

## The Daily Nebraskan

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## WHAT MIGHT BE

The Nebraskan, in the past few weeks, has given considerable attention to the fraternity problem. The manner in which fraternities are disregarding the principles upon which they were founded, and are adopting standards that are merely superficial, has already been outlined. It remains to give an opinion, or express a hope, of what the fraternity, properly governed, might be.

The fraternity will never be a force for the advancement of religion, nor is it desirable that it should be. It may, to some extent, improve morality; but that also is an unlikely goal. So this ideal, upon which most fraternities are founded, seems impracticable; not because fraternities men are necessarily immoral or irreligious, but because their views are too varied to permit of a common aim.

The fraternity may inculcate in its members the social graces, if it will. These are not, of course, of tremendous importance; but they are likewise not to be dismissed as altogether unworthy of attention. Good manners and an understanding of these smaller things not only help the individual in life; they also make life happier for him and for his associates. Many fraternities, unfortunately, make little effort to improve the manners of members. They assume a superficial attitude; they tell the freshmen to cut their hair in a certain style or to buy certain clothes; but little is done in the way of improving the things that count more.

The economic advantage of the fraternity is readily recognized. By joining together living expenses may be reduced, of course. It is true that the living expenses of fraternity members are generally higher than those of non-fraternity men, but for his added expense the fraternity man receives greater comforts and social advantages. The chief aim of most fraternities, brotherhood, may be promoted in this relationship. The fraternity members should, however, forget their pompous and empty talk of brotherhood, and learn to practice this virtue more. There are, in every fraternity, many good friends, and many enemies. The dislikes that always enter into this relationship are natural; it is inconceivable that thirty or forty young men should live in perfect amity. But by careful selection of members, and a conscious attempt to prevent friction, much can be accomplished.

The most important aim of the fraternity should be scholarship. That is, or should be, the primary object of every student. In fostering scholarship the fraternity should be an important force. The colleges of the English universities, which somewhat resemble our fraternities in make-up, exert a tremendous influence toward scholarship. Long evenings spent in discussing philosophy, art, literature, and the thousand other subjects that interest the true student are more valuable than the time spent in the classroom. The fraternity of today, for some reason, fails utterly in this. The subjects discussed, in the main, are of a friv-

lous nature—parties, booze, and girls. The fault lies, it seems, in the individuals who make up the fraternities. They are not interested in scholarship generally. Their interest, if in education at all, is more in grades.

How to accomplish this? The only solution, it seems, is in raising the standard of membership. To do this the irresponsible students who come to the university merely to acquire a fraternity pin must be kept out. These persons, unfortunately, are usually those who make the best impression at first; they are, therefore, the ones most likely to be taken in. They are never of value to the fraternity; on the contrary, it is their influence that is ruining the fraternity system. Pledging the second year would do much to overcome this fault. Few of the one-semester men, who manage to scrape by for a semester and thereby acquire a pin, would be willing to stay in school for a year, even if their lack of scholarship permitted them. The evil of the pin-pursuers is not overestimated. It has been shown that while one of four non-fraternity men who enter the university graduates; only one of sixteen fraternity men does. Any method by which these irresponsible and shallow-minded members may be kept out would do a tremendous good for the fraternity system.

The fraternity system, as it exists at Nebraska today, is a failure. It has lost sight of its ideals and substituted for them cheap cynicism and childish scholarship. It has ordinarily exercised its influence against genuine scholarship. Brotherhood exists chiefly by accident. If it is to redeem itself, and be of worth, its friends must stop regarding any move to improve it as an attempt to destroy it. It must improve the quality of its membership; it must place emphasis on the ideals of true student rather than the dance-hall sheik; it must take stock of itself and realize its faults in order to make over the empty shell into something of genuine value to its members.

## TURN ABOUT

At Columbia University, the students retaliated by giving the professors some "intelligence tests," according to The New York World. It seems that Columbia students, like those of many other students, have been nagged for some time with the questions like: "Where do pickles come from?" and "Where are Roll-Royces made?" They finally prepared a questionnaire of their own, and submitted it to a selected group of faculty members. The results are fully as interesting as those of any "official" tests.

A few of the questions and some of the answers follow:

"Q. Why do students come to college? A. Because they have no place else to go. Because they were sent by their parents or guardians. Because they gradually out-grow high school. Because they want to be college-bred and so come for a four-year loaf."

"Q. What did President Coolidge do to prevent the settlement of the coal strike? A. Remained sensationally inert and spectacularly passive. Nothing effective, but he went pretty far. He failed to give the people hard coal by being a soft President."

"Q. Who is Countess Vera? A. The woman whose past has turned to 'ashes.'"

"Strongheart was successfully accounted for all except one professor, who mistook him for Calvin Coolidge. The examination revealed that there are at least five persons in New York who do not know who Anne Nichols is. Two described her as 'an exploiter of the drummer,' and as a woman who did not under-estimate the vulgarity of the American theatergoer."

"The Charleston was classified as an 'awkward, vacillating pose set to music' and as an 'atrocity.' Filet mignon was mistaken for 'something that girls wear,' a two-year-old race horse and it was rightly called 'steak at Tiffany prices.'"

That the English are keeping their Hindu subjects in ignorance was the charge made by V. S. Abhyankar, a Hindu student at the University of Oklahoma. He attributed the Hindu troubles to a lack of education of the natives.

## Other Opinions

The Daily Nebraskan assumes no responsibility for the sentiments expressed by correspondents and reserves the right to exclude any communications whose publication may for any reason seem undesirable. In all cases the editor must know the identity of the contributor. No communications will be published anonymously, but by special arrangement initials only may be signed.

## From An Author

To the Editor:

I am very much surprised at the publicity that has been given the rejected skit "The Court of King Nero." In behalf of the organization for which it was written I wish to say that the skit is not representative of that organization. I was asked by the president of the organization to try my hand at a skit, and I wrote the skit on very short notice and submitted it, with intentions of improvements later, if it were accepted. When I attended University Night nobody realized more than I that in cleverness and originality my skit did not measure up to those that were presented, and I was very glad that it had been rejected. However, I think the University Night committee showed very poor judgment in not returning or destroying the rejected skits and keeping quiet about them. I would like to see an end to the publicity about this skit.

R. N.

## Majority Rule

To the Editor:

We believe that something in the way of appreciation and sympathy should be given to those illusioned idealists who have so trustfully offered advice on the improvement of University Night. It is indeed a hopeful situation when one can find four (and now five) persons who will seriously attempt the uplifting of such a student production. They have not been disillusioned. They do not yet know the half. They should have known that it is utterly foolish to expect to find either intelligence or humor in the sketches produced on University Night.

Monsieur Montesrey has said that one finds intelligent and sophisticated audiences at the teas of the Classical Club, a place which, by the way, he frequents. Ah, no—one finds only more sophisticated audiences. Where shall we search to find the competent censor for University Night?

Corn Cobs will always imitate the lofty standards of second-rate vaudeville circuits. Very well, let them enjoy it—the students enjoy it—all except the Classical Club, and who are they to say the majority shall not rule.

Therefore, let us permit them their play, and for our own amusement retire—confident that we have done our part to make the world safe for democracy.

## College Press

DR. MEIKLEJOHN'S "IDEAL COLLEGE"  
(McGill Daily)

Dr. Alexander Meiklejohn, centre of the storm which broke out at Amherst College some time ago, newly-appointed professor of philosophy at the University of Wisconsin, recently drew up his plan for an 'ideal col-

lege" and threw forth to two audiences in one week ideas which are so logical, so pointed, as to practically leave no ground for argument. Coming as they do from an educator on whose account a group of seniors refused to accept their degrees when he was asked to resign from Amherst they must, of necessity, deserve our consideration.

Dr. Meiklejohn hopes to achieve at some time in the future a university (cost: about \$3,000,000) which will do without executive officers, without a board of trustees and which will be beyond alumni control. In other words it would be an independent institution consisting only of teachers and the students. The method of teaching would curtail the lectures, tutorial supervision would be instituted and thus independent work would be demanded from students of initiative. And so Dr. Meiklejohn works out the many intricate details which such a project of necessity involves.

It is, however, in the second point that he has struck a most dominate note. We have heard it before—and yet it can never be too adequately emphasized. The substitution of a tutorial system—which of course would sound the death-knell of compulsory lectures—would make for the encouragement of original work, and the final elimination of the "sugar-coated" dishing out of lectures, concerning which we have often spoke in these columns. This setting of the lectures as the very back-bone of our educational system and the making of it as the end of all the studies of the students instead of merely the means to real study is a pernicious tendency which is everywhere asserting itself to a greater degree.

One thing more perhaps and Dr. Meiklejohn's "ideal college" might be complete. He has not, as far as we can see, enunciated whether there will be any degrees awarded at his university. We hope that there will not be any. That would serve to complete his experiment which we hope he will shortly inaugurate. The educational world will certainly watch Dr. Meiklejohn's efforts with the greatest interest.

SOME COMFORT  
(Ohio State Lantern)

It is a painful task for college students to rid themselves of cherished illusions. Students in this regard at least are not different from those who have never stepped within the sacred confines. Yet the discomfort felt by the student when his beliefs are challenged is much more curious than a like state of mind induced in other people.

Ostensibly, at least, the student comes to college to get new ideas. Yet he fights each new idea tooth and toenail. Among the aims of higher education should be a careful inspection by each student of the yardstick he uses to measure moral and intellectual values. Yet if he is told that one of these yardsticks is inaccurate, he is enraged. If one of his religious, political, or social prejudices is questioned, he takes up arms.

And when he comes to be graduated, few of his prejudices have been overcome. He has acquired technical knowledge, perhaps, but he is not much changed underneath.

He has a number of what he calls opinions on the matter that concerns him. In the main these opinions are not his. They belong to nearly all his acquaintances.

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## Mid-Semester Reports

To the faculty and students of the University:

I have just been informed that the student hand-book announced mid-semester reports as due March 20th. There has been no change from the date set in the catalog, and these reports are due March 27th.

CARL C. ENGBERG.

## School of Journalism

Covering Basketball Tournament  
1. The copy deadline is, remember, 9 o'clock Monday morning. Accounts of some games Friday had not yet been reported Saturday night late.

2. Correspondents are requested to check the accuracy of the summary record of their work on Bulletin-board II.

M. M. FOGG.

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

**Cosmopolitan Club**  
The Cosmopolitan Club will hold an open meeting at 2:45 Sunday, March 14, at Faculty Hall. The subject for discussion will be—Japan—its Culture and Customs.

**Cornhusker Life**  
All Students' Life copy for the Student Life Section of the Cornhusker must be turned in by March 15th. Any contributions may be turned in at the Cornhusker office.

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES

"Manufacture and Uses of Explosives" is the title of the illustrated lecture to be given by Prof. Frankforter in the Chemistry lecture room Monday, March 15 at 8 o'clock. The motion pictures are shown by courtesy of the U. S. Bureau of Mines.

by P. H. Stewart, State Extension Agent in Agronomy.

"The Spray Program", by Professor F. M. Coe, Instructor in Horticulture.

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## On The Air

University Studio, broadcasting over KFAB (340.7)

Monday, March 15

9:30 to 9:55 a. m. Weather report by Prof. T. A. Blair. Road report and Announcements.

10:30 to 11:00 a. m. "Dressing for Comfort", by Miss Helen Roeka, Clothing Specialist, Agricultural Extension Service.

1:15 to 1:30 p. m. Address by Dr. Louise Pound, Professor of English.

Musical numbers by Henry Deines, Violinist.

3:00 to 3:30 p. m. Address by Professor E. W. Lantz, Department of Secondary Education, Teachers' College, on "The place of Student Participation in the Government of the School."

Address by A. R. Congdon, Assistant Professor of the Pedagogy of Mathematics, on "Uses and Misuses of Statistical Methods."

8:05 to 8:30 p. m. "Seed Corn."



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--our shop scout says:

"L'Echo de Paris".  
The Mannequin Parade, Starts

—living models, under the direction of the McCall Pattern Co., will display French designed fashions! This promenade will occur daily at 2 p. m. from Monday to Friday inclusive, in the fabric section on the second floor. See it and you'll be inspired to sew a few seams yourself! There will be fashions designed by such noted French couturiers as Jenny, Berthe, Patou, Lelong, Redfern, Martial & Armand, Lanvin and Chanel. There is a McCall pattern for every garment displayed, so Paris it at your door!

Style Need not be  
Expensive at  
Ben Simon & Sons:

—for here's what \$25 will buy in their Apparel section! Clever little suits of attractive tweeds; tailored sport coats; fur trimmed and embroidered dress coats of Lorraine and Point sheen. No one but yourself will ever dream they cost so little, for they'll make you look far from a bargain-seeker! Then, if you want a modestly priced frock in which to look your best, choose from Ben Simon & Sons three hundred at \$15. In this group are dresses of flat crepe, George crepe Roma, and flannel—value and style marvels at \$15.

Let Soukup & Westover  
Insure your  
Winter Clothes!

—send them the heavier garments that you'll soon be putting away, and there'll be no danger of your establishing a summer home for indigent moths! Then too, fabrics deteriorate when stored without dry cleaning, so that's another argument for patronizing the Modern Cleaners. They'll help you get ready for Easter also—brightening and refreshing suits, coats, dresses and scarfs to a degree you might have thought impossible. So call F2877 tomorrow, for your wardrobe's sake.

See what you can buy  
for a Dollar at  
Mayer Bros. Co!

—there are dainty silk teddies or silk bloomers, waiting to become yours for this small amount! And if perchance you crave a pose for your coat, or a bit of smart neckwear, know also that you may go to Mayer Bros. with perfect confidence that you'll find something to please you for \$1. Or if you are a would-be-modiste, there is radium silk at this store to tempt your creative skill and nimble fingers. Obtainable in every fashionable shade of course, at just one dollar a yard. Ties, too, at Mayer Bros. and Coty's face powder for \$1.

## The FLORSHEIM SHOE



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