

The Daily Nebraskan

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TO D. N.—E. F. D. AND LON

The initial article by "D. N." (whoever he is, the editor does not know) has brought forth two replies each of which in its own way points out the greatest weakness in D. N.'s campaign.

While the purpose of this supposed campaign to reform social conditions is commendable and should have the support of all, fraternity men included, the method as pointed out in today's letters is probably futile.

Talking and writing are just about the two most futile ways of trying to reform any situation, especially a situation created or perpetuated by organizations of which a person is not a member.

E. F. D. is right beyond question when he says that if any change is ever brought about so long as fraternities exist on this campus it will have to be brought about by the fraternities themselves.

And if E. F. D. should go further he would probably come to the unescapable conclusion that fraternities will never abandon their present attitude, will never bring about a change, for the very simple reason that the very heart and soul of their existence is the belief of every blessed one of them that they are superior to the common run.

And taken by themselves there is nothing objectionable in the formation of such groups. If people think they are having a more enjoyable four years of college by banding together as they do, it seems that they ought to be permitted to do so.

But this explanation leaves altogether out of account the mass of nonfraternity men whose existence on the campus is made uncomfortable in more ways than one by the existence of these groups.

Fraternity men and their magazines prate about the democracy of their system, and yet the value of membership in the groups is often in inverse proportion to the ratio of fraternity men to nonfraternity men.

It is a waste of time, therefore, to talk about bettering social conditions so long as there are on the campus organizations which inherently are opposed to any democratization of social relations.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

During the present school year several fraternities have inaugurated the practice of holding discussion groups at intervals. Although at first glance the idea seems to be rather unpractical, real interest and benefits are seen, according to those who have tried it.

To all those who have spent very much time in a fraternity house the fact is well known that much of the time of the early evening is spent in over-indulgence in much talking, and saying very little. It seems entirely reasonable that spending this time in talk of a more serious and uplifting brand of conversation once or twice a month would at least be a step ahead of the common practice in most houses.

As far as the common supposition that very few "fraternity men" would occupy their time on affairs of this kind, it is hardly fair to the average college man to place him in a class with the wide-troused youth of College Humor. Actual practice has shown that interest is developed, and that the discussions do not descend to the level of common fire-place palavering.

In Other Columns

A Biase People

Scientific research no longer is accorded the awe and adulation of the multitude. Recent developments have given the world many new and remarkable inventions, yet we remain unawakened, a biase and unappreciative people.

This matter-of-fact acceptance of that which approaches the marvelous has become well-nigh universal. The radio did not arouse our awe when it was introduced, but was rather something for our entertainment. The Vitaphone talks to us from the screen; to us it is merely another unit of the entertainment program.

Incidentally this last was apropos of an appeal made by the Cornell wrestling captain to his Cornell supporters. And Cornell, at that time, held the championship.

on at the other end of the line, we would shrug our shoulders, yawn, and consider the offer. Likewise, if we were given the opportunity to tune in on a movie program in our homes, no one would be started.

Fraternity Inbreeding

There are undoubtedly many advantages to residence in a fraternity house. The social opportunities offered, the facilities available for close companionship, the presence of more or less homelike surroundings, the compact nature of the group, all these may be mentioned. But there are also many perils.

This tendency may be noted in every house on the campus. Each fraternity has its members whose social horizon is bounded by the limits of their fraternity, whose interests revolve about fraternity matters and those alone.

The case is not altogether hopeless. Such men are composed of those who need a little prodding to get their interest aroused in things outside the fraternity and those whose mental capacity is such that they will likely never gather much of an idea what University life is all about anyway.

Under-Graduate Foresight

There are ten thousand or more students at Minnesota. They are of all types—the genius and the moron, the book-worm and the athlete, the social light and the lost sheep who never ventures out after nine o'clock unless it is to slump for a listless two hours in a moving picture house.

If a student intends to acquire training, which will be especially valuable in an occupation which requires rapid thought and efficient reasoning, he should take courses which demand that he employ what faculties for rapid thought and reasoning he possesses.

There is something in G. W. Wells' criticism of modern educational systems. Too much time is given to "the games" and social pastimes. Not enough time is given to specialization in a definite, chosen work.

For the sake of argument, we have been assuming that "College Spirit" has existed here in the past. We have suggested that it is irrelevant only to the present attitude towards activities. Indeed, we have introduced "College Spirit" as an anachronism which once had a very definite meaning, one closely suffusing the life here.

From the Beginning

You will probably be glad to grant us one qualification to this statement. We do not for a second deny that there have been, and are, men who have a deep interest in Columbia, some undergraduates and many alumni. We do insist that "College Spirit" has never been the motivating factor in extra-curricular activities.

The very quantity of propaganda and editorial rampage devoted to the subject during the last fifty years should be significant. A firmly implanted habit of mind hardly needs the energetic boosting which the idea "College Spirit" has received.

Consider these examples selected at ten year intervals. They hardly suggest lively spirit. 1877—"If the students wish to see their college take a forward position, they must sacrifice their time, and help the team practice.....Let every student feel it his individual duty to add his mite to Columbia's fame."

1887—"Why is the attendance at baseball games so small? Every Columbia man ought to go up to the games at the Polo Grounds. We would also urge them to give the nine more cheering."

1897—"There is no reason why the track team should not have three and four times its present number of candidates. There is no reason why some of these should not be doing better work."

1907—"Without the backing of all the undergraduates and their encouragement in the home games at least, it is impossible for any team to win a championship. Proper interest in tonight's game and the display of it by Columbia men as a whole can be depended upon to put the winning spirit into the basketball squad."

1917—"It is about high time that Columbia got busy if it is to hold its place in the wrestling world. The fault of the poor showing.....is the fault of the student body in general. It is the lack of interest and the support so badly needed at Columbia that is to blame."

Incidentally this last was apropos of an appeal made by the Cornell wrestling captain to his Cornell supporters. And Cornell, at that time, held the championship. The whole condition is neither peculiarly Columbia's, nor Cornell's. It is simply the general attempt to regard the student as existing for the activities rather than the activities as existing for the student.

The Campus Pulse

Letters from readers are cordially welcomed in this department, and will be printed in all cases subject only to the common newspaper practice of keeping out all libelous matter, and attacks against individuals and religions.

Dear Editor:

I am taking this opportunity to write to you before "the existing inequalities of social relationships on this campus" are too much altered by the series of articles which "D. N." is promulgating. If I had known that a series of articles could alter these inequalities, I would have written the articles myself.

"D. N.'s" article is an indication that the University of Nebraska (facing the bookstore) is engaged in a great civil war testing whether this college or any other college so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. "D. N." has struck the match that will ignite the fuse which will carry the flame to the freckle that is all wet.

Wake up, Greeks. I will say more—Intimidatingly Yours, Lon.

Mental Fancies

Let no one believe that the only fancies the masculine mind harbors in the springtime are those relating to love and moonlight adventures. Reawakening nature and emotional stirrings generate in the mental world of the male a multitude of fancies which are builders of conquest, dreams and glorious anticipations of reformations.

A conquest against fraternities and a reformation sentiment among the unfortunately termed "Barbs" is being attempted. Democracy is again before the student body, blazoned in unmistakable literary descriptions upon the editorial page of our foremost campus publication.

Only a cool consideration of facts, and a real desire to discuss them calmly will enable the initiators of this time-worn discussion and controversy to procure more than indifference or contempt from those who reside on the other side of the fence. By the other side I refer to opposing trend of thought.

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strive to create a new relationship between the Greek-letter society members and the non-members, do not be unwise enough to believe that bitter irony will organize a minority into a majority. Do not be silly enough to support that by rallying the "Barbs" you will succeed in your cause.

I think one may prophesy that if ever a change is truly effected on this campus, as long as fraternities and sororities exist, the change will have to be brought about by the members of the Greek-letter organizations themselves. What champion, no matter how able, will be able to organize the Barbs into an effective machine, which will force the fraternities and sororities to change their regard, if their present regard for the Barb were said to be detrimental to his social development here at school.

In view of that it is not logical to suppose that the members of the organizations must be enrolled in the movement for the heightened prestige of the "Barbs" before very much can be done. And certainly such people will not be brought to their knees or forced to enroll themselves by attacks which savor of bias and literary severities.

"White lies" prevalent in the esoteric discussions between members and pledges of the Greek-letter organizations were mentioned; "Slaves"

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Talks of eating at the



The Potato Little more than four centuries ago the potato was unknown to the civilized world. It can truly claim to be a 100 per cent American food. First cousin to the tomato (and to that "black sheep" of the nightshade family, the "bull nettle") it rivals in importance rice and the banana as a universal food.

Here in America the potato is regarded as essential to a meal as it bread. Probably 99.44 per cent of the population would resent being asked to eat a full meal without the ubiquitous potato cooked according to individual preference at the time.

At the Central Cafe every three-division plate dinner contains one portion of potato. Sometimes mashed; at other "American fried"; at still others, Lyonnaise. The potato is included in the same manner as bread and butter—that is, it is not specially charged for; but of course, it makes up part of the cost of the meal.

French Fried, 15c; Shoestring, 15c; American Fried, 10c; Hash Brown, 15c; Lyonnaise, 20c; Cottage Fried, 20c; and Mashed, 10c are listed in the Central Cafe's printed menu. These prices are for a la carte orders.

The Central's equipment for turning out French Fried and Shoestring potato was designed from plans originated by Manager Harris and built specially for him. This equipment insures the beautifully browned, mealy, delicious French Fried and Shoestring which all lovers of potatoes yearn for. Come in any time and learn for yourself.

1325 P

Notices

TUESDAY, APRIL 12 Theta Sigma Phi Theta Sigma Phi will meet in SS 218 Tuesday, April 12, at 5 o'clock. P. E. O. P. E. O. luncheon on Tuesday, April 12, at Mrs. Bishop's, 25 North 11th St. Basketball Numeral Men. Picture at the Campus Studio at 11:15. Men should borrow sweaters from football numeral men.

Alpha Kappa Psi Important meeting of Alpha Kappa Psi, Commercial Club Room at 7 p. m. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 Lutheran Bible League The Lutheran Bible League will meet Wednesday at 7 p. m. in the Temple building room 202. Glee Club All members report for regular rehearsals beginning Wednesday of this week. Glee Club will not meet Wednesday night.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14 Open meeting of Math Club on Thursday on Maple Square. Everyone interested. Dr. Cady will give a stereoscopic lecture, April 14, in SS Auditorium, at 7:30 ed is urged to attend.

A shipment of living native silk worm cocoons from New York has recently been received by the department of zoology. The specimens will be used in nature study classes. All the cocoons are expected to hatch this spring and the growth of the moths will be observed by the students.

Dancing School

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