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COMMUNICATIONS.

To the Editors of the Nebraskan-Hesperian—Gentlemen: In your issue of October 17th I note with surprise an article by Mr. Frank M. Brown, in which he seems to find cause for complaint because fraternities are more largely represented in the recent appointments of the cadet battalion and in the managements of foot ball and base ball than he thinks they should be.

Now, Messrs. Editors, I do not wish to be considered a champion of the fraternities in this matter, but as I have been interested in observing the facts as stated by Mr. Brown, I have drawn certain conclusions as to the causes of, and the remedy for, this evil, for evil it is to a certain extent I am willing to admit.

I cannot speak with so much certainty regarding the cadet appointments as with regard to athletics, but I infer that the same causes are operative there.

When it is taken into consideration that out of an attendance in this university of above two thousand not more than two or three hundred are supporters of athletics in any sense, and that most of these are fraternity men and women, it is not to be wondered at that the positions of managers, etc., should go to the fraternities. There is too much apathy amongst the student body concerning college affairs generally. Whatever of time, energy and enthusiasm is put into such affairs, it seems to me, is largely furnished by the fraternities. I should like to see things different, and I believe if there were evinced more of a disposition to do, and less of a disposition to find fault, we would very soon eradicate such evils as the having a small element in control of affairs.

There are at the present time non-fraternity men on the athletic board, and also in the management of the foot ball team; others can secure places for themselves by taking hold with a vim and helping to make a success of athletics. Not all of us can hope for a substantial reward; but, after all, is it not a sufficient reward to feel that by our efforts we have helped to increase the prestige of our university? Give her your loyalty, no matter what the specific object may be, and I am sure you will have no cause for regrets. Yours very sincerely,

JOHN WHITE.

To the Editors of the Nebraskan-Hesperian: The discussion of fire protection in the university has been spoken of so many times that the subject is a little tiresome, yet it is a fact that nowhere else in Nebraska, or for that matter in this section of the country, can be found such a large and valuable mass of property crowded together in such a small space with so little fire protection.

The buildings are stored with priceless reference books, many out of print and absolutely lost forever if destroyed, and valuable apparatus that if handled roughly is destroyed.

It is true that only gas and electricity are used in all the buildings, which reduces the danger of fire to the minimum; but who knows the meshes of unseen wires that girt the various buildings, and what defense can we make without some apparatus should a fire start from a crossed wire or a careless experiment? The experience of our city fire department with big fires in the past should warn us that we cannot have too much self-protection.

I would suggest that the first appropriation we ask the coming legislature to make be for fire apparatus, and that the military department have charge of and organize a volunteer fire department. There is no time between the opening and closing of the university gates when enough students are not on the grounds to handle the fire apparatus sufficiently to give all the buildings ample protection. Then with some training at stated periods we would be able to assist in protecting this vast amount of property that the state has so generously placed at our disposal. STUDENT.



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