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THE ISSUE TODAY.

The Daily Nebraskan is not disposed to take issue with a conscientious portion of the student body who are advocating a measure that they feel will inure to the interest and benefit of the University. Yet there are certain weaknesses and objections in the freshman cap idea that drive us to an expression of our views. We do this in a purely advisory manner, however. If a substantial majority of the student body, in the light of all the facts, and in their own enlightened judgment, feel that, according to principles of right and expediency, the freshmen should be made to wear green skull caps, this paper, in obedience to student sentiment, will willingly cooperate in helping to enforce the proposed plan.

While the plan is being put up to the freshmen primarily, and it would appear, that they were going to have the option of deciding whether they will wear the caps or not, it is not difficult to see that the rule of the upper classes will prevail in the end, providing the upper classes once decide that they want the freshmen to so acquiesce. It is also safe to presume that the freshmen will adopt the measure this morning not so much upon its merits, but because in propriety they have no other avenue of escape. We do not make this statement in disparagement of the motives of those behind the plan, but more in recognition of the fact that the freshmen are scarcely in a position to determine the merits of the controversy. The desirability of a numerous class of students being set off apart from the rest of the University by a system of identification involves too many questions of principle and expediency that would, in the ordinary course of events, scarcely find solution in the minds of a beginning student unacquainted with conditions at the University and uninformed on the causes that really lie beneath the apparent lack of college spirit. Unless the freshmen are made to see both sides of the question, and we do not think that that can be done in an hour's time, it can be said in all

fairness that their decision will not be on the merits of the question at issue. The responsibility of deciding the freshmen cap question, therefore, must necessarily lie with the upper classes, for it will be to them that the freshmen in their efforts to enforce the rule will have to appeal. The freshmen are not going to be able to enforce their own measures if the rest of the student body is not behind them, and the rest of the student body is not going to be behind them unless they feel that the freshmen in justice should be made or encouraged to wear the caps. For this reason upper classmen, in meeting assembled this morning, should not be misled into the belief that in adopting the cap proposition they are simply ratifying the contemplated action of the freshmen. They are doing more than that. They are endorsing it, and in so doing they guarantee to help put it into force. Their action, therefore, should be predicted on the presumption that in the long run the responsibility of giving the measure life rests on their shoulders. They must be prepared to enforce it and make the freshmen subject to such methods as practical enforcement will necessitate.

Class spirit is not a necessity in the center of college spirit. The center about which all college customs should turn, is the idea of the college and not the class. We are now besieged with a multitude of organized distractions all of which tend to blur our conception and appreciation of the University ideal.

The fraternity system dominates those whom it numbers. Fraternity men are loyal University men, yet the fact of their fraternal connection blunts the ardor of their enthusiasm for the University. And yet the fraternity freshmen are destined to lead the way in establishing the new custom. The writer knows this to be a fact, and so does every one else who is in touch with the situation. How much of the college ideal does the reader suppose these young men will get after they have submitted to the exactions of the measure as a part of their menial service to the organizations with which they have affiliated? From such a condition class distinctions will inevitably be drawn, creating more harm than the proposed measure could compensate in generations. There are other distractions that might be mentioned, but the single illustration should serve the purpose. The thing to do is to check the spread of the organization fever, not to feed it.

The freshmen cap idea is being sponsored to give the entering men something in common, something to tie to. Why not attain the same end by giving them a bigger means, a means that respects the University and not the class. The class organization, at best, is but an artificial arrangement created for the purpose of convenience and classification. By making the freshman hail the standard of their class, you are but making them flock around the unreal goal. Does this engender college spirit? No. College spirit is not stimulated by the strengthening of artificial ties. Rather do they detract from it, and help to cloud the real glory of the college ideal.

And now if class spirit and loyalty are not fundamental, why institute a

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