

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

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It is certainly very presumptuous as well as disrespectful for any student, no matter what his own opinion of his ability is, to offer his unsolicited advice to an instructor of recognized ability. When so given it is usually an evidence of the givers weakness rather than of his ability.

The senior class has reason to congratulate itself upon its good fortune in securing as its commencement orator so distinguished a scholar as Booker T. Washington. Mr. Washington's recent visit with President Roosevelt to discuss the negro problem has brought him into national prominence. He will receive a warm welcome to the University of Nebraska.

UNFAIRNESS TO UNIVERSITY DEBATERS.

The following from a Pennsylvania exchange presents a condition that is evident in the University of Nebraska.

Within the last eight years Pennsylvania has engaged in eleven inter-university debates, six with Cornell, three with Michigan and two with Columbia. It is generally conceded that the men who took part in these contests have done as much for their Alma Mater as the athletes

who take part of her inter-collegiate event, yet it has often been the feeling among the friends of the men who have made Varsity-Debating Teams that perhaps not so much encouragement, support or recognition is given to debaters as to the men who compose the great athletic teams, not even after glorious victories.

A prominent Pennsylvania alumnus, who debated with Cornell several years ago, who had also been a former athlete, is fully convinced that the amount of preliminary and mental strain involved in preparing for a Varsity Debating Team is enormous and takes considerable more time, energy and preparation than the physical training necessary to become a member of one of the Varsity Athletic Teams. The work consists not merely in preparing for the final contest, but much time is consumed in working up for the many preliminary inter-departmental and inter-society debates, and it is not until after the team is chosen that actual work for the final contest begins in earnest.

This takes practically one entire month's work in looking up hundreds of references and investigating every possible point and theory, in compiling statistics, and often debaters have been obliged to travel hundreds of miles to get their information from authentic and reliable sources. It seems only just that these men, who work so hard for the glory of their colors, should have the support from undergraduates to which they would seem to be entitled.

COMMUNICATION.

To the editor of the Nebraskan: Considerable criticism has been afloat the past two days because two of the literary societies refused to adjourn Friday evening for the preliminary debates, and also because one of them refused to give up its hall for the debate.

The criticism seems to me unjust and unwarranted. In the first place there are five other nights a week on which the association could meet without intruding on the varsity society nights, and besides the societies in the past have always adjourned, and would have this time had sufficient notice been given instead of the two days notice. And lastly why should the literary societies be criticised more than other university organizations which meet on Friday evening? The debates merit support as do all other university contests and with a little more careful selection of dates, would surely get a liberal support from the societies as well as from everyone else. However, the association can hardly expect all organizations to adjourn a meeting which comes regularly the same evening.

And finally the rather impolite and ungentlemanly manner in which members of the debating association intruded on one of the societies Friday evening, which forced them, in order to save their self-respect, to adjourn to another hall, will not go very far toward cultivating the desired support for which they are clamoring. The writer believes it will tend to lose the association the support of that society at least.

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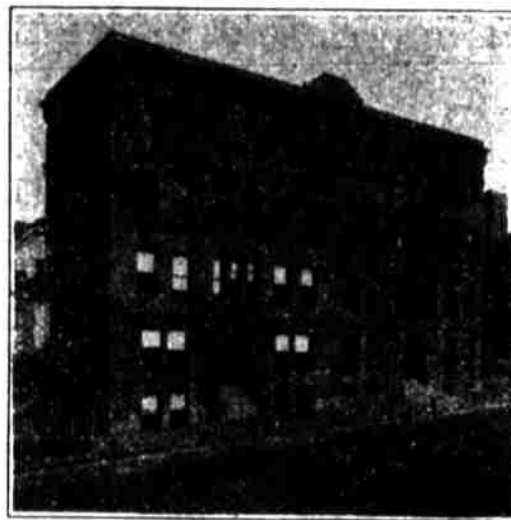
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