

Daily Nebraskan

Station A, Lincoln, Nebraska.

1935 Member 1936
Associated Collegiate Press

This paper is represented for general advertising by the Nebraska Press Association.

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.

THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR

Published Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday mornings during the academic year.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

\$1.50 a year Single Copy 5 cents \$1.00 a semester
\$2.50 a year mailed \$1.50 a semester mailed
Under direction of the Student Publication Board.

Editorial Office—University Hall 4.
Business Office—University Hall 4A.

Telephones—Day: B6891; Night: B6882. B3333 (Journal).
Official student publication of the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska.

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The Banner Of Fraternalism.

Revenge is a sordid term. Revenge acted into actuality is more sordid. Civilization abhors the thought of it. In courts of law since ancient times there has been waged a constant battle against such a niggardly practice as revenge. In social relationships those are ostracized who follow its contemptible dictums. Yet under the present banner of "hell week" colleges of today carry the word's despicable nature forever onward.

Fraternalism today have only hidden hell week's true significance by euphemistic terminology. Continuation of hell week practices is but the desire of some to atone for those afflictions placed upon them when they were in a position of disadvantage. Whether they call it "need of disciplining freshmen" or "need of inculcating into the yearling a sense of their insignificance in relative matters of worth," the underlying cause is usually the same.

Were it a truth that fraternities need to resort to these means in order to discipline their freshmen in the right manner, then the Nebraskan would think even less of fraternities than it does now. That college students, like stupid animals, cannot afford guidance without use of the "whip," would be a shameful thing to admit. Continuation of hell week, if not because of the motive attributed by the Nebraskan, should then reflect so grotesquely the uselessness of fraternities as to bring about their abolishment. But this we hope is not the case.

We hope that fraternities are not suffering from such illusions of grandeur as to actually maintain that hell week performs a useful function. If so, maybe the trouble lies within the intellect of the student. No, the Nebraskan believes that these assinnities carried on under the banner of hell week are for the most part but wishes of individuals within a fraternity to "put through the paces" pledges that they might realize just how wonderfully stalwart were their predecessors.

Were it nothing else than the necessity of teaching undergraduates the manners of good taste and restraint, it should suffice for the abolishment of hell week. Now the Nebraskan realizes that replies will be made that hell week doesn't hurt the pledges, and that they don't object too strenuously.

The Nebraskan believes it is the actives, because of their own obtuseness, to whom we should extend our sympathy. The Nebraskan leaves the matter of physical injuries, so often the topic, out of the discussion. Naturally, it is only obvious that such are not wanted. The quarrel is with those oblivious actives who are totally unaware of the puerile tactics they insist upon pursuing. We but suggest to them that they do the obvious and "grow up," and use some intelligence in shaping their own habits of life. There is no one so disgusting as an obnoxious, officious person suffering from the hallucinations that by bulldozing someone who ostensibly cannot raise a protest they are the "apple of the fraternity's eye."

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 newspaper practice, which excludes all libelous matter and personal attacks. Letters must be signed, but names will be withheld from publication if so desired.

Fresh Want

New Deal.

TO THE EDITOR:

Incidental observation has disintegrated for me, and many others, a highly flagrant shortcoming of the easily remediable methods of instruction at this university. Many other freshmen with whom I have come in contact, who "came to Nebraska for knowledge," express acquiescence with this view.

This execrable defect is the indifference and procrastinative laxity of the various professors. They apparently view each class session as another perfunctory matter and believe that a few bearded "jokes," a few smatterings as to "what I did when I went to college," and a few doubtfully pertinent phrases awkwardly and tritely expressed will suffice for the hour. Quite on the contrary, some seem to elate themselves by hurling aromatically flowery phrases of flamboyant claptrap at the students. At any rate the sessions are insipid, provocative, and a waste of our time even if we must tenderly condole with our mentors.

Let's see. Most of us have anywhere from twelve to sixteen hours of weekly lecture. Twelve to sixteen hours, say; even a freshman can put quite a few chapters "on ice" in that length of time. Then there are many who either work or participate in extra-curricular activities, and they particularly depend upon lectures as an expository means. They, or we, hardly have time to study outside of class several hours and then waste time in a classroom. It is particularly imperative that to them the lectures be commendably enlightening in character. Why should we have to sit on cramping, crude chairs and with a synthetic smile on our gaunt and weary faces listen to irrelevant or pedantic pratings as we vainly try to get "an idea." We try to extract cream for the essence but get only a small amount of "skimmed milk." And so I say that the professors must awake and atone for this injustice or we should compel class attendance to be optional.

P. G. E.

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT

Class Cuts.

Students at Amherst college, starting this semester, are permitted by college authorities to have unlimited cuts from classes. The new ruling tosses into discard the 50 year old policy of the university of limited class cuts. It also does away with the ruling of giving high ranking students privileges of cutting classes as is now in effect at Oklahoma A. and M.

Amherst's plan of allowing unlimited cuts will be followed by other colleges all over the nation and is in practice now at a few schools. Adoption of such a plan all over the collegiate world is strictly in keeping with the modernization—the breaking away from the old customs—now going on at institutions of higher learning all over the land, such as the University of Chicago's system whereby students can get college degrees by passing examinations as soon as they are judged capable of taking them.

Amherst's plan is beautiful in theory but will probably prove a failure in actual practice. Authorities plan to give the unlimited cut system a semester's trial.

Although almost every student who comes to college knows that he is here to learn, there is a very small number who study for the love of learning. The great majority of the college students, be they 16 or 23, have to be driven to get any work out of them. And if it were not for the system of cuts, class attendance would fall until there would be no use in a teacher coming to class. Out of a class of 30, it would be very rare if more than two students could be found who attended the class because they voluntarily wanted to learn what the course had to offer.

A. and M. has as good a system as any school of which we know regarding cuts from classes. Here juniors and seniors with a two-point average are privileged to attend classes at their own option. This is as fair a rule as any and it is much more apt to stand up over the years than the unlimited cut or strict no cut rules. The A. and M. system rewards students for making an effort.—The Daily O'Collegian.

Vegetation Plays Important Part in Soil Erosion Control

Botany Professors Explode Belief That Degree of Slope Major Factor.

The common belief that the steepness of the slope is the most important factor affecting soil erosion was exploded recently in a bulletin by Dr. J. E. Weaver, professor of plant ecology and William C. Noll, assistant in botany. They cite experimental evidence to prove that the character of the vegetative covering plays the largest part in the retention of surface water and soil.

"The startling fact that 400 years are needed to produce a single inch of surface soil should impress upon us the importance of a comprehensive soil conservation program today," the authors write. "If we are to allay the fears of slowly approaching starvation we must act while there is yet time."

"That 35 million acres of formerly cultivated land have been essentially ruined by erosion and that an additional area of about 125 million acres have lost all or most of the topsoil, with another 100 million acres of crop-land heading in this direction, should be sufficient evidence that the problem is one of profound economic importance," write Dr. Weaver and Mr. Noll.

Vegetation Aids Soil.

The authors point out that vegetation as a product of the soil is generally understood, but that soil as a product of vegetation is not so widely comprehended. This phenomenon is explained as follows:

"Vegetation accelerates weathering of rock into fine soil by excretion of acids and mechanical effects of roots. It supplies food for myriads of microorganisms, both plants and animals which live within the soil, as well as food

for burrowing animals. By making and keeping the soil porous and adding humus, plants increase absorption and percolation of rain water, thus preventing rapid removal of soil by runoff."

Conduct Field Tests.

Dr. Weaver and a group of advanced students conducted numerous field tests for determining water runoff and erosion near Lincoln. They found that grass-land binds the soil more effectively than any other type of vegetation. The grass tops break the impact of the raindrops and the extensive foliage loses large amounts of water through transpiration, frequently 30 to 40 tons per acre a day in midsummer, which results in decreased water content of soil and consequently increased power of absorption. Fallen plant materials also form small dams which hold the water momentarily, thus promoting percolation.

"Every agency that destroys the cover of vegetation, gives opportunity for erosion in proportion to the completeness of the destruction," according to the bulletin. "Overgrazing is the worst on unbroken land. More progressive engineers are now coming to realize that the proper place to control runoff and erosion is at the start and that check dams and debris basins are temporary devices."

Test Runoff.

A single rain of three inches falling on a 10 degree slope on silt loam soil near Lincoln resulted in a runoff of 11 percent from prairie, 51 percent from pasture, and 72 percent from a pasture so badly overgrazed that the ground was bare. No erosion occurred in prairie, 355 pounds per acre in the good pasture, but nearly five tons per acre of soil were lost from the badly overgrazed area.

WHITE TO CANCEL DEBATING TRYOUTS UNLESS MORE FILE

Husker Team to Meet South Dakota Debaters This Week on AAA.

Tryouts for debate, previously announced to take place on Tuesday evening, Feb. 25, will not be held unless sufficient persons file their intention to try-out by Monday morning, Feb. 24, according to Prof. H. A. White, debate coach. At least eight persons must leave their names with the coach before that time and up to Thursday evening, Feb. 20, only five names had been filed.

The try-outs were scheduled for the purpose of giving new men, who are not now debating a chance to participate in the activities offered by debate.

According to Prof. White there will be no special trips or other concessions for the men who are chosen if a debate try-out is held, but the men who are chosen will all be given a chance to debate one or two times during the remainder of the school year.

During the next week Nebraska debaters will engage teams from the University of South Dakota, at Vermillion, S. D., on Feb. 28 on the subject of "Resolved that the agricultural program based on the AAA is deserving of public support," and at Onawa, Ia., debaters from the University of South Dakota on Feb. 29.

March 6 and 7 Nebraska students will participate in the tournament at Iowa City. Nine other schools will be represented in this tournament.

PENNY CARNIVAL SIDE SHOW PRIZE GOES TO THETAS

(Continued from Page 1).

It Seems" and Delta Gamma tied with a hammer and nail contest. Third place was taken by Alpha Omicron Pi's Laurel and Hardy show.

Give Dutch Dance.

A floor show preceded the cup presentation, with Marjorie Bannister, member of the Coed Counselor board, acting as mistress of ceremonies. As a part of the program, Terry York sang, accompanied by Ruth Mary Jen-

nings. Playing on two clarinets, accompanied by Howard Agee on the piano, Craig Spencer stopped the show. Under the direction of Lois Rathburn, the Coed Counselors' tap dancing hobby group gave a Dutch dance.

Winner of the contest for guessing the correct number of beans displayed in a jar on a table in Social Science building, during the advance ticket sale, was Henry Remington, who came within 620 beans of guessing the correct number, 5,171. Charles Reilly, Ralph Reed, John Campbell, and Betty Hillier had all guessed more nearly the number, but in their absence the prize was presented to Remington.

Other booths at the carnival were: Silhouettes, Alpha Chi Omega; fortune telling, Alpha Xi Delta; doughnut stand, Barb A. W. S. league; haunted house, Chi Omega; shooting gallery, Delta Delta Delta; horse racing, Phi Mu; Popeye, Sigma Delta Tau; campus personalities, Wilson and Howard hall; and Bingo, Pallasian.

Three Engineers Get Employment GE Laboratories

Jobs were awarded to three men out of fifty interviewed last week by M. M. Eoring, General Electric Co. representative, according to Prof. J. W. Haney, chairman of mechanical engineering department. The newly hired men are Pete Jensen and H. E. Anderson, mechanical engineers, and Ted W. Schroeder, electrical engineer.

"Mr. Eoring is visiting 118 colleges, and expects to select about 120 men," stated Prof. Haney. "The fact that Nebraska will contribute three of these, is a considerable tribute to the students of the engineering college and their training."

All three men are outstanding in engineering campus affairs. Schroeder is president of engineer executive board. Jensen heads Sigma Tau, national engineer honorary.

These men will start work this summer at the General Electric laboratories in Schenectady, N. Y.

West Coast Paper Reviews Book by a Nebraskan

A review of "Fighting Dick and Other Poems" by Prof. Derrick Lehmer, former university student, appears in the San Francisco Chronicle. Dr. Louise Pound has received a copy of the recently published book.

Of the 436 traffic deaths in Los Angeles in the first eleven months of the past year, 58 percent of them were pedestrians. Records compiled by the Automobile Club of Southern California state that pedestrians were at fault in 72.4 percent of the pedestrians' deaths. In 1934, 69.4 percent of the deaths were cases in which the victims

were to blame, indicating that carelessness on the part of the walkers is increasing.—Los Angeles Junior Collegian.