

The Daily Nebraskan

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DIFFERENT Coming to Lincoln, to the University of Nebraska Coliseum, for the second time, the Chicago Civic Opera company presents 'Faust' Thursday night. One year ago, when Lincoln received its first taste of operatic production in 'Il Trovatore', the gathering at the Coliseum was estimated at 8,400 people.

Opera is a new thing for people in Nebraska, that is, for the vast majority that have been deprived of the advantages of witnessing productions in metropolitan theaters. A state with a large proportion of the population residing in rural districts and with the rural aspect pervading all communities, it has not been natural that opera should become identified with the middlewest.

Confinement to the metropolitan centers has not been a criterion of the appreciation of the people of the west for such high grade entertainment. Interest in 'Il Trovatore' last year was indicative that the appreciation for the finer things of life was not absent among people who live close to nature, and whose economic standing depends upon the products of the tilled soil. Realizing that it was an impossible undertaking to transport humanity to the home of the opera, the University of Nebraska has brought opera to the people of the state.

There is a second factor in the presentation of 'Faust' at the Coliseum—a factor that has a closer touch upon the student in the University. In the whole history of the University there have been but two occasions when the students were given the opportunity to witness opera in their own University city. One of those times was last year. The other will be Thursday night at the Coliseum.

The silver screen, the rising star of filmdom, the movie with the racy, gripping plot, romance, and now the 'talkies' have been the magnetic forces that have worked upon college students, and that are working upon them now. The modernity, the spice, and the frankness of the movie, have appealed to students. They like the real, the true, and the flame of life.

'Faust' is not that. Music, solo work, orchestras, costume, stage settings—student patrons of the box office will witness something different than a passing exhibition of cardboard villages and screenland heroes who have been touted to the skies.

'Faust' isn't a vitaphone picture, students! TREES, GRASS AND FLOWERS Between the stadium and the Bancroft school there appears a bare stretch which has only an oval of pavement as an improvement. Although almost a year has passed since the creation of the mall, little has been done about the development of the area in the matter of landscaping.

The clearing away of the unsightly houses and shacks between Bessey hall and the Coliseum was a vast improvement on the sight of the campus. It is now possible to get to the Coliseum for basketball games, workouts, and all the rest of the activities centered in that building without wading through a mire when it rains.

Why not keep up this program of campus improvement, now that a start has been made? The barren stretch which now appears on the mall could be effectively done away with by the planting of a little shrubbery, flowers, and so on.

The students of the College of Agriculture have enjoyed a well-kept campus for many years. The downtown students have waded through mud every time it has snowed or rained, braved filthy dust storms off the drill field in dry weather, and withstood every other inconvenience of the present campus without complaining. They deserve some kind of improvement on the present facilities. A request for a slight beautification of the mall is not unreasonable.

Improvement on other parts of the campus could be made without too great an expenditure of money. The "beauty spots" surrounding the various buildings are all too few.

It is fully understood and appreciated that the present situation is more or less temporary. Some day a new campus will arise to replace the present one. Such improvements will be costly, and the time for their accomplishment at the present seems far distant. The University has more important needs than the development of the campus now. Among them are the raising of the salary scale of the faculty, suitable dormitories for both men and women, commodious housing of classes, and a host of other needs which are necessary for the welfare of the University.

In the meantime, thousands of students will be passing through the University of Nebraska. For four years they will pursue their various studies on this campus. The surroundings in which they will work will not be aesthetic to say the least. Can there not be some kind of improvement made for the students who are attending and will attend this institution before the completion of the plans for the construction of the campus beautiful?

One of the few times that a fellow feels like being murdered is when someone calls him out of bed at 3 o'clock in the morning to get an assignment.

SIMPLIFYING MATTERS Effecting of a recent combine of two major activities for women on the University of Nebraska campus—the Intramural organization and the Women's Athletic association—is indicative of the trend of the times in college circles. The present scheme of affairs seems to be in the direction of fewer organizations and activities realized via the consolidation route.

Too many activities are detrimental not only to the individuals connected with them but to the institution with which they are affiliated. Too much attention is apt to be concentrated on this phase of college life to the subjugation of the major aspect—that of study.

It cannot be argued that participation in activities is injurious to the student. That has been attempted before and has proven futile. But a happy medium—a certain limit—is the desired quality in order that students may supplement activities with their regular curricular work without loss of the opportunities offered them.

When pictures of some of the campus kings are taken for the student life section of the Cornhusker, there better be some good backgrounds.

With 11 o'clock classes excused for the convocation this morning many students will be deprived of their opportunity to catch a few winks of sleep.

Maybe the prowler got scared at the size of the Nebraska reward fund.

Eight o'clock classes will probably have the usual disturbances now that spring football practice has started.

Forty years from today they will probably still be repairing the walls of 'U' hall.

Day by day, the number of cars on the campus increases. It looks like a big picnic season.

Ingenious youth might start an escort bureau to take the male champions for coeds who have to traverse the shadowy walks of the black campus at night.

All men students should whistle a merry tune when wandering about the campus alone these nights. Otherwise the half dozen policemen trying to cash in on the Nebraska reward fund are liable to arrest them as prowler suspects.

OTHER STUDENTS SAY— To the Editor: There was an editorial in Friday's issue of The Daily Nebraskan dealing with the University Players, and the manifold financial difficulties of the business manager of that worthwhile organization.

The editor gropes about, in trying to analyze the reasons why the student body doesn't patronize these shows. He suggests the hour, the lack of personal interest, the type of show, and then throws up his hands, and declares that it is almost impossible to look into the underlying causes.

It is a mocking incongruity to see a group stage a high-class play, with real merit and effort, in an auditorium which seems to be a relic of the middle ages. The stage is tiny, ill-equipped, and poorly dressed up. The floors creak with every step, the aisles are down-right dangerous to the patrons, the seats are old, noisy, and highly uncomfortable.

This is the nature of the 'sanctum sanctorum' of one of the most valuable organizations on the campus. It would require more than genius to make a real successful season there possible; it would need a miracle from up above.

The Players need a new theater, a real theater, with all modern and convenient appurtenances. They need a place which is pleasing to the eye, an attractive auditorium to which students will be proud to go.

Perhaps it is asking too much to expect the University to provide a place for the Players at the present time. There are other buildings, undoubtedly, which are in greater need of construction.

Then, too, it is asking too much, perhaps, to expect a modern educational institution of any size whatever to do very much to raise the cultural and spiritual plane of the student body. What matters it if our scholastic standard is dragged into the mire, by the failure to hold many of our promising teachers and scholars? Does it matter if it is impossible to put across a series of well-chosen and well-played dramas? What does this all matter, so long as we can put out football teams that can win Big Six championships? Why concern ourselves about genuine scholarship, and culture, and all that sort of rot, so long as our athletic teams are feared and respected from coast to coast?

DAVID FELLMAN

A STUDENT LOOKS AT PUBLIC AFFAIRS By David Fellman

The centenary of one of the greatest of our foreign-born citizens was celebrated in the United States on March 2. Just one hundred years ago, in old Germany, was born Carl Schurz, eminent statesman and publicist, destined to be one of the foremost men of public affairs in the United States. His life is a story of continuous achievement. A graduate of the University of Bonn, he fought with the liberal party in the widespread and ill-starred revolutionary movement of 1848, upon the failure of which he fled to the United States. He went west, to Wisconsin, where he arrived just in time to help organize the republican party, which was then just beginning to expand. He staunchly supported the candidacy of Abraham Lincoln, who sent him to Spain as American ambassador in Madrid. But he came back to serve in the Civil war, as a major-general.

When the war was over, Carl Schurz edited several newspapers, and was elected to the United States Senate in 1869. He founded a movement known as the Liberal Republican party, designed to combat the regular organization. He also helped to found the American Free Trade league. He served in President Hayes' cabinet as secretary of the interior, where he achieved a brilliant record in his cleaning up of the corrupt Indian Service, and in conserving the national timber supply, by curtailing the activities of the rapacious lumber barons. Then he became the editor of the New York Evening Post, and finally, leading editorial writer for Harper's Weekly.

The life and achievements of Carl Schurz are inspiring. They seem to strengthen one's faith in American democracy, and the equality of opportunity which it holds out. But Carl Schurz stands for more than this. He embodies the progressive and liberalizing spirit of the west. He is a symbol of the contributions of the various racial elements to the net result which we call America. He is living taunt to the 100 percenter who now flaunt it over the land. Carl Schurz, with his fine statesmanship, unwavering devotion to ideals, and tireless work on behalf of the people, stands out as one of America's magnificent personalities, one whose centenary is truly deserving of widespread recognition, not only among Americans of German extraction, but among all Americans.

George Washington Olvany, chief of powerful Tammany Hall, New York's great democratic organization, has resigned from his position. His letter of resignation assigned poor health as the cause for his quitting. It has been rumored, however, that the real cause for his resignation is the immense amount of criticism which he has received for the failure of the organization to carry New York state for Al Smith in the last presidential campaign. The resignation of Olvany is reported to be of great political significance, inasmuch as Olvany has been Mayor Walker's most powerful supporter. Walker's nomination is going to be up soon, and there may be some who will be disposed to question his holding the office for another four year term, as a result of Olvany's quitting.

Twenty thousand people are affected by the latest flood waters of the unruly Mississippi in Alabama. Scores of lives are reported lost, and the property loss is so great that the computation of the amount of damages is said to be an impossible task at the present time. This latest disaster in the South calls to mind once again the urgency of the problem of flood control. Government engineers are working on the problem, and a program of construction has already been started which aims to control flood conditions as a whole. The need for immediate relief, in the form of a policy of protection that will be able to avert future flood disasters in the South, has never been more apparent than it is today.

The latest headline story from our remarkable fascist dictator of Italy is concerned with a new set of fundamental commandments.

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Official Bulletin Tuesday, March 19 University convention, Temple, 11 o'clock. Rev. H. Stanley Jones, speaker. Classes excused. Corn Job meeting, Lambda Chi Alpha house, 1:30 o'clock. Sigma Delta Chi meeting, University hall, 1:45. Wednesday, March 20 Deadline for news editors' applications, U Hall, 104, 11 o'clock noon. A. S. C. E. meeting, election of a departmental chairman for Engineers week, M. E. 104, 1:30 o'clock. A. S. M. E. meeting, election of officers, M. E. 102, 1:15 o'clock. Thursday, March 21 Presentation of 'Faust' by Chicago Civic Opera company, Coliseum, 8 o'clock. Sigma Upsilon meeting, Andrews hall, Prof. Winberry's office, 1:30 o'clock. Friday, March 22 Deadline for applications for position of chairman of Board of Education, W. A. Board officers' meeting, Women's gymnasium, Intramural office, 4 o'clock. Saturday, March 23 Tenth Anniversary DeMoley party, Scottish Rite temple.

This time the decalogue is addressed to the young men of Italy, and relates not to the moral and spiritual responsibilities of the young man, but to the political creed which he is to follow. Commandments number eight of this arrangement is particularly arresting. It is the simplest of them all, and yet the most inclusive. Its simple dictum is: "Mussolini is always right." This doctrine of the infallibility of the reigning person is not a new one. The strange thing is that the fascist party of sunny Italy will swallow this latest edict of the premier, hook, line and sinker, just as they have swallowed everything else which he has decreed for the welfare of the people, from the suppression of freedom of speech and press to the overthrow of the democratic system of parliamentary government, accomplishment through the late electoral reforms, so-called.

There is one persistently puzzling question which always clamors for attention with regard to the dictator of Italy, however, which one can scarcely overlook. Granting that Mussolini is infallible, through infallibility in human beings is incompatible with the very term "human," even granting, so much of the argument, what is going to happen to Italy, the fascist party, the Italian government, and the dictatorship when Mussolini dies? Surely his own infallibility will not necessarily carry the imputation that his children are also infallible. The day ruling by divine right and with divinely-bestowed wisdom, is, we hope at least, definitely past. And, in case the premiership of Italy does not pass on to a lineal heir, and some other member of the ruling party succeed to the dictatorship, will he also be infallible?

A group of prominent New York attorneys have formed a voluntary committee to combat the Jones act, the "five and ten" law, which is designed to make the prohibition law more prohibitory than it has been until now. They are out, it is announced, to do all they can to "nullify" the new measure. Whether they intend to start another civil war or not, in order to accomplish their purpose, is not clear at the present time, but whatever their program of action, it is difficult to see the merit of their position.

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