

# Fair Comment and Criticism

## THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR

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## Something New and Something Different.

Matched for innovation by only the breath-taking parade of events on the national political scene, the sideshow of Nebraska's student self-government agencies offers a new story every day. Yesterday, an old specter stirred in his grave—the ghost of class organization. But those who saw him on the evening of resurrection report that he was wearing an entirely different sheet.

On reading the proposals that accompanied the appointment of 13 members to the committee on organization for the class of 1938, we can agree with the observers; the movement is being launched in an entirely new manner, and certain new aspects merit thorough consideration.

For example, Class President Wadhams has chosen the Junior-Senior prom committee as the working basis of the new committee, both in theory and fact. The committee has, in fact, every member of the 1937 prom committee included. In theory, it avoids the frequent criticism of forming a new elective agency, combines some worthwhile activities for the committee with their former job of throwing a dance, and takes advantage of the fact that all the members are ambitious juniors, up

to their neck in activities and working like the devil.

But the potentialities of this plan lie in their first meeting, namely, the participation of undergraduates in a freshman orientation week and the creation of a student movement throughout the state that would make, thru personal contacts and publicity, the populace more aware of the fact that there's a university down at Lincoln trying to muddle along. A column of type could be written on the advantages of either proposal.

Imperfections in this plan will crop up every time it is exposed to discussion, but if the general idea is as sound as it seems, the bumps will serve merely to knock off the rough edges. A future of possibilities in student government lies ahead for any activities group that will exploit the freshman class with demands on their purposes and plans in attending Nebraska, rather than with subscription drives and cap sales alone; or one that will try to convince the state's citizenry of the advantages of higher education in a democracy, rather than any such special group as the legislature. There is no better plan than the second to discover the university's shortcomings, and no better tonic for renewed ideals and purposes.

## Contemporary Comment

### What Exceptional Students May Do.

From the Carolina Daily Tar Heel.

Guest editorial by Dr. Arthur E. Ruark.

It is not necessary to set up a complicated system of special classes for exceptional students, or a system of out of class individualized work in excess of usual course requirements. Mere mechanisms and devices will not solve the problem. All that is necessary is simply this: Let it be generally understood that any student who feels he has mastered the subject matter of the course, through outside reading, can apply for an examination in that course. This resembles the system of many continental universities, where there are no tests, no quizzes, no required attendance on lectures and everything depends on mastery demonstrated through a final examination.

Another procedure which should be established is that prerequisites for certain courses of junior and senior grade should be waived in the case of students who have A's in the earlier courses. The simpler a plan is, the better it is, other things being equal; and I claim for the expedients above that they are simple, easily understandable and easily workable.

### Big Name Writers Began in Schooner

Editor's note: Following is an article published in a recent issue of The Quill and written by J. G. Back, contributing writer for radio station KFOR. This is one of the columns regularly contributed to the magazine by Mr. Back.

In the Spring, 1936, issue of the *Prairie Schooner*, a quarterly published in Lincoln, Neb., there appeared a poem by W. H. Gerry from California. A Rudolph Umland of Lincoln contributed a short story, as did a Miss Jacqueline Wright of Iowa. James Cox of Lincoln had a poem in that issue. So did Harold Vinal, who is a New York writer. Francis Elizabeth Crawford of Milwaukee was listed for a story.

Splendid. Now, pray, who are these people? To begin with, they are writers who are taking the hard road. The *Prairie Schooner* is not *Liberty* magazine. They were paid exactly nothing in dollars and cents for being accepted by the *Schooner*. But the Digest and Review reprinted Umland's story. Fiction Parade reprinted Miss Wright's (a second time). Miss Wright has been reprinted from the *Schooner*. Fiction Parade also took Miss Crawford's story. Gerry's poem was reprinted in the *Best Poems of 1936*, a Jonathan Cape publication in England. Conrad Alken, Archibald MacLeish, and Lord Dunsany were in the same volume. Jim Cox's poem bounced out of the *Prairie Schooner* into the *Paebarr* anthology of best poems for 1936. Harold Vinal's poem is now a part of his *Vinal Haven*, published by Stephen Days.

Mari Sandoz's Old Jules won the \$5,000 Atlantic Prize two years ago, and since then the book has sold 65,000 copies. In 1927, nine years ago, in its first issue, the *Prairie Schooner* published her first story. Albert Halper hadn't

written *Union Square* or the *Foundry* when he saw his work in the *Schooner*. If you read Harper's, Scribner's, and, undoubtedly, Esquire, you may remember Jesse Stuart, whose *Man With a Bull Tongue* can now be purchased at the book store. His first verse found print in this Lincoln quarterly. Virginia Faulkner and Dorothy Thomas had the *Prairie Schooner* in their hands when they looked upon their first prose and verse in print.

That it might well be, this column is not being written to commemorate the 10th year of a literary journal that has survived and grown out here in Lincoln where the drouths have destroyed so much. It is a recommendation that you contribute to the *Prairie Schooner* if you happen to be doing the kind of writing that has authenticity and focuses on the truth. Lowry Charles Wimberly is editor of the *Schooner*. He has edited it since its beginning. As a member of the English faculty at the University of Nebraska, he constantly reads the manuscripts of his students. Those who write honestly usually write about the prairie country, from which you must believe us the Indian and cowboy have disappeared.

The *Prairie Schooner* was founded in 1927 as an organ of expression for these regional writers. Today, manuscripts come in at the rate of 2,500 a year from all parts of the world. Out of these 2,500 Dr. Wimberly selects some 80 for the four issues of the quarterly. To say that he reads manuscripts constantly is almost no exaggeration. He is glad to talk to anybody interesting, but he has been forced to develop a wary eye for the person who will intrude on the enjoyment of a glass of beer by pulling out a story. "Read it, Doc," and tell me what you think of it. Editor Wimberly's own stories have appeared in Scribner's, Harper's, *American Mercury* and the *Forum*.

Stories submitted to the *Schooner* should not be any longer than 5,000 words. Poetry should not exceed 60 lines. The *Schooner* occasionally prints one act plays. Dr. Wimberly is looking for good humor and articles of general interest that are not academic in treatment or in subject matter. Of these last two he has great need.

The *Prairie Schooner* is read by most of the editors who pay for the kind of material *Schooner* prints. Reprints from the *Schooner* at the regular rates of these other magazines is steadily increasing. O'Brien, of the *Best Short Stories* has regularly rated the *Schooner* among the first 14 national publications maintaining a high standard of excellence.

## Around Washington

(By Associated Collegiate Press.)

"The problem which confronts the modern college woman graduate when hunting a job is one of creating a new position, not one of applying for some previously planned position in an overcrowded field as most young women do," Mrs. Cornelia Stratton Parker, noted writer and lecturer in economics at the University of California, urges students to go beyond the "any-job" attitude. "Question everything. After everything else one learns in college is forgotten, those two words will carry far in advancing upon life. Never cross the street without expecting to be hit by an automobile. Never look at a ceiling without expecting an earthquake to hit." Rupert Hughes, author, dramatist and composer, suggests that collegians expect the worst at all times and enjoy an occasional surprise.

## Student Pulse

### Who Takes the Raw End of Cheating?

To the Editor:

Today a copy of the Duke University "Chronicle" fell into my hands, and in it was an article headlined "Two Cheating Cases Reported to S. G. A. as Honor Council Moulds Campus Opinion." We at Nebraska must admit that that is an enviable record, a record of which any university can well be proud.

Last year Duke was "infested" with the universal insect, the cheater. Some score of university students were expelled from the school, and the president of Duke's student government was among those who were so punished.

This year Duke's students have turned over a new leaf. Duke officials as well as campus leaders have guarded against cheating in the classrooms, and during the mid-year examinations, students have been closely observed. And believe it or not, only two cases of dishonesty were found. I give most of the credit of this remarkable system of honesty to the students themselves. In Duke university or in any other university in the world, cheating cannot be eliminated unless the students as well as the faculty try to do away with it. These students want to play fair with themselves as well as with their professors.

Of course, there is a loop-hole in this system too. All cases of cheating are not always apprehended, and the president of Duke's student governing association realizes this. "We fully realize," he says, "that cheating is being done and will continue, and that many instances which occurred during these mid-year tests have not been called to our attention. But it is gratifying to know that the prevalence of cheating here at Duke is rapidly being cut down."

I do not advocate this system of student government punishment at Nebraska. Conditions, as I see them, are different here. But I do believe that we at Nebraska could be more honest with ourselves. When we cheat, we are cheating no one but ourselves.

Gene Smith.

### University Accepts Enlarged Number of Accredited Schools

Altho recent events would lead one to believe otherwise, the Nebraska high schools have rapidly gained esteem in the eyes of the university. According to the University Calendar for 1885-1886, there were just five accredited high schools in the state. Under the subject of "Admissions" appeared the sentence: "Candidates from the high schools of Beatrice, Hastings, Lincoln, Nebraska City, and Plattsmouth will be admitted to the freshman class without examination." Today, there are approximately 315 accredited schools and 85 million accredited schools in the state of Nebraska.



P. J. McMahon  
Omaha.

Liquor and labor were the subjects of two bills that brought the name of Senator P. J. McMahon into the headlines last week, and both of them promise to keep him there for some time.

The bill to regulate liquor was the first of a series, this one marked "emergency," providing that individual cities may regulate by ordinance powers the sale of all alcoholic liquors. The bill does not interfere with present statutes, which now include cities to exercise the same control over beer sales.

But more of Senator McMahon's interests center around the other proposal—legislation which will repeal the state antipicketing law. Passed in 1921 as the result of general labor troubles and riots in Omaha, the present statute makes it a criminal offense to picket a store or factory.

"We want to make it possible," Senator McMahon told the Nebraska, "for a worker to go on strike and still be able to talk to a man who is working without being thrown in jail."

Formerly a member of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, Senator McMahon lives in the labor district of Omaha, and has a thorough knowledge of employment and union conditions in that city and throughout the state.

"Omaha is fairly well along in unionization," he declared. "The building trades are at least 50 percent organized," which is a good percentage for an occupation of its type. Asked about the labor conditions in the packing houses, he indicated that a majority of the unions in the industry are controlled by the companies for whom the members work.

This is Senator McMahon's fifth term in the Nebraska legislature. Starting in 1927, his first entrance into politics, he served as member of the house of representatives from Omaha during every session except 1935, when he stayed home to participate in the local elections. He is 48 years old, and if parties were listed in a non-partisan legislature, he would probably be sitting on the democratic side of the fence.

### Government Scientists Promise To Analyze Vegetable Material Taken from Lynch Site by Bell

(Continued from Page 1.)

rial, the government scientist will analyze the chemical content of many soil samples secured from various depths and places by Dr. Van Royen while working in the Lynch territory. Byers may be able to tell if this poison was present in the cultural horizon formed by this early Nebraska civilization. He may also be able to help in determining the age of the near surface soil covering the undisturbed sand as well as the antiquity of this earlier black horizon about five feet below the preserved to the alkali disease. This soil surface of the ground. Dr. Van Royen secured samples of Lynch soil at half foot depths and at many locations.

## RECORD NUMBER FILE ENTRIES IN AG STOCK SHOW

### Ak-Sar-Ben Ball to Feature Program at Close of Showman Contest.

With seventy ag students entered in the stock showing contest Saturday evening the 1937 Junior Ak-Sar-Ben will be the largest held in the history of the ball. Friday night, the other Ak-Sar-Ben feature, has been large, stated Vincent Jacobsen, chairman for the party.

An unusual feature of the show Saturday evening will be the cash prizes offered to members of the audience for meritorious performances in judging livestock value. The bidding contest will be conducted from the ringside immediately after the showmanship contest Saturday evening.

Tickets for the Friday night ball may be obtained from any member of the Block and Bridle club anytime preceding the night of the ball. The advance price for the duets is fifty cents a couple, if they are bought before Thursday evening. Tickets bought later will cost forty cents for the men and twenty for ladies. Paul Morehead has been signed to furnish the music for the annual occasion and members of the committee in charge of the ball promise one of the biggest events in history.

Cash prizes are being offered to student competitors in both the showmanship and bidding contests being staged Saturday night, as well as individual ribbons for winners in each class. Outside patrons may enter the competition, but will not be eligible for the cash prizes. Earl Heiland, chairman in charge, announced.

### Engineers Bring International Harvester Display to Campus As Part of New Diesel Course

(Continued from Page 1.)

instruction material are sound motion pictures.

The Diesel engine short course began Feb. 1 and will run for three weeks. In it are enrolled forty men who were selected from applications of over a hundred men thru-out Nebraska and a few from neighboring states. They were chosen according to their qualification as to practical experience with engines and present employment in such work, and include such men as mechanics, operators of maintainers, garage workers, etc.

### Seven Schools Open Course

The course is being offered simultaneously in the universities of Ohio State, Michigan State, Purdue, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa State and Nebraska. The work comprises recitation, lectures, quizzes, and laboratory work, and the practical phases of operation and maintenance are in charge of Diesel engine company engineers who travel with moving exhibits from school to school. The course is intended to help fill the growing need for men trained in this work brought on by the increasing use of Diesel engines thru-out the country.

Following men are enrolled:

- W. Lewis Biney, Lincoln.
- Fred Brinkmeyer, Newark.
- Harry C. Brown, Lincoln.
- Howard M. Cherry, Craig.
- Ralph S. Cowley, Hildes.
- Billy Cullen, Hastings.
- Max Danstrom, Roca.
- Vernon Devine, Mavert.
- Warren Dunsay, Gordon.
- Stanley Fillingimney, Beatrice, S. D.
- Pat Frazier, Red Cloud.
- Ray E. Gagnon, Hastings.
- Roy Grunford, Ennsford.
- Cashus Hamilton, Lincoln.
- Dale H. Hanks, Wausa.
- Lawrence Holmick, Stella.
- Ted Horvath, Lincoln.
- Harold Hermon, David City.
- Calvin R. Hesson, Lincoln.
- Wayne J. Hunter, Oglar.
- Myron Jacoby, Gordon.
- Paul H. Johnson, Lincoln.
- Reuben Johnson, Aurora.
- George D. Kahn, Omaha.
- Fred Kriest, Hastings.
- Carl F. Middendorf, Francis.
- Ralph L. Nebelsick, Fairbury.
- Francis P. O'Connor, Fairmont.
- Red Paul, Gordon.
- Charles A. Peters, Tanora.
- Guernard E. Polkroy, Chadron.
- Paul W. Silver, Oakland.
- S. W. Sorel, Hastings.
- Edward Hamilton, Roca.
- De-Lor Swartz, Aho.
- John B. Willie, Omaha.
- Ronald R. Smith, Carlisle.

### Miss Shelley to Talk at French Luncheon Today

Featuring a talk by Miss Grace Shelley, graduate assistant in the romance language department, Le Cercle Francais will lunch at noon today at Carl's Annex.

All students interested may attend for 35 cents. The program is in charge of Lenore Teale, president of the organization.

In addition to teaching English classes at three different colleges in Baltimore, Wasserman is working for his Ph. D. at Johns Hopkins university and making a special study of the "Elizabethan Revival."

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## Bulletin

Infantry Picture.  
Infantry staff officers including all first lieutenants, battalion commanders and adjutant are asked to meet at the campus studio at noon today for the Cornhusker picture.

Campus Studio.  
Thursday, Feb. 11.  
12 o'clock—Cornhusker business staff.  
5 o'clock—Gamma Alpha Chi.  
5:15 o'clock—Omicron Nu.

Vesper Choir.  
Due to arrangement difficulties, tryouts for the Y. W. C. A. Vesper choir will be held Friday, Feb. 12, in Ellen Smith hall at 5 o'clock.

Alpha Lambda Delta.  
Members of Alpha Lambda Delta, freshman woman's honorary, will meet in Ellen Smith hall at 5 o'clock today.

Pharmaceutical Club.  
Pharmaceutical club meeting and election will be held in the basement of Pharmacy hall Friday at 10:30 o'clock.

Pershing Rifles.  
All members of Pershing Rifles will practice Thursday afternoon at 5 o'clock. Lt. Col. James T. DeVoss will inspect the local regiment Friday afternoon at 5.

Archery Club.  
Archery club members will meet at 5 p. m. today in the dance studio of the armory.

Cercle Francais.  
Miss Grace Shelley, graduate assistant in the Romance Language department, will speak at Le Cercle Francais luncheon Thursday, Feb. 11, at Carl's Annex. Any interested student may attend for thirty-five cents. Arrangements are in charge of Lenore Teale, president.

## The Front Page

By Arnold Levin

HEAT KILLS IN A CITY  
OVER WEEK

WHILE A STORM TO BELEEF  
DAILY NEWS

THE SECOND MAJOR AIRLINE DISASTER OF 1937 CLAIMED ELEVEN LIVES when a coast transport plane crashed into San Francisco bay Wednesday afternoon on its way to a landing. The first, a little over a month ago, numbered among its victims Martin Johnson, world-nobel explorer, whose wife yesterday said she would fly again. Such accidents are unfortunate for the future of the airline industry, but traffic along that means of communication has fallen little despite the fatalities of the past few months.

Skyway officials are planning installation of new safety devices which are intended to eliminate any possibility of "chance" involved in crashes. These include: adoption of radio direction finders; more exacting navigational training of airline pilots; installation of air logs on all transports in the near future; installation of anti-static loop antennae on airliners.

There is very little half-way about an airplane crash. As one traveler said after spanning half the continent in a single morning: "It's great stuff, but all the time you know that if anything should go wrong the chances are a thousand to one against you."

Maritime activity on the west coast is approaching normality, despite casual job disputes affecting particular companies and threatened trouble in Alaska. For the first time since Oct. 30, liners were leaving on schedule and freighters were being unloaded regularly last week. However, the longshoremen in Uncle Sam's Alaska, taking their cue from California cohorts, are demanding west coast pay before doing their jobs. Possible opportunity for John L. Lewis and his C. I. O.

Leon Trotsky very dramatically offered to give himself up to the soviet in Russia if an impartial commission of inquiry should find him guilty in any degree of the crimes imputed to him by Moscow courts. Just who or what Mr. Trotsky would consider an "impartial commission of inquiry" was left to the interpretation of his listeners. And there is always the problem of exact definition of a political crime. Trotsky, undoubtedly, is very safe in his offer.

1. Establish a midwestern federal agency to foster rehabilitation work by the government, states, and individuals.
2. Resettle families driven from the area either in more promising sections or elsewhere on the great plains.
3. Inaugurate a ten year program of additional government surveys to determine the best use of farm and grazing land and waters, and study climatic risks, irrigation projects, soil erosion work and proper size of farm ownership.
4. The government should purchase lands within the territory and distribute range rights in accordance with the objectives of general rehabilitation.
5. Undersized farms should be expanded thru easing of credit and lease or sale of federal land.
6. All of water from the section's scant rainfall should be held on the land and utilized thru soil conservation.
7. Local subdivisions should be compensated for tax losses due to federal purchase of lands.
8. Destructive pests must be destroyed and preventive measures taken.
9. The area's other natural resources should be developed.

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