

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR

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Phi Beta Kappa Hangover.

If the criticism made by faculty members of the Nebraskan's position in the Phi Beta Kappa dispute is representative, a "community of scholars," when applied to this campus, is a misnomer. Plainly stated was the editorial's objective: "That method of measuring achievement in the attainment of a liberal education is grades, and grades may represent anything from the judicious choice of 'pipe' courses to the burning of the midnight oil religiously on the eve of examinations." The Nebraskan can only regret the misreading by some individuals as a reflection on the abilities of all students honored, but we regret even more that the objective was lost in a wallow of diatribe.

That the injection of personalities was the only answer of critics is significant. It might be well to answer the charges of "sour grapes" by mentioning that the writer of yesterday's editorial was a Junior, with a scholastic average which that august body cannot overlook when they again bestow their dubious honors. This attitude of critics can be explained only as blind faith to a grading system that permits no logical argument.

A revealing survey was made by members of the Nebraskan editorial staff that will clarify the main point at issue. One of two students who was honored by both societies, studying under the handicap of outside employment, may well consider his election as an outstanding achievement. Four others honored by Phi Beta Kappa, worked under the same handicap. Twelve of the number won enough prominence in outside and extra-curricular activities to find more than empty honor in their election. But nineteen—more than half—could easily class their academic achievements as one-sided. To those students who discarded the blinders and surmounted the rut of a narrow curriculum, the whole thinking world presents an "unqualified orchid."

Perhaps the Nebraskan should have been charitable, in the belief that a few hits was worth the scattered shooting. But no significant sector of the outside world is as charitable.

Because Phi Beta Kappa is still the goal of serious-minded students, the Nebraskan was roused to comment. Because the desire for this distinction was turned many from the paths of learning to the acquisition of high grades, the Nebraskan criticized. Because Phi Beta Kappa has in the past represented the best in higher learning, we believe that it should bestow more than an empty honor. Because it now fails to do this, we believe that either the university or Phi Beta Kappa should alter their standards so that the goal set before the students might be one of true leadership.

This dispute brought to light a letter the Nebraskan received in answer to a faculty survey made by the editorial staff last February. In regard to policy, one instructor made the specific suggestion "that the Nebraskan might well consider whether the yearly attacks on Phi Beta Kappa and the 'grind' are desirable." We were not aware until now of the agreement found among successive editors of the Nebraskan. Here is what a search into the files for the past five years yielded:

Arthur Wolf: "The grading system does not permit scholarship, although many scholars find their way into the ranks of Phi Beta Kappa. The fact of the matter is that those who are capable of cramming a number of facts into their heads and keeping them there just long enough to pass an examination are the very ones who are admitted into membership and classed as scholars."

Gene Robb: "The biggest fallacy in Phi Beta Kappa is that the honor is based on grades rather than scholarship. It has often been stated that any normal student can be a Phi Beta Kappa if he chooses the proper courses and proper instructors, and devotes a little attention to study. Unfortunately, this is true."

Elmont Waite: "One should not make a grind out of himself for Phi Beta Kappa or anything

else. A good deal of a person's college education could never be gotten from books. That is why we denounce those people who cram, cram, cram for an honor which they hold so dear. Until they have learned the comforts which come from a well balanced life, they are missing some of the greatest things in store."

Bruce Nicoll: "The basic evil, we feel, lies in the system of selection employed by Phi Beta Kappa. At present the only prerequisite necessary for membership is high grades. Obviously well-meaning members of the organization labored under the illusion that students with high grades meant good scholars."

Lamoine Bible: "There is also a serious question as to whether Phi Beta Kappa rewards the true scholars. Of course, many of those who achieve membership have thruout their university life consistently upheld the highest standards of scholarship. On the other hand, there are also present among the membership those who have gained their high grades by a process of memory work."

The statement of Clark S. Northup, president of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa in 1931, offers unbiased evidence for the need of new standards:

"Personally, I believe from the point of view of self-preservation alone we must put an end to this futile supposition that it is really worth while to go on handing out Phi Beta Kappa keys or key certificates if they stand for nothing, or at any rate for little more than the winning of a high-grade degree. Already, in institutions where this is the general view of the key, it is taken as something of a joke."

Whether the solution lies with Phi Beta Kappa or the university in setting up true educational standards, the burden of either method is on the shoulders of the faculty. The recently-inaugurated practice of awarding degrees with distinction, encouraging the correlation of courses and development of individual initiative offers an excellent source for a new set of student objectives. If this award would receive as much support from the faculty as the sacred cow of Phi Beta Kappa, the "joke" Mr. Northup reverts to might not be so deplorable.

There's Some Sort of Dishonesty Here.

No college newspaper needs to use "a certain amount of dishonesty"—as C. K. and R. M. charge in today's Student Pulse to offer evidence of the doctrinal teachings handed out to students of military science.

Although the choicest bits could be picked up in a transcription of classroom lectures, the Nebraskan relied on a textbook used in classes at Nebraska for its reference.

In paragraph 32 of the manual "Military Fundamentals," the "Economic Advantages" of American industry are listed:

- High wages and high standards of living.
- Wide opportunities for educational improvement.
- Interstate commerce, and wide and rapid communication and transportation facilities.
- Freedom in choice of residence and occupation.
- Facilities of many types of public utilities.
- Great philanthropic institutions.

But the real joker is found in the next paragraph, entitled "Religious Liberty," which declares:

"The first amendment to the constitution declares that 'congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibit, the free exercise thereof.' All persons have the privilege to entertain any religious belief, practice any religious rite, teach any religious doctrine, which is not subversive of morality and does not interfere with the personal rights of others."

Conscientious objection to military science, we take it, is the practice of a religious rite that interferes with the personal rights of the military department. If such is not the case, local officials must never have seen the first amendment to the constitution.

are engaged in elementary, high school and vocational studies alike. All of the CCC educational work is voluntary. There is no rule or regulation requiring enrollees to study. They are encouraged to do so, and an educational advisor is provided for each camp; but there are no truant officers to force the boys to attend classes.

Did you ever hear of "Buckhorn University," "Fox Hollow University," or "Dutch Mountain University"?

Build Own Schools.

Neither had I; but upon investigation it developed that the CCC boys often, on their own time, construct buildings to house their classes. They give these home made school houses—which don't cost the government a dime—high sounding titles. "Buckhorn University" is in Arizona; the universities of "Dutch Mountain" and "Fox Hollow" are situated in New York State. There are hundreds more all over the 48 states.

A ceremony described by one official as the "most impressive" he ever attended took place in the Rocky Mountains last spring. Seventeen CCC enrollees dressed in caps and gowns received their high school diplomas from the county school superintendent after completing the work required in the school at Clark's Falls, Idaho.

Student Pulse

'A Certain Amount Of Dishonesty.'

To the Editor:
 In your supposedly clever little "Fable of the Disguisted Reporter" in Tuesday's Nebraskan, the Inquiring Reporter let us in on some of the military department's instruction which we have never run up against, but I suppose you allow a certain amount of dishonesty for your reporters to make a good story.

The part we're referring to is where he says "They indoctrinate you with the inviolate sanctity of everything from private property to public utilities." That's the first time we knew that Samuel Insull could do no wrong.

C. K. and R. M.

Will the Union Bring Barb Solidarity?

In barbarisms yesterday, John Barb wrote his column from the barb men's viewpoint condemning "the hashing around with fraternities" which has weakened them in campus politics. Joan Barb might like to contest this statement as not representative of the whole situation of barbs on the campus by pointing out that barb women have been working as Independents and have not "sold their birthrights for a mess of pottage" as our sorority friend was quoted as believing barbs, in general, would do.

"Non-orgs" has been suggested in a Daily Nebraskan column as a name worthy of the barbs on the campus. A later editorial states that the name "non-orgs" should be a direct slap in the face since the barbs' impotence along this line (political) is due to nothing but their failure to organize." This statement might also be said to be a "direct slap in the face" to those who may be sincerely trying to see that barbs are given a place in political activities, but who are, nevertheless, putting a stumbling block in the way.

In the March 23rd issue of the Daily Nebraskan appeared a news story concerning the coming election of May Queen. Quoted from the article is this statement of Miss Wall, president of Mortar Board: "Because of the importance of the honors which are at stake in the election on Wednesday, Mortar Board is asking that voters disregard affiliation and personal feelings and support those girls who will truly be worthy of the honor. We wish to emphasize also that a girl will be declared ineligible in either class if she is found to be involved in any political clique. Therefore we are asking that organized houses refrain from calling other groups for support."

As well-meaning as this action of Mortar Board might have been in preventing political alliances, it definitely placed an already handicapped barb group at a disadvantage by taking away their only means of keeping scattered barbs politically conscious. While Greeks may easily reach their members in the houses, barbs must rely on calling to organize their group.

At first glance, it might seem that the barbs stand at an advantage with their large groups in contrast to the small competing Greek houses, but it must be realized that the barbs besides being large are also unorganized. Barbs may be classed as passive and active, as barbs for financial reasons and barbs by choice. There is no spirit of Gamma Gamma Gamma around which barbs can rally. There is no noticeable group of alumni to carry thru the unorganized barbs from year to year and aid them financially. The leaders of barbs are individuals who rise up in the organization from time to time and who are not able to build a setup to carry on their leadership as the Greek houses do. Organized houses are the only means of bringing barbs together socially and politically. Altho socially, the barbs may feel no distinct inferiority, it is difficult to stimulate interest in barb political activities to the point where it is made potent in campus elections. The barbs have not yet "arrived" politically.

One of the most effective ways of bringing political prestige to the barbs is by the co-operation of the governing board of barb men and women. By showing their ability to work together successfully they will gain a measure of unity not to be equalled by fraternities and sororities. Barbs must realize that when a choice between personal advantage and the advantage of the barb group must be made, the choice must be made for the advantage of the group, if barbs are ever to gain political recognition.

Barbs must hand together for their own political advancement and not for the sake of opposing the Greek houses. It is a sincere hope that the Student Union building will provide the nucleus for the future organization and co-operation of barb men and women.

H. J. K. SEVERA.

'Army Hit the Nail On the Head.'

(Ed. Note: The following excerpts are reprinted from a letter appearing in sports editor Fred Ware's columns of the Omaha World-Herald, April 5.)

Dear Mr. Ware:
 "A few weeks after the more publicized of the two professional teams in Pittsburgh gave the Cornhuskers quite a thumping Army Levin, then student editor of the Daily Nebraskan, started to give the Panthers . . . and their officials . . . holy hell for the way they conducted their fight (then reported to be game of and for amateurs). You promptly took up the torch . . . and minced no words . . ."

"There was quite a clamor at the time to follow Notre Dame's example and break off relations with the United Mine Workers. When the news finally reached Pitt that you were burning their britches behind them, Don Harrison, who was masquerading under the title of director, but was only a stooge for Coach Sutherland, sent a quiet letter to you which you printed. Harrison asked what in hell all the fuss was about and stated

Bulletin

Farmers Fair o' Bard.

Members of the Farmers Fair board will meet at 7:30 o'clock this evening in the Home Ec parlour.

the ages of the Pitt players, whom you had called Pittsburgh adults . . . After that epistle you became strangely silent, and even hinted that our good friend Army might be suffering from crackpotitis. At the same time Cy Sherman . . . and an Omaha colleague of yours gave Army one of the worst verbal thrashings I have ever seen in print. As a result of heavy criticism from all sides, Army had to give up the battle . . ."

"Now . . . here is, five months later and what has happened? We find . . . Pitt has fired its athletic director because he dared to tell Sutherland to go a little easy on this subsidization business, the chancellor (of Pittsburgh) has announced they won't subsidize so much in the future, which hints of heavy subsidizing in the past; the campus editors (at Pittsburgh) have demanded bigger and better purchasing of football talent, and the campus seems firmly . . . behind the editors."

"When these developments had ripened themselves sufficiently to enable you to anticipate them, you wrote a few articles on these strange inconsistencies with Don Harrison's remarks in that fatal letter of last fall, and hinted pretty strongly that you were convinced the Pittsburgh boys were something other than amateurs. Cy Sherman has let it be known that his opinion is very similar to yours . . ."

"Now to get back to Army. He was the boy Cy scoffed at. He was the boy you left holding the sack by leaving the fray yourself. He was the boy Cy called yellow. I realize there wasn't much you could do when Harrison wrote that letter . . . but the thing I am trying to show is that Army hit the nail squarely on the head . . ."

Floyd Yudelson.

Wants the Rag To Enter Politics.

To the Editor:
 In reference to Sunday's editorial, let a Barb voice his ideas on the subject—not the kind that needs to hire a hall and use a soapbox—but from a Barb who is a Barb by choice—whose allowance is probably greater than two-thirds of the Greek letter people, and who is vitally interested and connected with student affairs.

As for bartering our strength for one or two offices, it is better to have those than none. Every so often, the howl of the Barbs is loud enough to scare the organized factions into giving us a few political offices.

"If they want to dictate, they can. That's bear editor, is a laugh. When we do get an election, the cry of "dirty politics" is heard from one end of the campus to the other."

The situation may be remedied in only three ways; the last being the most practical:

1. Abolish all Greek houses.
2. Compel pledging.
3. Have huge Barb mass meetings.

Why not let John and Joan Barb take the situation in hand and begin a thorough and sincere attempt at organization? The initiative once taken, I'm sure their enthusiasm will reach other and the Barbs will not be the underdogs or "overdogs" just "equal-dogs" that's all we ask.

It would be very fine if the Rag, through its "Barbarisms" would institute this drive for organization. It will be then only that your purpose will be definitely sincere and not just a mere matter of good policy.

—Molly Wyland.

ESSAYS DUE APRIL 15 ON RACIAL TOLERANCE

Dr. Philip Sher of Omaha Sponsors Contest for Undergraduates.

Essays on "Racial and Religious Tolerance" being submitted in competition for the essay contest being sponsored by Dr. Philip Sher of Omaha, must be handed in by April 15. Prof. Lane W. Lancaster announced yesterday. Manuscripts may be handed to either Prof. G. W. Gray, Prof. J. M. Reinhardt, or Professor Lancaster.

Federal Special Agent to Address Law, Bizad Students on Saturday

J. A. Smith, Jr., of the federal bureau of investigation, United States department of justice, will speak on the activities of the FBI, Saturday, April 10 at 10 o'clock in the law building. In addition to law students, seniors in the college of business administration and accounting are invited to hear the secret service operative.

Basic qualifications of a federal special agent are that he must be a graduate of a law or accounting college and between the ages of 23 and 35.

Mr. Smith will address the group in room 101 of the law building Saturday morning.

SCHOLARSHIP GRANTED.

Ralph Olson, graduate assistant in geography, has been granted a scholarship at Clark university in Massachusetts, for continuing research studies in geography there next year.

A ten foot hind limb of the giant dinosaur Diplodocus, an animal that lived about 150 million years ago, can be seen in the display at the University of Michigan's museum.

De Pauw university keeps a 12,000 ton reserve of coal in the event that mine strikes will cut off the fuel supply.

HARVARD INAUGURATES PLAN OF HOBBY STUDY

Project Begun to Further Independent Reading, Studies.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (ACP). To help the alumnus expand on the knowledge that earned him a degree, the president of Harvard university is preparing a "hobby study" plan.

So stated Dr. James B. Conant, president of Harvard university in his annual report to the board of overseers.

"Harvard will soon inaugurate a novel experiment in extra curricular study," designed to inoculate students with the habit of independent reading and intensive study apart from courses.

The first subject chosen for the "hobby" study, he declared, would be United States history. To this end, a faculty committee is compiling a list of books which should provide the student with the means to a "partial mastery" of the field.

"It seems to me a hopeless task to provide a complete and finished liberal education suitable to this century by four years of college work," said Dr. Conant. "The only worth while liberal education today is one which is a continuing process going on thruout life."

"The possibility of education by self directed study, by reading in hours snatched from a busy life, seems to be only dimly appreciated by those who enter a business or profession fresh from the atmosphere of a university."

American universities must prepare to present, thru the radio and the press, frequent accounts of their "trusteeship" of scholarship and science by accurate and interesting reports of what they are accomplishing, Dr. Conant explained.

"If knowledge is to be advanced in a democracy, the leaders of opinion and the intelligent voters must be kept in touch with what scholarship and research really signify."

"In a sense, this is an aspect of adult education; viewed from another angle it is the rendering of account to the country at large of the trusteeship of those who man our universities," continued President Conant.

"It is encouraging that the leading newspapers now have developed staffs capable of understanding and interpreting the work of the scholar and the scientist."

The Press
 By Morris Lipp

SETTLEMENT of the month old Chrysler sitdown strike Tuesday night provided that the United Automobile Workers of America would call no more sitdowns in Chrysler plants and that the corporation would recognize the union bargaining rights for its employees who are U. A. W. members. Homer Martin Young, international president of the union, has indicated that the sitdowns in Michigan automobile plants were ended, which is the cheeriest industrial note issuing forth from that state since the employer-employee disputes have arisen.

OUTLAWING sitdown strikes, a bill is awaiting the signature of Governor George D. Aiken to become a Vermont law. This is the first bill enacted by a state legislature and should the republican governor sign it, it will be the first official action in squelching, by law, the imported technique of striking for collective bargaining.

ELECTIONS thruout the state Tuesday indicated that the package liquor sales is the manner in which the populace's majorities want their alcoholic beverages dispensed. Only two towns rejected the package sales of hard liquor and one town voted against sales by drink but favored package sales. Back in the days after the Volstead act had been repealed it was a matter of much conjecture, this state handling of the hard liquor problem. In Nebraska, Holdrege and Gresham were the only towns to reject even package sales.

ENGLISH EXPERT SPEAKS ON REACTIONS OF CLAY

Prof. C. E. Marshall of Leeds Addresses Chemical Group Wednesday.

Prof. Charles E. Marshall of the University of Leeds in England, spoke on "The Constitution and Reactions of Clay" before the 172nd meeting of the Nebraska section of the American Chemical Society last night in Avery laboratory.

Professor Marshall, who is visiting professor of soils at the University of Missouri, discussed the molecular structure of clays as related to hydration and base exchange. He spoke of important problems in the conservation of moisture and fertility of soils in which he has long been interested.

An internationally recognized authority on the chemistry of soils, Professor Marshall was brought to Lincoln thru the operation of the department of agronomy at Nebraska with the Nebraska section of the American Chemical society.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO SIT ONE OUT!!



YEAH, MAN..

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