

The Daily Nebraskan

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ANOTHER SCHOOL

One of our neighboring universities has the following to say: "The freshman class is to be congratulated upon the sound judgment they have shown in wearing their caps without a murmur. Of course they would have worn them anyway but they should be patted on the back for showing true college spirit and taking up custom at once." Our freshmen are beginning to realize that they, at least some of them, have been in error and are now wearing their caps to prove that they are not "pikers."

We want to do things your way—if you can show us that it's better than ours.

WHY DO IT?

You have noticed organization symbols scratched upon wood-work and even upon statuary about the campus. Candidly, you have not thought more of such organizations thereafter, have you?

Be for the "Scarlet and Cream"—always.

THE GAME

Well, that was not so bad for the first game—that is, for us.

And now they say that the Spikes are busy under another name. Are they? Tell us in the Forum.

THE FIRST MIXER

We have often wondered whether there had ever been anything started in the University that was of a more direct benefit to the whole student body than are the "Mixers." It would be hard to name anything that is more advantageous to one than is an extensive acquaintance. How can the students become better acquainted than at one of the "Mixers"?

To "Herb" goes the honor of the first touchdown for the year.

FORUM

As to Intercollegiate Debating

A university by definition is said to be an institution for the purpose of imparting instruction, examining students and otherwise promoting education in the higher branches of literature, science, art, etc. Throughout the history of American universities, there seems ever to have been an unanimity of opinion that among the functions of a university, debating should have an honorable and worthy place. Nor has Nebraska been an exception to the rule, for we know that for many years our record on the platform was no less enviable than that

of our football team. But what is the present status of debating in Nebraska?

I find prominently published in the Daily Nebraskan of Friday of last week a petition to the Chancellor from Phi Alpha Tau requesting a re-instatement of intercollegiate debating as an institutional activity. I find also a short editorial in the same publication seconding the petition and raising a question which appears to be most timely, viz.: Why has intercollegiate debating been discontinued? What the answer to this may be is a matter of great interest to many students. The question is, Why has it been discontinued?

That the old agreement has ceased to be we all know. This cannot suffice as an answer. Many counter questions occur to us, such as the following: Have the authorities concluded that no one wants a continuance of debating in Nebraska? Is no one interested in it? Is it not worth while? Is our record so poor that we are ashamed to continue it, or so glorious that we are dazzled in the luminousness of ourselves? Has debating suddenly come to be considered so harmful, immoral or detri-

mental to the participants that the University must protect its students from its influence? Or so physically exhausting that we must be shielded from it? Or has athletics such a vise-like grip upon us that no other activity will be fostered which might share its glory? Why has it been discontinued?

The reference to athletics leads me to digress from the main thought momentarily. Nebraska has never had a group of men who could before the student body and stir them with expressions of loyalty, respect and love for their college mother. At the football rallies, which I have attended more or less for several years, I can remember only one or two who have really stirred the hearts of the student body. Every student appreciates the efforts contributed by the band, the faculty, the team and the Glee club in promoting enthusiasm. Yet so much of it is mechanical, so lacking in that spontaneity which is the surest test of real loyalty. It requires the voice of the competent man or woman speaking from the heart and fired with zeal to truly touch and cultivate our deeper emotions and reveal our inner selves. Nebraska has not been producing such leaders in recent years at least, but we need them and need them badly. The debating work may or may not help solve this problem, but nothing would be lost in the effort.

Prof. M. M. Fogg in years past has rendered sterling service to the University as the debating director. It may be that he no longer cares to continue the arduous labors connected therewith. It may be that he finds a more pleasant field of activity and a brighter outlook in the province of journalism. The University of Nebraska must not forget the many years of conspicuous service and splendid results achieved in debating under his supervision. If it is unwise for Prof. Fogg to bear the burden longer must the whole activity be discontinued? Cannot a competent coach be secured to carry on this natural function of a University?

The writer well remembers the early struggles of the inter-class debates. It was hoped that they would give a good many men some platform training, which would tend to prepare them for service to the University afterward. They are now firmly established but the contestants of those debates can aspire to no higher forensic goal. With class honors they must now rest content. Again there are many boys who have developed a taste for debating in their high school days. In fact, the University has fostered the Nebraska Debating League, under the leadership of Prof. Fogg. What are we doing to promote and develop their worthy interest? They can find an outlet for their ambition in Wesleyan and Cotner, but not at Nebraska. The writer knows many men on the campus who have or have had just as earnest an ambition to make the University debating team as others have had to qualify for the football team. But unfortunately they lack the brawn for the latter and so are doomed to remain in obscurity and unsatisfied because the University has failed to provide for this simple though worthy desire. And they compare quite favorably mentally with their more fortunate brethren of athletic ability.

There are alumni of our school who are well and favorably known for their success on the platform, achieved while here and continued in after years. What do they think about this situation? Does anyone suppose that they will point with pride to the discontinuance of this activity? Have the past successes of our teams elevated us to such a pinnacle of fame that no further effort is necessary to maintain our platform standing? It is not a proud reflection on our school that we should have to petition for the re-instatement of debating at Nebraska or that a letter of this nature should be deemed worth the effort? We need it



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and we ought to have it and that without delay. Nebraska needs men and women who can stand before their fellows and speak with persuasion and conviction. Let debating take on a new lease of life. The University can do no less than lend every effort to

re-establish it. The issue is squarely before it.

A. M. HARE.

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