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Oscar Norling Editor-in-Chief
Maurice Keiser Managing Editor
Gerald Griffin Asst. Managing Editor
Dorothy Neff Asst. Managing Editor

WHY BOTHER ABOUT FACTS?

When an editorial writer glances at a bit of news and then hastily writes his own opinion of the situation without waiting to find out the correct facts of the matter, a great injustice can be done to those concerned in the article.

If the facts had been correct the editorial would have been a good one. The writer has built for himself a faulty situation and then criticized it in a worthy manner.

For the benefit of the Lincoln State Journal and the Omaha World Herald the following press notice, which was issued shortly after the report that approximately sixty per cent of the University of Wisconsin students would be dropped this year on account of scholastic failures, is stated:

Newspaper reports dispatched throughout the country recently to the effect that 1700 freshmen would be dropped from the University of Wisconsin this semester, were utterly without foundation, according to Frank Holt, university registrar.

"My suggestion was," said Mr. Holt, from whom the news story was supposed to originate, "that based on the records of last year, 1700 members of the three lower classes, freshmen, sophomores and juniors, who were on the campus Oct. 1, 1927, would not return for work Oct. 1, 1928."

Mr. Holt explained that many dropped for financial reasons, some transferred to other colleges, many decided to enter activities more appealing than college work, that there was a variety of reasons why many would not return, but that many would leave because they were poorly prepared for college work.

Anyone who would have thought over the statement that 1,700 out of 2,900 freshmen were to be dropped for scholastic reasons would have seen how out of proportion this percentage would be.

As to Nebraska's scholarship requirements, they are a little higher than the average school in the Missouri Valley and rank favorably with the institutions in the Big Ten and in the east. It certainly does not lower the scholastic bars in order that more "business prospects" may "flood the university's coffers."

"It is all a matter of policy," the World Herald states. "It is necessary to determine first what it is that the university is expected to do and to accomplish before much progress can be made in deciding what materials and what methods are to be used."

But what is Nebraska's policy? A glance back in the records brings out this statement made at the time when the University was founded:

"With wise forecast it aims to secure to all the members of the Commonwealth, who may avail themselves of its generous provisions, an opportunity for the liberal culture in literature, science and the arts, and in such technical courses as shall from time to time be established."

One of our foremost educators recently remarked, "Nebraska strives to stimulate mental energy—to enable the student to live a better life."

This is a worthy answer to "Why is a University?"

With such a policy is it "equally clear why Nebraska university believes in raising its cash fees rather than its standards of scholarship as a means of thinning down the number of students?"

Much ado has been made over the proposed raise in fees. Some critics would make one believe that the school is being limited to "the rich man's son". Such phrases as "five hundred dollars a year cash into the university's coffers" are largely responsible for this erroneous idea.

The average tuition (taken from the College of Arts and Sciences) has been \$28 a semester. Under the new rate the average fee will be boosted to \$34. Since the University of Wisconsin has been used for comparison in scholastic requirements ranking, a study of their fees showed the average to be \$42. A comparison with other schools proves that even with the increased rate, fees at Nebraska will be lower than the average. The statement that an increase of \$6 a semester in fees will prevent many students from attending the university sounds childish.

"Why, then, did the University raise the fees?" individuals have asked. The answer is simple. The University depends upon two sources for its funds, the legislature appropriation and student tuition. When the appropriation was sufficient for maintenance no tuition was charged. When maintenance costs exceeded the amount allowed by the legislature, it was necessary to introduce the tuition charge.

Last year the University authorities asked the legislature for \$3,850,000 for maintenance. They were allowed \$3,500,000, the same amount that had been given the two previous years. But new buildings increased the maintenance cost and total expenditures amounted to \$4,910,271.04 while the total income was \$3,744,487.20. Such a condition could not continue. Since the legislature appropriation was not increased it was necessary to turn to an increased tuition for aid. So the amount was fixed so that each student will pay approximately one-fifth of the cost of his instruction.

When the legislature sees fit to increase the University appropriation the tuition will, in all probability, be reduced. Such an increase will be allowed only when citizens of Nebraska find out what the University is really accomplishing. This is difficult when one of the leading newspapers of the state chooses to limit its investigations to superficial comments on such reports as find their way to the editorial desk.

As to the selection of a new chancellor we have nothing to say. "Leads", especially from "tightly-closed doors" are too unreliable to be spread over the editorial page. But, from our meager information, we'll venture to say that those critics that are waiting to deny the appointment of a "business executive" are going to be rather disappointed.

WHERE MUD-SLINGING FAILED

Today is Washington's birthday. It is an appropriate time in which to contemplate his influence, past and present, on American life and ideals. George Washington, the father of the country, has not escaped the attacks of modern cynics who have spared no custom in their denunciations. Certain writers have dissected the character of the man so as to disparage him in the eyes of the world. Such has been a recent tendency in regard to Washington.

In our early history George Washington was a name that meant noble tradition, exalted ideals, but was lacking in any human quality. He was placed on too high a pedestal for the American public to benefit from by example. School children were taught about him in such a manner as to awe them. It is no wonder then that the country came to accept Washington as an ideal, and to forget that he was a human being. An inaccessible ideal does no one any good. So it was that the people of the country have come to regard Washington as a pedestaled god, and not as a sympathetic and inspiring man who lived and fought and suffered for his country.

Then came the radical tendency to strip Washington of his noble qualities and achievements. Often-times these were disgusting and unworthy. The reaction toward this mud-slinging took a stand between the creating of an impossible ideal and the attempting to destroy the people's faith with a series of 'exposés'. Washington continues to serve his country. School children should learn of him as a great and sympathetic character, so that when they grow up, they will have before them not an intangible ideal, but a real inspiration to achievement and further glory to the United States by the men who served those states so well.

In Other Columns

WHY IS A UNIVERSITY?

"Of the 2,900 students of the University of Wisconsin who entered this fall, 1,700 have been dismissed for failure to make the grade. This university has hit upon keeping the enrollment within reason without discriminating against the people of moderate means. The student body is trimmed down, not by raising the fees, but by eliminating those who cannot maintain a certain scholastic standard, whether due to laziness or to lack of mental capacity."—The Lincoln State Journal.

This glimpse of the modus operandi of an institution of learning conducted with state funds, as a part of the public educational system, should be especially interesting to the people of Nebraska—for two reasons. The first is that the University of Nebraska has only recently decided to raise its cash fees still higher, and the second reason is that the University of Nebraska is still in process of selecting a chancellor to take the place of Dr. Avery, who resigned two or three years ago.

It is all a matter of policy. It is a matter of policy which cannot be decided until one has first answered satisfactorily what seems to be the simple, but is really the rather baffling question—why is a university? It is necessary to determine first what it is that the university is expected to do and to accomplish before much progress can be made in deciding what materials and what methods are to be used.

As for as the patient search for a new chancellor for Nebraska's university has until now whisperingly plodded along, whatever "leaks" there have been through the tightly-closed doors behind which the board of regents see fit to ponder such above-mundane matters indicate that the criterion most popular for measuring up prospective new chancellors has been that of the breadth and length of ability as a big business executive, with small consideration for scholarship or for inspirational leadership.

If this is an indication of how the question of the whyness of this university is to be answered, or a straw to indicate which way the winds of opinion are blowing, it might very fairly be assumed that the definition of a university in this part of the world is pretty much the same as the definition of a sausage factory or a drop forging foundry, and the reasons for a university just "business reasons."

And on these premises, then, it is perfectly consistent and explainable why we seek a business executive for a chancellor instead of a leader of intellects such as President Glenn Frank of Wisconsin. After all one would not expect the board of directors of the United States Steel corporation to seriously consider an Aristotle or Socrates to guide the destinies of the steel business.

It is also equally clear why Nebraska university believes in raising its cash fees rather than its standards of scholarship as a means of thinning down the number of students. Naturally a business institution has profits first in mind, and not foolish theories like the right of every boy and girl, with the capacity and industry, to have an equal chance to obtain a university education. Given a prospective student able to pay five hundred dollars a year cash into the university's coffers, but without conspicuous ability or desire to plow and till in the laborious fields of humanism and learning, and another student with the burning desire and thirst but with a flat pocketbook, the decision is easy—for a business institution.

To bring democracy into the discussion would only be twaddle. Everybody with a grain of sense knows that business has little time for such metaphysical political theories. It is all right for politicians to expand upon the democratic glories of "the little red schoolhouse," where there shall be no distinctions of class or creed or wealth or lineage, for politics is a harmless game anyhow, like the snake oil trade. But in business there is no time for such foolishness.

There is still one flaw, however, one lingering spark of the old idea of a university. The regents, looking for a business executive to head the university, feel that they ought to get a chancellor for about eight thousand a year. The Standard Oil company would laugh at that!—Omaha World-Herald.

"They laughed when I started to speak to the waiter in French."
"How come?"
"The waiter was Chinese."—St. Bona Venture.

ABOUT BALD HEADS

Another pleasing illusion is shattered if Madame Iona Perford of London is right in her belief about bald heads. They are not a sign of brain power, business ability, or any of the other praiseworthy attributions that people are wont to believe, she says.

Then after disillusioning her public by these statements, she strips bald heads of their final vestige of dignity by asserting that they merely indicate poor circulation! Her attitude is brutal.

For generations bald-headed men have consoled themselves with the belief that heavyweight brains and heavy suits of hair could not go together, and have secretly prided themselves on the outward appearance of brain power.

For years the rest of the world has taken the bald-headed man seriously.—Oklahoma Daily.

Notices

Wednesday, February 22
Gamma Alpha Chi meeting 7:30
Pharmacy Week Chairman
A meeting of the chairman of the various sub-committees for Pharmacy Week will be held Wednesday afternoon, February 22, in room 102, Pharmacy hall. Distribution of the work for the week among the entire pharmacy student body will take place at this time.

Phi Tau Theta
There will be an open meeting of Phi Tau Theta, Methodist men's religious fraternity on Wednesday evening Feb. 22, at 7 o'clock. All Methodist men are invited. An interesting program is planned.

Student Council meeting 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon
A. I. E. E.
There will be an A. I. E. E. meeting at E. E. 204, at 7:30 p. m. Thursday.

Student Snobs Are Theme of Vespers

(Continued from Page 1)
bother to add that little bit of friendliness or pleasantness which can mean such worlds to lonesome girls, or boys, who have come to the university from farms, or ranches, or small towns, and are suddenly plunged into the whirlwind of campus life and city customs among a great many strange people.

"The basis of snobbishness is insincerity," she averred. "Every man is worth just so much as the things about which he busies himself." Marcus Aurelius was quoted as having said, "How much trouble he avoids who does not look to see what his neighbor does."

Different Kinds
"Are you snobbish about pins, about cars, about dates, money, clothes?" she asked. "If you are, or ever catch yourself on the verge of being snobbish about some one of these things, remember the dictionary says that a snob is a vulgar person who apes gentility."

Ruth Davis, a member of the Y. W. C. A. cabinet, discussed "Snobbishness as a Result of Group Organizations." She described the intellectual snobs who go home from the university and look down on their friends or relatives because they may say "I see," when they don't know any better, and yet when these same students are here on the campus they deliberately cultivate their proficiency in the use of slang.

Social Snob Is Worst
She mentioned and discussed the snobs concerning physical appearance, the conventional and the unconventional snobs, the racial snobs and the financial snobs," but the worst snob of all, and the one most often criticized is the social snob," she declared.

"We may be unselfish toward some and still be snobs toward others, if we do not have that element of 'selflessness' which characterizes the genuinely unselfish person. As Christ said, 'Even as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me,' she concluded.

Elizabeth Jonas led the meeting.

Ellen Smith's Life Is Booklet Subject

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of that woman who served the University.

Booklet Contents
The booklet is composed of a preparatory note, and several discourses on her life and reminiscences of her. Some of the articles included are: The "Life of Ellen Smith" by Eleanor Hinman, "Memorabilia of Ellen Smith," by Amy Bruner Almy, "The Third Sombrero," by J. W. Searson, "Personal Reminiscences of Miss Smith," by Georgina Case Sawyer, "Miss Smith as I Knew Her," by Maude Atkinson Thayer, "A Few Memories," by May B. Field, and "Two Reminders," by May Whiting Westermann.

Several illustrations are included in the publication. Some of them are: a portrait of Miss Smith, a picture of Miss Smith's Cottage, a facsimile of Miss Smith's teacher's certificate, a specimen of Miss Smith's handwriting, and a picture of old University Hall.

This booklet has been published by Chi Delta Phi, and can be procured from Nellie Jane Compton, at Station A, Lincoln. The booklets sell at fifty cents in a paper cover and one dollar fully bound.

Burnett Plans Parking Change

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ed," he declared. "Space for two more cars will not help any in solving the parking problem, but there is a possibility of great loss in the event the cistern is blocked."

Scientists Are Always Open to Conviction

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it is not."
The reason that some of their statements appear to be dogmatic, according to the professor, is because many of them are made without sufficient evidence. The preliminary study of a subject may lead to an opinion which further evidence disproves. In that case, the scientist is obliged to change his opinion. This sometimes leads to the belief that natural laws cannot be relied upon and tends to discredit science, because, to some persons, it appears to

be unstable and unreliable.
When asked how the geologist could give a reliable estimate of the age of a fossil or the age of the earth without making a dogmatic statement Mr. Schramm replied, "We have something to base our statement on. We know how long it takes the earth to erode. We have watched depositions for centuries. This gives us a rough estimate as to the age of the earth. When we find a fossil embedded in rock which we know to be of a certain period, we are able to make an approximate estimate as to the time of the existence of that animal."

He admitted that climatic conditions might have been different in earlier times, but declared that it was still possible to give a rough estimate. When a geologist estimates a fossil to be 2,000,000 years old, he does not pretend that he knows exactly its age, but he is reasonably certain that it is somewhere nearly that age. He knows, at least, that it is very old and not the product of the last few hundred years, according to Professor Schramm.

"The geologist is a mere amateur in the use of time and distance as compared with the astronomer," he asserted. "We have traced the earliest forms of life and find them fossilized. We can trace life on through and see the progress from one rock formation to the other and in this way get an idea of the evolution that is in progress."

Campus Topics Revolve About Prom Girl

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preme, especially in the matter of voting for a prom girl. The girl's choice for the honor will no doubt be the fellows' choice, at least by 10

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o'clock when the final count is taken. It is definitely assured that there will be no stuffing of the ballot box as votes are at a premium of \$3.00 each. Each ticket carries with it a vote for the prom girl and they can be had only through the purchase of an "admit one." The votes will be counted just before intermission so that the Prom Girl can make her entrance at that time.

Y. M. C. A. Men Are Nominated

(Continued from Page 1)
of what was formerly called the Intercollegiate representative, which office is now extinct. On the Rocky Mountain field student council each student association in the field is represented by one member.

Ballots will be mailed to the "Y" members this week, according to General Secretary C. D. Hayes, and in order that they might be counted they must be returned to the University Y. M. C. A. office not later than five o'clock Thursday, March 1. The new officers will assume office about a month later.

The nominating committee, which had charge of the selection of candidates, is composed of Dr. O. H. Werner, chairman of the advisory board, Robert Davenport, Lee Rankin, and Anton Frolik, who constitute the senior members of the cabinet, and C. D. Hayes, general secretary.

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