wouldn't want to rock the boat, but remind me to write Harvard and tell them of our support. Our silent support. . . ."

"Alright, alright, but wait, let's look at some more reviews. The Texas Law Review writes a rather amusing 'Editors' Forward.' In their January '69 issue they comment about the headaches which come from working with an outside printer."

"Hey, we could point out that the misspelled word on the last Editors' Page was the printer's fault and not ours. We could also apologize for coming out late with the first two issues."

"Yeah, we could put all the blame on others, but the Editors' Page doesn't seem to be a very good place to vent our frustrations. Besides, you know there is no honor in excuses and all that."

"Yeah, let's just go and write the usual summary."

"No, I think we're right. There is no need for such a page. Look, if Yale doesn't carry any Editors' Page, it has to be alright to just drop it. After all, 'if Yale is against us, who will be for us?'" [34 U. Chi. L. Rev. 239 (1967)].

"You mean we're not going to tell our readers about the fine articles in this issue, articles that should really interest lawyers? We're not going to point out that we will carry a comprehensive Insurance Symposium in our May issue? No, no, we better carry on the old traditions."

"No, now, I insist. Let's just drop the Editors' Page."

"Alright, alright. After all, didn't I promise to vastly improve the Review during my administration?"

*"The critic leaves at curtain fall
To find, in starting to review it,
He scarcely saw the play at all
For watching his reaction to it."*

E. B. WHITE, CRITIC