

We Call Him King Biff, Huskerland Monarch

BY ED STEEVES.

An infernal roar of criticism rose from the state of Nebraska last spring when a sudden change of football coaches laid the institution's ledgers open to public auditing. At the time Major "Biff" Jones replaced D. X. Bible as director of athletics here, the populace was shocked to learn that the little colonel had received a larger salary for his tutorial services on the gridiron than had Chancellor Burnett, Gabriel of the university.

In defense of the university's action, metropolitan newspapers over the mid-west began casting galleys of lead explaining the situation. In spite of this help, there are still many who begrudge the pecuniary output to Jones for such frivolity as football.

Many are unable to perceive why a "mere" coach should receive more than a common professor, who teaches the sterner and more valuable stuff of the academic educational program. Above all, the comparison of the mentor's salary to that of the chancellor seems fantastic to these disapproving individuals.

They charge that this university and other erring schools have no sense of evaluation. They infer that rewarding a common teacher of the double wingback and punt formations more than a tutor of Caesar or Boyle's law is analogous with a small boy trading his father's watch for a piece of red string. In other words, it is plain treason!

The Biffer's salary has never been officially announced. I have been given to understand by members of the athletic board of control that he is paid on the graduating scale, receiving \$10,000 the first year and a \$1,000 increase for each of the two ensuing years. The chancellor is paid \$10,000. In other words, Burnett's yearly income can compare favorably with Jones' this year only. Other professors of the school are paid enough to drive a second hand car and have dessert one meal a week, if they scripp.

Is it just? I believe it is, and I have three very definite reasons to back my convictions.

First of all, Jones' hand is not the omnipresent hand that is inserted into the taxpayers' pocket. The 6 foot 4 inch major was officially made a member of the university faculty, he is not state paid in the same sense as other members of the staff. His salary is stipulated by members of the athletic board, of which several members are professors themselves, and drawn from the coffers of the athletic fund.

This condition compares to a hypothetical case in which you work for "A" company and I work for "B". Coaches and teachers are not at all on the same payroll.

If there are still dissenting people in face of this argument, they should observe the fact that, as mentioned above, representative professors are directly responsible for the price paid the football coach. Thus if the teachers themselves do not resent their subordination, why should outsiders?

Another criterion for the indicted Jones is, "Who is the most famed of all University of Nebraska employees?" Tho it may not be the answer we desire, "Coach 'Biff' Jones" is the inevitable reply. His name is spread from coast to coast. Every day this fall his praises have been sung in some daily newspaper or over the ether waves. Fan mail comes to the quiet Jones by the bagful. This, we must acknowledge, is improbable in the case of a classroom tutor.

Even those who are not so familiar with "Biff" are well acquainted with his Caesarean foot ball eleven. This is his work, his work the same as the Morrill hall museum is Prof. Erwin Barbour's work. The collection of ele-

phant fossils is fine, and paleontologists all over the world recognize it as one of the best, yet does it have the boxoffice appeal that the Husker football team has? Of course not!

In other words, our coach and many other coaches are merely reaping the crop they have sown. Jones has built a team that fans are eager to see each Saturday; one that they will pay to see. By packing 40,000 fans into the stadium, as he did a few Saturdays ago, the Biffer not only pays his own salary, but also gives the university a tidy sum for other expenditures.



"BIFF" JONES

A good coach has boxoffice appeal, something that a professor obviously cannot have. If a trigonometry instructor could get a capacity crowd during three hours a day at 25 cents admission, perhaps he could amass an astounding income also.

Jones' task is no simple one. It is one of constant study and research. It is one of painful anxiety at times. He deals with men; men of all kinds. For this reason he must be a leader, a diplomat, and a gentleman, besides a scholar of football. Should he slip from any of the named standards, his football clubs would undoubtedly also slip and thus his Saturday crowds would dwindle. Then he would be unworthy of his salary.

To further justify the major's large stipend, let me ask, "To what does the University of Nebraska owe its fame? With what is the name of the school associated?"

Is it law? Is it art? Is it engineering? No, it is none of these nor any of the other colleges of this institution. Tho Nebraska may rank high in various academic categories, none of her colleges appears with the leaders as rated in the Carnegie research statistics.

This school of the plains is one of versatility, but one of mediocrity, in educational measures. It has a good business administration college, a good arts and sciences college, and is good in many phases, but exceptional in none. No one treks across the nation to get a specialized training at Nebraska.

I maintain that football is the symbol of the Cornhusker university. Mention in the fall that you hail from Nebraska and immediately a stranger will strike up a conversation about your gridiron prospects. It is the eleven men who pound the Saturday sod who gain the recognition for Nebraska by playing inter-sectional games. They are the ambassadors of Burnett's establishment, traveling east to Pittsburgh, west to Oregon, north to Minnesota, and south to Oklahoma.

Where the railroads do not carry the fame of the Huskers, newspaper and radio Co. Nebraska and its football are universal.

You may say, "Is this not true of all 'football' institutions?" I say no, for Harvard's gridmen share fame with the embryonic attorneys of that school. So do the footballers halve honors with engineers at Georgia Tech, the journalists at Columbia, and the soldiers at West Point. Nebraska has but one press agent and that is football!

If this school were suddenly stripped of its "college of football," what would its reputation be in five years? Would it still be a nationally known institution of prestige? Would its enrollment still be proportionately large?

Personally, I doubt it. I believe if the Husker gridiron were allowed to grow tall with weeds and the stadium allowed to crumble with inactivity, that the university's name would drop from the nation's tongue. Thus we must view the situation here in Lincoln somewhat as the comedian, Jimmie Durante, regards his overgrown olfactory organ; it is not pretty, but he capitalizes on it. It is not comforting for us to know that scholastically the University of Nebraska does not rank high, but let us recognize football as our present salvation, and not begrudge Major Jones the salary which he rightly earns!

NEWS PARADE
by
Marjorie Churchill

IT'S DONE— WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

The American gunboat, Panay is at the bottom of the Yangtze river, sent there by bombs dropped from Japanese airplanes Sunday. Eleven persons remain unaccounted for. One seaman is dead as a result of wounds suffered in the bombing.

Japan follows up the incident with most profuse apologies, takes full blame for the damage, and promises full reparation. The very ease and smoothness of the apology following immediately after the incident, almost as if timed, gives one the feeling of watching a well planned series of events which are going off pretty much on schedule.

Japan "Dismayed."

Fluent explanations are offered that the Japanese flyers were unable to see the foreign flags and did not know that they had fired upon an American vessel until Monday morning when they "found to their dismay" that where the Panay and the Standard Oil craft were located coincided with the scene of the air attack.

Japan's purpose in the attacks is seen as a rather direct warning to foreign nations to keep out of her war. That she does not wish to draw them into the struggle is seen in her immediate apologies for attacks. Yet there is no doubt about her intent to keep them on their own side of the fence. Speculation runs riot as to what the United States will do.

What About Neutrality Law?

The administration's policy is so far one of ignoring the neutrality law, of leaving congress out of the picture and undertaking a determined stand in the Far East. Congress is in a turmoil, with the ever present fear that an unwise juggling of troops and naval forces by the commander in chief may involve the United States in the Oriental fracas.

The Ludlow war referendum remains in congress, with 23 signatures required of the 218 before the bill can be brought before the house. Slow moving as are most procedures of such magnitude, it is unlikely that action on the bill, so vitally necessary in the present emergency, will be forthcoming. As matters stand, determination

CAMPUS STUDIO
Tuesday, Dec. 14, 1937.
12:00—Ag. Boarding Club.
5:00—Home Economics Club.

Daily Nebraskan

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of foreign policy is entirely up to the administration.

Congress Apprehensive.

Statements of several senators give a rather accurate slant on their views:
Senator McCarran: "We should have been out of Chinese waters long ago."
Senator Shipstead: "What were they doing over there anyway?"
Senator Borah: "I don't see anything in the situation that calls for drastic action."

Senators from inland states are most vehement in their insistence that we stay out of the embroglio. They do not see that protection of the some 100 million dollars of private industry's investments in China are worth the farce of seeing hundreds of American men again dashing off to a foreign war, to be blown to bits by shells which, ironically enough, were very likely manufactured in the United States.

WILLARD BURNIEY TAKES EDITOR'S JOB IN TEXAS

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dent representative on the athletic board of control, member of the student union board of control, member of the student council, and president of the men's professional and honorary journalistic society, Sigma Delta Chi.

As his reasons for leaving school, Burney stated that the offer of a job was of prime importance. He declared that he was uncertain as to what he would do upon graduation in the spring, and that the incentive of a job now was sufficient to cause him to forego his A. B. degree. Having sufficient hours to enter the law school, he hinted that he may return later to enter the study of the legal profession.

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COMPOSERS FILE FOR KOSMET SONG CONTEST TONIGHT

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after the Christmas holidays. This will give contestants the advantage of using the vacation period in which to work up their entries. Song writers should concentrate their efforts purely on tunes since that is the basis on which they will be judged. Words will not be added until after selection of the script to be used in order that they may be appropriate to the plot.
Anyone connected with the university in any capacity is eligible for filing. This may be done at the Kosmet Klub office in room 14

of the basement of the School of Music building, or directly with some member of the Klub.

14 SPEAKERS VIE FOR DEBATE TEAM POSTS TOMORROW

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by lot, but will not be announced until immediately before the tryouts. Judging will be based on delivery and logic of argument, and the judges will be three former university debaters.
Eight minutes will be allowed each speaker except the first affirmative. His arguments will be presented in one five minute constructive speech, followed by a

four minute rebuttal, to be delivered after the delivery of two negative speakers.
Debaters must be present at 7:15. Anyone wishing to attend the tryouts is invited.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN Kosmet Klub.

All active members of Kosmet Klub will meet in the society's rooms in the school of music at 5 p. m. today for an important session.
Scabard and Blade.
All pledges of Scabard and Blade will convene for a very important meeting this evening at 7:30 at the Phi Delta Theta house.

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