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DEBATING

Nebraska's annual intercollegiate debate is over, and the old question of "Who Won?" is being asked by those students who like to think that they are loyal Cornhuskers, but who haven't sufficient real interest in debating to attend. The answer to their question, of course, is that Nebraska several years ago abandoned the practice of having three men arbitrarily pick a winner. The necessity of repeatedly explaining this to the uninformed, backwoods undergraduates is sufficient excuse, perhaps, for a discussion of debating methods.

This University was one of the first big schools to adopt the no-decision plan for holding debates. That the innovation has proven successful, is indicated by the absence of objections to it. Debates are fully as interesting, the workmanship of the participants is fully as good, and candidates for team membership are still abundant, despite the elimination of the victory incentive. Few of the men who have engaged in both kinds of debates, advocate a return to the old-fashioned decision method.

At those schools where debates are still won and lost on the basis of the opinions of three individuals, there is considerable dissatisfaction and criticism. The Rutgers Targum, for example, gives the traditional method a thorough raking over the coals, and exclaims in disgust: "Duty of the negative" memorized oratory, "no constructive argument advanced in rebuttal": foolishness! Is debate an artificial game of verbal fencing or is it training to think, to investigate with something of the scientific spirit and method, to honestly convince an audience?"

At Nebraska, these evils have quite largely disappeared since the departure of official judges. Debating is much better training, more fair and open-minded, and more interesting when it is done for its own sake rather than for the sake of a petty victory. The glory which a debater may gain by virtue of three men's decision is not to be compared with the satisfaction which comes to one who does a job well. There is no incentive to distort logic or facts, to haggle over rules of procedure, or to emphasize other than the real issues, when the speaker's only aim is to logically and honestly convince his audience. The scientific spirit which enters when the judges leave, brings with it a desire to present arguments fairly, a willingness to grant that which is logical and true, even though it be advanced by the other team, and to permit the audience to decide for itself, not on the merits of the oratory, but on the merits of the question.

If no score were kept in football games, there would probably be fewer violations of rules, less danger of professionalism, and more real sportmanship. Tearing down the scoreboard would certainly eliminate the alleged "anything-to-win" spirit. For the present the score-keepers need not worry about losing their jobs, but the adoption of this system in debating indicates that the ideal may not always be impossible. A good game played for its own sake is more fun than one played only for the sake of a victory.

Another general criticism of debating methods comes from Stephen Leacock, a world-famous jester and a professor at McGill University. He speaks harshly:

"Some huge subject is selected as broad as the continent and as comprehensive as the census. The subject selected, the two college champions descend into the bowels of the library. And the victory goes to whatever side has more completely swallowed the census and makes a longer array of citations and statistics."

"The proper method should be exactly the reverse. The real preparation for that debate is to think about it, to get keen about it. And the student who can't think ought not to be a champion; he should study to be a professor."

"A subject of interest, striking, exhaustive statistical treatment, relatively short notice, rather than collection of material, the attempt to speak what is in one's mind, not the

repetition of what came out of some one else's—these are the things that make a real debate."

The Daily Nebraskan wishes that Prof. Stephen Leacock could have heard the Nebraska-South Dakota debate this week. It was not perfect, but it was probably less subject to such criticism as his than the average college forensic contest. The subject was big, but it is one which students will very likely be called upon to decide in their capacity of citizens, and it is one which merits genuine study. All thinking is probably valuable, but that about important matters is surely more valuable than that about trivial questions. If the child labor amendment is not too big a problem for the United States senate, it is not too big for college debaters—ask Ex-Senator Burckett.

Nor is Prof. Leacock's violent denunciation of library work entirely justified. One must have something to think about, before he can think. If statistics and statements by others are the wheat which must go through the mill, the greater the quantity, the greater the amount of intellectual grinding which must be done. To be sure, if students become so buried in the mass of library material that their original purpose is forgotten, they merit Prof. Leacock's criticism.

At Nebraska this seldom happens. The "Think Shop" where debating teams do their preliminary work, fully deserves its name. The members usually spend so much time arguing with one another and thinking about the question, that their consciences prick if they glance at the solid shelves of reference books. They usually get keen about the question—so much so, in fact, that it is hard for them to keep cool.

A few universities are experimenting this year with a new type of debate question. Several intercollegiate forensic contests have been of a light vein permitting humor and satirical thrusts. For example, Stanford University, the University of California, and the University of Southern California Branch recently held triangular debates on the question: "Resolved, that the type of man exemplified by Babbitt can be vindicated."

This is an admirable question for discussion at midnight talk fests which very small groups of students sometimes engage in, but it is hardly appropriate for the formal debate platform. It belongs to the arena of tobacco smoke, and thrives on the pleasant air which pervades small groups of intimate friends. The child labor amendment seldom has a chance in such exclusive circles, but it does provide excellent opportunities for careful thinking, straight talking, and honest discussion in a formal debate and at public forums. As for humor and satirical thrusts, a witty chairman is sufficient.

Both Babbitt and child labor are worthy of thought, and there are appropriate places for the discussion of each. The informality of the small group is most likely to be conducive to thought on questions like the former, and the rigidity and formality of public discussion is best suited

to matters like the child labor amendment. Let each type be kept in its proper place.

If the experiments of other schools prove that this assignment of proper places is wrong, the new plan, like that of no-decision debates, will doubtless spread throughout the country.

WE SECOND THE MOTION!

In view of the fact that the University Library building needs a new door (the present one is so hard to open that there is every temptation to stay outside), we reprint the following discussion of library doors, taken from The Daily Kansan:

A thousand or two students walk nonchalantly up to the door of Watson library daily, grasp the handle on the door firmly, and exert a pull varying from 15 to 125 pounds, depending on whether it is a freshman woman or a football star.

Foolish, thoughtless students! They think that just because the doors to the rest of the buildings on the campus open outward these doors to Watson will do the same.

But not so! Don't be so foolish. Watson hall is the storehouse of knowledge—its purpose is to stimulate thought, to cause the mind to work. It has been constructed with this in mind, down to the most minute detail—convention, custom, convenience and state laws notwithstanding.

The explanation is simple: If a student goes to the library on a balmy spring day, just out of habit, opens the door in the customary way for doors to open (outward) just out of habit, and enters the building, the chances are that he'll check out a book, just out of habit and dream over it for an allotted two or three hours—all on account of habit.

But picture to yourself the difference in the mental process that results simply because of this clever scheme of hanging doors over at the library. The student marches up to the door and thoughtlessly exerts his customary pull of 15 to 125 pounds on the handle thereof. The door creaks and groans (or maybe it laughs); the casing may give slight-

ly, and the student's feet slide on the door sill—but the door remains closed.

Now the remarkable thing occurs. The student wakes up, he thinks; the cells of his grey matter start to whirl, they chase up one inner wall of his cranium and down the other—they come to rest and the student realizes that the door open inward. He pushes open the door and enters, wide awake and alert, due to the preliminary mental calisthenics.

He is now in a mental condition to study, all due to the remarkable forethought of those who hung the doors at the library.

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.

LET'S HAVE FACTS

To the Editor:
 The Sunday Nebraskan contained the statement that:

"With a good attendance, seventy-five per cent of whom were freshmen and sophomores, the Nebraska Engineering Society, at their meeting Friday, passed a resolution expressing the belief that the military training offered here was beneficial and should be retained."

A member of the Nebraska Engineering Society tells me that the attendance was good, to be sure, but that at least half of it did not vote on the resolution, not being in any way connected with the society, which was represented by twenty-three out of the total membership of something like a hundred and fifty. The item in the Nebraskan would

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 13th and P Streets

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 Clean towel used on each customer.
 9 CHAIRS

seem to indicate that the compulsory feature of the training received no consideration, but my friend says that was the very issue of controversy. He says, and his statements have been verified by other members of the society, that of the twenty-three votes, eighteen were in favor and five against the compulsory provision.

The article said that seventy-five per cent of those present were freshmen or sophomores, whereas my information is to the effect that this member was unable to discover any freshman among those who voted and only enough sophomores to comprise over "seventy-five per cent" of the dissenting votes.

Now here we have two sets of figures, each suited for a different occasion. Maybe we should be satisfied, since there are enough figures to go around for both sides. I may be too particular, but personally, I should prefer facts. Are there any in this case? If so, I would like to know them.

If the twenty-three men had voted unanimously on either side of the issue, would even that be representative of a group of one hundred and fifty?

My informant could hardly have any motive for warping the facts against compulsory training, as he was one of the eighteen who voted for the compulsory characteristic of

military discipline. Yet he was deeply chagrined that anyone who agrees with him in his views should stoop to such flagrant misrepresentation of facts. Can it be that he has not had enough experience with the military department to become hardened to that sort of thing?
 WELDON MIELICK.

Airplane Club
 Twenty aviation enthusiasts who are qualified pilots at Harvard have decided to form a Harvard Airplane Club. Membership is limited to fifty. The club will purchase and operate an airplane.

Tours Japan
 Cronston Halman, Stanford's crack tennis player, has left school to tour Japan and play matches in Japan, Philippines and Hawaii.

EAT
 at
The Little Sunshine Cafe
 Meals, Sandwiches and Lunches
 QUICK SERVICE
 First Door East of Temple

"Romeo and Juliet" Delights Audience!

—so reports:

 "The actors and actresses", says Nosa, "displayed dramatic skill worthy of professionals, and much credit must be given Miss Alice Howell for her directive efforts."

"Campus Chatter"

"By all means see this play and if perchance you don't know what it's all about beforehand, perhaps this brief synopsis will help you!"

Dear Colleen

My popularity
 Rule Number One
 is—If a girl doesn't
 want to be
 a wall-
 flower-
 she can
 take my tip-
 'Get acquainted
 with



Hovland's
 —Gloria

Sardeson Hovland &
 SMART WEAR FOR WOMEN
 1222-1224 O STREET

(to be sung)
 Come now and listen to my tale of woe
 I'm Juliet, I'm Juliet.
 I am the lady who "mashed" Romeo,
 I'm Juliet, I'm Juliet.
 Locked in a prison, no pickaxe to force it,
 Nasty old place with scarce room to stand OR sit,
 I up and stabbed myself right through the corset.
 I'm Juliet, I'm Juliet!

I am the hero of this little tale
 I'm Romeo, I'm Romeo.
 I am that very susceptible male,
 I'm Romeo, I'm Romeo.
 Ne'er did a lover dare do as I did
 When his best girl to eternity slid-ed
 I took cold poison and I suicid-ed
 I'm Romeo, I'm Romeo.


Now this is the end of that little tale
 Of Romeo and Juliet,
 This is the moral of that little tale
 Of Romeo and Juliet.
 Lovers, I warn you, always be wary
 Don't buy your drinks of an A-pothecary,
 Don't stab yourself through the left pulmonary
 Like Romeo and Juliet!

3 handy packs for 5¢

 Look for it on the dealer's counter

WRIGLEY'S P.K. More for your money and the best Peppermint Chewing Sweet for any money 413

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 is welcomed by the college girl for its chic and charm, its irresistible spontaneity of youthful smartness. Like the "Flowers of Spring" it personifies a radiant beauty and a freshness appealing to the "younger set" because created expressly "or them."
 Welcome as the flowers of Spring

 Send for copy of our new fashion magazine. "Success in Dress"
 Write us for information where you can obtain it
SCHULMAN & HAUPTMAN
 224 WEST 34th STREET, NEW YORK

The big or little company —which?
 "YOU'LL surely be buried in the big company," say some. "Everything is red tape, and you'll end up in a groove in some little department."
 "Your little company never gets you anywhere," others assert. "The bigger the company the bigger your opportunity."
 Whether a plant covers a hundred acres or is only a dingy shop up three flights is not so important as whether the company is concerned with improving its product through the development of its men and their ideas.
 There are ably managed and growing companies in growing, forward-looking industries which offer you a chance to grow with them.
Western Electric Company
 Makers of the Nation's Telephones
 Published for the Communication Industry by
 Number 58 of a series

OH, Yes:
 —Don't forget to go down to Mayer Bros. Co., and grab up some of their Easter Bargains at 50c and \$1. You'll find toiletries of all kinds, silk hose, neckwear, scarfs, gloves, jewelry novelties, gift items, and hundreds of other things that will make Easter more joyous for you or your friends!