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THE VARSITIES

The Student Council, according to a report of its meeting last Wednesday, has recommended to the faculty committee on student organizations that no fraternity or sorority house parties be permitted on the evenings of Varsity dances at the Coliseum.  
 The Daily Nebraskan endorses this petition of the Student Council, but would advise going one step further, and prohibiting ALL parties—fall, winter, and spring parties, as well as house parties—on the nights when a Varsity dance is held.  
 The reason for this is obvious. So long as any private parties are held the same night as the Varsity dances, the Varsity dances can never assume the representative character they are intended to. The very presence of a private party, and especially of a downtown party, robs the all-university dance of that catholicity which it is intended to promote.  
 The great trouble with our campus as far as the student end of it is concerned, is the disintegration of the student body into many small, jealous, superstitious groups each concerned almost exclusively with its own small affairs and furtherance of its own interests. The result is a woeful lack of anything like a united student body with any well-defined feeling of solidarity.  
 The idea behind the Varsity dance is to provide in some measure a means for bringing all students together on a common level at the same time and place, and under the same psychological conditions.  
 Before the erection of the present Coliseum, the old varsity dances were intended primarily for those who were unable to attend the many private parties. That restriction, that strangling of purpose, was made necessary by the inadequacy of the old Armory. With the new Coliseum and its ample dancing space available, the purpose of the parties was broadened, and rightly, to embrace the entire student body. The only mistakes made have been in the failure to make practical provisions for ensuring that the entire student body or at least a substantial share of it would attend the parties. This mistake the Council is now trying to correct.  
 In promotion of a greater and more democratic student body, imbued with a real community of interest instead of the divided campus we now have, the recommendation of the Student Council should be received favorably.  
 The rule prohibiting downtown parties could conveniently be held in abeyance until next year in order not to inflict a hardship on those groups which have already paid for their ball room, contracted for their orchestra, and not yet had their chance this year to keep up with the Joneses.

THE REASON WHY

In the competition between the new student cooperative bookstore and the private bookdealers, Nebraska students have opportunity to observe at first hand the operation of interesting economic principles.  
 The spread between the price received by the original producer, and the price ultimately paid by the consumer is one of the things that has agitated reformers for ages. The stories of the farmers who enclose notes in the apples they sell, stating how much they received, and asking to find out how much the consumer pays, are too common to need repetition.  
 In all the discussion concerning this phase of economic life, the tacit assumption always seems to be that the middle-men, the wholesalers and the retailers, are the ones who wring out the profits at the expense on the one hand of the producers, and on the other of the final consumers.  
 Here in this matter of second-hand books, the tacit assumption is that the private dealer who buys the second-hand books from students and over the same counter sells them with a comfortable spread between the two figures, is wringing the poor students for extra cents of profit.  
 The spread at times does seem great, especially to the one who has just disposed of a few old books, and bought others. But on a little reflection the situation is seen not to be entirely a matter of the highway baron taking toll for as much as the traffic will bear.  
 The cooperative bookstore has been in operation only a week or so. It has taken in 600 books over its counter. About 250 of these have been sold. Now these 600 books represent no capital investment on the part of the exchange. The books are taken in stewardship, so to speak, and the student who hopes to sell them must wait for his money. In this very situation is found the biggest reason for the seeming profits of the private dealer. The private dealer pays out cash within a minute of the time he buys the books which the student has to offer. He then takes his chance on selling the books later, or possibly not at all if the professor decides without warning to change books for the next semester.  
 The spread, then, between the price got for second-hand books when the student sells and the price he has to pay when he buys, is seen in large part to be a payment for this service of advancing money immediately to the original owner of the book, and holding the same book in stock for speedy sale when it is again needed.  
 If students are willing to wait for the money from their old books, they will in large part earn this wage of abstinence—but they will have to wait for it, and sometimes for a long time. Especially will this be the case with books that will not be used again until next fall, or at the end of the present semester when books can not again be sold until the next school year. Sometimes they will wait so long that the book may become out of date, and they will lose out altogether. The private dealer through his exchange system with dealers is often able to buy books even though they may never again be used on this campus.  
 So much for the abstinence theory in relation to the problem.  
 Another point which in the end must be considered is the matter of management and other overhead expense. The cooperative student exchange as it is now

operated is made possible in large part through the personal self-sacrifice of individual students who donate their services. The quarters of the present exchange are rent-free. Its electric light service, heat and other incidental but necessary items of upkeep are also largely, if not entirely free. These are all factors which are included in the spread between bought and sold second-hand books at the private dealer and which sooner or later will have to be considered by the cooperative exchange if it is to be a real business success.  
 No mention has been made of the initial difficulties of the exchange in not having a large stock of books on hand, nor of many other problems which this cooperative attempt shared in common with all cooperative movements.  
 Perhaps one of the largest arguments to show that the private dealer can not have been making exorbitant profits is in the very fact that competition to any large extent has not arisen. The rule in business is that competitors will spring up in that trade which happens to be making more than the normal rate of business profit. None of any consequence has arisen here, although of course it may be that this cooperative attempt is this competition spring up as a mutual student effort instead of as another private enterprise.  
 In bringing up this discussion The Daily Nebraskan does not wish to offer an apologetic for the private dealer. The intention is merely to present the other side of the problem as part of the interesting economic phenomena we observe daily on every hand in real life.

SPIRIT OR ARTILLERY?

"Spirit has discovered the 'pep' rally and the last-minute exhortation of coaches before football squads have to the playing field are not only worthless, but have a harmful result," reads the initial sentence of an editorial in The Lincoln Star Thursday.  
 Napoleon, the greatest general of all time, a man who understood the psychology of his troops more than any other general in history, and who would have been the last to underestimate the value of morale, always declared that God gives victory to the side that has the heaviest artillery, and most of it, Napoleon was a realist. He knew well the tools with which he won victories.  
 On the football field the side that wins is the one that has the charging linemen, the accurate-passing center, the plunging backs, the good open-field runners, the great punter and kicker—in other words, the side that has the heavy artillery of the gridiron, rather than excessive amount of "spirit."  
 It has been our sneaking suspicion for some time (since the spell of freshman and sophomore days wore off) that victory or defeat on the football field is only in small measure due to so-called "spirit," and we feel somewhat elated that a bit of scientific evidence is put forth in support of this suspicion.  
 At any rate, it has been our observation that athletes, coaches, and the patriots always lay the blame for defeat to the lack of spirit shown by the students and other supporters, and only seldom give credit to this same spirit if the team happens to win.  
 The fact can not be gainsaid, though, that this very "spirit," inefficacious as it may be, is the one distinguishing feature that lends glamour and interest to the college gridiron.

The Rag Man wonders if it will be good form for the co-ed to wear the same formal dress to the "exclusive" Pan-Hellenic ball that she has worn to all the hoi-polloi winter parties.

The underclassmen who attend the Pan-Hellenic ball are probably due for a \$4 disappointment when they discover the party is just like every other winter formal.

Being smart rather than sensible is the acme of collegiate perfection to many students today.

To Scottish Ears

An old Scotchman, David Gordon, was seriously ill, with scant hope of recovery. He had been wheedled into making a will, and his relatives were now gathered about his bedside watching him laboriously sign the document. He got as far as D-A-V-I—then fell back exhausted. "D, Uncle David," exhorted a nephew. "Dee!" ejaculated the Old Scot feebly, but with indignation. "Dee! I'll dee when I'm ready, ye avaricious wretch!"  
 —The Columbia Missourian

In Other Columns

King Henry's Suspenders

This is a story of the evolution of the university professor. The author is Dr. Clarence Cook Little, president of the University of Michigan, who addressed his remarks to the National Student Federation. So brutally frank is this pronouncement that we pass it on as a great expose:  
 "Most professors (he said) reach their positions through a curious process. After they receive their pass-key into that intellectual garret of Phi Beta Kappa, the devil, in the form of some friend, whispers into their ears that they should teach. They often accept the suggestion, and after securing their master's degrees, they write a thesis on some such subject as 'The Suspenders of Henry VIII' and then are qualified to teach. A thesis subject is by definition a subject about which no one ever cared to write before.  
 "This type of man is then put in charge of a group of freshmen and he generally has a great disdain for their consummate ignorance, while they on their part have a great disdain for his consummate learning. Sometimes someone springs up among the freshmen with the declaration that the suspenders of Henry VIII are the most important things in the world. Immediately the professor picks him up from the bog of ignorance in which the rest of the freshmen lie and start him on the path to another professorship."  
 —Oregon Emerald

Back in the Old Days

Back in the days when the University of Colorado was defeating Kansas and Nebraska in football, and a young college student could either join the Y. M. C. A. or "go to the dogs"—back on March 8, 1906, The Silver and Gold, then more a magazine than a newspaper, quoted the following editorial from "The Boulder Daily Camera":  
 "President Baker is right in admonishing University students to temperance in social functions. 'Be at home at midnight' is a good doctrine. There is no occasion for starting a dance so late as nine o'clock. The sensible girl is going to tell her beau that distances are short in Boulder and she can walk. We speak from experience when we tell these young people that there is more delight in walking home arm in arm (that's the place for the arm we believe) in the starlight nights of Colorado about the hour when the moon is doing its best and yet is not too luminous, than climbing into a stuffy 'hack' and being whizzed to and from the dance. Waiting for a carriage is what makes the dance too late to begin and too late to end. And it doesn't give the fellow a chance for two things he needs. These are money in his pockets about board-setting time and a good half hour with the girl of his choice. Too many functions are to be deplored in a college town, but the only sensible regulation of them lies in the good sense of the parents and functioneers."  
 —Silver and Gold

Two Years Ago

M. Willard Lampe of Chicago, Secretary of the Board of Christian Education of the Presbyterian church spoke on "The Youth Movement Within the Christian Church," at the Pan-Presbyterian dinner at the Grand Hotel. Mr. Lampe is a former student of the University of Nebraska. Judge Dean and other members of the Westminster Foundation were present.  
 Dr. Katherine H. K. Wolfe, city school physician of Lincoln, presented the department of philosophy of the University with the complete library of the late Dr. H. K. Wolfe. With this gift she included a large portrait of Dr. Wolfe, the founder of the department of philosophy, and professor during the years 1889 to 1897 and 1907 to 1918.

Costliest Photo Lab at McGill

At Columbia University a wide variety of new courses has been added. Among the trade courses meat packing, identification of precious gems and textile analysis and dyeing are offered. Harry G. Mills of Armour and Company will conduct the course in packing operations and Dr. Paul F. Kerr, assistant professor of mineralogy, will give the course in gems and precious stones necessary to the jewelry specialist. Four Chinese courses including Chinese Thought, Language, History and History of Chinese Art will be conducted by Chinese professors.

Best Dressed Dolls Draw Prizes

Prizes for the best dressed dolls were awarded to Northwestern University women at the annual doll show recently.

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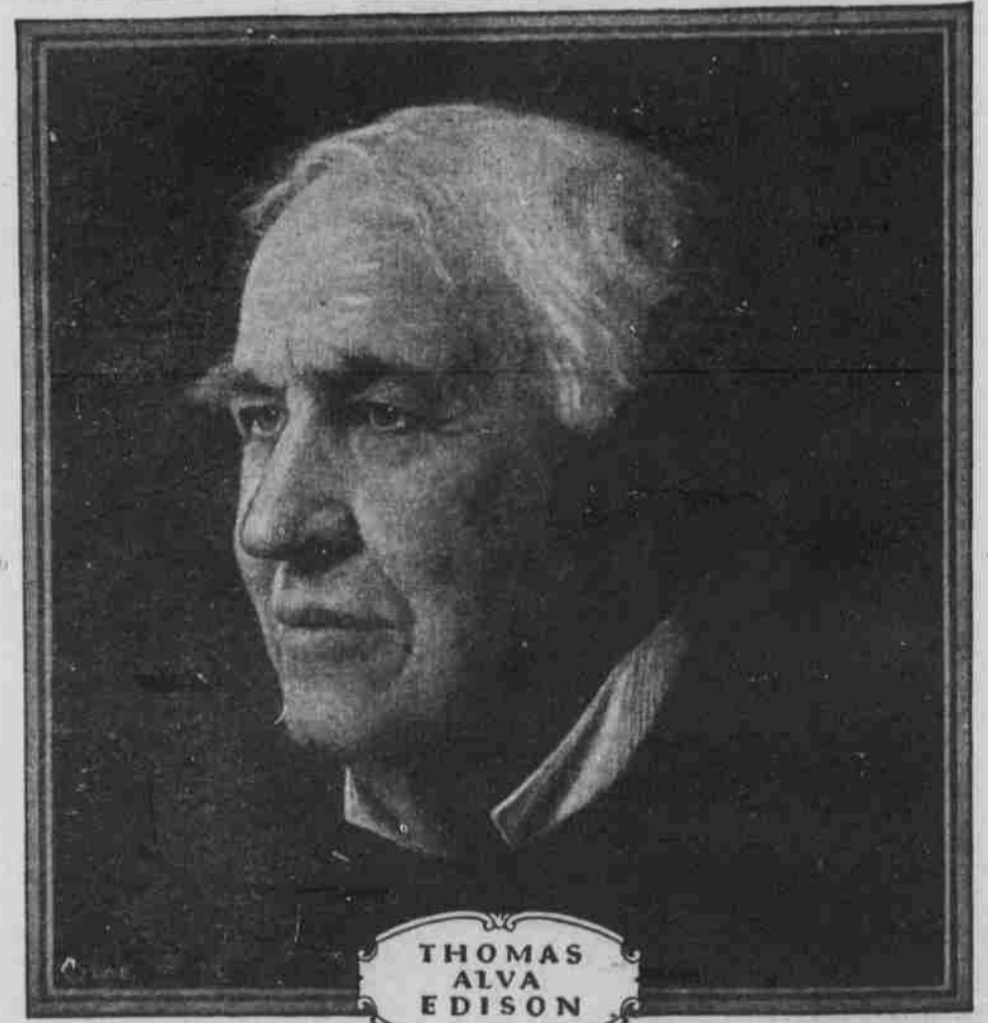
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