

**THE FORUM**

The Nebraskan Does Not Necessarily Endorse the Sentiments Expressed in This Column

To the Editor of The Daily Nebraskan:

Next month will see the inauguration of the formal party season. About half the fraternities and most of the sororities will give formal parties, and each is ambitious to surpass the others in the elaborateness of its party. There results an expenditure of money which, when taken in the aggregate, is altogether uncalled for. It will easily amount to \$10,000.

The fraternity man who comes away from a formal given by his fraternity without digging down into his jeans for more than twenty dollars may consider himself exceptionally lucky. Among fraternity men there are not more than ten per cent who can afford to pay this much for a single evening's entertainment. Conditions in the sororities are probably almost as bad. Even those who can afford such an expenditure could use their money to much better advantage for other things.

When, then, is so much money spent for formal parties? Simply because no one fraternity or sorority thinks it could afford to defy custom and tradition by not giving a party up to the standard. And it is hard to see how it could. Certain it is that any such organization of any standing, falling altogether to give a formal party, would suffer immeasurably in its social standing.

There is too much striving for social position at Nebraska. The student body is tending toward the extravagance and high living of the universities of the effete East. Such a condition of affairs is incompatible with the high purpose of the University of Nebraska. It is altogether opposed to that spirit of democracy which is so desirable among the students of any university, especially those of a state institution. No wonder the legislature has on several occasions considered the abolishment of fraternities in the University. The only reason that these organizations still exist is that present conditions have not been exposed to the full light of publicity. There is no assurance, however, that the people of the state will long remain in so blissful an ignorance.

But the students of the University do not want any intervention by the state with their own social affairs. That is also opposed to the spirit of democracy and personal freedom. University students are qualified to judge for themselves what is best for themselves. There is no doubt that the great majority, even among fraternity men alone, are in favor of some system of limiting the amount of money spent for formal parties. Conditions are as they are at present because there has been no united action among those interested in this cause. This is not an argument for the abolition of formal parties, but simply a plea for fraternity men to get together and reduce the expenses of formal parties to a point which is more nearly reconcilable with their pocketbooks. There is no reason why this cannot be done.

Of course one reason that nothing effective has been accomplished in this direction is the fact that a man who advances arguments against this

extravagance is always met with the charge of disloyalty to his fraternity and is accused of being a "tight-wad" and a "crum." R. F. L., '14.

**Campus Notes**

Saturday afternoon the Alpha Phi freshmen will entertain for the freshmen of the other sororities.

Over seventy-one per cent of the students at Brown university are members of Greek Letter societies, according to statistics recently disclosed.

The conditions for contesting for the Chi Omega prize of the department of sociology will be announced by the committee of award within a day or two.

Nearly ten thousand post card views taken at the Missouri-Kansas football game have been bought by Missouri students. Most of the views were of the rooters in the bleachers.

The conservation and soil survey is reporting upon the validity of foreign companies selling land in Nebraska. The work is being done in connection with the legislative investigation of fraudulent land sales.

Moving pictures will be one of the attractions of the mid-winter agriculture displays. A cured meat show, an apple display and an excellent display by the home economics department of the state farm will be open to the public at the auditorium, January 19-23.

**Classified Column**

BLACK OVERCOAT taken from M. A. 204 has been traced and person who took it will avoid trouble by returning same to Rag office. 12-15-31

FOUND—Pair of men's dress gloves at freshman hop. Owner may have same by proving property and paying for this ad. Inquire Rag office. 12-10-31

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