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## ASK THE STUDENTS.

THIS MORNING B. E. contributes a very thought provoking student comment, proposing a method of improvement, by the individual professors, of their various courses. He suggests that instructors ask their students to hand in signed or anonymous comments on the work of their courses, pointing out the strong points and the faults, and making any suggestions for improvement that they might care to.

What student has not sat in class and longed for an opportunity to tell an instructor how he could improve his classes? Not to be critical and fault finding, but in a genuine desire to see the aims of the university advanced, students really do wish to give their comments. They see the instruction from the outside, compare it with other classes, and quickly see how it could be improved. Professors with whom they sympathize and who stand high in their admiration are the ones who would be most apt to receive carefully thought out suggestions. Psychological circumstances that may never occur to the professor could easily be pointed out by class members.

One particular professor of high rank nearly always delivers a lecture of high quality, and holds the attention of his class, but makes a habit of holding the class for several minutes overtime. It has probably never occurred to him that a really remarkable amount of his instruction is counteracted by the antagonistic attitude inspired by holding the class overtime.

As B. E. suggests, a west coast university has tried the plan this year on a school wide scale. Here two full days were given over to the project, members of all classes filling out uniformly printed questionnaires. No names were signed, and the entire bulk of information was intended to be used as a basis for reorganizing the work.

To neglect entirely this great source of information is indeed overlooking every valuable asset. Students of college age are capable of judging courses and methods of instruction and on the whole are fair enough to give good judgments. During the year they come into contact with six or eight instructors, each with his particular merits, and from these contacts they are well able to form well-founded judgments.

While of course some could be expected to misuse the opportunity, and a few would have their wisecracks, these could be disregarded.

Anonymous information is not the most desirable sort, but few are willing to place enough faith in the teachers sense of justice to place his name on his true opinion. Only when the contributions are unsigned will they really reflect the information that is desired.

Any fair and open minded professor, it would seem, would find a great deal of information in such anonymous comments, and could apply this to add force to his instruction.

### A WISE STEP

A DEFINITE step forward in the progress of the instructional standards of the University of Nebraska was taken yesterday by the board of regents when they set up a system of sabbatical leave. Under this system leave of absence may be secured for graduate study and for travel.

A plan of this kind offers great possibility for raising the standards of the school, allowing members who have been on the faculty for some time an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the field in which they are particularly interested. It will enable them to resume their instruction with added experience and new stimulus to advance.

Proper checks have been placed upon the grants in order to safeguard the abuse of the system. The applicant must have been on the faculty for six years, have the title of assistant professor or above, and must agree to return to the university after his term of study, which must be on a limited program.

Sufficient financial aid is provided to make it possible for any instructor to take advantage of the opportunity. Full pay will be granted for a semester, or half pay for a year.

As Chancellor Burnett has expressed it, the action will do a great deal to raise the quality of teaching by affording professors an opportunity to refresh their subject matter and improve their methods. It will permit present members of the faculty to build themselves up to become key men on the instructional staff.

No better action toward a more competent faculty could have been taken than that of the regents last Saturday. It will have, within a few years, a marked influence upon the quality of the university faculty.

### ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNIZED

A UNIVERSITY award of unusual significance has been given to George W. Sutterfield, junior student in the college of engineering. The award of \$100 is given to the junior non-fraternity man who has triumphed over the greatest odds to secure his education. It is the gift of an unannounced contributor, who has expressed his desire to be known only as a friend of the university.

Working seventy hours a week, making a scholastic average of 89 and aiding in the support of his mother and her four younger children make up an accomplishment that is worthy of recognition. Any of the three tasks would be enough to keep a student of average initiative busy, but Sutterfield has taken all three upon himself. His degree in electrical engineering will be a hard earned one, but one in which he can justly take the greatest pride.

Awards such as this, when they fall to students who are making an honest effort to secure an education, are a stimulus toward better work. When properly granted they convince one that perhaps after all there is recognition for honest effort, and that all honors do not fall to those who are fortunate enough to have life made an easy matter.

Certainly the unannounced contributor should feel a great deal of satisfaction to see his gift go to one who is so evidently worthy of it. He should feel that he has made the requirements for its granting most wise. It is proper that it should go to one who has chosen to deny himself the pleasures of affiliation with a social group.

If more such awards as this are made possible by friends of the university, and if men as worthy as Sutterfield are found to receive them, a great service will be performed in the direction of education.

### A POOL NEEDED

PERHAPS at this time of year more than any other the need for a university swimming pool is felt by a large part of the student body. Inadequate facilities provided by other pools leave perspiring students high and dry, with little opportunity to swim for pleasure or physical development.

A pool at the University of Nebraska would be an asset of unusual proportion. Like many of the minor sports it is open to by far the greater part of entire enrollment, offering an opportunity for instruction, class drill, or individual pleasure.

Standing out in sharp contrast with such sports as football and basketball, both of which are well provided for, swimming is a much more democratic sport. It is difficult to estimate the number who would take advantage of a university pool, but certainly the number would run well up into the hundreds. Football and basketball at the best are concentrated on a few, those few being the one who are least in need of physical development.

The entire organization of university athletics is one that is difficult to understand. It so nearly approaches the professional aspect that it is hard to reconcile it with the understood ideas of a state university. The intramural program is a fine step in the proper direction, but it has the fault of being too largely concentrated in the fraternities, not only confining its benefits to the grades, but also offering possibilities of arousing antagonism and undue rivalry among the groups.

A university pool and other equipment for the minor sports would reach the students now unprovided for, offering a greater share of benefit for the money expended than that already used.

Seniors have received their letters of instruction, telling them just how to graduate. They failed to say, however, how one can get the money for the fees.

It's nearly time to drag the trunk down from the attic and begin to throw in all the collected remembrances of the year's work. Better save a notebook or two to take home and show that this talk about the trials of a student is not bunk.

The weather man says that there has been only two inches of rain this month. Fifty thousand picnics broken up by less than two inches of rain.

## The Student Pulse

Signed contributions pertinent to matters of student life and the university are welcomed by this department. Opinions submitted should be brief and concrete.

### IF I WERE PROFESSOR

To the editor:

If I were a professor—and how many students have not pictured themselves in that position—I think I would take advantage at this time of year of an opportunity to add a great deal to the quality of my teaching.

It seems to me that if I were an instructor I would constantly wonder just what my students thought of my courses, and of my methods of teaching. I would wonder if my time and effort were wasted, or at least misdirected. I would wonder how I could make my courses more popular, and at the same time more constructive, what phase of the work was the best, and a dozen other details. I would wonder what personal characteristics the students liked or disliked. In all I would like to know what the result would be, should I follow the slang phrase of "Go take a vote on yourself."

So why not find out? Anonymous letters are not the best source of information, I admit, but they are apt to be the most true. If I were confident of my ability I certainly would not be afraid to face the judgment of my classes.

I understand that some schools have undertaken such a project on a school-wide scope, but of course this is rather far advanced and difficult to organize. However, why couldn't I ask members of the class to hand in their comments on the course, telling me why they liked or disliked it, what part they thought best, how it might be reorganized to make it better, how I myself could add greater force to its presentation, and any other comment they might have. I would invite them to sign their names, in order that I might further discuss the matters with them, but if they did not care to, anonymous contributions would be greatly appreciated.

Could it be possible that professors are afraid to see themselves mirrored in student opinion, or do they just think such methods are beneath their professional dignity?

B. E.

### A STUDENT LOOKS AT PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

May 25, 1920.

Company A and Battery A won the annual competitive drill. Sigma Phi Epsilon won the baseball championship by defeating Alpha Tau Omega, 1 to 0.

Jean Siuater broke the world's record in the 440-yard dash in the girl's annual field meet.

Theta Sigma Phi, women's journalistic sorority, initiated three.

1915.

The Farm House fraternity was made a national organization. Five members of the track squad left for the Missouri Valley track meet at Columbia.

The editor attempted to support the position he had taken in publishing every student opinion that was submitted.

1910.

Plans were made for the summer session, the first to be under the direct supervision of the chancellor.

Firemen from the East Lincoln engine house provided stunts at an initiation held by one of the social sororities.

Dr. Bessy announced that a new species of dandelion had been discovered on the campus.

1905.

The varsity baseball team defeated the Lincoln town team, 4 to 2, and the faculty defeated the businessmen, 10 to 7, in a double-header.

Sixteen tracksters left for Sioux City.

Football men completed in the punting contest for the Tucker cup. The winning punt was fifty-one yards.

A few of the long looked for freshmen caps appeared on the campus.

### BILL M'CLEERY CHOSEN EDITOR FOR NEBRASKAN

(Continued from Page 1.)

Chi Omega, and is also a member of Theta Phi Sigma. She is a member of the Big Sister board and has covered W. A. A. intramural sports for The Nebraskan during the semester.

McGaffin is a member of the Sigma Nu and a pledge of Sigma Delta Chi. He was recently elected to membership in the Kosmet Klub and representative of the school of journalism in the Student council. He is a member of the R. O. T. C. band, and of Gamma Lambda, band honorary. He was awarded the honor by Sigma Delta Chi for writing the best feature story which appeared in this paper during the last semester. He has served as news editor during this semester.

McKim is affiliated with Delta Upsilon and is a pledge of Sigma Delta Chi. He was news editor during the first semester of this year. Mitchell is a member of Delta Tau Delta and has done sports reporting. Wagner has been news editor during this semester.

Craig is affiliated with Phi Gamma Delta. He has worked on The Nebraskan staff for two years and has done sports reporting this year.

Lawlor is a member of Delta Tau Delta. He was assistant business manager this year. He is a member of Scabbard and Blade, vice president of the Interfraternity council, and served as a member of the varsity party committee, and of the military ball committee.

Galleher is a member of Delta Upsilon and is a pledge of Sigma Delta Chi. He was news editor during the first semester of this year. Mitchell is a member of Delta Tau Delta and has done sports reporting this year.

Certainly freshmen find that

Tau Delta and has worked on the business side of this paper. Thompson has also worked on the business staff. He is affiliated with Phi Kappa Psi and was president of the freshmen class during the first semester of this year.

The Cornhusker staff which was announced a week ago is headed by Kenneth Gammill as editor-in-chief, Edwin Edmonds as business manager. Otis Detrick and Robert Kinkaid are the newly appointed managing editors and Frank Gue and Russel Mousel are the new business assistants.

### FRESHMAN DECLARES THAT FIRST YEAR IN SCHOOL HAS RAISED HIS AMBITION.

(Continued from Page 1.)

only a part of their knowledge is acquired in textbooks and class rooms. The sphere in which they move daily throws them into situations and contacts which unmistakably provide great revelations. This young man philosophizes saying: "I have noticed most of all during my first year at university that nearly everyone else is pitifully like myself. I have noticed also that a reasonable amount of money—say up to \$1,000 a year is beneficial, more is a handicap." And so the impressions of one young man are given as he sees them after a year of life at the University of Nebraska. Quite apparently the past months have meant a great deal to him for he has learned, both sadly and wisely.

## SENIOR INVITATIONS

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