

The Daily Nebraskan

Property of THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA Lincoln

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Subscription price \$2.00 per year, payable in advance.  
Single copies, 5 cents each.

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

The DAILY NEBRASKAN purposes to be the free voice of student sentiment; to be fair, to be impartial, to seek advice as well as offer it, to truthfully picture college life; to go further than the mere printing of news by standing for the highest ideals of the University; in short, to serve the University of Nebraska.

Saturday, February 7, 1914

PAN-HEL BANQUET

The Pan-Hel Banquet is no more. The University has prohibited it. This may seem to some as an arbitrary ruling, interfering with their ideas of personal liberty, trampling on their sense of justice. But they are looking at the affair from a narrow standpoint. We realize, as did the University, that there were but few whose actions could have been criticized. And we realize, as did the University, that the penalty must be paid by all. But it is necessary to the University that this sort of thing cease. It is not that the institution wishes to tell certain men as individuals what they shall and what they shall not do. That is not its function. It is not interfering here because it vitally affects the University what you do or don't do as individuals. But it does take a hand when your actions as a student of the University of Nebraska become detrimental to the institution. And that is what has recently happened.

Exaggeration is a most human fault, and a most universal one. We are glad that many of the reports which circulated after the banquet were false. But the fact remains, they circulated. They spread all over the city. And they didn't stop here. They have gone all over the state. Read for yourself in today's issue an account taken from a Sioux City paper. It has spread all over this end of the country. And what is the effect on the University? Consider it a moment. Isn't it better that a few forego the pleasures and benefits of the Interfraternity Banquet? What do you think?

TODAY IN NEBRASKA'S HISTORY

February 7, 1902.

The new commandant, Captain Smoke, arrives in Lincoln and will take charge of the battalion at once.

February 7, 1912.

Miss Ensign issues death warrant of popular pastime known as "moonlight dances." Freshman committee is specially warned.

At Minnesota.

The Board of Athletic Control, at a meeting held recently, voted to revive dancing after basketball games, provided that some organization on the campus would undertake the duty of seeing that such parties are properly chaperoned. They also voted funds to equip the freshman baseball team with suits.—Minnesota Daily.

The Forum

Very well, suppose we grant the advantages of the tutorial system, does it follow that we must have the collegiate system? No, not at all. But certain salient features of the tutorial system will be otherwise lost. Let us turn to the life in a college for a moment and see if we can make matters clear. The students live in college, remember, i. e., in what we would call dormitories. Now each college lives its own life in glorious, though only partial, isolation. Do you debate? The college clubs afford you your best change. (By the way, competitive debating with judges is unknown here, and the only verdict is the vote of the house, which frankly votes on the merits of the question as they see it.) Are you athletic? Unless you are unusually good, you play on the college team, and so on. The students of each college eat together "in hall," a function ruled by queer old customs and preceded by a Latin grace. In all this student life the dons take some part. "After all, he is a member of this college and it is only right he should be on hand to run with our boat," said an Englishman, referring to the Dean's habit of running along the tow path in track clothes with the students, to cheer the "Eight." Their presence at certain high festivities is supposed, at least, to moderate youthful excess. It is the proper thing to call on each don every term, or every other term, dropping in informally and smoking a pipe with him while he tries to talk on subjects suitable to your infantile intellect and you try to be amused. And once a year or oftener they invite you to a dinner, lunch, tea or breakfast. Yes, it is more or less a bore, but it is good for both don and undergrad and helps to keep relations between them human.

Let us leave the dons alone now. I am conscious that I have not made very clear the advantages so much of the collegiate system as of the tutorial. Those interested can puzzle it out, I hope, and for others, it doesn't matter. The social side of college life has been already broached. My point is simply this: Everyone recognizes the greater opportunities of the large universities. Most educators are coming to see their weaknesses, especially socially. The problem that they seem to set themselves is, how large can we make the university without losing the sense of a corporate life and the almost family aspect of the smaller college? Now, Oxford provides one with all the advantages, educationally, socially, athletically, of a large university. At the same time the small, compact, more or less socially unified, though fortunately far from homogeneous colleges, provide the centripetal force to counteract the centrifugal tendencies which necessarily accompany increased size. Rather vague.

Well, to be precise, there are men, who if left to themselves, will go thru the university, without taking any real part in university life. Maybe they go to football games, but as likely as not they can't afford to. Play? No, they haven't the physique, time or inclination. Dance? Can't dance, or worse yet (for these men miss it more) don't know the dancing crowd. So they go thru their four years. Some are bitter, others never seem to realize that they are missing the finest thing the university offers—the university life, where are formed those lasting friendships, which whether continued later or not, are often the biggest influence in a man's life.

We all know some examples of the type. The "Rag" writes sonorous editorials trying to show them the error of their ways. But these people don't read the "Rag." It is bad, thoroly bad, and getting worse in all our great institutions.

The trouble is these people haven't the temperament to force themselves forward. They seem grey, not colored;

a sort of background. You never notice them in detail until your attention is called to them. And yet, many of them are exceedingly well worth knowing, probably more so than you "tinkling brass," whom you can't overlook.

Now put one of these men in a college of eighty or a hundred men. Custom requires you to call on him. Eat at the same table with him. Make him play "footer" because the college needs him and because the coll is small enough that the man's ability is discovered. Some dull winter day after a strenuous day or perhaps a long period of grind on the river in a cold rain, training for the glory of the college, invite him in to tea. Hear his perhaps quaint and quizzical comment on members of the coll (you both know them all more or less) or make him explain the meaning of some British institution. Why, some of the finest hours of a man's college career come from the contact with just such retiring people.

Of course, some people have too tough a shell. As far as I can see, they're hopeless. And of course, you can do this in a large American university. But you don't, not in nine cases out of ten. Go to any small town in Nebraska and hear the story of So-and-So, who came home from the U. of N., which you love so dearly, at the end of one, two, three or four years, lonely and embittered. "It is his own fault," you declare hotly. Maybe, maybe, but I want everyone, willy-nilly, his fault or no, to love my Alma Mater as I love it. And so do you.

Well in a small group it is impossible to avoid some human contact, and in a small group which eats, sleeps, drinks and plays together, shut in every evening after nine within the same walls, not so much to keep people in as to keep the world out, one must be intensely anti-social not to feel the stirrings of college spirit and of love for the Alma Mater.

After two or three years living in college, when friendships are made and college spirit given form, you go out into lodgings with a boon companion to make room for a new crop of freshmen. Why those American colleges which do have dorms limit them to upperclassmen seems a mystery. It is precisely the freshman who needs to be forced into human fellowship and to be moulded by the college traditions. After that you can let him loose feeling sure that he will not relapse into his hermit ways.

Our frats do this a lot. But they do it for just those men usually who need it least. And the same frat man recognizes that there are grave evils connected with the system. Among other things, frats are made up (in theory at any rate) of men "of our sort"; colleges are made up of men of all sorts, including the bad. My college has a number of absolute "rotters," whom I detest, and we must serve on the same committees, etc. It is a part of a man's education to learn to get along with all sorts. The advantages of the fraternity are mostly offered by the college (and incidentally I am willing to admit that these advantages are more numerous than I had thought while at the U. of N.), while the evils of the frat are largely taken on by certain clubs, intra and inter-collegiate. For just as our frat system does not bar friendships and interests outside the charmed circle, neither does the college. They are simply less usual and less inevitable.

In conclusion, I must apologize for the form and length of this article, and I hope, sir, that you will use your editorial judgment, blue pencil and scissors on it. It has been written in the intervals when my fagged brain refused to repeat any longer the "J'aime, Tu aimes, Il aime" of the French I am endeavoring to learn during my vac. My excuse—I regard the movement towards the "collegiate system" as an inevitable and desirable step in our university polity. Princeton has already begun, tho in a falter-

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NO MORE BANQUETS (Continued from Page One)

actions of these few. To prevent any such behavior in the future, however, the abolition was considered necessary.

Frats Regret Action.

This news comes as a sad blow to the fraternities. The Pan-Hellenic Banquet has been an occasion for the congregation of all the tribes in a good-fellowship meeting; it has been a time when feuds and petty differences were thrown aside. The Pan-Hellenic Banquet, as the Pan-Hellenic Dance, has served to bring all fraternity men into a closer relationship with each other.

Much Severe Criticism.

On the other hand, the position of

the University authorities can be well understood when considered in the light of some of the various reports which have been circulated throughout the country.

The following clipping was taken from one of the Missouri Valley dailies. It is replete with absolute lies and abounds in superabundance of exaggeration, still thousands of people read it and believe it to be so:

Champagne Flows Free at Pan-Hellenic Dance.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 3.—University authorities have begun an investigation of the festivities conducted with the Pan-Hellenic dance at the Lindell hotel Saturday night. The town is ringing with stories of the boisterous conduct of the young men students in attendance, a boisterousness that had much of its origin in bottles with highly-colored labels. Tubs in which bright-necked containers of champagne stood were numerous about the tables, and the total abstainers were few. The University officers charged with watching over the conduct of students suspect that a member of the faculty who has sportive tendencies is responsible for the disregard of limitations set upon students' conduct, and a row of some proportions may follow because of that fact.

FOUND—Fountain pen. Owner see Arthur Coleman, Chemistry Department. 2-33

Ted Marriner—Cleaner, Hatter, and Repairer. Auto B-1799. 235 No. 11th.