

Editorial - - Comment - - Bulletin

Why the wane in activity interest

In exactly two weeks, final examinations begin. Finals usually give students time to relax, see all the shows in town, have more than the usual number of dates... and to see to it that the all-student average remains in the low seventies.

Fraternities and sororities find time to allow their respective and collective averages to slide down, far below the all-men and all-women and all-student average.

In general, the time that might well be used to hike a few grades a few points is wasted. We're all guilty of this stuff, and we all know it. It's just strange that so few of us ever do anything about it.

Human nature is a funny thing, as millions of others have said. When there's nobody to push you, you won't push yourself... and that's the way it is during exam week. Frankly, we can't suggest a remedy for the evil. We would like to see the all-student average higher.

The better the record, the better the university; and the better the university, the better are the chances for those who receive degrees from it. But, human nature again, "there are 6,999 others who can raise the average... my five points won't help."

That old devil, Lethargy, has been molding himself a more comfortable seat on this campus every year. Not only has the general scholarship suffered, or at least remained too low to brag about, but interest in activities of all kinds has waned until activity groups, yes, even publications where jobs pay money, are becoming worried about continuing as effective organizations.

We can't put our finger on the cause of things. The Barbs swear that the predominance of the lazy fraternity men has allowed the activities to go to pot; the Greeks, who find enough activity to keep them busy anyway won't offer an excuse.

Maybe there isn't an excuse. If the all-school average had constantly gone UP during the activity decline, there would be a good excuse, but that hasn't been the case.

We're stumped. If anyone thinks he has the reason, we wish he would write us.

BMI and ASCAP— Both in the dog-house

The battle royal between the radio networks and ASCAP has gone into its second week now. Since midnight, New Year's eve, no ASCAP music has gone over Columbia or NBC station broadcasts, and consequently, swing music addicts from ocean to ocean are melancholy and blue.

ASCAP's music monopoly in the first place seems not too healthy a thing, because of the continual threat it is to all musical entertainment.

ASCAP is a money maker for its officers and for the writers belonging to it. Not content with the earnings it had, ASCAP sought more and the result was a great legal battle which has now arrayed the bulk of public opinion against it.

Music lovers anxiously await the outcome. In the interim, they are getting angry at BMI for not having what they want and at ASCAP for denying them the right to hear their favorite songs.

Behind the Headlines

by Olson and Ordal

Libyan Interlude

British successes in the current North African campaign continue as their mechanized units press on toward Tobruk, 70 miles west of Bardia, important coastal town won by the British after 21 days of fighting.

Reports of Italian losses continue to mount, and it seems clear that the backbone of Marshal Rodolfo's Graziani's army has been broken. Something like eight full divisions of the Italian regular army, fascist blackshirts, and the Italian Libyan army have been completely smashed. About 70,000 have been taken prisoner. Adding to this the estimated 20 to 25 thousand Italians killed, the total number of Italians out of the desert campaign rolls well over 90,000. In addition, vast amounts of automatic rifles, machine guns and field guns have been seized by the British.

Expert analysis indicates that English superiority in the air and in mechanized units is the main reason for their success. The under-gunned Italian warplanes repeatedly have been smashed by superior English machines. As one disgruntled captive Italian aviator put it: "What good are our two guns per plane against the English eight?"

Likewise, the decisive superiority of the English fleet in the Mediterranean places the remaining Italian forces in Libya at a considerable disadvantage.

The Italians, now on the run in that African possession, have been dominant in Libya for comparatively few years. At the beginning of the second decade in the 20th century the heirs of Caesar picked a fight with the decadent Turkish empire, and got Libya as the spoils of conquest. Since then, the Italians have been ruled with an iron hand, and have prosecuted a colonial policy that would make the so-called barbarous tactics of other European colonizers seem mild in the extreme.

Most famous of all those concerned with this policy is the same Rodolfo Graziani who now is digging in for a blast at Tobruk.

Probably Graziani's most notable contribution to the art of colonial government has been his development of the art of "pacification" of the natives—an art which has included such techniques as dropping offending Libyans onto rocks from high-flying airplanes; and which has accounted for the death or emigration of a million and a half natives.

Perhaps the "pacified" people are not altogether displeased with the General's present difficult position. However, since the Libyans are a minor factor in the situation their attitude cannot be particularly important in determining the final outcome.

Bishop—

(Continued from Page 1.)

braskan, if the candidate attends the university, or to the Ella Bishop committee at the chamber, if not a university student.

The premier of "Cheers for Miss Bishop," will be held next Tuesday, with the Lincoln girl serving as hostess to eight other "Ella Bishops" chosen in similar contests held in Fremont, Hastings, Grand Island, Beatrice, Fairbury, Omaha, Falls City and Nebraska City.

Photo, please.

In all of these contests the procedure will be the same. Candidates must submit their photographs to the judges before midnight Thursday; if the photograph is mailed it must be post marked not later than that time.

The candidate who in the opinion of the judges most resembles Martha Scott will serve as Lincoln's "Ella Bishop." Although Miss Scott is a blonde, brunets and redheads will be given equal consideration. Final choice will be made on the basis of facial resemblance without regard to complexion.

Judges cautioned candidates to make sure that photographs contain the name and address of entrants with no photographs to be returned. Photographs do not

have to be large ones; snapshots will be acceptable.

At 10 a. m., the Lincoln winner, with her fellow "Miss Bishops" will be a member of the official group greeting the incoming Hollywood stars. This group will ride with the stars to the coliseum and sit beside the players at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon, accompany them to a tea, and sit at the guest table at the formal dinner at the Cornhusker. Following this, the group will go with the party to the theatre to be presented from the stage.

The Daily Nebraskan

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Barb Union plans expansion of '41 activity program

Discussion of 1941 plans for continued expansion of the social, athletic and activities program of the Barb Union was discussed at a meeting Tuesday evening. These included plans for a joint meeting of the members of the women's interhouse council and the Barb Union, to facilitate cooperation in social activities.

A suggestion that parties including leaders and members of the circulation districts of the Barb be held was discussed. The program for subscription drives for the Barb was developed with a 25 cent cost per semester meeting the approval of most members.

Convo—

(Continued from Page 1.)

which he visits each year with supplies to accommodate the continuance of the education of the Eskimo children there.

Studies glaciers.

During the past several years, MacMillan has taken along on these summer expeditions a selected group of college students interested in polar science and exploration. On these trips the commander and his group undertake scientific studies of glacier movements, animal and plant life, and meteorological conditions. Any students interested in MacMillan's work may question him following his lecture, a part of the Union's special events program.

Bulletin

KOSMET KLUB
Kosmet Klub members will meet today at 7 p. m. in the Klub office. All members must attend the meeting.

YW
YW commission groups will meet as usual this week. Group meetings scheduled for today will be held in the Union.

RAYMOND HALL
Residents of Raymond Hall should have their Cornhusker pictures taken at once. Final deadline will be Jan. 20.

BARB UNION
Barb Union will hold a dance in the Union ballroom from 8 to 11 p. m. Saturday.

CORN COBS
Corn Cobs will meet at 7:15 p. m. today in room 316 of the Union.

DAILY BUSINESS STAFF
DAILY business staff members will have their Cornhusker pictures taken in the west stadium, Friday at 12:30 p. m.

For The Formal
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Spurr survey . . .

Shows 1940 state business best since before depression

Nebraska's business activity hit a ten year peak in 1940 surpassing the 1937 peak and reaching the highest point since 1930 according to the general business index recently issued by Professor W. A. Spurr of the University's Department of Business Research.

A specially prepared chart published in Nebraska newspapers shows the general business activity, and seven other indicators of the state's business for each year since the boom period of 1929. All eight indicators reflect Nebraska's two business cycles since 1929: First, the sharp drop from 1929 to 1933, then a partial recovery until 1936 and 1937, next a short drop in 1938, and finally the present comeback which is still in progress.

The farm income which is the backbone of the state's prosperity shows an increase of 13 percent over 1939, and the income for 1940 is the best since 1931.

All of the state's business indicators show a general gain over 1939 except building construction which showed a small loss of 3 percent.

The 1941 outlook is for improved domestic demand for farm products, smaller exports, larger income from marketings. Farm in-

come, including government payments, may be the largest since 1929.

The major business trend in 1941 will be upward under the stimulus of huge defense spending, rising consumer buying power, and British war orders. The total volume of business is expected to be 10 percent larger than in 1940. Nebraska will lag behind the nation's boom because of continued drought, and lack of defense industries. However, the stimulus of national defense tends to overshadow regional drawbacks in pointing toward continued expansion for Nebraska's business during 1941.

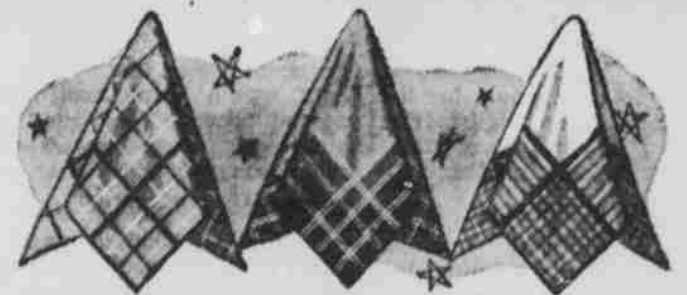
Hitler reports that he was face to face with starvation many times before he rose to fame. Must of been pretty bad for both of them.

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