

Note from the newspaper staff to freshman, from 'University News,' October 22nd, 1919

Freshman, Warning

Freshman, as a special favor, we ask you – every one of you – to turn again to the first page and look at the cartoon you saw there. We want to tell you something about it. We want you to know we believe it is a good cartoon and believe our Art Editor deserves to be congratulated on the fine representation of the lion he has drawn. But this is not the principal fact about the drawing we want to discuss.

As you look at the cartoon you undoubtedly wonder what the two freshman (you can tell by their caps) are doing with the bucket and brushes and why they are declaring, so seriously, "Never Again!" You perhaps wonder why we consider it important enough to be placed on the front page. Before we answer these questions, however, we want to tell you very briefly that we think a great deal of those stone lions in front of McMicken. So did all of the students who came before us and so will you before you leave Old Varsity. The oftener you gaze upon those magnificent, stern, serious animals the more you will revere them and the institution they protect. This in itself is reason enough for putting the picture on the front page; but we have a better reason, as you will see as our explanation progresses.

One morning last year, when we were hurrying on our way to 8:30 classes, we noticed that the sidewalks had been decorated every few yards with the word "Freshman" painted alongside. We at once realized that some thoughtless members of the Freshman class had done this as a joke, perhaps intending to intimidate the Vigilance Committee or to obtain notoriety for themselves. In either case they certainly did not consider to what extent they were defacing the property of the University and how much trouble they were making for the janitors.

When we reached the front of McMicken Hall we were horrified at the sight be beheld. These thoughtless freshmen had not been satisfied with daubing up the walks, but had gone so far as to paint the lions; we revere so much, making them resemble zebras with green stripes. They had gone the limit. They had committed sacrilege against their Alma Mater.

The Officials of the University, headed by Dean Chandler, brought the matter up before Student Council, asking that body to locate the culprits, point out their folly, and request them to remove the paint and make the campus once more presentable. Student Council took up the job and soon the two offenders confessed. They were good fellows, acknowledged their fatal mistake, and worked for several days removing the paint with acid provided by the Chemistry Department.

The cartoon on the front page shows these two men, just about to begin their job, vowing "never again" to do anything that will impair the looks of the campus, and issuing a warning to succeeding Freshman classes to do likewise.

Freshman, accept this warning and continue your good behavior.