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JUST BE SENSIBLE

"Why don't you say something about compulsory military training?" a reader asks.

The subject has not been discussed in this column for a simple and obvious reason. The fact that so many others have been thinking and talking about it, has made additional comment unnecessary. Others more gifted have voiced the good and bad arguments of both sides. Others more conservative and others more wild-eyed have added their bits. Others better informed and others with practically no information have eagerly rushed into the fray. There has been no need for stimulation—inertness has arisen spontaneously.

The editors of The Daily Nebraskan do not hold a brief for either side. To be sure, as individuals we have our opinions; but it is not necessary for this newspaper to either lead a crusade against compulsory drill or hold the fort for the military department. The members of the state executive committee circulating petitions have confidence, if one may judge by their statements, in their own ability to carry on the campaign which they have launched. And the representatives of the military department are men of sufficient ability, tact, fairness, and intelligence to make the best possible defense of their cause.

It is the persons who are blind to the facts or who refuse to recognize the truth, who are likely to cause trouble, conceal the fundamental issues by a hot-air barrage, cause hard feelings by needless and useless calling of names, and prevent the public from weighing the evidence and reaching a conclusion in a logical manner. Some of these people do not see the facts clearly because they are too far away from them. Others fail to recognize the truth, because they are so close to a set of facts favorable to one side, that their range of vision does not include other sets of facts which are of equal importance. There are both good and bad, strong and weak reasons for both optional and compulsory military training.

The Daily Nebraskan has sufficient confidence in the judgment of the citizens of Nebraska, the students of this University, and the sincere advocates of both sides, to believe that a sound and correct solution of the problem will be effected without our assistance. The only thing needed is common sense.

Free advice is so prevalent that it may not be worth much, but with all the generosity and kindness possible, we tender this: Be neither disinterested nor overly enthusiastic. Be neither too credulous or too skeptical. Just be sensible.

If everyone does that we positively and absolutely guarantee that, regardless of the success or failure of the attempt to make drill optional, the University, the nation, and the students concerned "will live happily ever after."

THE BIG MAN MANIA

An interview with Dr. Frances W. Shepardson, national president of Beta Theta Pi and vice president of Phi Beta Kappa, which was published in The Nebraskan a few days ago, contained so much sound sense that we wish to print a paragraph from it once more:

"Students of the present day are too much interested in activities, Dr. Shepardson asserted. In the pursuit of 'honors' they forget the fundamental purpose of the college—to train the mind. There are so many 'honorary' now that one is as many. Students join everything it seems."

In short, Dr. Shepardson is complaining of the "Big Man" mania which infests not only this campus but that of nearly every other large University. Under present conditions there is every incentive to participate in more activities than time and strength permit. Listen to what Laird Shadis Goldsborough, a Yale student, said of the evils accompanying such conditions in a Forum magazine article.

"They are bad because the one valid reason that can be given for the existence of a college—not a technical school—is that, now all re-

departs from the noisy world, it serves as a retreat where culture may still be wooed. A retreat ceases to be a retreat in proportion as it becomes the theatre for 'competitions,' 'contests,' and other manifestations of the Big Man spirit. Culture flies out at the window as the Big Men with their clanking and tremendous 'accomplishments' stride in at the door. In proportion as culture becomes evanescent and departs does a college lose its excuse and become a hollow mockery."

ENCOURAGING RESEARCH

A recent announcement by the National Academy of Sciences that its effort to start a fund to encourage scientific research throughout the country had been endorsed by thirty University presidents should bring cheer to all scholars. The necessity of constant and continuous research work in all fields of knowledge is so generally recognized that it is needless to cite arguments for it here. That a University is the proper center for such painstaking, careful, and unbiased study of all phenomena is another truth that may be asserted with no fear of intelligent contradiction.

The presidents of these universities, in endorsing the Academy's movement report that they "find that many factors are tending to stifle the growth of fundamental scientific investigation." Lack of opportunity for research rather than a shortage of skilled investigators was held to be the chief obstacle to development.

Pres. James R. Angell of Yale is quoted in an Associated Press report as saying that "university scientists frequently labor under heavy handicaps due to inability to secure needed apparatus and skilled assistants. The burden of teaching often saps energy and breaks up the necessary continuity of efforts."

The problem raised merits the attention of every leader in the educational world, and the proposal of the National Academy of Sciences is one that will undoubtedly receive encouragement from all true friends of progress.

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CONTACT (Wisconsin Cardinal)

President Glenn Frank has appointed a committee which, among other things, will attempt to discover a method whereby a professor and student may come into more personal contact. Here is an ancient idea that has been stalking, like a forlorn ghost, around the outskirts of the universities so long that it has become a legend. Great educators have whispered down, from generation to generation, that personal contact between instructor and student is inspiring to the student, but, strangely enough, the only ones it has ever inspired were the instructors themselves. As a theory, it has proved an inspiring subject for articles and essays, and has imparted to the professor's pens a most magnificent volatility.

As a practice, it is a sickly counterfeit. A professor is a business institution in university life. He receives a stipulated salary, and he punches in and out at specified hours, and he usually manages to prevent any overtime, for which, alas, he would receive no extra remuneration. In order to be an inspiration, he is required to hold a conference or two a semester with each student, and he complies in his usual efficient and business-like manner. He allows a student fifteen minutes of inspiration at one of these highly enlightening conferences, and also posts his office hours, about two or three hours a week, at which times he will allow himself to get personal contact with neophytes who have not yet drunk their fill. Beyond these most exacting and rigid requirements, the professor need not stop. The inspirations still remaining, if any, may be bestowed at the luncheons, receptions, clubs, or at some other common function where

more pleasure is derived from the charity.

How many instructors in the university ever manifested any more interest in a student than is required? Very few of them have invited students to their homes or their rooms just to become better acquainted. How many even join students in the pleasure or work outside the classroom. We will admit that some students may not interest you enough professor, to desire further acquaintance with them than that of the classroom; we concede, also, that you may not interest some students beyond the class meetings, and perhaps not even there; but we feel certain that many students do arouse your interest, and that many would enjoy your company outside of your office hours. It is up to you, educators, and to the committee appointed by the president, to make "personal contact" more than a business transaction.

The Students' Debating Club entered on a new era of administration, elected new officers, and appointed new committees. The executive committee was put in charge of arranging joint debates with the other schools.

There was an organization of a new all-class society made up of twenty members chosen from the different classes. The freshman were to have three representatives sophomores four; juniors five; and the seniors eight. The name chosen

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The University of Nebraska Official Daily Bulletin

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Corn Cobs

The following men have failed to check in at the Athletic office for the Tournament Program Sales: Hepperley, Jensen, Nortling, Bailey, Ireland, Moore, Hedges, Jorgenson, and West. Please report by Thursday at 5 o'clock.

N. E. S.

A film on the mining and manufacturing of brass and copper will be shown at the meeting at 10 o'clock Friday morning in Room 110 in Nebraska Hall. All engineers are invited.

Union Literary Society

A meeting of the Union Literary Society Friday, March 19, at 8:30 o'clock. The seniors of the society will give the program. It is an open meeting and everyone is invited to attend.

Pershing Rifles

Pershing Rifles meeting in Nebraska Hall this afternoon at 5 o'clock.

for this organization was Nu Beta Sigma.

The fourth lecture of the modern dramatist series was given by Prof. Fossler at convocation. His subject was Henrik Ibsen, and after he gave a story of his life, Prof. Fossler entered upon a careful criticism of the Norwegian's life.

Campus Chatter



LESSON 1. "The Importance of Knowing Actual Facts"

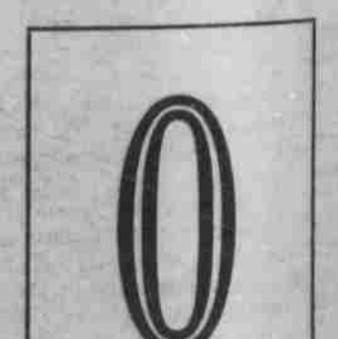
consider the case of Bill Parmalee—one of the social satellites of the Freshman class! You all know Bill, even the Parmalee ISN'T the name he plans to bestow on the home-town gal some day. (He's a terribly new member of a prominent South East Lincoln fraternity, whose yard looks like a home for aged and indigent Fords).

—Bill, it seems, made great plans for the lodge's spring party, even unto inviting the adored one up from Clay Center to frivole with him.

—he bought a NEW SUIT for the hopfest too, choosing the brand that a leading Lincoln newspaper had heralded the Sunday before as being the unanimous choice of mature clothiers during a convention. But sad consequences of snap judgment! He THOUGHT he looked like this when the music for the first Charleston sounded:



—to his girl from home he looked like this:



Results:
—another fellow cut him out with his girl—a Society Brand chap. However, Bill plans to recover lost ground spring vacation, for he's going to step off the train in a Society Brand suit himself (which by the way, was REALLY chosen as the ace-high suit).

—luckily for his depleted purse, he can buy it at MAYER BROS. CO. on their TEN-PAY-PLAN, together with the hat, hose, tie, shirt, and other accessories that will make Bill a heart-melting example of sartorial splendor!

LESSON 2 will appear Sunday. Read it and weep!