

The Forum

The recent vociferous agitation of the green cap theory has brought into the limelight a fact that has, for some time, been realized by the upper classes of the University. The fact is that good old Nebraska spirit, handed down from generation to generation, has been laid away to rest until some noble prince may lift the seal and rescue the beauty from its slumber.

Deplorable as this may seem, it is true. The howling hundreds that but a few years ago infested the athletic field at every game and made the vicinity hideous with their barbarous war whoops, have changed into a certain few who creep into their places and encourage the team by maintaining a silence that would cause a sphinx to blush with shame. The once glorious "shirt tail parade" has become a joke that some pernicious villains are suggesting be turned over to the fair members of the school. The once riotous Cornhusker banquet has become a place for the loyal few who, for some reason, are unable to find girls to take to a show. These are slightly exaggerated statements, but alas.

Doubtless there are several reasons for the present state of affairs. The main one is, that our University is a house divided against itself. It is composed of many little bodies of men and women who have forgotten that there is something greater than the dominating of school activities by the select few. We are spending our energy for the good of the few instead of the many. For this situation no one is to blame, nor is any one body of students to blame. It is simply the outcome of existing conditions that have crept in unseen. It is the result of dividing the student body into cliques, and allowing each one to work for its own end. The University of Nebraska has been subordinated to the organizations whose very existence depend upon its welfare.

By organizations I do not mean fraternities alone, nor do I lay the pres-

ent conditions at their door. It was but a few years ago when the "barbs" controlled every office in the school. Even now there are "barb" organizations whose self appointed duty it is to fight every fraternity man who seeks prominence. In our helplessness we all stand on common ground and are all equally guilty.

On every side it is, "Pull for our man." It matters not as to whether that man is the best fitted for the place. A supports B for the athletic board so that C may have a "pull." C supports D for the publication board so that A may become editor of the "Rag." D supports B so that X may be defeated for class president because X belongs to an organization that is opposing D's. D might even be induced to support X if Y can be chairman of the class "hop." And so on. University affairs have become tangled in a maze of rotten politics; how complicated is known only to a few. The student body has forgotten that it should be the University first, last and always, and not the club, fraternity or clique to which each may belong.

Of course there are other reasons for this lapse of spirit that must not be mentioned here, but it seems to me that the one dwelt upon, with probably too great a length is the one that has caused the most trouble. It would be a pleasure to have the above statements proven unfounded. If they are true, then it is safe to say that Nebraska spirit will remain in its present condition till we can take the "peanuts" out of politics, and each one can become great enough to sacrifice his own interests and the interests of his friend for the student body as a whole. If we cannot do this, let some far wiser person come forward with a remedy whereby we can strike at the very heart of the parasite that has grown up in our midst, sapped our strength and shattered the reputation and traditions established and cherished by those who have gone before.

A. M. Emley.

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