

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

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Singing In the Bath.

Do colleges cater to public wants and desires? Are institutions of higher learning conducted to provide their students with educations, or to please the public?

Certainly there are tendencies to provide what people believe should be a part of every university, rather than what educators believe should be presented.

With all its faults our educational system is fairly successful and fairly well adapted to our national temperament and needs.

Never have we seen so frank an admission by a leading exponent of higher education to the effect that our higher learning, standard-bearer and dogmatizer of our culture, is set out to meet a public demand, much as the movies give us certain stereotyped dramas as a sop to the public demand for a certain crowd-mind satisfying type of entertainment.

Thus we find a concept of education in which those who have subjected themselves to higher education go out to take the niche which the world has prepared for them, not to find or make new niches or to develop their lives as individuals among individuals.

Throughout the whole of this concept there runs the taint of materialism, the emphasis on the physical growth of civilization, so that we have an education designed to send men out into the world to make better plumbing fixtures, to advertise and educate the people to use better plumbing fixtures, and to get better plumbing fixtures into the homes of all people possible, via mass production, thus raising the standard of living in its popular connotation with the ultimate advancement of civilization, at least by our standard.

In this concept with its one great outlook to man's material advancement, with a minor chord struck by the R. O. T. C.—administrative hookup designed to make the graduate a stalwart, patriotic member of the state as such, who won't ask too many questions—there is little consideration given to the fact that the man will live as an individual. He is equipped to take his place and perhaps to make a better one materially, he is inoculated against anything that might break down the state, under which he lives in comparative peace and safety, but he has not even the fundamentals that will give him the pleasures of intelligent living.

Has education forgotten that the manner in which man will live and enjoy life depends upon the scope and intelligent observation of his viewpoint upon life? Have they surrendered... to the public lust for material gain, for popularly built up standards of living? Has education relinquished its dying chance to make and preserve civilization and intelligent living, to the credo of the tiled bath and chauffeured motor carriages?

So says the Daily Illini. We disagree. There is one flaw in the argument, and it is a serious one. How does this editorial writer explain his own attitude? He is a college student, evidently. Evidently, too, he is far from preparing to take up the great cause of better plumbing—of material advancement of civilization, and material advancement alone.

Out of twenty students, graduates, says the writer, there will not be found one who has not visions of mahogany desks, huge offices, luxurious offices, well-dressed wives, suburban homes. The writer himself is not included in this group of twenty. There lies the flaw in the whole argument. Does he think he is alone in his attitude? For he is not.

Does he seek to convert everyone to his own point of view? Then again he would be wrong. For there must be a divided point of view, as he says. His protest is proof that individuality has not and will never vanish. Even though everyone in the world possessed himself of a beautifully tiled bathroom, he would still argue with his neighbor.

Education has proved its worth by arousing this violent protest in the Illinois writer... and in others like him.

What matter if every man and his neighbor do relax in colorfully tiled tubs? There is no greater joy in the world than singing in the bath, say we, and always will each man sing his own little tune, different from that of any other man.

Tests made at New Jersey college for women indicate that sophomores are less likely to believe untruths than are juniors. Bet they have a Junior Prom there, too, instead of a Soph Hop.

Putting the Cart in Front.

"I told you so," says a student, ridiculing the lack of action in the matter of a student union building. We have no action with which to confound him, but we can read his letter with no serious misgivings. He spoke just a bit out of turn, we fear.

Senior class members will meet next Thursday. There is the matter of a memorial gift

to the university to be considered. And this year it appears the memorial may take the form of a substantial contribution to the proposed union building. After all, that would be action.

Another contributor howls for the same reason. Says he, "It's time to start some action. Ask the students for money, then talk." It may be a good theory, but we fear its results. Putting the cart too far in front of the horse is invariably fatal to any hope for action.

When a large number of students agree with the two quoted above, it will be time to start the subscription drive. At present, too few know what a union building is. They do not know what they are missing. It is necessary to show them this, first of all.

And here is conclusive proof that something is being done on the project: Innocents are arguing about the best methods of conducting the drive. Every student must admit that when that body becomes concerned, the stimulus must indeed be far out of the ordinary. If the Innocents are actually in earnest, and mean to work on the project, there should be no difficulty at all in getting action, prompt and efficient, from the student body in general. For the Innocents have always been the last campus organization to take action. Now they are waking up. We grow more cheerful.

Omaha University has added a new rule. All students under 18 years of age are locked up if found in the streets after nine o'clock in the evening. We almost hope the boys and girls fool them, and get wicked before instead of after nine. It might be done. After all, it does sound rather silly to say that no one does anything wrong before a set time, and that everyone does evil deeds after that magic hour.

The Perfect Letter Writer.

Some time ago we printed in these columns a few qualifications which every "Letter to the editor" must possess, before it can be published. We are now repeating one, and adding another.

One important-looking missive we recently received began in this fashion: Listen, Daily Nebraskan: Get this straight. You had better print this letter or else."

The letter had no signature. We are perverse. We still refuse to print any anonymous letters.

The letter also had no point. It didn't say anything. We do not always refuse, but we do dislike to print communications that say nothing at all.

Concluded the writer: "If you don't like it, what are you going to do about it?" Well, we might print it, we might save it to show future generations, we might do any number of things. Instead, we are putting it gently but firmly into our waste-basket.

The Daily Nebraskan will not print anonymous letters. It tries its best, as well, to refrain from printing long-winded, wordy missives that say nothing.

Webster says taut means tight. Guess the students must have been taut quite a bit at Michigan, where five fraternity houses were padlocked by prohibition agents.

It's a Hard Life!

Members of the present Prom committee have been blamed for a number of things thus far in their career. "Who is Geasley Smith?" yells a contributor. The question seems to have been settled in a fairly satisfactory manner. He seems to be the conductor of a quite well-known dance band.

Decorations? Heh, heh! So says another contributor. Well, it is a hard job to decorate the coliseum; but it has been done. Whether it shall be done for the Prom depends upon the committee members in charge. Do they have an overpowering desire to work? Then the ballroom will be beautifully decorated. Are they included in the Prom committee merely to be entering one more campus activity? Then we fear the results will be no better than in previous years.

Important point in the whole business—will the Prom girl be elected in a fair and square manner? "She never has been," says still another letter writer. He may be mistaken, and he may not be. In any event, there is no reason in the world why this year's election should not be absolutely honest.

We suggest that a senior member of the Student Council, not connected in any way with the Prom committee, be present at the balloting and at the counting of votes. Not but what the committee could conduct a square election all by itself; rather, because there are a number of persons who sincerely believe that to do so would necessitate their breaking all precedent.

If a senior council member were present, there would be no room for any reasonable doubt as to the honesty of the election methods. And we doubt if his presence would create any hardship on the Prom committee members. He could do no harm—he might do much good.

Only one solution to the May Queen muddle. Let the successful candidate wear a mask. No one will know, then, whether she was fairly elected, or even elected at all. No cause for complaints.

Drinks For the House.

Prohibition "questionnaire" is suggested by a student contributor. It would embody eight or ten questions on who drinks what, why, when, and where. The results, he says, could be tabulated and sent to the legislature, members of which seem quite interested in the campus liquor situation. The trouble is that no one would take very seriously the matter of filling out these blanks, to be turned in unsigned. The results might be comic, and certainly would be far from accurate.

Seventy-eight percent of Colorado students drink regularly, according to results of just such a questionnaire. We doubt very much if any such conclusions would be arrived at by circulation of similar questions on the Nebraska campus, but even so the facts cannot be discovered by such methods. We cannot imagine seventy-eight of every hundred Colorado students going to classes every day amid a brewery-like atmosphere of alcohol fumes. No, the common sense explanation prevails.

Students must have their fun when it comes to answer anonymous questionnaires. In addition, there is the difficulty of reaching every student, rather than a few. We have yet to see a questionnaire which reached even reasonably sound general conclusions.

MORNING MAIL

How About Some Action?

TO THE EDITOR: Hasn't there been just about enough free air scattered about this student union project? Haven't people discussed the thing, without actually doing anything constructive toward it, long enough? Isn't it about time to get down to business if the structure is ever to be built?

Erection of a student union building is a great—an immense undertaking—of course. But why waste more time by sitting around talking about it? The majority of opinion seems to favor the project. Why not put that opinion to the test by asking it for pledges to the building?

There are numerous organizations on the campus which could be drafted into the work of securing pledges. Why not get them started—get them to canvassing students, professors, alumni—and after they have obtained enough for the first unit of the building, perhaps, there will be more excuse for talk.

LOOSE THREADS

By Gene McKim

The Footnotes editor in the Lincoln Evening Journal for Saturday, Feb. 21, sees fit to criticize a student who wrote for this worthy sheet—The Nebraskan—regarding the eight o'clock rule for returning books to the library after having them out over night.

It is inconvenient to get a book down to the library by 8 o'clock in order to avoid a fine, the Footnotes editor grants. It is inconvenient to rise for breakfast. But if breakfast does not come up to one's bedside, one must go down to breakfast. That is life among the proletariat.

But to say that it is "well nigh impossible" to get a book to the library and still get to an eight o'clock class is, well, exaggerating. It has been done before. The F. E. himself has performed the feat. Never before has he even felt that it was worth mentioning, much less boasting about it, but now that the personnel of the library has been challenged to perform this stunt the F. E. cheers them on and crows that he has done it.

It must be admitted that the feat is not impossible. The Footnotes editor's point was well taken in that respect—but it does seem that there was a good bit of truth in the letter which he has seen fit to "pan." It was possible for Lindbergh to fly to Paris, but there have not been many news stories to the effect that he has done the stunt a second time.

Of course the comparison is possibly a bit far fetched in these two cases, but anyhow there is an analogy between them. Lindbergh successfully performed the feat once. It has not been convenient for him to do it again, but after all, one might say, what would be the point of trying it a second time. There is no particular need for his repeating the feat.

In much the same respect can books be gotten to the library by 8 o'clock on the cold and frosty mornings which usually occur this time of year. The feat has been accomplished, and many more times than Mr. Lindbergh's flying to Paris.

Of course the F. E. should be commended upon being one of those reckless and venturesome souls who was able satisfactorily to return his library books on time. Without doubt it will be done many more times in the years to come—if necessary.

That is the point—what is the necessity of getting books in by 8 o'clock? As we see it, the point in The Nebraskan's original editorial comment, and in the letter to The Nebraskan, was not so much the possibility or the impossibility of accomplishing the feat, but rather the convenience or inconvenience the present rule offers to the student body.

Libraries are usually maintained for the convenience and use of the university at large. It would seem that the previous writers in this paper had a point well taken. From 8 to 9 o'clock the students patronizing the library are few in number. The calls for books on reserve at that time cannot be so very heavy.

At the same time there are many students who are living in various outlying parts of the city, who, while having alarm clocks and being accustomed to going down to breakfast in the usual proletarian manner, still are inconvenienced in a decided manner by getting a book into the library by 8 in the morning, and then getting to an 8 o'clock class.

For instance, a student living in southeast Lincoln, to be sure of getting his book returned on time and then getting to an eight o'clock class, would have to be on the campus by 7:50 at least. This would mean catching a street car which would get him to Twelfth and O streets by 7:40. This would necessitate catching a car for the downtown district by 7:10 at the latest.

If the student lived a little dis-

BUCK'S COFFEE SHOP (FORMERLY DAVIS) SPECIAL STUDENT LUNCH 30c Hot Rolls and Drink Included

It's time for a showdown. If everyone wants a student union building let them express their opinion materially with a pledge of whatever they can give. Let's get the thing going. Let's see what can be done. M. W. C.

'I Told You So'

TO THE EDITOR: No matter what you do, there is always some bum to come along and say, "I told you so." Well, here I am.

Some two or three weeks ago, I wrote a student opinion, which you most graciously published, in which I declared that Nebraska students were too dead in the vicinity of the cars to get excited or get behind anything, especially something so great in extent and of so great benefit as a student union building.

Now, I can make the famous remark. For some two or three weeks you have commented editorially on the advantages which a student union would bring to this campus. You are right, but students don't seem to be interested.

Outside of a few scattered, more progressive campus leaders, no one has taken notice of your argument. Students in general are still in their peaceful semi-consciousness of collegia, doing as little as possible. They are too far gone to ever wake up, I believe.

I still say I hope I'm wrong, but it looks more and more like I'm right. Nebraskans are too dead to boost a live issue. THE MISER.

NEW STUDENTS MAY SECURE HANDBOOKS AT Y. M. AND Y. W.

C. D. Hayes, general secretary of the Y. M. C. A., is sending letters to all men new at the university this semester telling them that they may get a student handbook for the asking by calling at his office.

The Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. distribute these handbooks to the new students each semester. New women may receive theirs of Miss Bernice Miller at Ellen Smith hall. Mr. Hayes says that any new student who might not receive a letter should not hesitate to call for his handbook.

The purpose of these books is outlined in their foreword. "In attempting to serve the new students the university Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. give you this handbook which will help you familiarize yourselves with the ideal and traditions of Nebraska U."

NEW MEMBERS OF VESPERS CHOIR TO MEET MONDAY

New members of the vespers choir will meet Monday at 5 o'clock at Ellen Smith hall for practice with the other members. Aileen Neely has charge of the choir.

Those who were successful in the tryouts are Anne Cramer, Lucille Bledsoe, Alyce Dermatt, Lorene Gossard, Hester Hunt, Marjorie Lyle, Juanita Stafford, Marion Vesley, Harriet Woods, Zona Wilcox and Alma Williams.

WESLEY PLAYERS PRESENT PLAY OF CHRIST TONIGHT

"A Sacrifice Once Offered" will be given by Wesley Players at the St. Paul Methodist church this evening at 7:45.

Miss Carolyn Cooper and Russell Lindsog will carry the leading roles of Calpurnia and Pontius Pilate, respectively. The play relates the situation arising in the home of Pontius Pilate at the time he was considering the case of Christ.

The drama is under the direction of Mrs. Nancy Foresman Dickey of the university school of fine arts.

Professor Rosenquist to Lead Y. M. Services

Prof. Carl Rosenquist will lead the Monday morning Ag. Y. M. C. A. service at 7:00 o'clock in room 303 Agricultural hall. These early morning meetings are open to all and are held every Monday morning from 7:00 to 7:50 o'clock. From twelve to twenty usually attend.

Oury Will Be Guest at Pershing Rifles Party

Colonel and Mrs. W. H. Oury will be the special guests at the Pershing Rifles party which will be held March 7 at the Lincoln hotel. Invitations have been sent to other Pershing Rifles companies in other universities of which there are fourteen. Alumni will also be invited.

Albert Lucke is chairman of the committees in charge of the bids, decorations, and orchestra. He is being assisted by Joe Miller, William Gordon and Claud Gillespie.

WILL GIVE PUPPET SHOW

Museum's Second Marionette Play to Be Presented in Morrill Hall.

Two performances of the university museum's puppet show, "One Eye, Two Eyes, Three Eyes," given for the first time last Sunday, are scheduled for this afternoon because of the large crowds which were unable to get into the Morrill hall auditorium a week ago.

To prevent crowding this week, the museum has been issuing free tickets which are available at the museum office in Morrill hall. The regular children's hour at 2:15 will be given over to the marionette play as will the adult program at 4:15 o'clock. Tickets are being given out for both performances.

Miss Marjorie Shanafelt is in charge of the puppet show which is the first of its kind ever to be given in Lincoln. She plans to give at least one more before the winter season is over and is arranging for a series of marionette plays next year.

Phog Allen to Speak to Young People's Meeting

LAWRENCE, Kan.—Dr. F. C. Allen, director of athletics at the University of Kansas, will be the principal speaker at a meeting of young people of the Presbyterian church at Parsons, March 11. His topic will be "Sports and Our Leisure Time."

The Unitarian Church Twelfth and H Streets "THE CHURCH WITHOUT A CARE" Sermon Subject, Feb. 22: "The Symbolism of the Maiden's Place in the Picture," an interpretation of Miss Dolan's painting, "The Search for Truth."

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