

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

TWENTY-NINTH YEAR

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University Exams.

The student bewails his fate. He must face quarterly examinations, mid-semester examinations, and final examinations. He says that he barely gets rid of one exam when another comes along. He proclaims that times have come to a pretty pass when you can't stick your head up without having someone throw an examination at it.

Examinations, says the student are unfair. One crams the night before and having put down on paper what he memorized, he instantly forgets it. One becomes confused, flustered and bewildered, and flunks. Unheard of questions are asked. The week of examinations is six days of torture and six nights of headache.

But someone must rise in defense of examinations, even though the popular campus professor is the one who openly disregards such pastimes and says as much.

If the student is not interested in the course, he will never remember much about it, anyway. Therefore, if he forgets the subject matter he crammed into his head the night before, it won't be out of the ordinary. And possibly the student is mistaken; possibly matter learned in the small hours in concentrated effort will stick longer than he thinks.

In those subjects where he is interested, the exam serves to freshen his memory and to stamp the knowledge on his brain.

School in general is not one long grind. The student doesn't wear himself out studying. A spasm of concentration occasionally will do him no harm. On the contrary, he learns that life is real and life is earnest, and the grade is not the goal, but the examination reminds him that school is not one long musical comedy. Examinations are barriers and blows and rebuffs and obstacles which he must meet, and the meeting will do him good, rather than harm.

Examinations are not unfair. Scheduled exams give the student plenty of time and warning to prepare. If he becomes nervous and confused during the exam, don't let him object to the test on that ground. He should overcome his confusion; for there will be more than one such occasion in his life after school which will brook no whining.

As for the surprise exams, it is only logical to admit them fair. If an instructor wishes to find who has studied the work assigned and who has not, this is a practical way. If the student is not prepared and flunks the test, it only reflects on his own negligence and laziness.

It would seem that examinations perform a definite and important service, then, despite the general howl raised against them. Possibly examinations will be done away with in the future which may or may not prove satisfactory in our educational system. Nevertheless, they are to be reckoned with at present, and if universities favor them, there must be some fraction of good to be found in them.

Echoes of the Campus.

'... Leaving a Bad Taste.'

To the Editor of The Nebraskan: "Everybody's out of step but me." So read the title of a cartoon which appeared shortly after the war, showing bolshevist Russia marching with the other nations of the world and explaining its failure to keep step with the alibi, "Everybody's out of step but me."

Editors, writing in their privileged realm, the editorial column, frequently take the attitude attributed to bolshevistic Russia toward the activities of their fellow citizens. Embryo editors in charge of college dailies seem especially prone to take the view that "everyone is wrong but me."

Journalism courses in our universities are constantly hammering on the idea of playing fair, giving both sides of controversies without warping the facts and of planning constructive rather than destructive campaigns. What a feeling of utter failure the faculties must have when they see the manner in which some of their charges disregard their counsel as soon as the student attains a position of power.

Long-winded tirades, flavored plentifully with "sour grapes" commence to be ground out from the typewriter of the one who has had so much labor spent on him by the faculty in grooming him for this position. Critically destructive editorials, frequently distorting the facts, are poured forth in a seemingly endless stream in an attempt to "subtly" undermine the personal enemies of the editor.

This question of "sour grapes" is often one of the most evident phases of the campaign. Slightly veiled allusions to institutions or conditions with which the editor is not in accord through his inability to personally be "on the inside" are scattered in monotonous regularity through the editorial columns day after day. Each editorial shouts that if the writer can't

be numbered among the ones who are most active and influential in campus affairs there shall be no one who is influential or respected.

The "sour grapes" flavor may be mistaken for a genuine interest in correcting a faulted evil when it is first tasted but it is not long until it becomes evident that the writer's sole ambition is the satisfaction of personal bitterness.

Distorting of the actual facts about unusual campus occurrences in such a way as to bring condemnation upon organizations connected with such events is another point at which the editor sometimes falls by the wayside. "Accuracy" is taught as the slogan of journalism whether in the news columns or in editorials. Sometimes the editor may even be embarrassed by being asked to correct some of the errors but out of such a vast amount of warped truth many mistakes are likely to go uncorrected.

Along with distorting the facts is the tendency to magnify events that further the ideas of the editorial writer. The kind professor would admonish the student to be a little more accurate hereafter . . . the managing editor of a newspaper would advise the magnifier of events to look for another job.

Editorials of personal jealousy and dissatisfaction are obnoxious enough to readers when they come singly. A seemingly never-ending campaign of such stuff is positively boring. Readers of editorials are not particularly fond of daily criticism of the destructive type . . . criticism is distasteful enough even when it is constructive. Many readers of college papers, however, have not heard constructive criticism recently enough to even recognize it if it should suddenly be presented to them.

Harping on events long after all the rest of the school has forgotten them is another favorite balm which the jealous editor applies to his hurts. He struggles vainly to daub the coloring into the picture which will distort it enough so that all of the students will see things his way. Along with that he is applying an advertising principle in keeping his product before the public . . . eternally and infernally.

The student body, however, fails to take stock in the terrible fate which the editor says awaits it. Strangely, most of the students don't seem to care if he is jealous of others in the school or if he is dissatisfied with the present order of things. The great university or college moved serenely along, practically unruffled by the one semester flareup of "sour grapes" and personal jealousy displayed by the editor of its paper.

He's gone eventually, leaving only a bad taste. M. L.

A Basis?

To the Editor of The Nebraskan:

The Journal columnist of "I May Be Wrong" fame and George Grimes, author of the article on the University of Nebraska in College Humor, leave little derogatory to be said about the unsatisfactory and "spineless" conduct of The Nebraskan, and a "brilliant" student opines, "They are right, too. The editor is afraid of the faculty. He never prints anything bad about an instructor."

What does determine the editor's policy in regard to news and editorials? Is he easily influenced by outside comments, adverse or otherwise?

Any university paper, like a metropolitan one, serves its readers best when it presents unbiased news stories and interprets, through its editorials, the events and conditions of the day without resorting to personal insults and libelous statements. The sports writer would condemn the editor of The Nebraskan for his editorial discussion of an unpleasant situation—much in need of a future remedy, a few days after it happened. Evidently he believes that the less said the better, that one should close his eyes to existing conditions.

The College Humor writer pictures all editors of The Nebraskan as cowering before a faculty which directs and dictates their news and editorial policies. To one who understands the circumstances such an accusation seems utterly silly. The editors have a free field—their guides are their consciences and their knowledge of good and bad journalism.

As for the student's remarks, one recognizes the hopelessness of his position. Not only is he ignorant of the mode of conduct of The Nebraskan, but also he is unaware of the common decency and courtesy which prevails in the newspaper game. He would have the editors resort to libel to satisfy his own prejudices. Nebraskan editors have a miniature newspaper to manage as they see fit in order to accomplish the greatest good to the greatest numbers. A knowledge of their problems and practices would result in less censure and more praise. M. N.

Just a Minute!

To the Editor of The Nebraskan:

The writer noted an editorial in Sunday's Nebraskan disparaging the unwarranted publicity given to a "decoration scheme" which failed to materialize as a decoration scheme. I am sure that the editor had no intention of throwing a shadow of doubt over publicity to be given the decoration scheme for the All-University parties, but instead had sole reference to the Military ball.

The only purpose of this comment is to call attention to the necessity for belief in the veracity of the All-University advertising campaign. Thousands of yards of decorating material have already been purchased for the party on Dec. 14; heavy expense has been incurred in order to insure a real old-fashioned "snowstorm" effect; favors imported from Germany have been secured; a heavy telegraph bill has been rolled up in an effort to obtain the best orchestra available; a vaudeville program has been arranged; and many other features too numerous to mention have been contracted for. Probably the most elaborate decorating effect ever attempted at Nebraska is that for the All-University party on Dec. 14. Please, Mr. Editor, allow me the right to make my point. J. J.

One thing that keeps many organizations alive here is the guidance of the has been who stick around for several years after graduation.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has discovered that college professors live longer than other men. The classic remark might apply here: "Perhaps it only seems longer."—Daily Californian.

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Between the Lines.

By LASELLE GILMAN.

The entrance of the United States into the World Court is becoming more and more of an immediate possibility. President Hoover has just completed the final steps which are necessary prior to the submission of the new protocol to the senate for ratification. The president has directed the American representative in Geneva to sign the document, which means the Root agreement, on behalf of this country.

This Root agreement is the result of negotiations which were held last year by Elihu Root, former secretary of state, and member of the World Court. In January of 1928, the American senate had consented to membership in the World Court, but with five reservations, the first four of which the Court's members readily accepted.

The fifth reservation, dealing with the problem of the so-called advisory opinions, was turned down. The Court, under its constitution, has the right to render advisory opinions upon the request of the League of Nations or of any of the members. The senate reservation was that no request for an advisory opinion shall be entertained by the Court, without the consent of the United States, where the opinion touches "any dispute or question in which the United States has or claims an interest."

The impression brought about by the rejection of this last reservation has apparently been removed by the Root protocol. The Root agreement, which has received the approval of the signatories of the World Court statute, provides that the United States may withdraw from the court in case such an advisory opinion is asked by another power and is pressed over the American objection. The president and the American state department believe that this provision satisfies the senate's objection, as expressed in the fifth reservation.

The entrance of the United States into the World Court, in the near future, will constitute a notable step to world peace. There is no questioning the fact that our abstention from membership in that tribunal, has weakened it. Our active participation in the work of the world court will go a long way in establishing among the nations of the world the habit of going to court for the settlement of their arguments, where right and not might is the criterion of justice.

The imperative need of the establishment of fixed institutions of international scope which are capable of dealing with international disputes is clearly brought out in the present Russo-Chinese fracas, and the attempt of the United States to stop it by invoking the Kellogg-Briand peace pact. The United States secured the approval of some fifty nations to an agreement of policy which has become known as the Kellogg peace pact, after the name of one of its prime instigators.

Those fifty nations who signed this pact, and one of them is Russia, all formally agree that war should be outlawed as a method of settling international difficulties. Further all nations agreed not to resort to war in any case except where the war is a defensive one. The pact provides this much, and no more. There is no machinery of conciliation set up, no guardian of the pact is appointed, and no method is determined whereby it can be found out whether a particular war is a defensive one or not.

In short, the Kellogg pact is merely a world declaration of policy, a crystallization of a sentiment already pretty well articulated. Now comes a dispute between Russia and China over the

control of an important railroad, Russia, setting up the claim of self-defense, files to arms and invades Chinese territory. The United States, through Secretary Stimson, demands that Russia, as a signatory of the peace pact, refrain from resort to arms, and submit her question to arbitration. Russia retorts that the United States has no license to set herself up as the god-father of the pact.

This is the present state of a difficult international situation. The note of the Russian government to ours was sharp and severe, telling our secretary of state to keep his hands off. The memorandum stated that "the pact of Paris does not give any single state or group of states the function of protector of this pact," and called Mr. Stimson's sending of telegrams to all signatories of the act "an unfriendly act."

Russia's action has been severely condemned by the American press. A typical expression of the opinion is that which appeared editorially in one of our local papers. "The United States," the editor said, "has assumed the role of guardian angel of this treaty. The document is deposited with us, and we assume the administration of it, such as there may be. The manner in which our note was received was insulting and unjust to us."

We are not impressed with the editor's conclusions, and whatever logic he evidences in support of them. We don't presume to pass upon the validity of Russia's position in her controversy with the Chinese government. In all probability, the rectitude of her stand will not be determined for years, until the time when the collection and evaluation of all the evidence has been completed.

But, the crux of our controversy with Russia hinges on the validity of our claim to the supervision of the peace pact. It seems to us that the terms of that treaty gives no one country the right to act in that capacity. The peace pact, in our opinion, is a very weak step in the development of the technique of outlawing war.

At best, granting that the American position is a correct one, still the procedure is very unsatisfactory. Every factor of the controversy points irresistibly to the necessity of established machinery of justice and arbitration of worldwide sanction. Spasmodic and individual stabs at international conciliation, such as our present one, have for centuries demonstrated their inherent weaknesses. The United States is inviting herself into a lot more trouble and responsibility, as the sole policeman of the world, than our senators who thought they saw when they prevented our entrance into the League of Nations.

GREEK BOXERS WILL WEIGH IN WEDNESDAY A.M.

Interfraternity boxing will get under way at 4:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, when 118 pound bouts will be started, Rudolph Vogel announced today. Weighing in will start Wednesday morning at 11 a. m. Following the completion of bouts in the 118 pound class, the 126 pound group will enter the ring, and will work straight through the list.

"Your Drug Store" Try these Delicious Toastwiches at our Luncheonette.—Whittman Candies—The Owl Pharmacy 148 No. 14th & P. B1068

R. A. HOUSE ATTENDS ENGINEERING MEETING

Nebraska Delegate Will Present His Report to Local Society.

R. A. House, student branch delegate to the national convention of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, held in New York City, Dec. 2 to 7, will give his report at a special meeting of the local society at 5 p. m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, in room 102 of the mechanical engineering building.

His report on the convention will deal largely with the inspection trips he made through the Hudson Avenue power station, Pratt institute, New York university, and the New York Times press room.

Mr. House attended addresses by A. A. Potter, dean of Purdue university, and Lynn A. Scipio, dean of Robert College School of Engineering, Constantinople, Turkey. Dean Scipio is a former engineering faculty member of the University of Nebraska.

The report will include addresses and several technical papers. C. M. Moulton of Nebraska Power company also attended the convention as Nebraska A. S. M. E. delegate.

PHELPS, TALKIE SUPERVISOR, IS AMONG VISITORS

Visitors at the college of engineering during the past week include Joy L. Phelps, '25, installation supervisor of movietone and vitaphone equipment for the Electrical Research Products corporation, who has just returned from the British Isles where he has been installing "talkie" equipment; Elmer A. Crane, '28, of Armour and company, stationed at Chicago; Bartholomew P. Egan, '27, of the Concrete Engineering company, Chicago; and James R. Salesbury, '26, who is with Proctor and Gamble, at Kansas City, Kas.

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GROTH SPEAKS AT VESPER TONIGHT

Wendell Groth will explain the student volunteer movement at the regular Vesper service on Tuesday afternoon at 5 p. m. in Ellen Smith hall, as national president of the student council of Y. W. C. A. and Y. M. C. A. The meeting will be led by Evelyn Adler, also a national worker. There will be a program of special music.

Graduate Speaks at Epworth M. E. Church

and changes in marriage customs dated from the college of agriculture in 1929, preached at the Epworth Methodist church, Sunday. "The Rich Young Ruler" was the subject of his sermon. Rev. Mr. Magnuson entered the ministry after he graduated from this university. He attended the Epworth church while in school. His regular pastorate is at Malcolm, Neb.

Christmas Greeting Cards

For our Christmas Card stock this year we have selected cards with that "something different" appeal. Exclusive designs just a little more artistic and unique. You may buy any quantity—with name engraved, printed, process engraved or blank—a you chose. May we show them to you?

Graves Printing Company Three Doors South of Uni. Temple. 312 North 12th St. Phone B-2957

KODAKS Gifts That Are Sure To Please All Sizes and Prices Eastman Kodak Stores, Inc. 1217 O St.

Wheatley Vocal Studio B4979 209-210-211 Liberty Bldg.

THE BIG GIFT STORE Tucker-Shean 1123 O St. Lincoln Invites You to Inspect their showing of useful Christmas Gifts—gifts the recipient will keep and cherish. Special Attention is drawn to our Complete showing of Ladies' and Gentlemen's Elgin Wrist Watches, Diamonds, Fine Jewelry, Clocks, Silverware, Hand Tooled Leather Goods, Stationery in Gift Boxes, Fountain Pens, Desk Sets, Brass and Copper Goods. Christmas Greeting Cards Come in and let us show you our beautiful gift things. Tucker-Shean 1123 O Street

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