

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

TWENTY-NINTH YEAR

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Dear Sandy Claus—

Give all the students passing grades, no flunking or conditions, please, and give us no more rally raids, and let the prowler freeze; make the eight o'clock class a thing of the past; pension football men if you will; make the clock go round on library hall, that for years has stood stock still; put gravel on the drill field and lay walks to Andrews hall; reserve parking space for students, and banish the class roll call; bring more gold to the men and no woes; bring the coeds more beauty and beans.—Your, Johnny.

Time for Adieu!

The truth is out! Figures obtained at the student activities office prove it! The green cap tradition is a monetary "tradition" for the organization sponsoring it.

Presented on the front page of The Daily Nebraskan this morning is an account of the year in which the income from the sales of freshman caps has maintained a student society. And what is so distressing about it all is that this group has not seen fit to enforce the rule which calls for all first year men to wear the headgear for two months or so in the fall of every year.

Several times during the present semester, The Nebraskan has deprecated the idea of an organization seemingly placing the financial means of the tradition above the significance and the meaning of the custom itself. The green cap tradition is one of the oldest that this university possesses, dating so far back that no one seems to know when it did start, but in late years, especially, the students entering the university have not felt it an honor to wear them, due primarily to the laxity in enforcement.

This newspaper does not wish to condemn the tradition itself. We believe, if handled in the proper way, this particular aspect of university life is very influential in effecting a form of consciousness among the freshmen. But when the tradition does not exist for that purpose, but rather as a means to an end financially, we can see no justification for its continuance.

Not Satisfied As Yet.

Seeking "credit where credit is due," a loyal exponent of the Fraternal Co-operative Buyers' association asks for an editorial repudiating the original stand of The Nebraskan against such an organization. For, says he, the association after having operated a whole month is "an unqualified success."

The Fraternal Co-operative Buyers' association, formed during the early part of November, has seventeen member fraternities. After every one of the stewards for the thirty-eight University of Nebraska fraternities had ample opportunity to study the plan and decided upon its feasibility and practicability, only the seventeen, less than half, deemed it advisable to enter.

The Daily Nebraskan's opposition to the plan was not so virulent as its proponents seemed to believe. Its purpose, to buy commodities in large quantities and contract for services as a body in order that running expenses of member fraternities might be lowered, is commendable. The sincerity of stewards affiliated to effect a saving for their respective houses is unquestionable. The capability and integrity of present buyers may be admitted.

It is not toward the personnel of the organization that The Nebraskan's unfavorable comment is voiced. But is the plan fundamentally sound? Will the co-operative system endure? Are the benefits to be derived offset by results which will prove detrimental to the university? Those are the things over which we ponder. And those are questions we do not believe can be answered satisfactorily by advocates of co-operative buying.

"There has been no complaint of fraud," N. S. G. remarks in his message to The Nebraskan. Of course not. Possible fraud, for which there is plenty of opportunity, naturally will not exist the first year when the organization is guided by those honestly interested in its success. But what about years to come? How can the integrity of buyers be assured? How

can the association provide a safeguard against incapable buyers next year and the next?

Certainly no one will deny that, whether utilized or not utilized, there is spacious room for graft and fraternity combinations that would not only impair the efficiency of buying but cast a stigma of unwholesomeness over the entire university.

But gracious! What a saving is now being accomplished. Seemingly triumphant, the Echoes writer states, "One steward claims that he has saved nearly \$100 for the fraternity on his coal bill alone. Another says that his meat bill for one month was reduced \$75." These figures provide no criterion by which the success of the association may be judged. The Nebraskan cannot believe that such a saving could be possible in one month if the steward had been experienced, judicious and economical in his expenditure of fraternity funds before.

The idea that everybody is happy with the co-operative idea is far from being the truth. Several complaints of poor coal and unsatisfactory meals have come from members of association fraternities. Some may be highly pleased with the plan, but that group does not represent the unanimous opinion of fraternities connected with the co-operators.

The Nebraskan has still another plaint. Groceries purchased through the co-operative association come almost entirely from chain store firms. Capitalists and chief stockholders receiving the profits from these stores live far from midwestern Nebraska. No money lining their pockets ever comes back to this state to support the university, to build better roads in Nebraska, or to serve this commonwealth in any way.

In a state university, students should feel a deep sense of loyalty to those people supporting their school and making possible their education at minimum cost to themselves. These benefactors of the university are the farmers, laborers and merchants of Nebraska who, through taxes, maintain this educational habitat for their children, who are interested in Nebraska and its development. By chain store purchase eastern moneyed men are reaping the advantages of Nebraska student trade instead of the citizens whose hearts, souls and pocket-books are wrapped up in the university.

As to the Fraternal Co-operative Buyers' association, such generalizations as "unqualified success" are, to say the least, premature. Its success cannot be measured by this semester's record or be assured through this school year's achievement.

If after two or three years fraternities participating are still wholeheartedly in favor of the co-operative system of purchase there will be room for congratulatory comment. But even then there will still be certain objections which can never be overcome and which will prove stumbling blocks in the direction the association has chosen to move.

Good Of Christmas Time.

The approach of bitter cold weather and a suggestion of snow makes us aware of the fact that Christmas is within reach. This means a lot to most of us, a greatly needed vacation, and some maybe not so greatly needed gifts, but best of all is the spirit of the time.

Old and young, rich and poor alike become enraptured with the Christmas spirit. This includes the university student, no matter how sophisticated he is, how bored with the world or how disillusioned he may be. There's something in the air that says: Cheer up! Forget your worries, dull cares and heavy burdens! Christmas is here!

And what is this Christmas spirit that so affects us all? A feeling of friendliness, a desire to give, to lighten the burdens of others, to be happy, to smile, to laugh, cheer! These are wonderful sentiments, never too old, never worn out or overused, tremendous in their powers and far reaching in their effect. When filled with this Christmas spirit we are inclined to love our enemies, forget our wrongs and believe in the goodness and kindness of everyone.

With such a generosity of good will it is to be regretted that Christmas comes but once a year, but even at that it does more than its share to cheer up this dull old world and make us better beings. May its effects be lasting throughout the year!

Feeling Our Pulse.

Last Monday and Tuesday, students at the University of Washington went to school without their notebooks and textbooks. All classes met regularly, but instead of hearing lectures, students filled out four-page questionnaires containing 150 questions aimed at a survey to raise the quality of teaching at the University of Washington to the highest possible level. Each class was given opportunity to make an appraisal of its professors and courses.

In explaining the research, the most exhaustive ever conducted in the United States, President M. Lyle Spencer said: "The chief bar to the improvement of teaching is our lack of sufficient information to answer many questions concerning it. 'Students alone,' he said, 'know how interesting they found the course; how clear the assignments were to them; how much work they expended to the course; how the personality of the instructor impressed them; to what extent they were stimulated to participate in class discussions, or how well they could hear the lecturer.'"

In commenting upon possible results of the plan, the editor of the student daily remarks that it is unfortunate that more weight has not been generally given in the academic work to excellence of teaching in determining faculty promotion. It is a bit incongruous in a college, where students supposedly come to be instructed, that the merits of classroom instruction count little in raising instructors on the college ladder. It is almost entirely research and writing, outside of class hours, which win coveted positions. The study, he suggests, may aid in pointing out a way to evaluate instruction and to place the cry of "research, research" in a different light.

Here on the Nebraska campus there is a great need for a survey which will feel the intellectual pulse by means of a quiz of methodology and instructional personnel. Such a test, scientifically designed, would bring out a systematic collection of student judgments on those aspects of courses on which the student may be presumed to have some reliability.

JUPITER HIDES, AND SWEZEY GIVES TALK

Clouds Mar Plans to Use Telescope, So Coeds Listen Instead.

Because of cloudy skies Tuesday evening those visiting the university observatory on the regular open night were unable to examine the planet, Jupiter, through the telescope as had been announced. Prof. G. D. Swezey, director of observatory and instructor in astronomy, gave his scheduled lecture, "The Growth of Our Knowledge of the Universe."

He described how men's knowledge of the earth and sky has grown from his first conception of it as a flat surface until at the present time he studies the most distant stars of the spiral nebulae. A tour of the observatory was conducted by Professor Swezey who explained the different instruments. The first and third Tuesdays of each month are the regular open nights at the observatory.

STAFF OF SCHOONER PREPARES NEW ISSUE

Many Articles Now In, Says Editor Wimberly; Last Edition Praised.

The winter edition of the Prairie Schooner, Nebraska's literary magazine, is now being prepared and will be issued some time in February, according to Prof. L. C. Wimberly, editor.

This number will contain the usual amount of stories, poems, and articles. Good material has been coming into the editor's office daily, but only a few articles have been definitely decided upon as yet. Dean J. D. Hicks, of the college of arts and sciences, has written an article on Abraham Lincoln which will appear in the winter issue. Two poems, one by Miss Emma McRae of Omaha, and one by James Thompson, a

Collins Discusses Remains of Two Ships Submerged Since Before 1446

Fossils in general and one in particular were featured in the regular museum radio talk, broadcast over the university radio studio by F. G. Collins, assistant curator of the museum.

Speaking of fossils in general, Mr. Collins used a remark made by a little girl who had been listening to him as he conducted a group of school children on a tour about the museum. At the close of proceedings the little girl told her teacher that she would have enjoyed the tour much more if the curator explores just what a "fossil" was.

Discusses Term. The idea had not come to Mr. Collins that people not associated with a museum continually should not be familiar with the term, and in an attempt to remedy his mistake he entered into a discussion of the meaning of the term. To quote the curator, "Today the word 'fossil' means the remains of bygone animals and plants, such things as you see here in Morrill hall in abundance. But that is the modern and restricted meaning of the word fossil."

There was a time when it meant a great deal more than that. Literally it means anything that has been dug up, and it was long used in that broad sense, whether it was a coin, shell piece of earthen ware or a jewel, they were all spoken of as fossils.

Emphasizes Ships. The fossils in particular which Mr. Collins devoted most of his talk to, are such in the older sense of the word. The particular fossils were two ships, imperial pleasure barges which have laid on the bottom of Lake Nemi, a lake in the Alban mountains, about 17 miles southwest of Rome, since the early days of the Roman empire.

From time to time there have been attempts to raise these barges. The first came in the year 1446, when a prominent engineer was invited by the government to see what he could do. He failed, and about a 100 years later in 1535, another try was made. This time a diver went down and gained only a small harvest and did a good deal of damage to the relics. A third attempt was not made until 1827 when eight men went down in a diving bell. They brought up more material than had ever before been secured. This is now in the museum at Rome. In 1895 further unsuccessful attempts were made, but the only results have been more damage done to the relics by rescuers than by water and time together.

Government Stops. After the fiasco in 1895 the Italian government forbade any individual attempts being made and then called in a naval engineer who made a thorough survey of things. He decided that the barges could not be brought up without destruction. He advised that the only way to get at them was to lower the surface of the lake some seventy feet or so.

Any Time of the Day Is a Good Time in the Day for Good Eats STOP AT THE University Candy Kitchen 244 No. 13th B-7926

student in the agricultural college and school of journalism have also been selected. The fall edition of the Schooner, which appeared on the middle of November, has been widely praised by eminent critics and has sold well both in Lincoln and in Omaha.

SCANDINAVIAN GROUP HAS SPECIAL MEETING

Club Joins in Singing Songs And Closes by Having Treasure Hunt.

A program was given by the Scandinavian club, which met last Monday evening, Dec. 16, from 7 until 8 o'clock, in Temple 200.

The program was begun by Secretary Franklin Anderson reading the minutes. This was followed by group singing of Scandinavian songs, consisting of "Du Camla, Du Fria," and "Vart Land" with Professor Alexis playing the piano accompaniment.

Christmas poems were recited in Swedish by Miss Alexis, Carl Alexis, and Clemens Gustafson. Mr. Hedeon, who led the meeting, spoke on some of the Yuletide customs of the Scandinavian countries, and he also presented "Silent Night" in Swedish. Group games were played, and an old and distinguished Norwegian custom, a Christmas treasure hunt, was held.

ORCHESIS HOLDS INITIATION FOR 16 CANDIDATES

Sixteen new members have been initiated into Orchesis, honorary dancing organization of the university, after having been on probation for a month. In entering Orchesis these members pledge to promote interest in and appreciation of dancing as a fine art.

The new members are Rowena Bengtson, Marjorie Hoover, Genevieve Hubbard, Dorothy Meyer, Aileen Neely, Aileen Nicholas, Josephine Orr, Doris Powell, Irma Randall, Virginia Seabrooks, Maxine Smokes, Harriet Whitman, Dorothy Zoellner, Donald Perkins, Ruth Wimberly, and Phyllis Dobson.

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