

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

Official Paper of the University of Nebraska

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THE GERMAN CLUBS AGAIN

The Daily Nebraskan has never wished to discourage the study of the German language. Editorially the paper has said: "We realize that we must know the German language if we are to prevent Prussian domination of the world." The Daily Nebraskan does not believe that secret club meetings are necessary to learn the German language. There are conversational classes in German which train the ear in proficiently following German dialogue.

We realize that public opinion must be considered especially in war times. The fact that the meetings were not announced in The Daily Nebraskan, as has been the custom in former years, would seem to infer that the club members feared public opinion regarding their meetings. Besides it is practically impossible to keep such meetings secret, particularly this year when a number of the members of the club have withdrawn their support or simply stopped attending the meetings.

If public opinion condemns the clubs it will condemn the entire university. Students who wish to secure positions may even be handicapped. Nebraska has already been severely criticized in such matters compared with other states.

German is not spoken at the meetings of the Deutscher Geselliger Verein, a member of the club stated yesterday. If the purpose of these meetings is not for the practice of the German language, just what is the purpose?

French soldiers are taught the German language, newspapers often report this. But there are no accounts of German clubs in France.

Because of the criticism they bring upon the school, because there seems to be no need at the present time for the promotion of "German culture" we believe that the clubs should discontinue their meetings until the war is over. Self-control and self-restraint are certainly demanded of all loyal Americans at the present time.

FORUM

The Daily Nebraskan will print in the Forum signed communications addressed to the editor but assumes no responsibility for the same. The editor reserves the right to reject all articles deemed unnecessary. The Nebraskan believes that free and open discussion is beneficial and for that reason welcomes communications on timely subjects from both students and faculty members. The signature of the writer may be had upon application to the editor but will not be printed if so desired.

The Tennis Courts

Editor Daily Nebraskan:  
The board of regents have decreed that the athletic board shall put in new tennis courts, and keep them in repair. Members of the athletic board have advised the writer that the financial matters rested solely with the director with the consent of the chancellor and the secretary. The director has distained to do anything in regard to the matter on account of the shortage of funds. This may be true. This means that the two hundred tennis followers who signed the petition for new courts must hear the well worn statement that since the department has given to a just and worthy cause \$7,000 that this piece of "no man's land" must be allowed to grow weeds in the face of the landscape gardening adjoining the new buildings. Action should be taken

at once in this matter if anything is to be done during this semester.

C. W.

The Unsigned Letter

Editor The Daily Nebraskan.  
The anonymous letter published in last Friday's Nebraskan criticizing the German clubs in the University and more or less directly the activities of the department of German, seems to me to call for serious comment.

In the first place, attention should be called to the fact that the German clubs, like other departmental clubs, exist for the sake of furthering proficiency in the German language—that is, they are means of more readily and capably learning German. The same is true of German plays, which form an admirable method of training the ear for following dialogue in the German language. The activities are primarily educational, primarily means of acquiring knowledge of German. They should not, therefore, be discouraged, far less suppressed, so long as the teaching of German is regarded as important.

And I venture to say that the study of German never was so important or so deserved encouragement in the University as at the present hour. It should be helped in every legitimate way. Primarily for the sake of the nation, into whose service many of them are soon to enter, the whole body of students enlisted in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps should be studying French and German. Knowledge of these two languages (and the enemy language is fully as important as that of our ally) will very greatly increase the value of every officer who possesses it to the United States government in the war being waged. Further, knowledge of the enemy language may, on many an occasion, save the life of the soldier who possesses it. In my opinion, for the period of the war, German, along with French, should be required of every boy in the training corps. This, in the interests of the United States.

Further, we should not forget that the study of German is to be retained in the University when peace is restored, for the sufficient reason that it is essential to the career of scientist and scholar. It is absurd, therefore, to weaken, by now destroying what the department has laboriously developed through long years in the way of helps to the departmental work. We should not short-sightedly forget that the war is bound to be temporary—even though it last some years—and that it is an abnormal condition.

Finally—and here is the real issue—the question of loyalty is not bound up in the question of the teaching of German or the use of the German language any more than it is bound up in the possession of a German name. The two questions are distinct and should be kept distinct. In my opinion many people are losing their heads in unreasonable and irrelevant suspicions. Disloyalty, be it remembered, is treason. Think the word "treason" and bring no charge of disloyalty where "treason" will not apply. Then, I believe, we shall have far less of the senseless suspicion which is growing everywhere. Let it be remembered that no one individual has a right to make himself or herself the unrestrained judge of the intentions of others, that there are properly constituted tribunals before which charges can be brought, and make it a rule of conduct to utter no word of suspicion where you are not ready to bring a charge. Self-control and self-restraint were never more demanded in the interests of justice, which are, thank God, the interests of the United States of America, than in the present hour.

April 13, 1918.

H. B. ALEXANDER.

The German Clubs

Editor Nebraskan:  
I was very much surprised at your publishing in Friday's issue of your paper an unsigned communication, the purpose of which was to attack the two clubs connected with the German department and insinuate by wholesale innuendoes that these organizations are disloyal and un-American. Do you think it professional to publish an unsigned communication, if such indeed it was? Is your correspondent and are you aware, for example, that one of these clubs which he attacked, showed and demonstrated its Americanism long before any other organization in the University felt called upon to make any contribution to the cause of humanity, by giving \$100 to the American Red Cross? As I say, this was done long before we entered the war. What other organization, I ask, had done any such thing at that time. Further, is your correspondent aware that the Dramatic club has purchased Liberty Bonds to the extent of its ability, \$150, besides its members giving their quota in whatever other organization they were interested; and is he aware that this same club boasts of having 16 members with the American colors, some in France, some in Hawaii, some in cantonments and that the club is honoring these boys, the University and itself in having a beautiful service flag among its possessions? Do

facts such as these justify your correspondent's insinuation?

Again, I might ask, is it fair to attack these clubs because they took their German names 15 or 20 years ago as indicating that they were interested in knowing the language of a people who, even though we are now at war with them, defending our highest principles of freedom and law, and the precious gains of civilization, nevertheless have a literature and science well worth knowing. What is the purpose of these clubs? As far as I know, they have been and are organizations intended to further the work of the department, and nothing else. There is not a scintilla of truth to the insinuation, amounting well nigh to charges of disloyalty, that they have any other object in view or any other reason for existing. At one of the meetings held some weeks since, at which I was present, three men in khaki, members of the club, were given a sort of farewell reception; in fact the meeting was a most enthusiastic, patriotic, American meeting, an ovation to the boys in khaki. Why were these meetings not advertised and paraded before the public? Simply because to many people—and perhaps one should give these people credit for being honest in their view—anything with a German name or connected with the German language seems reprehensible in and of itself. Your correspondent seems to belong to this class. Personally, I have advocated with all the persuasion that I can command that foreign languages have no place in the grade schools. But I cannot imagine that, for an educated man or an educated woman, it should be a subject of pride or satisfaction not to know a foreign tongue. The fact that I may have a knowledge of one or several foreign tongues does not seem to me to impair in any way whatsoever my efficiency as an American or my enthusiasm for the cause of freedom and democracy.

Very truly yours,  
LAWRENCE FOSSLER.

NEFF NOW IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE AT PORTLAND, ORE.

Harold G. Neff, who since receiving the government soil survey and having his degree last year, has joined been stationed at Portland Oregon.



He has an excellent position and was recently promoted, although he had been in the government employ for only a few months.

Neff is a member of Silver Lynx fraternity and was prominent in school activities. He was president of the senior class.

PRINCETON GRANTS ABSENCE LEAVE TO DEPARTMENT HEAD

Princeton University has granted a leave of absence to Prof. Frank A. Fetter, head of the department of economics, to take effect June 1. Dr. Fetter will devote himself entirely to war work. He will be manager of the western division of the war camp community service, which, as an integral part of the Fossdick Commission on Training Camp Activities, has entire charge of all recreation and social work outside the training camps. Dr. Fetter will have charge of all the recreational work surrounding thirty-six army and navy camps in the west and southwest.

Dr. Fetter was appointed commissioner of the New York State Board of Charities in 1910 by Governor Hughes and in 1911 he became the head of the department of economics of Princeton University. He was graduated from Indiana University in 1891, and took his doctor's degree at Cornell in 1894, having studied abroad. In 1912 Dr. Fetter was elected president of the American Economic Association. Also Dr. Fetter is the author of the "Principles of Economics" and many other works on the subject.

Cliff Scott's Music, B1482.

Lost

Gold ring, two dark sets, raised initials, "L. G. R." Please call L-7531. Reward.

DO YOU KNOW THAT

The ordnance department manufactures about 100,000 items. One type of gun with its carriage has 7,990 parts, exclusive of accessories. Quartermaster expended or obligated \$58,960,857 for construction and repair of hospitals. Congress has authorized \$2,034,000,000, of which sum \$1,135,000,000 has been appropriated, for the United

States Shipping Board and Emergency Fleet corporation; on March 1, \$353,247,955.37 of this sum had been expended.

Present average daily mail handled by the adjutant general is approximately 58,000 pieces.

Naval training camps have a capacity of 102,000 in summer, 94,000 men in winter.

In 16 cantonments 650,000,000 feet of lumber were used.

PHONE B3398

ORPHEUM

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