

The Daily Nebraskan

Station A, Lincoln, Nebraska
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
of the
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
Under Direction of the Student Publication Board



Published Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday mornings during the academic year.
Editorial Office—University Hall 10.
Office Hours—Afternoons with the exception of Friday and Sunday.
Telephone—Day, B-6891, No. 142 (1 ring.) Night, B-6882.

Business Office—University Hall 10 B.
Office Hours—Afternoons with the exception of Friday and Sunday.
Telephone—Day, B-6891, No. 142 (2 rings.) Night, B-6882.

Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice in Lincoln, Nebraska, under act of Congress, March 3, 1879, and at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, act of October 3, 1917, authorized January 20, 1922.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE
\$2 a year \$1.25 a semester
Single Copy, 5 cents

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CHANCELLOR AVERY

The banquet given Chancellor Avery by the faculty Saturday evening was an appropriate recognition of his thirty years of service to the University. The fact that for eighteen years of this time, he has held the position of Chancellor, is worthy of comment. The administrative head of a state university faces problems much more perplexing in character than those encountered in a private institution. That Chancellor Avery has been able to successfully administer the affairs of the University for so long a time and still retain the confidence of his faculty, is ample proof of his administrative ability.

OUR ELEMENTARY COURSE IN THE MOB MIND

The discussion of class honorary societies brings to mind the green cap custom with which a least one of them is directly concerned. Since it is the time of year when the green cap is missing from the campus and when the zealous sophomores are not on the alert for non-conformists, it is possible to approach the subject of this custom with less prejudice and heat than it might be possible to do in the autumn.

The plan of requiring every freshman man to wear a green cap was started in 1907, is now sponsored by the Innocents, enforced by the Iron Sphinx, and glorified every fall in the "Freshman Initiation" held for the new students. It has come to be not only accepted by the students but regarded as valuable as well. We are told that it makes for that vague and illusive thing called "class spirit."

But those who tell us these things do not fully appreciate all of the connotations of the green cap idea. It has, an analysis will show, a rather significant bearing on the purpose of the University especially if that purpose is taken to be the teaching of students to think.

In the very language with which its defenders justify the green cap custom we find a clue to this significance. They tell us that the green cap has for its purpose the creation of a class spirit, a class consciousness. Its immediate end is to make all of the freshmen look alike; its ultimate purpose is to make them act alike and think alike. The freshmen come to the University with different backgrounds and with different ideas. The green cap is intended to reduce them to a common denominator, to make them all alike, not only in the matter of headgear, but in their thought as well. To the degree to which it succeeds in this purpose it is an effective means of stimulating and accentuating group consciousness.

There can be but one result from such stimulation and accentuation. The individual tends to lose his identity in the group. Not only does he dress as his fellows do, he acts as they do, and, in the end, he thinks as they do.

There may be persons who would be benefitted by this group discipline but any one who knows the American undergraduate knows that he is not one of them. In him the group spirit is developed so far that accentuation of it is not only unnecessary but actually deplorable. The American student is no rank individualist in the matter of thought. He believes what the cheer-leader tells him about school spirit and he is prepared to take a professor's word for anything. That he might examine the ideas presented to him for possible fallacies is a thought which rarely occurs to him. He is perfectly at home at the football rally where a cheerleader, working magic with mob psychology, succeeds in producing a sort of organized hysteria.

It is this spirit which the green cap cultivates. It is ironical that in a university, which is supposed to teach its students to think as individuals, the best thing we teach them is to think as a group. If the green cap custom could be merely a bit of undergraduate home-play and not

ing else, it would be amusing and harmless. But its possible effect on the mental development of the freshman is not fully appreciated. How detrimental this effect may be is forcibly brought home when we see the green cap custom for what it is—an elementary course in the mob mind.

THE IRON SPHINX AGAIN

It is, perhaps, not well to flatter the Iron Sphinx by too much comment on their deficiencies. Since their initiation comes this evening the temptation, however, for one parting shot is irresistible. It will probably always be a source of amazement to intelligent persons that so useless and empty an organization is able to find, each year, candidates for membership who are willing to go through the degrading brutalities of its initiation. The fact that the sophomores who are members of the society are willing to stage the initiation is a rather revealing sidelight on the mental condition of young men who have spent a year and a half in a state university.

STADIUM PLEDGES

The poor showing which University students have made in keeping up payments on their stadium pledges might be taken as a reflection on their integrity. However much these students may now resent the methods which were used in securing their subscriptions, and even though the pledges may not be strictly legal obligations, there remains a moral obligation which no honest student can disregard.

The man or woman who has not the courage to live up to his word, although he may have given it when the glamour of the football season and the cries of "School Spirit" were at their highest, is hardly worthy of a place in an educational institution where moral and intellectual honesty should be above reproach.

The College Press

SIDESHOWS.

Every circus has its sideshows. Who would miss seeing the bearded lady, the living skeleton and the fat lady, the strong man and the pigmy when they attend the circus? We sometimes come away more disgusted than amused, but still we go.

There is something about the concessions that everyone likes. Just so we enjoy the sideshows of our University life; unfortunately we are apt to spend so much time in them that we miss the real show. That is not at all impossible. The entering freshman is introduced to rows and rows of gay tents. Some are painted blue and gold with attractive football and baseball designs drawn in bold relief, others are decorated with bright pictures of magazines and newspapers. Tents and more tents, some big and gay, others small and insignificant, stretch along the newcomer's path while some big burly senior calls out, "Right this way, ladies and gents—you get your money's worth."

Of course it is all very interesting and the freshman stops to enjoy the fun. What else would one expect? There is one danger to spoil his fun. If he stops too long, he might forget the show that goes on in the one great scholastic tent, and the difficulty is that not until he is a senior and the show is over will he realize that he has missed the best part of the circus. The sideshows are all necessary, for who wants to go to a circus where there are none, but neither should we miss the one show we came to see. The only way to strike a happy medium is to pick carefully the sideshows of our University life we most desire so that we will have enough time left to enjoy the real thing.—The Daily Californian.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE STANDARDS.

State universities and Western colleges which admit students without entrance examinations, and then eliminate the undesirable on the basis of their college work, follow a system the reverse of which is used in most Eastern schools, where the unfit are determined in advance by admission tests. The relative merits of each system have been argued for some time.

In this connection, it is interesting to observe that Harvard is adopting a modification of the Eastern system that approaches the Western plan. For the past two years students whose grades have been in the highest seventh of their class during their junior and senior high school years have been admitted without examination. This plan, on trial for men at Harvard, is in force for girls at Radcliffe. It throws the emphasis upon the student's high school record, where modern educators believe it should be, rather than upon the too frequently artificial result of entrance examinations.

The vexed question of accrediting high schools is largely avoided under this experiment since graduates of the required standing are admitted from any high school. If, however, such students fail, the schools which they represent are "black-listed" for a year, during which time no student therefrom may enter by this system. The student thus bears the honor of his school on his shoulders.

Results the first year show that a larger percentage of students entering under this special arrangement have done exceptionally good work and a smaller percentage exception-

ally bad work than of freshmen entering by the usual examination method. Of all the hundred freshmen who entered without examination last year, only two failed at the end of the second term. It is stated that the plan, undertaken as an experiment, has been so successful that it probably will be adopted permanently.—Indiana Daily Student.

FOOD FOR ANATICS.

Again the jingoes have been rebuked. Preliminary reports of the survey of race relations on the Pacific coast, made jointly by twelve universities, constitute a severe rebuke to those who have been inflaming hatred against Oriental immigrants.

Although the findings of this study, made at a cost of \$50,000, do not recommend further admittance of Orientals, no peril is seen from those already here. Chinese and Japanese residents in this country cannot multiply rapidly, for there is only one Chinese woman to six men, and only three Japanese women to six men.

In Washington the survey staff found that for thirty years the Japanese had constituted only one per cent of the population. "We were told that the Japanese were unassimilable," said the chairman. "We found them the most assimilable of our aliens of any color. We found them fighting against handicaps to raise their standards of living to the American level."

The smuggling of Japanese and Chinese immigrants into the United States from Mexico is more than offset by the return of others to their homeland. The Japanese thrive on land that white men have abandoned. They do work the whites are unwilling to attempt. They are an economic asset to the country. Let them stay.—The Daily Northwestern.

Notices

All notices for this column must be written out and handed in at the editorial office, U Hall 10, by 4:00 the afternoon previous to their publication

Topography 193
Mr. Walker will not meet his classes or his laboratory sessions this week.

The classes will complete reading "The Art and Practice of Typography," on reserve at the University Library, and will continue reading the textbook, "Printing for School and Shop."

Lutheran Club
Lutheran Club business meeting, Wednesday evening in Social Science

Union
Business meeting of the Union literary society, Tuesday, at 7 o'clock.

Freshman Commission
There will be a meeting of the Freshman Commission in the Temple cafeteria Tuesday at 6 o'clock.

Tassels
Meeting of the Tassels Tuesday at 7:15 in Ellen Smith Hall.

Episcopal Students.
The Rt. Rev. George A. Beecher, Bishop of the Episcopal Church, of

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Western Nebraska will conduct the 11 o'clock service of the University Episcopal Church next Sunday.

Silver Serpents
Silver Serpents will hold a very important meeting at noon today at Ellen Smith Hall. Every member is requested to be present.

Iron Sphinx
Initiation of new members at cave Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock.

Farmers Fair Rally
Committee chairman will report the work of their committees and good speakers will be secured. The rally will be held Tuesday at Ag Hall at 7:15.

Phi Lambda Upsilon
Regular meeting of Phi Lambda Upsilon will be held Thursday, April 23, in Chemistry Hall 102 at 7:00.

Sophomores
It is not too late to file for Sophomore baseball manager if you call at the Athletic office at once.

Norida Vanitie
for Loose Powder

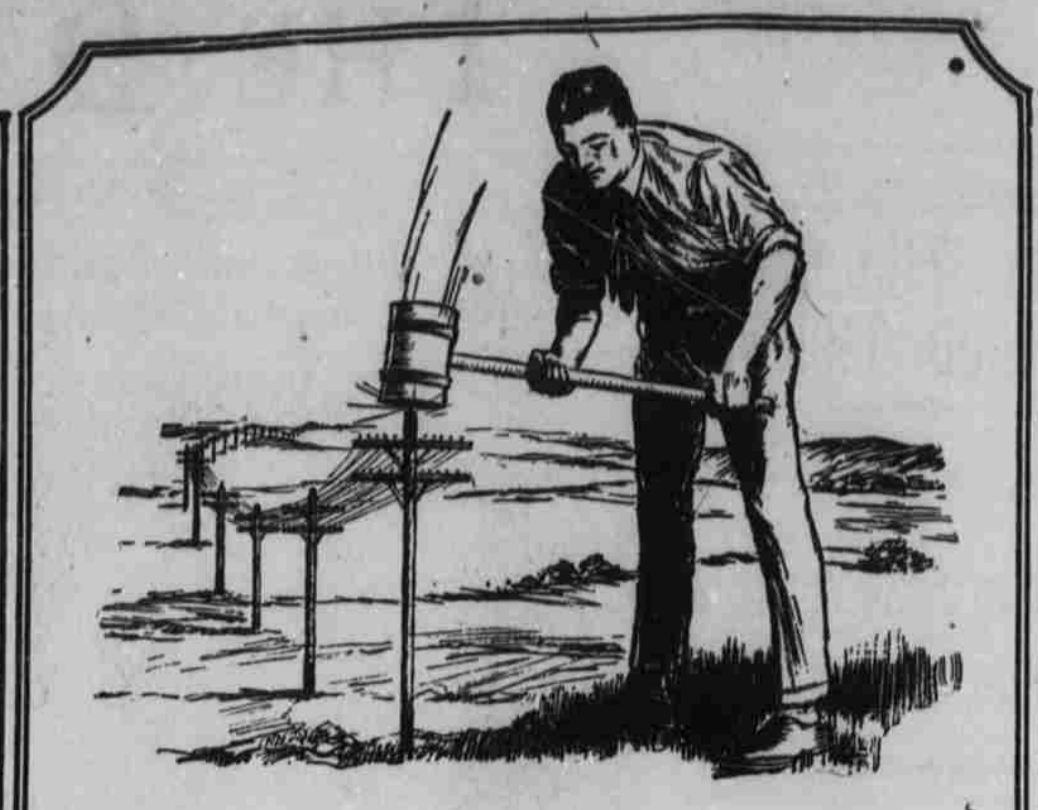
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