

Editorial Opinion . . . Comment . . . Bulletin

The DAILY NEBRASKAN

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Editorially Speaking

THE STATE OF DEBATE (or) MEN WITHOUT WOMEN

Have you ever been to a debate featuring a University of Nebraska debate team?

The odds are quite tremendous that you haven't, because it is an oft-proven fact that extra-university audiences show much more interest in Nebraska debaters than do the students whose school they represent. Declining appropriations have hit debating a staggering blow the past two years, but still the men who participate in this activity carry out an entertaining argumentative program on topics of contemporary interest.

Debating is a reciprocal business whereby school "A" will not visit school "B" for a contest unless school "A" will return the visit. Consequently the university debating schedule is shortened considerably by limited funds since Nebraska cannot afford to send teams on many trips. What can be done on a larger budget was demonstrated by the appearance here in January of a team from the University of California. These men made a cross-country tour on money brought in from participation in a student activity ticket. If a similar ticket were adopted at Nebraska, it is estimated that debaters here could carry out a greatly expanded program if they received only 15 cents per year from each student registration. At present the activity is supported by appropriation from the general university fund, and at one time it received financial assistance from the student activities office.

An interesting result of the restrictions enforced on N. U. debating from lack of funds is a complete monopoly in the activity by men students. Although women frequently are prominent in high school debating (and often are remarked for their argumentative powers), there is not a single woman debater on the squad here. Reason is that it is more expensive to send feminine teams on tour since it is not "proper" for them to travel as cheaply as can men. Another reason is that although occasionally a woman will have to be discouraged from trying out, generally they do not exhibit sufficient interest in the activity to warrant a feminine team. (Mixed teams are not practical for the same reason of increased expenses for traveling and dual chaperonage.)

Dream of the debate department, of course, is an adequate budget and properly fitted-out quarters in some possible campus building of the future. Such a combination in itself should have a very definite effect in reviving general interest in the activity. Meanwhile the department performs only before "guaranteed" audiences, such as classes and meetings of downtown clubs.

If students could be counted on to furnish an adequate audience, a debate with a visiting school might be arranged at the Union. This Tuesday a Nebraska team will meet a Kansas Wesleyan team on the subject of United States isolation. Such a topic should interest every student. The meeting will take place at 3 o'clock in Room 106 of University Hall where there will be room to accommodate any persons who care to drop in. The audience will be invited to enter its individual opinions in the argumentative fray, and all in all the meet should prove entertaining for anyone interested enough to attend. If some general student turnout is observable, an appearance probably will be scheduled later at the Union. The DAILY joins with the debate department in inviting its readers to look in on the activities of Nebraska's debaters.

THE PRESIDENT TAKES AN INTEREST IN YOUTH

The president of the United States did an admirable thing when he addressed the American Youth Congress in Washington yesterday. That statement can stand regardless of one's political feelings, of how one views the activities of youth organization.

Named by the Dies committee as one of many U. S. groups tainted with communistic leanings, the American Youth Congress finds any other motives it may have for its existence blighted by the general public disfavor which has fallen on all leftist groups since the Russian invasion of Finland. Mrs. Roosevelt has defended the Congress from these critical attacks, but yesterday the president came forward and really tried to straighten out the group. In a clear-cut speech, the chief executive branded the soviet union as the aggressor in the Finnish war and proclaimed the United States as 98 per cent sympathetic with the little Baltic democracy. He told the youths gathered outside the white house that they had the right to call themselves communists, but warned that "you have no American right, by act or deed of any kind, to subvert the government and the constitution of this nation."

In referring to the recent opposition by the congress to American loans to Finland, President Roosevelt said, "While I have not the slightest objection in the world to the passing of futile resolutions by conventions, I do think there is room for improvement in common sense thinking and definite room for improvement in the art of not passing resolutions concerning things one knows very little about."

There was no particular reason why the president of the United States should have addressed this youth group. He might have dismissed its thoughtless activities without official comment. But instead he gave these young people an honest talk like an interested elder to a rambunctious child—and he gave them some good common sense advice. He saw the wisdom of recognizing organized youth and of trying to steer them out of dangerous channels. His talk was received with applause and cheers by his audience, which is encouraging. Now the congress best can show both its wisdom and appreciation by following the advice which he so generously gave it. If a kind of pink leftism ever was considered smart among young people, in view of world developments, it certainly no longer is—and the sooner this particular representative of youth realizes that, the sooner they may accomplish some constructive good in a seemingly very bad world.



FRANK'S PROPAGANDA.

News reaches us from time to time concerning German rule in Poland and Czechoslovakia. Hans Frank, governor general of German-occupied Poland declares that never before has Poland been ruled with as much consideration for the social and material welfare of the Polish people. Frank declared that Germany saved Poland from bankruptcy and created there a region of "economic sovereignty." He added that there is no hunger or rationing of food in Poland. There is probably so little food available to the Poles that Germany doesn't even bother to ration it.

There is not a single concentration camp in Poland, asserts Frank, but any movement which would weaken the German administration or give German enemies in the east a chance to strike at the Reich is sternly smashed. This latter statement indicates that more summary measures than concentration camps are being used to crush opposition to the Reich in Poland and that perhaps Germany isn't confident of the professed friendliness of some of her neighbors in the east.

Neither in Czechoslovakia are there any concentration camps declare the Germans. Here Czech opposition to nazi rule is suppressed by placing leading Czech personalities in "protective custody," the conditions of said custody not being stated. We think we would prefer the concentration camps; this all sounds very militaristic.

The fact that little or no news of anti-German activities in Austria reaches us indicates that Austrians are quite sympathetic to German policies and programs and that Austria is a proper part of the German empire.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA OFFICIAL BULLETIN

This bulletin is for the use of campus organizations, students and faculty members. Announcements of meetings or other notices for the bulletin may be submitted at the NEBRASKAN office by 5 p. m. the day before publication or at the registrar's office by 4 p. m. on week-days and 11 a. m. on Saturday. Notices must be typed or legibly written and signed by someone with the authority to have the notice published. The bulletin will appear daily, except Monday and Saturday, on page two of the NEBRASKAN.

- PHILHARMONIC. Robert Viroval, noted young violinist, will be featured with the New York Philharmonic broadcast presented in Parlor X of the Union today at 2 p. m.
GAMMA LAMBDA. Gamma Lambda will hold a special meeting in room 200 of the Union tomorrow. Party plans will be discussed.
REQUEST PROGRAM. An all request program will be played tomorrow at 4 p. m. in the faculty lounge of the Union. The program will be played on the Carnegie set.
HARMONY HOUR. Next in the series of harmony hours, sponsored by Sinfonia, will be given Tuesday at 4 p. m.
PHARMACEUTICAL CLUB. Annual election of officers of the Pharmaceutical club will be held Tuesday at 7:30 p. m. in the faculty lounge.
LUTHERAN STUDENTS. Lutheran students will meet this evening at Friedens Lutheran church. The fellowship lunch begins at 5:30 p. m. Devotions will start at 7 p. m. Rev. Henry Monnich, Schyler, will speak. Cars will provide transportation from the Union at 5:20.
VARSITY DAIRY CLUB. Next monthly meeting of the dairy club will be held Tuesday at 7:15 p. m. in the dairy building. Dr. Grovers K. L. Underberg will speak.

Condra advises permanent plans for forestry stations

Permanent plains forestry experiment stations and intensification of the great plains forestry program were advocated by Dean G. E. Condra of conservation and survey division, M. B. Jenkins, in charge of forestry research, and W. H. Brokaw, director of agricultural extension at a recent joint meeting of the great plains forestry committee and a congressional committee on forestry held at Madison, Wis. Karl Stefan, congressman reported the plan favorably to the house of representatives and called attention to the success of the shelterbelts that have been planted. Dr. Condra and Jenkins pointed out in their reports that grain has been saved from hot winds, and new hope has been given to farmers thru the program. Wildlife also multiplies with rapidity under the new shelter, the men reported. In order to develop the most efficient forestation program for the plains, however, the committee saw urgent need for forestry experiment stations thruout the region. To make these successful, the government should assist in establishing stations, the committee believes.

Gettmann--

(Continued from Page 1.)

from drowning, hit a tennis ball within 30 degrees of where he wants it, and not exactly fall off a horse." Once he caught his limit of trout in Oregon. He can chop a tree, start a fire in the rain, but insists he has no practiced skills. He thinks education should involve a mastery of things, people, ideas. "The ordinary man with a family," he says, "should know the difference between a lawnmower, a thermostat, and a flatboat. He should try to get along with people somehow. The last sounds silly but there is a need for this. Critics laughed that awful Dale Carnegie out of court but the fact that hundreds of thousands bought his book shows there is a desire, a hunger to get along with people."

Stop squawking! "If people, instead of squawking about the number of refugees pouring into this country, would only check statistics and find out how many there are; if, instead of raving about the unconstitutionality of Mr. Hull's reciprocal trade treaties, they would only look at the four or five times the supreme court has approved such a treaty; if the ordinary person would have a more general respect for facts, we'd have saner thinking. College is doing these things—whether we do them in the best way, I don't know."

Do students think for themselves? "Yes," Gettmann says, "I've seen them do it." He cited several cases of students digging up facts, reading books for themselves after he had introduced a new subject to them. "They are more intellectual than we ordinarily think."

On the question of science versus the humanities, he doesn't want to "make us appear steam-rollered." Still, he recalls Ger-

many's emphasis on science, remarks: "When you compare Thomas Huxley's optimism about what science would do with present day Germany it makes you pause and reflect."

Favorite: "Vanity Fair"

His favorite book? "Vanity Fair." What's the greatest piece of literature? Too big a question. What is literature, anyway? That sets him puzzling. "There's a kind of borderline between literature and ordinary writing. Some things are unquestionably literature, others as surely not. Between you have writers like W. Somerset Maugham, J. P. Marquand, John Dos Passos. One way we can judge their worth is by their motives and attitudes toward life."

"But you can't pin a writer like Maugham down because he doesn't state an attitude. Still if you'd slip a page from Maugham, or Dos Passos, and hand it in as English composition, some depth might be found there. Just where the borderline is, I don't know."

No cultural veneer.

Pointing out, the value of an English major, he makes clear that it should not be a cultural veneer nor a mere finding of facts but should induce wider sympathies. "It helps one to understand hopes and fears, limitations, and pettiness of others. It lubricates life. I try to keep a literature course from being history, social problems, or bibliography. It is related to these things but is no one of them."

He calls newspaper work good training for literary writing, points out that Dickens and Meredith were as good reporters as they were novelists.

Besides his Turgenev book, which is a criticism of the English novel since 1860, arrived at by tracing English and American attitudes toward the Russian, he is always "tinkering with other ideas," has his desk piled with books and papers.

WANT A FREE TICKET to the INTER-FRATERNITY BALL? All you have to do is check out 10 tickets from John K. Selleck's office in the Coliseum, sell them, and you'll dance free to the music of PINKY TOMLIN and his ORCHESTRA