

Suspense of Future Makes Studying Seem Useless

Mr. Paul McNutt
Manpower Commissioner
Washington.

Dear Mr. McNutt:

The enlisted reserve closed on this campus yesterday after a high percentage of the men in school here joined the ranks. Many of us are holding our breath now, however, because we don't know what we will be doing next semester. We aren't afraid to fight, any of us, but we need to know whether or not we are to fight or stay in school before we can do a good job of either.

Most of us are in a reserve of some kind. We are in navy reserves, air corps reserves, ROTC, or the ERC. Many of us have been in since last summer or even earlier and it has been a difficult job for us to concentrate on our work here at the university with so many rumors going the rounds here concerning the university and its students in relation to the war program.

There have been a lot of us in school who have been average students before this semester, but some-

thing has happened which cannot be fully explained even to ourselves, making school work seem unimportant. We cut classes, miss assignments, and in general take an attitude which in peace time would have been unexcusable. Under the present circumstances, however, we believe our state of mind is justified. Our security has toppled.

We came to the university to get an education. We really want that education and we really want to study because we realize its importance. Until the psychological barrier of uncertainty is lifted, it is impossible for us to proceed along these lines of hard work and conscientious study.

If we find we can stay in university to complete our education or can stay, even for the rest of this year, we can and we will buckle down. We aren't lazy, we aren't indifferent to the war, we aren't morons. We are just so damned mixed up we can't do anything.

The announcement of the plan will be a relief.

3,000 University of
Nebraska Men.

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'S MATTER?

By Carton Broderick

Well, has this been a weak end or has this been a weak end? In fact my end is so weak that I ain't even been going to my animal husbandry class or my woodworking lab on account of because I been resting up from that big Cement Bored brawl which me and Callie about breezed over to at the basketball court the other night.

Well, we really had a swell dinner beforehand on account of because we was eating dinner with some of the boys and their babes at the All-American cafe. None of us wore our pins that night though so nobody would know

who we was and since it wasn't Tuesday noon, they wouldn't even get suspicious.

Well, after we had eat our dinner of three hamburgers and sixteen Irish and sodas, our babes which was treating us that night sprung the big surprize on us. We wasn't even going to the Cement Bored brawl at all but we was whipping out to here Lucky Strike and his hand which was playin at the Turnstiek. So we goes out there and there was sure a lot of people out there who all of us knew. We saw Bill Rosibon with some HIP which is the name of a sisterhood which has got a reputation for having hips but whose first two greek monikers are Kappa Alpha.

Well, Callie just came in and told me that she had been talking to one of her sisters who went to the Cement Bored party and I guess it was sure a funny deal.

Well, I guess, at half time, some babe called "Oleomargarineball" gets up on the band stand and makes a big speech that the Cement Boreds is now going to present six eligible bachelors. Well, everybody sits on the floor, I guess, and these Cement Boreds whip around in their flat hats and long trailing robes to where these guys is sitting. They clap a big hat on the guys head and hand him a cane and he is supposed to go up on the stage on account of because he is a new eligible.

Well, da Cement Boreds find five of the guys but there ain't no sixth eligible any place in the basketball room. So finally after they had looked for him about half a hour, this "Oleomargarineball" babe says that some hick called Bill Rosibon is the other guy. And here all the time he was out at Lucky Strikes band at the Turnstiek. It sure ain't no wonder they couldn't find him. But he was having a good time out there anyhow, so I guess he ain't too dissipated.



CAPITAL to CAMPUS

A. C. P.'s Correspondent Reports from Washington

Merry Christmas

WASHINGTON. (ACP). Telephone lines to the Washington Office of Defense Transportation are glutted with calls from students who ask whether there will be a government order limiting their holiday travel.

The answer is, "No." You'll get home for vacation all right, assuming you aren't smothered by competition for fares.

In some areas where schools are close together, college and university authorities have voluntarily staggered vacation periods so that all students won't be leaving on the same trains.

Enrollment Note

College and university enrollment has dropped about 14 percent in the last year, according to latest figures from the Office of Education. That figure will become more imposing as 18 and 19 year olds—who make up one-third of the country.

"Army Specialized Training Program"

Colleges interested in getting "contracts" to train soldiers for technical duties are advised by the American Council of Education to take a thorough-going inventory of their physical plants. Once the so-called "Army Specialized Training Program" is announced, that information may come in handy. Among other things, the government may want to know how many additional students could be housed on or near the campus, how many more than this number could be housed if 50 percent of the college's physically fit young men were drafted, etc.

It is under the "Army Specialized Training Program" that a selected group of 18-19 year old draftees (and perhaps soldiers in other categories as well) will be sent to college for technical training. Details of the plan, long awaited by educators in Washington and elsewhere, are still a secret among members of the Joint Army-Navy Personnel Board, charged with the responsibility of drawing up the plan.

Food, Fiber & Colleges

Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard has made it clear that we cannot possibly produce more food and fiber next year than the United Nations can use, even if America's 6 million farmers meet the record goals they are now setting themselves for next season.

Besides food demands of gigantic proportions, we face the necessity of building stockpiles for post-war feeding of ill-nourished Europeans and hunger-worn Asiatics. If these peoples hear our promises of Freedom from Want, they probably envision a global war against starvation. That vision must develop into something more than a mirage.

Lack of manpower is the No. 1 obstruction in the way of successful food and fiber production next year. Secretary Wickard has already congratulated college men and women throughout the nation, as well as others who helped bring in the 1942 harvest, the most bountiful in our history. Accompanying his congratulatory message is a call for even greater effort in 1943. His plea is echoed by Washington officialdom generally.

No wartime job takes priority over food production.

Notes on Nylons

The stocking salvage program will be in high gear by February. Here are a few things co-eds might remember if they aren't already aware of them:

"Useable stockings" include silk, nylon, mixtures of silk and rayon, silk and nylon, nylon and rayon, silk and cotton, and nylon and cotton . . . Don't contribute other silk or nylon garments . . . Don't expect to be paid for your contributions—it's strictly a proposition for patriots . . . Hosiery collection depots are set up at hosiery counters in retail stores . . . Stores will continue to sell the few new stocks of silk and nylon hose that are left . . . If you want to contribute your times as well as your stockings, get in touch with your local salvage chairman . . . And on the final point, Capital to Campus is cautious enough to quote the government: "Be sure all salvaged hose are washed."

Open Penny Banks for the U.S.

BY JOHNNY BAUERMEISTER

The government wasn't kidding when it prophesied that going into the year 1942, the whole country would find itself concentrating every ounce of its strength and every cent of its wealth towards the war effort. In accordance with this comes a message from N. Taylor Ross, director of the U. S. mints in Washington.

Director Ross' message pertains particularly to an effort to induce the return to circulation of the many millions of small coins, which, tying up strategic metals, lie idle in china pigs, little banks, glass jars and the like, in homes all over the nation. At the Mint there is now an enormous demand for one cent pieces occasioned by state sales taxes, federal excise taxes, vending machines and various other factors.

Convert to Stamps.

It is not the purpose of this campaign that the individuals give up their savings of small coins, but

that they merely convert them into war savings stamps, or even into coins of larger denomination, of which there is an ample supply. In any case the important thing is for us to get the pennies back into circulation—thru the banks, corner groceries or elsewhere in the market place.

It is important that it be understood that for every coin hidden away, the Mint must make another to replace it; for the country must have coin to carry on the war program and all its other business affairs. A statement from a press release pointed out that for every penny or five cent piece hidden away, the Mint must use scarce metals to make another to replace it, so great is the demand for these small coins, especially for the penny.

Last year the government made 1 billion 437 million pennies. Into that one denomination alone, went 4,600 tons of copper, not to mention the tin and zinc. All three of those metals are now on the crit-

ical list, sorely needed for war purposes.

Builds Two Cruisers.

The 4,600 tons of copper consumed last year in making the 1 cent piece, would have met the combined requirements of copper for building 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers, 1,245 Flying Fortresses, 120 field guns and 120 howitzers; or enough for one and one-quarter million shells for our big field guns.

Similar messages for the return to circulation of idle coins has been sent to all colleges and universities about the country. The University of Pittsburgh alone, noting a press release on the subject, garnered in and got into circulation on the student body's own initiative, 113,000 pennies in about three weeks. In view of the fact that we are now entering the Christmas season, a period of supplementary spending, we as the student body should easily be able to top that challenge, and at the same time perform a patriotic duty.