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MISUNDERSTOOD

Universities are perhaps the most misunder-
stood objects in the world. Students attend them.
Try to find any two who have identical conceptions
of the duties and purposes of the institution. Pro-
fessors teach. Try to find any two of them who
agree completely on their part in the university.

The Daily Nebraskan believes that, primarily,
the mission of the University, is to educate the
youth of the state. It believes that opportunity to
think, to dream, to study, granted to youth, will
well reward the state which supports such opportu-
nity. Training for work! Training for citizen-
ship! Those must be the ideals for a state-sup-
ported institution. Unfortunate, however, is such a
medium which either in its support, its administra-
tion, its faculty, or its student body, overlooks the
values of general cultural training, the importance
to a community of improving standards of apprecia-
tion.

Hampered by insufficient funds, the University
of Nebraska has been making a gallant effort to
offer such training to the students who flock to
Lincoln from every section of the state. While
straining to fulfill its serious mission, the University
has been carrying on numerous out-state pro-
jects of interest and significance. With this issue
of The Nebraskan, a series of articles dealing with
some of these extraneous university functions be-
gins.

The series will by no means cover all the ser-
vices the University is rendering the state. It
should give an insight into some of the direct bene-
fits the state receives from work connected with
the institution. The Daily Nebraskan is glad to
call attention to the work of these agencies. Yet
it does so with somewhat of trepidation. It fears
lest the indiscriminating reader forget the real
purpose of those who count only direct aid as worth
expenditure of money. The articles are published
despite this fear, in the belief that students, un-
acquainted with the work of these departments will
be interested in such efforts, while retaining recog-
nition of the real educational purpose of the Uni-
versity, development of a better youth for a better
Nebraska.

SHARPEN UP!

"Registration week? Well, I wonder how many
soft courses there are which I have not registered
for."

So drifts the conversation in many student
groups this week, and so run the thoughts through
the minds of many others who fail to expound their
views in the midst of other students. The signifi-
cance of opinions along this line of individual stu-
dents differs. To some, registration simply means
a task of getting courses that are reputed to be less
burdensome written into the schedule. From this
extreme there are variations on down the line of
students, until finally that small handful of students
is reached—those that never heed the reputed tasks
that courses entail.

But there can be made a distinction within that
great group of students who choose courses with care
—care that looks to the instructor, the work, and the
forecast of study during the semester. There are
those who literally thumb the pages of the catalog
in search of easy courses. Perhaps they will make
a mistake and get into a class which calls for some-
thing larger than a vest pocket notebook or an 'N'
book. But that is seldom.

Then there is the second group of students
whose members cast about for "just an easy course
or two." There can be no condemnation showered
upon them, for the primary purpose in their choice
of courses has been to lighten the tasks of study and
concentration. Careful evaluation of courses, specu-
lation as to how much time must be devoted to this
and that, balancing the schedule with some things
which will be toilsome and a few others
which seldom worry—this is the best solution to the
problem of fitting schedules to so many students who
have utterly different capacities for studying.

The desirable university student is one who out-
lines a schedule of courses with an eye on his own
capacity. The knife is to be whetted for those who
thumb the catalogues and glean information from
after-dinner conversation.

NEBRASKA'S OWN

The world is filled with its unsung heroes. Re-
porters, novelists and lecturers are breaking forth
constantly with much eloquence and expression to
impress upon the public the lack of support given
to these figures or causes. One would gather from
a recent article in the Omaha Bee-News that Ne-
braska has an inmate here in the Prairie
Schooner, which is very much untrue. The article
"Break, but It's a Good Paper" pointed out success
attained by this magazine in spite of financial dif-
ficulties.

The subscriptions to this magazine prove that
it has gained recognition and success as a literary
venture. Nationally famous libraries and foreign
countries have requested copies. While established

magazines and libraries are eager to be on the sub-
scription list of the Prairie Schooner, it is a bare
and painful fact that a great many students do not
know what the magazine is. It would interest many,
no doubt, to know that some of the faculty mem-
bers are also brilliant writers. Dr. L. C. Wimberly,
Dean LeRossignol, and Dean L. A. Sherman are
only a few of the contributors, who have helped
raise the prestige of the magazine with their ad-
mirable work.

Members of the Prairie Schooner's staff point
with pride to its record. They have worked hard
to make the magazine what it is, and complete suc-
cess is not far distant. It seems that every Ne-
braskan should have some conception of this maga-
zine and be familiar with its enlightening and in-
teresting contents.

THE RAGGER: One of the difficulties of reg-
istering for the second semester comes in harmoniz-
ing no eight or nine o'clocks and no classes after 2
o'clock in the afternoon.

A caution which is seldom heeded—register
early.

Hoover has completed his good will tour. Stu-
dents are just beginning theirs before final exam-
inations.

Another advantage of posting grades early
would be that a lot of conscience would be eased.

Weather: weather or not one stays in school
for the second semester depends upon the hours
flunked.

The report of a pistol is scarcely less fatal than
the report of the dean in some cases.

"Try to pass one going up hill" may be a good
automobile slogan. But students have found diffi-
culty of passing while on the down-grade.

"Students," and in this column it seems to be
proper to quote the name, are accused of being un-
observant. Few know how many columns there are
in front of Social Sciences. But how can one count
with so many people leaning on them?

OTHER STUDENTS SAY—

A BLANKET TAX

A recent issue of The Daily Nebraskan carried
a story announcing that the Student Council had
elected delegates to the annual convention of the
National Student Federation of America that was
scheduled to be held at the University of Missouri
in Columbia. Students read the story and casually
dismissed it from their minds, but there is one side
of the affair with which the student body as a whole
is not acquainted.

As the time came around when the two dele-
gates were supposed to depart for the congress there
were no expense funds to be had. Council officials
interviewed every University official that could pos-
sibly do anything to enlist expense funds for the
delegates but to no avail. There were no funds to
be had—no account that could be used for such a
matter as this. Nevertheless the delegates went
ahead anyway on their own expense.

At the convention the delegates almost received
an answer "to their prayers." Student activity fi-
nance was discussed and much to the two Nebras-
kans' surprise, they found that nearly every school
represented had a student blanket tax that was lev-
ied at registration and the money so raised was
used to defray student activity expenses such as
ballots for elections, uniforming the band, financing
the band on trips, equipping the cheerleaders, send-
ing the cheerleaders with the football team on out-
of-town excursions, sending representatives to stu-
dent conventions, and many other things that come
under the head of student activities.

Such a tax at Nebraska would accomplish a
two-fold purpose. First, it would provide funds for
all these organizations that are not self-supporting.
Second, it would do away with a series of drives
that are almost invariably levied at the beginning
of each school year. The tax (which would not
necessarily be more than fifty cents per student per
registration) would be collected at the time of reg-
istration and would not be felt to any great extent
by the student body. Under the present system of
launching drives every time funds are needed for
this or that, only a small percentage of the student
body supports them, consequently throwing the bur-
den on a minority of the students.

A system such as this has been tried at other
schools and has been proven successful. Why, then,
cannot the University of Nebraska install such a
system and do away with much confusion and labor
in raising funds for all-university functions?

An Observer

OTHER EDITORS SAY—

THE PRICE OF TEXT BOOKS

As education becomes more democratic and the
number of students is increased to include the poorer
classes, it is obvious that the price of education in all
its aspects must be lowered. State universities have
partially accomplished this end by reducing or remov-
ing tuition fees. But at the beginning of each school
term there is an item of expense which is a substan-
tial drain on student pocket books—namely, text-
books.

Various commercial organizations in Europe, and
recently in some parts of America, have recognized
the fact that the educated class is a national asset,
and accordingly have made financial expenses of stu-
dents lower than those of the ordinary layman. Some
transportation companies have reduced rates for stu-
dent commuters, and on our own campus there are
university-sponsored lunch rooms which give lunches
at cost for poorer students.

However, in the line of text-books the student-
publisher relations are entirely commercial, and
books which can be produced for a trifle over a dollar
are sold for as much as five. Students would not
complain if the profit from texts went to enlarge
the fiat purses of the professors who write them;
but we understand that authors receive but a small
per cent of the total spent for the book. The profit
then must go to the publishers and the book stores.

There is a highly commendable movement on
this campus to run a non-profit book store for stu-
dents. But even if such a plan were realized the
problem would be only partially solved. It is very
doubtful if present publishers could be made to see
the matter in this light, since they do not consider
themselves charitable institutions. The solution may
lie in the University Presses which are gradually
assuming respectable proportions. If they can realize
the value of the non profit service, perhaps one of
the most considerable items of a student's budget
can be reduced.

—Minnesota Daily

A STUDENT LOOKS
AT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

By David Fellman

To the long list of individual
liberties for which man has
and still is, struggling, may now be
added the right to smoke. The
first Congress of the National
League for the Defense of Smok-
ers has just finished its momen-
tous sessions in Paris. The main
theme and conclusion of this con-
vention was that when and where
a person smokes is nobody's busi-
ness, and that it doesn't make any
difference whether the smoker is
a member of the so-called weaker
sex or not. One of the speakers
said that it was "with much satis-
faction and pride that veterans in
this movement note the progress
that women have made in this di-
rection during the past few years
of enlightenment and feminine
equality." Besides passing resolu-
tions demanding the right to smoke
in restaurants, railroads, and the-
aters, the congress did two concrete
things: It elected a Queen of To-
bacco, described as a "charming,
eighteen year old brunette." And
it went on record as favoring the
production and marketing by the
government of a good five-cent
cigar.

Congress is tackling the problem
of the reapportionment of seats in
the house of representatives once
more. The house passed a bill,
last Friday, providing for a reap-
portionment of the 435 members
of that body on the basis of the
1920 census. The bill is designed
to prevent any further nullification
of that provision of the constitu-
tion which provides for a reappor-
tionment of the house after each
decennial census. The seats in the
house have not been redistributed
since 1910, due principally to the
opposition of the rural dry constitu-
encies, which will lose about
fifty seats to the urban districts,
due to shifts in the centers of
population during the past twenty
years.

The bill provides that, in the
event that congress fails to pass a
reapportionment bill, following
each future census, the secretary
of commerce will automatically be
empowered to arrange and put
into effect the reapportionment.
For example, if congress passes no
reapportionment bill after the 1920
census, the secretary of commerce
will effect a reapportionment with-
out any specific congressional ac-
tion. The measure is now before
the senate, where its success is
predicted, although the dries were
successful in bringing about a de-
feat of the last reapportionment
measure passed by the house in
1921.

Czechoslovakia has broken into
the "Help Wanted" column. Old
Johann Wohlschlagler, who has
been the official hangman in
Prague for thirty years, and who
has freed over five hundred souls
from their sin-laden bodies, retired
on January 1. Not being able to
find a local man for the job, the
Czech government advertised, and
234 men and one woman sent in
their applications. This is either
a reflection of the unemployment
situation in central Europe, or a
well-commentary upon the growing
hardness of the human heart. The
fact probably is that the job calls
for very little work. There is
nothing in the world so attractive
to men as a soft job where the
government pays the salaries.

A spectacular fight is being
waged within the Standard Oil
company of Indiana, for the con-
trol of the company, which is re-
vealing a new feature in modern
industrial organization. Colonel
Robert W. Stewart, the present
president of the immense oil con-
cern, wants to continue in that
office, but John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
doesn't see things that way. Mr.
Rockefeller's ire has been raised
by Stewart's connections with the
oil scandals of the Harding admin-
istration, and, although he was
cleared of charges of contempt
and perjury, Rockefeller thinks
that Stewart is unfit to head the
company. The annual meeting of
the company will be held on
March 7, and it is to control a
majority of the stock that Mr.
Rockefeller has instituted his pres-
ent campaign. He has written let-
ters to the 71,000 stockholders of
the company, urging them to send
in their proxies to him. The coun-
try is thus being treated with the
spectacle of a large, national refer-
endum, to decide upon the head of

a large business concern, just as
leadership in government jurisdic-
tions is decided. This struggle for
the control of the Indiana Oil com-
pany illustrates the wide diffusion
of ownership in the modern cor-
poration.

A strong protest against the
spread of American power and
ideas has been voiced by Tak-
ahashi Murobuse, one of the most
popular publicists in Japan. Writ-
ing in Tokio, Murobuse laments
"the decline of the general civiliza-
tion of the nineteenth century, the
passing of aristocratic society, the
coming of mass living." He
blames the degeneration of the
world to the leadership of the
United States, the "arch type" of
the new age of crushing material-
ism. "We all admit," he declared,
"that the American dollar is the
most powerful factor in the mod-
ern world, but there are many who
do not realize that America, mas-
ter of gold and power, is also
making the world's ideas... What
are these sports, this modern jour-
nalism, motor cars, jazz, radio,
popular literature, all these ideas
about rights of women, the spread
of irreligion, the decline of phil-
osophy, the mania for gold? All
these we have taken from Amer-
ica. American ideas control the
world in all phases of civilization.
Europe still holds American cul-
ture in contempt, and most Jap-
anese ape Europe in this respect,
without realizing that we are all
America's slaves materially and
intellectually."

There may be some truth in
what this Japanese writer has to
say about the lack of culture in
the United States. But, on the
whole, it seems to us that his
panic-stricken plea assumes, quite
incorrectly, that this is a new age,
in which we are living at the
present time. We prefer to think
of it as a transitional period, a
period in which the results of the
industrial revolution are being
tested and molded, and then re-
cast into new social situations.
The trouble arises from the over-
whelming rapidity with which new
ideas have germinated and devel-
oped. It happens that the United
States, for various reasons, has
taken the lead, a leadership which
we should justly view with pride
and a sense of responsibility.
Japan must not become one of
those old-timers who are always
lamenting the passing of the
"good old days." The world is
progressing, and our distinguished
Japanese publicist must wake up
to the fact.

COLLECTION OF NOTES
RECALLS WILDCAT PERIOD

Continued from Page 1.
"financial suicide," in a committee
report for the minority.

There was no restraint on the
issue of notes by these banks.
They might be organized and do
business without a cent of paid-
up capital. Soon after their estab-
lishment, the banks passed into
the hands of people who were not
residents of Nebraska but who
lived in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin,
and Indiana. Only one, the Platte
Valley bank, of Omaha, was owned
by Nebraska men.

At this time there was little
credit or valuable property in Ne-
braska. Some of the banks tried
to supply the lacking credit but
most of them sought to fool the

public and in some cases fooled
themselves into thinking that the
creation of money was possible
without sound credit or actual
property behind it.

The wildcat conspiracy of the
second session continued in the
third. The preceding legislature
had chartered a bank for every
town of importance, they now un-
dertook to supply the villages with
banks also. Sixteen bills were in-
troduced with this in view. The
bills chartering the De Soto and
the Tekamah banks were passed
over the veto of Governor Iard.

The existing banks opposed the
establishment of more rival banks.
The Nebraska News, of Nebraska
City at that time published by
Thomas and J. Sterling Morton,
charged Governor Iard of accept-
ing \$12,000 for vetoing the six bills
chartering new banks. They also
charged the speaker of the house
of having accepted \$1,000 from the
other factor for his vote in pass-
ing the two bills over the gover-
nor's veto.

Some Had No Charters

Some banks were established
without any charters whatsoever.
The best known case was that of
the Waubesa bank, which was
supposed to have been located in
De Soto. The De Soto Pilot in
1857 claimed that the bank had
no house there or any other property.
They also claimed that they had
never heard of the bank paying
any of its notes. The bank had
circulated notes amounting to
\$200,000 which were not made
payable in De Soto or any other
place. It ceased to exist the fol-
lowing year.

For a short time the notes issued
by these wildcat banks were ac-
cepted at their face value and cir-
culated freely, but soon their value
fell. In the early part of 1858 the
notes accepted from 80 to 50 per-
cent of their face value. One or
two months later they were worth
only one or two cents on the dol-
lar. The banks were doomed and
soon all passed out of existence.

Forced to Close Down

The Kekamah bank was forced
to close its doors in the same year.
The bank and its stockholders did
not have \$500 worth of assets in
the county. The banking house, a
little 10 by 12 shack and the fix-
tures consisting of a stove and an
old table, were sold to satisfy a
judgment of \$207. The bank had
issued notes amounting to \$50,000.

The Platte Valley bank of Ne-
braska City burned in 1858. The
officers of the bank were sus-
pected of setting the building on
fire. Several of them were seen
to throw turpentine on the flames
whenever the people fighting the
fire made any headway. Forty
thousand dollars worth of bank

notes were destroyed in the fire.
The experiment of the wildcat
banks cost the people of Nebraska
\$380,000. The wildcat notes had a
wide circulation in the east even
after the banks which had issued
them had ceased to exist. When
the eastern people finally found
out that the notes were worthless
they were not altogether favorably
impressed with the state of Ne-
braska.

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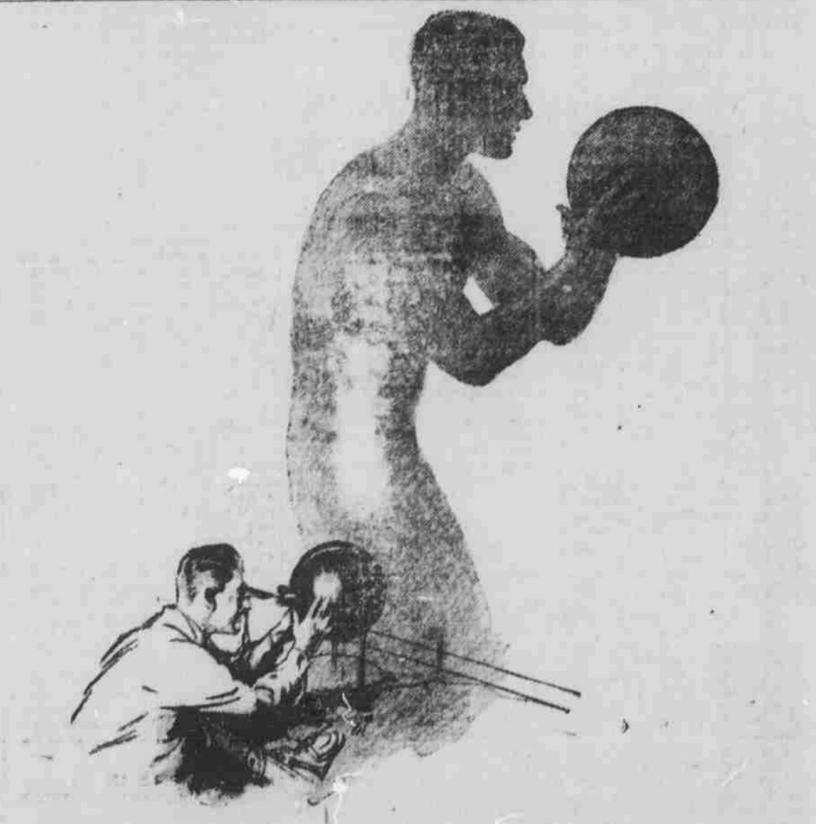
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