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Compulsory Drill Must Go!

A QUESTION always in the minds of a certain group of thinking students on the campus is one pertaining to compulsory military drill. Why should male students in the sophomore and freshman classes of the university be forced to undergo two years of military drill, the substance of which course could admittedly be taught in two weeks at any military camp? Recently the Board of Regents, preferring to leave things as they are rather than remedying an obnoxious situation, voted to retain the compulsory feature of military training on this

For many years there has been controversy aroused repeatedly pertaining to the subject, but never has a student or faculty group organized and actually and forcefully attempted to make the course optional.

It is high time that compulsory military drill be removed from the curriculum of the University of Nebraska, and in its place be substituted optional training. Compulsory drill as an institution in a university is wholly out of place because it cancels academic freedom, a feature the presence of which is considered vitally necessary in any school of higher learning.

Readers will ask first of all why the compulsory feature is undesirable for any other reasons than the abstract one stated above. Following are several

1-Compulsory military drill impedes progress made in the direction of establishment of a peace is that war is inevitable. Such statements are made and supposedly proven so that a mind-set that will facilitate war responses will be formed. R. O. T. C. drill in the colleges and universities of this country exists simply for purposes of propaganda and mindconditioning. It is clearly unfair to place freshmen under the influence of men with such purposes, and only such purposes, in mind.

2-The necessity of conscientious objection caused by the existence of compulsory drill is harmful in effect to both the department of military drill and to the student body in general. Too often insincerity is behind a student's action in seeking exemption and the course isn't regarded in the serious light in which it should be. If compulsory drill were abolished in favor of optional training, therefore, the military department as an effective unit of the university would gain advantage, as those taking the course would do so in all sincerity.

3-The course at present is a farce in several ways. Instructors are well aware of the insincerity of student attitude in many cases.

4-Military instructors give the student the idea that there is only one way in which he can express his loyalty and patriotism. They declare that he owes it to his country and countrymen to don a khaki suit, and offer himself for sacrifice on the altar dedicated to human greed. That belief is false. A student or any citizen of this nation can do better in the way of showing his loyalty and patriotism by organizing for peace. One can certainly do more for his country in that way than by pledging himself to do murder upon order of a so-called superior.

5-The military department has been rather presumptious in encroaching upon the rights of other departments in the university. It also imposes on the students very extensively. It does so in holding so many marches during the spring, stealing hours of class-room work from other departments of the school. The course as scheduled in the university program calls for three hours of devotion of time by each student every week.

6-Too much display is permitted in connection with military functions. Each year at the honors convocation some advanced student is permitted to fill in a major part of the program by strutting forth to receive a scrap of paper declaring that he is the outstanding student in advanced drill. That is

Military officials in Nebraska hall are inclined to harp on the false idea that if compulsory drill were eliminated from this campus federal appropriation under the Morill Land Grant Act of 1862 would be decreased or cut off completely.

The University of Wisconsin, a Land Grant college, abolished compulsory drill in 1922, and suffered no diminution of federal appropriations. In connection with this case the Secretary of the Interior

wrote on July 19, 1923: "According to the Act approved July 2, 1862, it is clear that the branches of instruction which include military tactics, are to be taught 'in such manner as the legislatures of the states may respectively prescribe' Military training according to the Federal law is clearly placed in the same category as the other branches of learning which are named. Instruction in military tactics is obviously a reframent on the states as are the other branches hich are mentioned. It does not appear, however, from the Federal legislation that instruction in milltary tactics is any more obligatory on the individual dent than is instruction in agriculture or me-

se military drill is compulsory on this campus, torture. They obtained \$4.75. Pfeifer, a 74 year old

agricultural and mechanical arts instruction should be placed in the same class.

John W. Weeks, Secretary of War, on November 18, 1924, wrote to Walter C. Longstretth saying:

"I am pleased to inform you that the National Defense Act does not make military training compulsory at any of the institutions which receive the benefits authorized by the Act. So far as the War Department is concerned it is optional with the authorities of the school, college or university whether military training shall be an elective or a compulsory course in the curriculum."

The military department of the University of Nebraska, therefore, can't continue to fall back on the plea that compulsory drill must be retained in order that the school may continue to receive as large a federal appropriation as it has now. The burden of the argument rests squarely on the shoulders of the military department, and they should no longer attempt to pass the buck to stronger hands.

The editor of the Nebraskan is determined to see the establishment of optional military drill as a substitute for the existing compulsory training. He has numerous other students allied with him in the

If this campaign results in failure that will come because of any or all of the following reasons:

1-Economic pressure, the usual barrier. 2-Suppression of the press by the administration or publications board. Such action would be in direct contradition to principles of academic freedom

3-Refusal of the military department to acknowledge the efforts of a group of students bent on establishment of a workable and working peace pro-

4-Defeat of the peace group in a fair debate. If and when this drive results in failure the reasons for such defeat will be publicized.

STUDENT PULSE

Brief, concise contributions pertinent to matters of student life and the university are welcomed by this department, under the usual restrictions of sound news-paper practice, which excludes all libelous matter and personal attacks. Letters must be signed, but names will be withheld from publication is so desired.

How About It, Regents.

To the Editor:

The editorial of last Thursday "Studying the Living World" deserves further comment. Current problems should be studied and analyzed so that students can draw their own conclusions as to how these problems affect them.

Too often ideas become so set that they are accepted without any question as to their origin or their variance from the truth. This has so often been the case in the set rules and traditions that confront new students entering the "atmosphere of higher learning."

In the past we have had the tendency of accepting too many of these set forms and never doubting their benefits. Skeptics, radicals and misguided students (as they are so often called) often make statements that oppose the usual order of thinking and extreme contempt for their opinions has always been present.

Since schools are erected and maintained for the use of the student, his opinion should receive more program because it involves military fatalism. One attention than it does. If the schools do develop a the declarations made by the military department | few independent thinkers, why shouldn't their opinions receive as much attention as the group who follow the set rules?

With elections just a few weeks away the attitudes of the regents who are to be elected should be made public and known to the student body. One of the questions that is often discussed by students is compulsory military drill on the university campus. Are these men in favor of making it an elective course the same as any other course offered?

With the aid of competent advisors the average student entering the university can choose the courses he needs without disturbing the rules of the

TANGLED YARNS

O. W. D.

With the assassination of King Alexander of Yugoslavia, and Foreign Minister Louis Barthou of France still occupying important positions on the front pages of the daily press, is added the further unfortunate news of the death of Raymond Poincare, wartime president of France. Poincare was a close friend of Barthou, and like his friend has worked long in the interests of European peace. He is the last of the famous French war-time chiefs which included Georges Clemenceau, and the warriors, Foche and Joffre, and like them will remain long in the hearts of Frenchmen.

A radically different angle to the toll of European deaths is the story from Pecs, Hungary, where 1,200 miners have entombed themselves in the black pit of a coal mine for more than 106 hours, demanding higher wages. 1,000 feet below the surface of the earth are these men, half-mad from lack of food, water and light, but determined to die unless their wages are raised from \$2.00 to \$3.50 per week.

. . .

To revert again to the Yugoslavian situation, one finds that it is a country of Serbs, Crosts and Slovenes, with a population of 13,930,918 divided into nine banats, and the district of Belgrade, the capitai. The country which was pieced together after the war, is bounded by Albania, Greece, Bulgaria, Roumania, Hungary, Austria with only the Adriatic sea separating it from Italy. While the ultimate consequence of the act are uncertain, the story of the assassination and subsequent developments, reads like the best of the E. Phillips Oppenheim, or Edgar Wallace mysteries. French police have tracked the conspirators thruout Europe, and in the press dispatches come strange stories of a mysterious doctor, and an unknown "gun-girl." Fantastic, perhaps, but unfortunately, the network of spies, intrigues, and radical societies still exists thruout Europe, and regardless of the consequences to the rest of the world, Kaleman, and others of his ilk will continue to give up their own lives in order to obey the orders of their organization.

"Crime Doesn't Pay" says the Denver Post in liners over each crime story, and here maybe are some of the reasons: In Chicago, James Soldat, age 18, together with two companions strangled his grandmother and obtained \$32.00. He was unconcerned over his crime. In Denver, two robbers, hung up John Pfeifer, by his beels, as a means of

Bauer Picking Up Yards On Spinner Play



Interfraternity Council.

raw fur merchant died. Hope for the return of Mrs. Berry V. Stoll, who was kidnaped fom her sickbed has been practically abandoned. Even the Lindbergh kidnaping law does not seem enough to keep fiends from perpetrating such crimes

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT

New Lectures For Old.

Despite the great extent of modern university curricula, one field of paramount importance to everyone is barely touched upon, the social and political situation of the present time. Those agencies commonly cited as methods for obtaining such information, namely the newspapers and politicians, are alike useless, the former because by nature inadequate, they are infrequently well-read, still more infrequently digested, and the latter because they have usually their own axes to grind. The university remains today virtually the only available institution for the dissemination of true knowledge of the

It will be objected that present-day issues have no place in the curriculum of a university. Can it be that although an archeological expedition to Yucatan is considered a fit task for a professor, a study of the race in armaments is not? Because a Ph.D. can occupy himself profitably with a study of old Slavic roots, is it by the same token unseemly to consider the recent Catalonian uprising? May subjects be considered of academic interest only when they approach the post mortem stage? Obviously not, and equally obviously the need for a study of present problems by trained minds is among the most pressing needs of the day.

The objection may be raised that those who are ment, and Economics will be able to fit actual hap- | will well repay this innovation,

BY CHANCE.

it was Johnnie Dunman and Douglas Harper, the electricians, who

worked the electric fans, red

lights, and strips of crepe paper.

The rain was accomplished through

the medium of the university

sprinkler system; thunder came from a tympanum (kettle drum to

you), and these necessary effects

were worked by the two stage car-

Dixie Betzer, property mistress.

was responsible for many of the

mand Hunter three times when he

seemed to be playing the classics, and Lois Patterson made herself

useful before the opening night by

covering the davenport and other

necessary parts of the furnishings.

To those who we've neglected to mention, consider this a personal

Music for the Panhellenic Ban-

quet tonight will be furnished by Wilbur Chenoweth, pianist and

composer. The program will con-

sist of his own selections, and will

mark the initial presentation of a

A group of Chopin selections will

the musicale. The assisting artist, Sidney Pepple, tenor, will sing "Only My Love for Thee," and "Love Light," both dedicated to

Jessica Dragonette, NBC artist; "Love Everlasting" and "The Ar-

This afternoon at 2:30, Lura Schuler Smith, professor of piano at the school of music, will present

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row and the Song.

complete Mr. Chenoweth's part of

new concert waltz, "Bouree and Muzette," still in manuscript form.

orchid, too.

penters, Era Lown and

penings into those theoretical compartments upon Smith hall. All members are rewhose creation the whole American educational system is based; it may be said that those who concentrate in other fields have no desire for such information. That this is obviously false has been tacitly hold its regular meeting in Room 9 admitted by President Conant's creation of a series of Morrill Hall Tuesday night. of lectures where no attendance will be taken nor credit given, and wherein such problems as fascism, communism, and the Japanese foreign policy will be discussed.

But even this scheme has not gone far enough. Although the subjects dealt with are of present pith and moment, it is "emphasized that it is not the purpose of the lectures to present a survey of contemporary movements." And yet "a survey of contemporary movements" is precisely what should be presented, for if men are not trained to understand the problems of the day, they will be useless to society, and society will then act not intelligently but blindly.

For the establishment of such a series of lectures, two methods present themselves; first, that every professor give one lecture a year on his interpretation of the current problems, and secondly, that an endowed series of lectures be established, similar to the Godkin Foundation lectures, but lasting throughout the year. In conjunction with this plan, it would be desirable for professors to connect and relate, insofar as is possible, events under discussion in their courses with present happenings. With the inauguration of such a series, the ques-

tion arises, can the university maintain simultaneously the necessarily active contact with the world and that freedom and independence of thought and teaching so prized by institutions of learning throughout history? In the past, institutions, which have concerned themselves with affairs of state have inevitably been drawn into partisan struggles. Today academic principles of detachment from political affairs obviate this possibility.

An eye to the future and present, as well as the The objection may be raised that those who are concentrators in the Division of History, Government, and Economics will be able to fit actual hap-will well repay this innovation.

past is a necessity to every institution which claims the postponement of their fray with the Pi K. A.'s. The Phi Psis and the Delts kept close on the past is a necessity to every institution which claims

> Money should be deposited imme- former won a 1 to 0 diately at Student Activities office

> > Staff Meetings.

Advisors Needed for Girl Reserve Clubs in the City

Well, now that THE SHINING Miss A'Louise Trester, girl re HOUR is over, we're wondering serve secretary of the city Y. W. what the Players will present next. C. A., wishes to invite any uni-As the first dramatic production versity women who are classmen to advise girl reserve clubs in the city. Then girls are of the year, the Keith Winter show went over big. A few acknowledgeneeded. Any girls interested should ments should go, however, to those immediately at the Y. W. who were behind the curtain. C. A. office. When the fire started in the barn,

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Girl Reserve Sponsors.

Any girl wishing to sponsor, a Squires, who also pulled the curtain up and down. The collection may do so by applying to Miss of silver cups which adorned the Bernice Miller at the Y. W. C. A. ning in room 205 of the Temple mantle, came from the Athletic office. Girls in Teachers coilege Club and various fraternity houses, will find it helpful.

Free swimming hours for women properties, and the prop girl who assisted was Margaret Straub. Beth Langford was prompter, and the orchestra which furnished muthe orchestra which furnished mu-sic between the acts was directed for instruction the forepart of the by Mr. William Quick. Elaine hour. Other recreation hours are as Shonka "Rachmaninoffed" for Ar- previously announced. Corn Cobs.

Corn Cobs will meet Wednesday Gamma Alpha Chi will meet evening at 7 in U. hall, room 8. Thursday night at 7:30 at Ellen

in Coliseum.

Hours for the Y. W. C. A. staff day, Mary E. Hendricks; Conference, 5 Friday, Breta Peterson with the A. T. Os whose 2 to 0 Finance, 4 Monday, Marjorie Shostak; International, 4 Monday, Lorraine Hitchcock; Memberahip, 5 On Tuesday in League II the Wednesday, Arlene Bors; Nebras-leading S. A. E.'s and Farm House leading S. A. E.'s and Farm House leading S. A. E.'s and Farm House Ruth Allen: Program and Office. 4 Tuesday, Jean Humphrey; Project, 5 Thursday, Theodora Lohr-man; Publicity, 3 Thursday, Dor-

Lutheran Bible League.

othy Cathers.

building

CHARM SCHOOL MEETS.

Charm school will meet for the first time, Tuesday, Oct. 30, 7 o'clock in Ellen Smith hall, when Miss Amanda Heppner, dean of women, will talk on "Personality, Muriel Hook and Anne Pickett are in charge.

Gamma Alpha Chi.

The Interfraternity Council will

The Barb Inter-club council will meet at 7:30. Tuesday, Oct. 16, in room 8, University hall. A. S. M. E.

A.S.M.E. will meet Wednesday evening at 5 o'clock in Mechanical

Engineering, room 204. Outing Club. Outing Club will sponsor a roller skating spree, Wednesday, Oct. 17, The group will start at 5:00 from

the Armory.

RUNAWAYS FEATURE INTRAMURAL GAMES

Delts, Phi Psis, Sigma Nus And Beta Sigma Psis Win Monday Tilts.

ACACIA FRAY POSTPONED

Games took on more of an aspect of runaways and less an ap-pearance of close battles as the second week of play in the intra-mural touchfootball league began Mnday.

In league I the loop leading Acacias had a rest as a result of vantage of their day off by timely radio program over station Be prepared to check in tickets, victories over their opponents. The victory over the Phl Sigs while the latter ran and passed their way to a 6 to 0 Beta Theta Phi. The postponed game will be played

In League III the Sigma Nus meetings are as follows: Ag president, 5 o'clock Monday, Helen Lutz; Church relations, 5 Wednes-place by running away with the

ka in China, 4 Thursday, Laura tangle with the Lambda Chi Ai-McAllister; Posters, 5 Wednesday, phas and D. U.'s respectively. The former game will Field I at 4 while the latter will take place on Field II at 5. The Chi Phis and the D. S. L.'s tussle in the other game on Field I at 5. In League IV the leading A. G.

R.s and Sig Eps meet in the fea-The Lutheran Bible league will ture game of the afternoon to de-sect for Bible study with Rev. cide first place. The two leaders will do battle on Field III at 5. The S. A. M.s meet the Sigma Chis on Field II at 4, while the Kappa Sigs meet the Phi Gams on Field

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