

The Daily Nebraskan

THE BEST UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER IN THE WORLD

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A STRONG PLAN FOR A STUDENT COUNCIL

The plan for the student council, as recommended by the charter commission has many strong features that will win for it an almost undivided support, although certain details may not be just what everyone wanted. The essential thing now is to get the plan adopted and elect a strong council next fall. That will be the beginning of what is believed will become student self-government at Nebraska University; a close relation of all student activities to the upbuilding of a bigger and stronger Nebraska spirit.

It is good that the commission decided that from the first, the council should be wholly a student council; in fact as well as in name, a governing body of students. This may lead to some mistakes at first; but probably the quickest way to learn how to exercise an important power is by exercising it. Had faculty members been included in the council plan, the inevitable tendency would have been to throw the responsibility upon those members, refer difficult questions to them for final decision; and then make the faculty the scapegoat for mistakes. Under the present plan, if adopted, the students will be entrusted from the first with the responsibility for the actions of the council, and they will have to depend upon their own best judgment on important matters.

Because of this responsibility upon the student members, it is necessary that students who are advanced in the University, acquainted with student life and student conditions, should make up the council. The juniors and seniors, then predominate, and rightly. The sophomores are represented but do not have a vote. The freshmen will not have a voice in the council in the beginning.

The plan for the council can be changed readily, if the majority sentiment of the students should deem a change advisable—but it cannot be changed so easily as to make it the football of University politics. Amendments or revisions may be presented in a mass meeting of the students, and upon a majority vote of that meeting, shall be submitted for adoption at a special election called for that purpose. This provision for a change should enlist in hearty support of the plan those who disagree with details, for if the plan does not prove successful, it can be changed.

Students and faculty members who for years have hoped that the time would come when the Cornhusker student would be able to express himself through a representative body, able to gain and hold the respect of all, and governing by right of popular choice, welcome the plan as submitted by the council commission.

The scene at the railroad station last Saturday, when the University men took leave of their parents and turned their faces towards Fort Snelling, drove home the fact that these men, our companions, our classmates, our friends, are preparing themselves for a serious task. Some of them may never return. The sincere hope in every heart at the train was that all would return, but the tears in the eyes of those who were left behind were mute recognition of the fact that it may have been a last parting.

Nebraska is proud of her men who have volunteered to train for the officers' positions in the army of the first 500,000. Many have sacrificed opportunities in the business world, joys of friendships, the happiness of their homes, to go into the work. They may be called upon for the last great sacrifice; if so, we know that it will not be in vain.

UNIVERSITY NOTICES

Nebraskan Staff

Applications for election to the following positions on The Daily Nebraskan for the first semester of the school year 1917-18, will be received at the student activities office until 5 p. m. May 17, 1917:

Editor-in-chief, managing editor, woman associate, man associate, business manager and assistant business manager. Application blanks can be secured from the secretary, T. A. Williams, secretary student publication board.

COMMENCEMENT

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HEDWIG BONEKEMPER MADE PRESIDENT OF D. G. V. FOR NEXT YEAR

Hedwig Bonekemper, '18, was elected president of Deutscher Gessellige Verein at the annual picnic of the club at the farm grove Friday evening, K. Zut, '18, was elected vice president; Clara Schulte, '18, secretary, and Arnold Wilken, '20, treasurer. Dorothy Pettis, '19, L. H. Redelfs, '19, and Hedwig Bonekemper were chosen members of the executive committee. The remainder of the evening was spent playing baseball and singing patriotic songs.

Louise Coe, '17, spent the weekend in Nebraska City.

Harvey Nelson, law '19, visited at his home in Omaha Sunday.

The People's Home Library has been adopted as the official report of the International Aid Association which has 250,000 members. The object of this association is to lower the death rate and teach economy. The association believed the distribution of P. H. L. will aid in accomplishing these objects.

Daily average of agents in the field this season is over \$13. A banner year for selling to farmers. tf

Dr. Stewart Advocates Athletics As A Step In Winning The War

That the continuation of athletics is an important step in military preparedness, one which must not be overlooked or sacrificed, is the belief of Dr. E. J. Stewart, director of athletics, who issued a statement Saturday pointing out the importance of athletic as well as military training. Dr. Stewart says it is a significant fact that the allies have found athletics so beneficial as to retain games close behind the fighting lines. He points out that over sixty Nebraska athletes have volunteered and have been accepted on the record of their physical fitness. Dr. Stewart feels that it would be a mistake to abandon the college sports except in the minor branches even although new teams must be built up by Missouri Valley schools. He says that while the Kansas-Nebraska game next fall may be played without a veteran in the lineup and before a much smaller crowd than customarily attends, the benefits of athletics will still be secured.

This is his statement: "The question of whether or not intercollegiate athletic competition at Nebraska University should be continued until the conclusion of the war has been suggested to me so often that I am taking this opportunity of advising the many friends of university athletics of the situation here and at the other universities throughout the country.

War College Endorse Athletics

"The first element entering into consideration is that of effect upon the plan to equip a large army as planned by the government, and since such noted military leaders and authorities as Generals Wood and Bell and Major McAlexander have already issued advice to the colleges and universities throughout the United States not to make the mistake of dropping athletics, and since it is very apparent, through the acceptance by recruiting officers of the college athlete in preference to the non-athlete, that intercollegiate athletics produces the best type of soldier, it should be logical to suppose that no action will be taken to stop the development of the hardy constitution, character and physical and mental courage, which college sports develop. In fact it is more probable that the college authorities in conjunction with military and following out some plan which will be suggested in the near future, will outline some system of compulsory participation for every student in the University, thereby insuring to Uncle Sam a better type of physical manhood for the future military needs than is available in the present emergency.

"In the present plans for military camp schedule, as partly outlined by the war college, is included certain hours for competitive sports. The history of the development of competitive sports within close proximity to the actual front trench lines in Europe since the present war began, proves conclusively that the military authorities have recognized the value and importance of competitive sports as a physical and moral developer of sufficient importance to warrant the devotion of considerable time to them within the actual firing zone at the front.

Sixty-Eight Athletes Enlist

"Statistics at the office of Captain Parker, at the University of Nebraska, will show that a far greater percentage of the athletes are considered as desirable candidates for commissions in the reserve officers corps than from any other organization of like numbers in the University.

"It is also a matter of no little pride to the department authorities that no less than sixty-eight athletes have applied for a commission or have actually enlisted in some branch of the service. There is also quite a bit of confidence in the athletic authorities that those accepted will make better soldiers because of their athletic experiences, since discipline, courage, sacrifice, of many little comforts, and determination to win are as necessary in a football season as in a battle between armies.

"It is true there is a great deal of uncertainty in the minds of many as to the best action to pursue concerning the athletic question. It is quite possible that a football game next fall between Nebraska and Kansas will net two-thirds of the attendance to be expected under normal conditions. It is possible that all of the members of the varsity teams of both institutions will be only those who are too young to be of service as soldiers, and it is also possible that the standard of competition will not be as high as in the past, but of course all institutions will be as equally hard hit and competition will be very keen.

"England has already publicly called attention to the mistake made in the early period of the war in sending her college students and professors to the battle front where most of them were killed in the first six months and is now reopening her colleges and universities and urging her young men to continue their studies where the age limit bars them from enlistment. It is quite probable that the United States will guard against such a mistake as England made in the early period of the war.

Abandonment an Error

"A few colleges and universities jumped to the conclusion with the very first declaration of war that it would be a patriotic action to immediately eliminate intercollegiate competition and these schools gained a doubtful classification immediately as being most patriotic. Since this first

wave of sentiment, these same schools have repented fully for their hasty action and even now an effort is being made to re-establish competitive sports at Harvard, Michigan and other schools for the remainder of the spring semester. This effort, however, will prove unsuccessful since all athletes immediately stopped their training with the cancelling of schedules and it will be several years before the disorganizing effect of this hasty action will disappear from these schools.

"Economically the abandonment of athletics at Nebraska and other schools would be disastrous. "Consider, for instance, that Nebraska already has \$2,000 equipment in her stock room for football and other sports next fall, ordered with a view to outfitting the candidates who were available last fall. Over head expense, like salaries of coaching staff, will continue as before and without the revenue of football, basketball, and wrestling, baseball and track, the surplus of \$8,000, of which the athletic department boasts, would be eaten up in a single year.

The Situation Summarized

"Summarizing the situation as it applies itself to Nebraska University, it can be said that the situation does not demand the abandonment of intercollegiate sport but when such a condition arises, Nebraska's authorities will be the first to act.

"The war college authorities have openly advised the retention of intercollegiate contests. "The economic situation demands a continuance, even if on a smaller scale, of intercollegiate contests.

"Statistics from every recruiting office in a college community prove that the college athlete is the first to enlist, the most desirable from a military point of view and that the elimination of the machine which turns out these types would be a real disaster instead of a hindrance to the military.

"Abandonment of intercollegiate competition because of the uncertainty of the future, because of the loss of most of the best athletes in school, or because of the gloomy outlook in collegiate athletics, would only reflect upon the ability of those handling athletics to 'make good' in the emergency caused by these discouragements and would be the 'easy road' always to be avoided.

"And finally it would take five years after the re-introduction of intercollegiate athletics before the same standard of competition would result.

"Again it is the opinion of the writer that intercollegiate athletics of the future will be so co-related to military preparedness that the government will soon take precaution that no future action is taken by colleges and universities eliminating that branch which has proven itself so valuable in fitting the college young men for the war which is now before us.

"In our ignorance as to the possible duration of the war would it not be unfortunate if any institution eliminated athletics only to find that when school begins next fall, the action had only disorganized the department and that the war was already over.

Training for the Soldier
"If on the other hand the war is to last five years as many think, would it not be best for the universities to be furnishing to the soldier of the next few years that training in character, moral courage and discipline which the present emergency has found to be most prevalent in college athletes.

"Of course, since the adoption of the selective draft bill, there can be no suggestion offered fairly, that any number of the university athletic teams will be other than those too young for military service or otherwise exempt from draft, and the statistics of the recruiting office show conclusively that there is neither a thought in the mind of the athlete to evade military service for the pleasure or the honor of the athletic field.

"In view of the misunderstanding which seems to exist in the minds of many let me call attention to the fact that the Missouri Valley conference has officially decided to continue intercollegiate competition and that the annual championship meet will be held in Ames, Ia., May 25 and 26.

"The annual intercollegiate athletic association meet, the largest in the country, and the one which is made up of the large colleges and universities of the east, will be held in Chicago June 9 on the University of Chicago's field.

"The annual big nine conference meet will be held at Madison, Wis., June 1 and 2.

"The Rocky Mountain conference, the Pacific Coast conference, the Pacific northwest conference, the southern conference, the Ohio conference, and in fact all of the annual meets staged throughout the United States will take place this year the same as usual.

"It is true that individual members of these conferences may have concluded to eliminate spring sports and in two cases fall sports, but the sober judgment of the best thinkers in these conferences has decided that the best interests of the United States and their respective institutions can best be served by retention of intercollegiate competition."

E. J. STEWART.

Ruth Jorgenson, '18, spent Saturday and Sunday at her home in Omaha.

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