

The Daily Nebraskan

Member Intercollegiate Press FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR

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Letterip

Can you visualize life upon our University campus without the use of a Student Union? Have you ever reflected seriously upon the purpose of the Union? Briefly, it is a center for student activities, a physical structure housing the facilities for the Daily Nebraskan, the Cornhusker Year Book, the Student Council, the Cob and Tassel organizations, etc.

It is a spot where the financially limited College Joe can take a date to social functions he can afford. Economical lunch facilities and various recreations are also at his disposal. These activities are necessary to the maintenance of favorable school spirit in a modern university.

The Student Union on the College of Agriculture Campus, even with its limited facilities, has, during the three years of its existence, come to extend some of these benefits to the Ag-student body. And why shouldn't Ag students enjoy these facilities? The Student Union belongs to the student body. University of Nebraska students, including Ag students, have since the mid-30's been paying a student union fee of \$3.00 per semester. It is with a great deal of concern that we are now witnessing a gradual curtailment of the Union activities on Ag Campus.

First, let us try to shed some light on the causes of the present restrictions by examining the history of the Ag-Union. If we would look back on the struggle some few years ago for the establishment of the Ag-Union, the very thought of the Ag-Union being on its last legs should shame the students into action. At that time, student pressure with the encouragement of several farsighted faculty men played a great part in the construction of an Ag Union. Its present site, the basement of the Activities Building, though only temporary and many ways inadequate, was the best location available.

Since its establishment, the Ag Student Union has sponsored numerous social events. It has furnished limited recreational facilities, a lounge, a small music room, and the "Dell", a lunch and soda counter. In addition, it houses in cramped quarters, the monthly Ag publication, The Cornhusker Countryman. The Union location was, however, recognized as only temporary. It was, and is still hoped that the Union can continue until such time as a new Union, as a part of the overall campus improvement program, becomes a reality.

Recent and present events are a puzzle to many of us. Last year the Union had to close down one evening per week end. This year the Union has been closed for every evening. The Dell has been going in the hole either from lack of business or from inefficiency. If from lack of business, perhaps students are becoming more pinched for money, or it may be that some have decided to study in the evenings. If from inefficiency (specifically, loss of money through non-payment of meal tickets), the manager or some other responsible person should be given authority to "hire and fire" or to make some corrective arrangements.

This paralysis of the Ag Student Union operations and activities is in no small part due to the lackadaisical attitude of far too many of us, the Ag students. We should take some positive action now, by starting to make use of what we have! Why can't the Ag Student Union, instead of merely being a place for a between-class snooze or a cup of coffee, become the physical structure providing meeting facilities for the various Ag organizations such as the Block & Bridle, Tri-K, YM-YWCA, etc. These meetings would require a minimum of operating costs for the Union. It might even be profitable to open the Dell following such meetings.

The Ag Union will exist and will expand only as we, the Ag student body, take interest and action by (1) finding the "powers that be" and expressing our concern and interest, and (2) making use of the Union's facilities for as many of the various organizational functions as possible.

It should be clear that there is a need for a Union on Ag campus. Furthermore, future students are not as likely to be padded with "pop's" money and will need the low cost recreation the Union can provide. But unless the Ag student body shows its interest and brings some pressure to bear, we will be unable to retain the facilities we have, much less improve the old or ever build a new Student Union. --Alpha Zeta (Ag Student Honorary).

To the Editor: Have we reached a place where, individually, we have a sense of need? The observance of Lent is just as personal and as individual as your waking thought. I speak from the Protestant point of view. Many Protestants do not observe Lent, because they are not able to get past what seems to them the externals—such things as self-denial and attending special worship services.

Follies... (Continued from Page 1.) chosen Feb. 14 by half of the AWS board and four faculty members. The dramatizations, designed to be light and humorous, will be judged on five considerations: Originality, cleverness, audience appeal, talent, and appropriateness.

news and views

BY GEORGE WILCOX

Story of the Week

Top news of the week is the close British elections, which resulted in the socialist labor party returning to power with a majority of no more than ten seats in parliament.

Only a coalition of two or more parties could forestall another election, but both major parties have been outspoken against working together in a peace time government.

Prime Minister Attlee and his ranking laborite aides last week met and discussed the party's newest problem created by its sharply reduced majority.

Some sources reported that Attlee would go to the King and ask to set up a new government and carry on April 1 is the deadline for the annual budget and if a new election were called it would interfere with budget requirements.

Labor's winning margin was so thin as to make problematical its control of parliament and the carrying out of its ambitious program of further nationalization of important industries.

Labor had 381 members in the old 640-seat house of commons. Morgan Phillips, labor party secretary, has fixed 30 as the minimum majority necessary for an effective government.

Churchill, too, was quick to point out that the new house will be in "a very unstable condition."

Jr. Ak. Showmen Entries Still Open

Prospective Junior A-Sar-Ben showmen who failed to sign for their animal by the deadline date of Feb. 25 may still get into the show if it was revealed today.

For this week only, Ag men wishing show animals may contact the superintendent of the stock they desire to show.

The men to see are: Don Gard, cattle, phone 6-2436; Don Clement, sheep, phone 6-5034; Dale Beckman, dairy, phone 3-3415; Merwyn French, hogs, phone 6-2436; and Ernest Gotschall, horses, phone 2-2695.

its' N.U.

by Pat Wiedman

Walked into the middle of a dream Saturday night, studded with sparkling stars, and a moon. It was the Delta Sig house party complete with Bill Muddell and of all things, a devil's food cake. Heaven was never like this!

ATO's passed out garb. As favors that is! Bids to the house party were accompanied by these unmentionables with the local brand attached.

Something new in the line of parties was created by the rising Adventure Saturday night. Invitations stated "Don't miss this amazing offer, it ends midnight the twenty-fifth."

Engaged: Joan Rasmussen and John Peters, Myra Hauge and Bill Fender.

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just around

by Rod Riggs

Well, Jack Rank is gone, and the dear old Union will settle down to the routine of keeping all you kiddies from getting in a rut.

So every week, there is something to do. Like this week, there will be a nice, quiet canasta party in the game room on Thursday night.

Friday night, there is a square dance in the ballroom. Judging from the turnout at the last one, they must be popular with a certain segment of the campus population.

After the basketball game Saturday, the Union is having a dance and so on. Fizz Powell will provide something for you to dance to, music, I suppose, and there will be the usual cokes and so on.

So come on in and just be casual. Relax, gang, and take it easy. Drop around!

Daily Nebraskan classifieds are accepted in the business office only. Room 20 Union building.

One's Not Enough . . .

Hats off to the junior class council! During our four years in the University, we have heard and agreed with the many criticisms that the junior and senior class presidents were named only. The statement best describing class heads has been, "all they do is plant ivy in the spring and get a few activity points."

But now, at least the junior class is taking positive steps toward establishing a working, responsible organization. Evidently, Herb Reese, when elected junior president by write-in vote last semester, had definite ideas on organizing his class—ideas that included junior class unity and bettering the University.

The council's decision to draw up a permanent constitution indicates that the juniors are interested in the University and their classmates. The constitution's main purpose is to "create a closely-knit class spirit." This is exactly what the students need—something to bring out their spirit.

We are not saying that student spirit is poor. On the contrary, it is better than average under the circumstances. But there is always room for improvement, and the junior class is taking the initiative in attempting to promote more spirit.

The first large-scale project of the council is to put on the Junior-Senior Prom. In many colleges and universities, proms are sponsored by either junior or senior classes, or both. It is no small job which requires hard work and cooperation among the sponsoring groups.

This year the job will be handled by the council members appointed by President Reese. But, with a constitution in the process of being drafted, it's time to think about electing four class officers instead of one. A class president, with no other officers to help him, certainly has a difficult job in carrying out any plans which involve the efforts of a large number.

The Student Council is revising its constitution, and the revision should definitely include the election of four officers for each of the junior and senior classes.

The juniors are organizing. As yet, no action has been taken by the senior class president. A complete slate of officers will aid an industrious president, and possibly provide a few ideas for a not-so-industrious president.

Final Fling . . .

In spite of the fact that final exam procedure seems to be fairly satisfactory to both students and instructors, the matter is not a dead letter. Although both groups are generally happy with the present set-up, there still is room for improvement.

For example, take the poor freshman who meets for the first time the orgy of a college finals. One of the most common excuses for low grades at the freshman level is that these newcomers haven't adapted themselves to college level study methods. Their situation isn't too difficult to understand. None of us has been in school so long that he doesn't remember his struggle to orient himself to University life when he first enrolled at Nebraska.

In connection with the current issue of over-emphasis on finals, many students and faculty members, as well as the Student Council, have recommended that more short tests be given during the term. This system would keep the student on his toes and would give the instructor a more reliable basis for determining grades. Any student, no matter how high his overall grades are, can occasionally meet disaster on one test. And that test may be the very one on which 50 percent of a course average depends.

Another suggestion, also coming from faculty, students and Council alike, concerns the contents of exams. These people would eliminate "memory" tests wherever possible and substitute exams which test the student's thinking and reasoning ability. Anybody can sit down and memorize class notes, then hand them back to the instructor, word for word. It only involves a matter of time. Some students have developed amazing facility in memorizing, while others must labor for a longer time. But when the student is done, all he has is a bunch of facts filed away in his head. Not once has he applied his power to reason.

We admit that the facts are essential. But why can't exams call for facts in such a way that the student has to think to assemble them? One student has suggested that open book exams might not be so bad after all, since when we walk out into the cold, cruel world, we will have access to the facts. What we need to learn is how to apply them. There is no time like the present for starting to learn how to think.

Editorial Briefs

Iowa State will give teacher rating a try this quarter. Division deans have put their stamp of approval on a system to be conducted as an experiment for determining the value of teacher rating. The experiment will be carried on within the divisions, with committees set up to modify the rating scales as trial usage indicates to be most desirable.

Audrey Rosenbaum. A list of the houses whose curtain acts have been selected and their directors: Chi Omega, "Baseball Blues"—Lois Nelson, Kappa Alpha Theta, "Perils of Pauline"—Nancy Miller, Kappa Kappa Gamma, "Southern Syncopation"—Nancy Sayre, Towne club, "Tick Tock"—Henrietta Hageburger.

Advertisement for Carlisle clothing featuring a fashion illustration of a woman in a dress and jacket. Text includes 'Howland-Swanson', 'Carlisle', and '... comes calling, with an exciting NEW SPRING-INTO-SUMMER COLLECTION!'.