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Marching Against Forced Military Drill

Convinced that compulsory military training should be abandoned by the University of Nebraska, this publication invites comment from students. We outlined our stand on the question of forced drill yesterday morning and are prepared to hold our ground in the interests of future peace and fair treatment of university underclassmen.

Compulsory drill fails in the accomplishment of its boasted ideals and paves the way for future wars. We maintain that forced drill does not justify itself on the grounds of physical development, training in leadership, instruction in discipline, or as a means of preventing tragic clashes between nations. Choosing, rather wisely, to ignore our reputation of the militarist's argument of bodily improvement through collegiate army life, K. K. T. takes arms against The Daily Nebraskan in our Morning Mail column today.

In his first paragraph, K. K. T. attempts to convince us that compulsory military training may be reasonably justified on the basis of its development of leadership and its value as an assurance against war.

If the haphazard military training given underclassmen under the compulsory system is such a valuable preventative for war, why do we limit this superficial army education to college freshmen and sophomores? It would be quite reasonable under K. K. T.'s presumption for the government to compel every young man of college age to go through this training period. The proposal of such national compulsory military duty would be met with a storm of protests from our citizens, we are certain. Is it strange then that college students should raise their voices in alarm against a similar system in their institutions?

K. K. T. admits that military training received in universities does not develop leadership, yet he considers it a factor in the development of that quality.

"Firstly," he argues, "those who show signs of possessing any of the gold medal qualities are given a chance to further them by being appointed to those positions of slight importance, and are given an opportunity to pass those qualities on to others, both by example and by making decisions for those less fortunate people who do not possess those qualities in like degree."

Underclassmen who have come from high schools in which military was taught, or who have had previous training, are given the "positions of slight importance" to which our commentator refers. They know the fundamentals of close order drill and are acquainted with certain army activities. For these reasons, and not because they show signs of actual leadership, they are promoted. We have seen too many young men, destined to become acknowledged leaders later in college life, obey the commands of cadets who have far less leading ability but more knowledge of military training.

That these underlings make any decisions which may stimulate leadership in them is rather absurd, we fear. Military leadership, incidentally, should not be identified too closely with the leadership which makes men forceful and influential in business, social and political circles.

A man may not know the strength of his voice before he is promoted to an insignificant post in the cadet regiment, but we question the assertion that he awakens to his power of moulding opinion and leading the pack during his brief reign as a platoon sergeant. Leading men through squads right is a far cry from piloting them through situations outside the ranks of compulsory drill.

How many freshmen and sophomores have learned to "stand the gaff" during their two years of forced military? K. K. T. is confusing this sugar-coated collegiate training with the regular army.

R. O. T. C. stands for "Reserve Officers Training Corps," we understand. The object is to train officers, not to develop a standing army. Officers could be developed far better if the course were made elective, when they would deal with men interested in war tactics and not with a flock of schoolboys who have been unable to secure reprieves from the university army.

When he states that "the compulsory military training as practiced by colleges today is but a part of a national plan of future defense and protection," K. K. T. assumes that our diplomats and our government represents perfection. In our relations with other nations, the fact that we have a mighty system of military preparedness may inspire in our humanly imperfect representatives a spirit of arrogance, which may sell upon this stupendous force of ours to do battle with an enemy. He who packs not a pistol is apparently considered less apt to commit murder than the armed man. If we are to have world peace let us develop qualities of arbitration and peaceful settlement instead of pushing our college underclassmen through two years of mental preparation for war.

This "taking care of ourselves" is a ghastly, costly affair. Germany was made the brunt of thousands of slanderous remarks during the late war because she had a system of compul-

sory military training. Granting that her operations were more extensive than ours, the theory and principle is the same. Germany, evidently, was not preparing for peace.

While giving him, without asking his consent, a mere smattering of knowledge concerning military tactics and activities, the compulsory drill system impresses upon the underclassmen the inevitability of conflict. That spirit breeds war.

The University of Nebraska is an educational institution, and in the modern college there is no place for compulsory military training. If the aim of the R. O. T. C. is to develop officers, let it develop them without immersing every normal young man in the war dip. If this state favors two years of inefficient military education for its university men, let it expand the excellent principle to every young man of freshman and sophomore age. That is no more absurd than the foundation upon which the University of Nebraska forced drill system is based.

Cries of "ardent pacifism" and "unwise editorial policy" have filtered into our office. Being rather thankfully ignorant of the intricate maze of political influence which has been spun about this institution, we cannot understand how this attempt to rid the university of a harmful course is detrimental to the school. Having the appendix sliced out is probably not the most delightful experience in the life of a man, yet he undergoes it willingly in the interests of his whole health. Those who are too well acquainted with the "policies" of an institution lose sight of its true purposes and possibilities.

We are sincerely and unflinchingly opposed to compulsory military training in the University of Nebraska.

Cornhusker picture deadlines are somewhat like Santa Claus, Davey Jones and Jack Frost.

Statistics show that few radio announcers are out of jobs during the depression. There probably wouldn't be any depression if the radio announcers were all out of jobs.

If the Plot Is Small, Jerk the Weeds.

If the University of Nebraska is so crowded that new buildings are considered necessary by the administration, and if the legislature is thumbs down on the proposal, what are we to do?

When a garden becomes so filled with valuable plants and so filled with weeds that new plots are needed—and new plots are not available—what does the efficient gardener do? Evidently he is not content to lean on his hoe and shed salty tears. He faces his garden with fire in his eyes and begins to tear out the weeds, giving his vegetables a chance to thrive and bring him profit.

This analogy fits the University of Nebraska.

Sluffing students lead a parasitical existence on this campus, crowding out the sincere youths who are thirsty for learning and willing to work for it. The university is entirely too lenient with the consistent flunkers.

We do not contend that every freshman who is down in a few hours should be promptly ousted from the Cornhusker campus. Our concern is with juniors and seniors who have a collegiate career speckled with flunks, conditions and incompletes. They should be given a reasonable chance, their cases thoroughly studied, and be tossed out if it is evident that they are doing themselves little good and weakening the institution's possibilities.

Generosity is a fine quality, but if it is carried to an extreme by the officials, the result is neither beneficial to the university or fair to its students. Education for the masses must be administered intelligently, with consideration of the fact that many young people would be better off outside the university than in it.

If the present enrollment requires a new building or so, then we may subtract the number which makes this new structure necessary. We might limit educational possibilities slightly, but in the long run the university would be achieving its true purpose. If the legislature believes that an attempt to slash the enrollment is unfair, then we believe that an attempt to slash the appropriation is unfair.

Education which involves thousands of students and millions of dollars must be placed upon an efficient foundation. Give the university more money and it will educate more students; give it less and its range of possibilities is confined to a smaller group.

Regardless of appropriations, however, there is always a group which has no place in college. Fraternities are aware that certain of their members are continually flunking, lowering the fraternity's scholarship rating. In some cases the lodges might wish to oust the members themselves, but such action is generally out of the question. It is the university's responsibility to see that it is not cultivating a half acre of scholastic weeds.

This highly advertised financial depression doesn't seem to bother The Nebraskan lost and found department store.

Why Be Thoughtless About Being Jobless?

Food is scarce in some sections of the country, unemployment abounds throughout the nation and yet hard times seem to have brought no perceptible change to the university. Cars are roaring down upon the campus in ever increasing number and parties are losing none of their glamor as the shadow of poverty closes in. Perhaps a few students have been forced to leave the sheltering confines of their alma mater, but the exodus has not been sufficient to stir up comment.

We wonder what financial depression means to the university student. Parents are digging a little deeper into the traditional stocking to keep their knowledge-chasing sons and daughters in school—and to preserve for them the social position which they cherish. Judging from appearances, the economy promised by the legislature and practiced by intelligent citizens has not reached the undergraduate field.

Coeds are gold-digging in the customary way; their boy friends are playing sucker as usual. The joke, however, is not on the average caker, but upon his family. The sucker is the honorable father who is burning the midnight oil over his expense accounts and wondering how to keep his boy in college. Since we have taken the pulpit in defense

of the parents, we suggest that students become awakened to the fact that a depression is something more than a slight lowering in the earth's surface. Theaters enjoy a boom of business when people are jobless, but collegians need not seek entertainment and recreation to keep from their minds the haunting thought of poverty. It might be a good plan to stay home and wonder about being jobless, earless, doughless—not just thoughtless.

Everyone argues about big business, but wasn't Ben Hur on a chain gang?

MORNING MAIL

For Compulsory Drill.

TO THE EDITOR:
 Seemingly the chief features of The Daily Nebraskan's article on the above subject were the statements that military training does not develop leadership and that the attitude of mental preparedness is detrimental to the state and to the nation, and that physical preparedness is not achieved.

I quite agree with the editor that the amount of military training received in universities does not in itself develop leadership, but it is an influential factor in such development in at least two respects. Firstly, those who show signs of possessing any of the gold medal qualities are given a chance to further the growth of those qualities by being appointed to those positions of slight importance, and are

given the opportunity to pass those qualities on to others, both by example and by making decisions for those less fortunate people who do not possess those qualities in like degree.

Secondly, a man may not know his extent of ability until he tries. As in the business world so it is in the military world. The ability to lead men and to be a judge of character is an attribute of the successful man. Military training is a great aid in bringing to light many human qualities that might be undiscovered without it. (The ability to "stand the gaff" for one thing.)

I am one of the many individuals who believe preparedness is the best way to avoid future war. Wars are not always caused by militaristic tendencies of one people, nor by economic conditions within the country. One nation is usually drawn into conflict by such conditions in another country. The conditions of the United States today are inducive to extensive military preparedness through the fact that someone may try to shake our apple tree and unless we are adequately equipped to take care of our own, we may find ourselves in a sorry mess. The invincibility of the United States is too often taken for granted by the patriots.

The compulsory military training as practiced by colleges today is but a part of a national plan of future defense and protection. The amount of knowledge of military affairs, weapons, and principles acquired by the usual R. O. T. C. student is enough to give him but a mere smattering of the real concept of military preparedness, yet in case of emergency that smattering would be of infinite value to him and his country.
 K. K. T.

early morning fire are no more. The following day's menu was headed by smoked herring.

So the old question of compulsory drill has bobbed up again. It's purely a question of rank and file—if you feel rank about it you can file a protest.

With all the complaining and sighing about the mater of military drill we are prone to refer to those participating as the "ah-me" boys.

Some recent happening threw the Turkish Sultan's private household into an uproar. Sort of a harum-scarum event, n'est ce pas?

THE Lord helps those who help themselves—and may the Lord help those who get caught helping themselves.

SHORTHAND [in 30 Days]

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Social Dancing Classes Draw Two Men To One Girl; More Coeds Are Needed; Posters Cause Wonderment

A good dancer keeps time to the music—dances smoothly—is not stiff—does not look at his feet—enjoys himself while dancing—and has many more qualities according to posters tacked around the walls of the armory where social dancing classes have been given during the past several weeks. It makes you wonder, to read the signs, whether these attributes are really essential to a dancer, or if the crowds which frequent downtown parties are trying to fool somebody.

The men, at least, realize their awkwardness (which, of course, is right in line with many other traits of the well known superior sex) and have begun to attend the classes in large numbers. In fact, there are about two men to every girl in the classes. The committee in charge has issued a call for more girls so that there will be enough to go around and Nebraska men may be called something besides good conversationalists. Besides it would be terrible to have the men dancing

with one another.

The sixth lesson will be given in the armory tonight at 7 o'clock. As many girls as can possibly attend are needed. Identification cards must be presented at the door. If the classes continue as successfully as they have been, they will probably be continued the second semester.

Girls on the committee who instruct wear white ribbons—so that nobody will try to teach them, possibly. And the men who attend simply wear a smile and—keep time to the music—dance smoothly—are not stiff—do not look at their feet—and enjoy themselves while dancing.



WE see one of the fraternities is presenting something bigger and better in the way of fire drills this year.

The five pet goldfish of the fra-

your patronage is our pleasure. we enjoy pleasing you

tasty pastry shop
 hotel cornhusker

Get a HAIRCUT or have your hair done up at the Mogul Barber Shop 127 No. 12

FISHBAUGH GETS DUMBNESS PRIZE OF BROWN DERBY

Possession of the freshman law brown derby, awarded weekly to the frosh making the dumbest crack in class, was transferred this week to Earl Fishbaugh, university debater, by vote of the class. Selected from a field of three nominees, Fishbaugh held a wide margin on the field of errors.

The outburst upon which the crown was presented was a recitation made the Saturday prior to vacation, in contracts class. When asked by Charles A. Robbins, veteran law college anti-beer and cigaret leader, if he could define a novation, Fishbaugh agreed that such a definition would be but a small task. (A novation, Webster says, is the substitution of a new obligation for an old one.)

"Well, Mr. Robbins, if you came in the door and everyone in the class stood up and applauded, that would be a novation," Fishbaugh beamed, only to be greeted by the law college raspberry of hisses. Members of the class were unanimous in declaring that he was at the time in the act of making two serious violations of law college ethics, that of volunteering to recite and of reciting upon a case not assigned.

Derby Absent. Award of the derby was scheduled to be made the day of the outburst, but was delayed because of the fact that Lloyd Pospisil, initial wearer of the lid, was absent upon the day of award, thereby lengthening his period of possession to three weeks.

Second place in the race this week was generally agreed to be safely in the hands of the frosh who, throughout the recitation of a case, continued to call the defendant "In Re Heigho," taking the Latin words "In Re" meaning "in the matter of" to be the defendant's first name. Third rank dumb crack was withheld by censors.

At the meeting this week it was decided that in the future all dumb cracks, to be eligible for consideration, must be made within the week for which the award is made. Agitation is afloat to force through a rule prohibiting the insertion of paper to make the 7-4 size derby fit a size 6 head, the proponents of the rule declaring that the fit of the lid, as much as the style, size, and color, should be factors in the crown's quality.

Professor Fossler spent his 1902 summer vacation in the Big Horn mountains.

If Interested in Securing a Teaching Position Call On Teachers' Service Bureau 505 Terminal Bldg. "Originators of Personal Service"

Correction! In Thursday's paper, a subscription ad stated subscriptions as being 1.50 and 1.75 for the balance of the SEMESTER. It should be— 1.50 ON CAMPUS AND 1.75 MAILED For the Rest of the YEAR!

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