

# THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

Station A, Lincoln, Nebraska  
 OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION  
 UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
 Published Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and  
 Sunday mornings during the academic year.  
 THIRTIETH YEAR  
 Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice in  
 Lincoln, Nebraska, under act of congress, March 3, 1879,  
 and at special rate of postage provided for in section  
 1103 act of October 3, 1917, authorized January 20, 1922  
 Under direction of the Student Publication Board  
 SUBSCRIPTION RATE  
 Single Copy 5 cents \$1.25 a semester  
 \$2 a year \$1.75 a semester mailed  
 Editorial Office—University Hall 4.  
 Business Office—University Hall 4A.  
 Telephone—Day: 8-6891; Night: 8-6822, 8-5333 (Journal)  
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## Brothers In the Bond

Does the American college fraternity do anyone any good? Do the Greek-letter societies aid in solution of any problems, except (on some occasions) the purely financial ones of the favorite bootlegger?

Critics of the fraternity system are vitriolic in their caustic comments. The fraternity system, they shout, is a flop. It creates snobishness on a gigantic scale. It breeds self-satisfied indifference "behind the pin" toward the troubles of outsiders. A fraternity man, they yell, is concerned with nothing but the social activities of himself and his brothers.

We wondered if the critics were right. We looked over the huge pile of college newspapers that enters the office daily. We found out a few things that came as a surprise.

First of all, we had supposed that the main advantages, the good work, of any fraternity had as its beneficial results the improvement in calibre of the man himself. Social contacts, good fellowship, ability to get along with people of every type, and all that sort of thing. This point must be granted by even the most radical of critics.

But we also found, from a reading of the college dailies in particular, that fraternities did other things. And did them in a fine spirit of friendly interest in the welfare of other citizens.

A member of a fraternity located at Denison college, Granville, Ohio, noticed a little eight-year old boy, poorly clad and undernourished wandering about the streets of the city. Attracted by the boy's winning smile and touched by his evident poverty, he invited the youngster to the chapter house for dinner on Easter day. This invitation was regrettably declined on the grounds that his clothes were too ragged. This obstacle was removed by the fraternity men, who purchased a new outfit for the boy. To the new suit was added, as a finishing touch, a pledge button. The youngster was made "one of the boys."

The following week the chapter applied to the boy's mother to permit him to come and live at the chapter house. The boy, William Hammond, is one of eleven children. Separated from his father, the mother reasoned that the fraternity would give the boy better care than she could. She consented. William, who had meanwhile received the nickname "Oscar," moved into the house.

He readily accepted minor duties about the house, and was soon heard singing the songs of the fraternity. During the summer, Oscar visited two of the members, and after returning early to help with rushing, is attending the second grade in school.

The members of that fraternity, by the services they are rendering this boy, have demonstrated that theirs is a true brand of fraternalism. Further, they have done much to give critics of the fraternity system acute mental indigestion.

Fraternities at the University of West Virginia are sponsoring a project which is of the greatest interest in fraternity circles. Each fraternity has agreed to serve two meals each day to two of the impoverished people in Monongahela county. This is one of the first examples of an organized fraternity project to aid in relieving the present economic crisis.

The expense of the plan is very small. The average eastern fraternity, we are told, serves about twenty men at each meal; two more, instead of necessitating extra expense, would merely take care of extra food, some of which is always wasted.

In helping others, the members may possibly have an ulterior motive, i. e., avoiding the dangers of hash, stew, and the usual left-over dishes which are the lament of every fraternity house. But the project was not undertaken to reduce waste food, nor to avoid hash.

It was undertaken in an effort to relieve suffering in Monongahela county, caused by the economic depression. For along the Monongahela are found extensive mines, and large industries. When a depression strikes here, it strikes hard. These plants cannot increase their advertising, enlarge their sales records. They do, instead, decrease their output and dismiss from their employ many hundreds of workers.

The workers, forced to eat, have no money with which to buy food. The fraternities are coming to the rescue; in a small way, it is true, but nevertheless in a darn effective one. For when a man is hungry, nothing looks quite so nice as two good big meals!

Here in Lincoln, where people eat quite regularly anyhow, where farming is the major occupation, and where most anyone can get food with some regularity, because they raise it themselves, opportunity for feeding the multitudes is somewhat limited.

The organized charities of the city have done

wonders in filling hungry mouths, and in clothing the shabbily dressed.

Nebraska fraternities, for all that, have done what they could.

During the Christmas period, the Interfraternity council sponsored a Christmas party for poor children of the city. A pleasing program was arranged, and gifts of candy, apples, and food were distributed. In addition, individual fraternities proceeded with their usual program of giving dinners for poor children, inviting a number to their respective chapter houses and distributing gifts.

It was a start, and next year will see an even better organized program for city relief work.

On the collegiate side of the picture, the average grades of the Nebraska fraternity man are far better than those of his non-fraternity acquaintance.

Have fraternities justified their existence? Well, what do you think?

Dance held at Butler university innovated the new method of subscription. All young ladies were weighed at the door, and escorts paid "by the pound." Don't they ever give the heavy-weights a break?

## May We See More of Them!

Approximately 1,200 high school students from all parts of the state gathered on the Nebraska campus Friday and Saturday to take part in various athletic contests. The Nebraska is glad to see such affairs held here in Lincoln because of the many benefits which go to the participants in the meets. New acquaintances, new ideas, greater inspirations—all should be, and we believe are gained by these youths from the states who congregate here.

The Nebraska is glad because of that; but more so because it is a time when this university can be sold to those who are visiting. Most of the 1,200 were seniors in high school. That means that they will be choosing some school in which to continue their education. That school may or may not be Nebraska—according to the way those youths are treated when they are here. Meets such as the one which ended yesterday furnish a splendid chance to show off the university and students here have a wonderful opportunity to convince others that this should be their school.

We believe Nebraska students did their part in advertising their alma mater. And although the high school people were here for only a couple of days, a good deal was done in that time toward urging the entrance next fall of many youths, some of whom might not have come if they had not seen the university at this time. We think meets like this are valuable to Nebraska and we should always hold as many as possible here. After all, we are the educational center of Nebraska—we have the finest and most complete equipment in the state for conducting meets—so why not have them?

We hope the high school students had a good time while here. We hope they will realize our welcome and come back as often and as soon as they can.

## Will It Ever Come to This?

"I just got a letter from Harris of Podunk high. He's finally decided to come here to school next year."

"Yeah, I promised him a scholarship and a job when he gets here. We alumni have to watch out for good material."

"Is he really as good as he's cracked up to be?"

"I'll say he is. He was all-state Latin translator for two years, and has had honorable mention on the all-state debate team."—Wabash Bachelor.

## Charlie Chaplin On Warfare

Charlie Chaplin hopes that all the old men will be sent to the front first in the next war. It is a good stunt, and would probably help quite a bit in stopping the slaughter. We might even go Charlie one better and suggest putting all the war profiteers in the front line trenches. And the "war agitators" in the air corps. And the "big navy" hounds and the slipbuilder-millionaire on their own destroyers and battleships. And Art Brisbane in an observation balloon!

It would be great stuff. Imagine the Du Pouts heaving their own explosives at the Krupps. Or some of the steel barons getting their own bayonets between their fourth and fifth ribs. We might even put a few of the "wheat profiteers" who make millions in wartime to the gentle task of eating their own trench bread, in the front-line dugouts. And the divines who insist that "God is on our side" might be sent to heaven to find out for sure!

Yes, Charlie, you have the right idea. Your little plan would solve more international tangles than a century of disarmament conferences that fail to disarm.

## College Comment

### Men Will Wear Hats.

Hats are to be worn by men again this year. That is a fashion note which is released in advance of a nation-wide campaign to bring prosperity back to the country's hatmakers, whose industry has been seriously injured by the collegiate trend toward hatless living.

An association of hat manufacturers placed their troubles, so we learn, before a distinguished publicity agent, whose main purpose it is to bring public opinion to bear on the advantages of headgear. It is hoped that column after column will be run in newspapers announcing this important discovery of the public relations counsel:

Hats are to be worn again by men this year. In lending its space to the promotion of the worthy hatmakers' cause by repeating the news, this column is led to remark that perhaps here lies the solution of the people's indifference toward solution of pressing economic and political problems.

Public opinion is not being directed toward men engaged in discovering the sources of the nation's evils; public opinion is concentrating on hats.—Oregon Emerald.

## SEVERAL ALUMNI VISIT FERGUSON'S OFFICE IN WEEK

Alumni who visited Dean O. J. Ferguson's office in the college of engineering during the past week were: John L. Gere, of Bartlesville, Okla., M. E. '27; Charles V. McReynolds, of the state department of public works, C. E. '30; Everett C. Crites, of Central City, Arch. E. '28; Sam G. Zager, of Omaha, E. E. '30; Leon F. Robertson, of Pittsburgh, Pa., M. E. Jan. '31; Frank D. Ellermeier, of Swanton, C. E. '24; Joseph D. Novotny, of Clarkson, M. E. '29.

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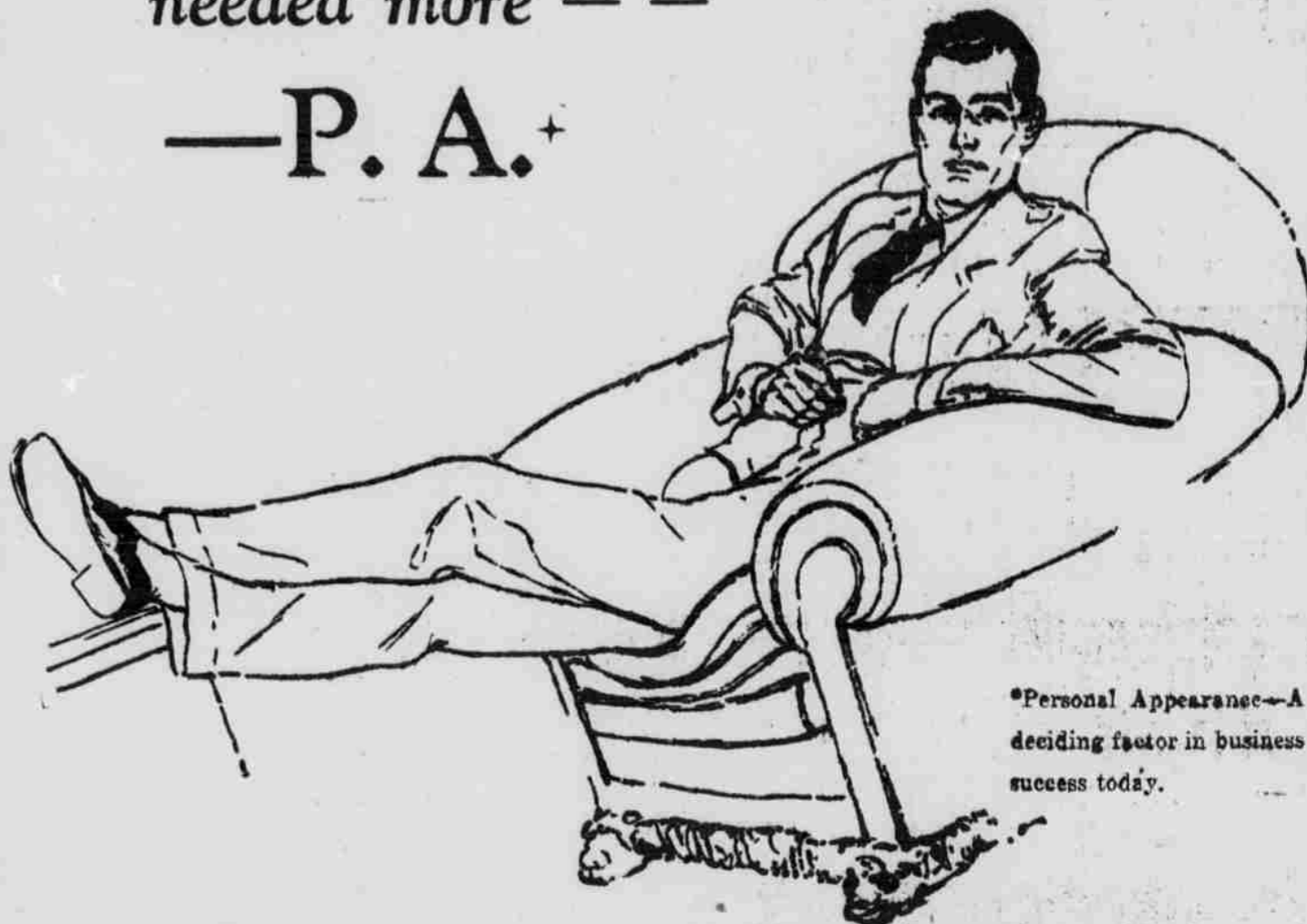
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—P. A.\*



\*Personal Appearance—A deciding factor in business success today.

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