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THE OLYMPICS AND FENCES

Nebraska abandoned several years ago the iron fence that used to surround the original campus. It had fulfilled its day of service. But the University still has the Olympics.

Nebraska dispensed with the underclass societies last year. They had not only outlived their usefulness, but had become positive nuisances on the campus. But the University still has the Olympics.

When introduced to eliminate hazing from the campus, the Olympics served a useful purpose. So did the old picket fence serve a useful purpose when it was necessary to keep errant cattle from wandering onto the university's lawns. The picket fence stood for some time after its utility was gone. The major utility of the Olympics has been missing for several years. But the tradition is still hanging on,—largely because it is a tradition.

Friday night, the institution can again expect to see an exodus of sophomores from the vicinity. Saturday, the campus can expect to see a handful of sophomores lose to a mildly sizeable smattering of freshmen. Until then the University can expect the committee in charge to do its best to stimulate interest in the Olympics. And despite the most worthwhile efforts of the committee, the campus can expect the Olympics to be the usual farce that they have been for several years.

"Do something about it," cry the scattered few who believe there is a place for the Olympics. Recalling the efforts of King Canute to turn the waves back, The Daily Nebraskan only wishes to remind these friends of the Olympic tradition that it is not only cognizant of the failure of the ancient king, but that this paper has no desire to emulate him, as far as asking the waves to roll back is concerned.

The University of Nebraska of 1928 is no more the University of Nebraska of 1903 than the automobile of 1928 is the automobile of 1903. Both have undergone a marvelous development. With the growth of the University has disappeared the intimate contacts of all students with each other which made hazing a possibility. And with the elimination of those distinctions has gone the interest in the class scrap. Far from bewailing this disappearance of class antagonism, The Daily Nebraskan looks with pleasure towards the possibilities of building a more united student body, with a fuller and more significant university consciousness.

A UNIVERSITY UNION

Two years ago, in the spring of 1926, The Daily Nebraskan advocated the erection of a building to be known as the University Union, where students would be able to gather when not in the classroom.

The gist of the arguments then used is as follows:

As conditions now exist on the Nebraska campus, there is no place except the library where students may congregate when not attending classes, and the library is meant for study, not social contacts.

The women students have Ellen Smith hall, and some girls to take advantage of this opportunity of meeting and talking with other girls of the school.

The only place the men have in which to meet is the Y. M. C. A. rooms in the Temple. These rooms, however, are altogether too barren, with too much of the study atmosphere, to make successful social rooms.

Conditions on the campus are much the same as they were when the Union building was suggested. Yet for two years nothing more has been said concerning a Union building for the University of Nebraska.

Interest in having a common meeting place, where students may spend between class time, has apparently collapsed.

INVESTIGATING THE FACULTY

Faculty members have regularly exercised their prerogative of reporting poor students in the colleges and universities of the country. Announcement now comes from the University of Michigan that the students will be given a chance to apply some tests to instructors and to supply the administration with reports of the investigation.

President Little of the University of Michigan, according to a news story in the Michigan Daily, student newspaper, will give his unqualified cooperation to the Michigan student council in its plan to conduct an investigation of the younger members of the Michigan faculty.

Faculty members up to the rank of assistant professor will be included in the survey in which student investigators will be nominated secretly by the student council to fill out questionnaires concerning members of the instructional force. The questionnaire to be used will be drawn up by members of the council in co-operation with President Little.

"This plan," says the Michigan Daily, "originated from a need on the part of the administration to act on reports more definite than rumor and hearsay in promoting younger men on the faculty to professorships. At present there exists no adequate means of discovering the various capabilities and defects of the newer men and their eligibility for promotion."

The problem of young instructors, new members of the faculty, in relation to their work and to promotion, is one of the new and difficult administrative problems developed because of the great size

of the modern state university. Suggestion of student interference in the problem would probably meet with little favor here. The extent to which student investigation should be carried is questionable. The Michigan experiment does, however, offer possibilities of some interesting results.

PERSHING RIFLES AND POLITICS

With the announcement last week of the pledges to Pershing Rifles, the announcement was also made of the reorganization of the group, namely, that men were selected on a merit basis, and that the rough initiation would not be held this year.

In the past few years Pershing Rifles has been considered one of the most political organizations on the campus. It was said that only members of one political faction need try out for the organization, because others, even if eligible, would stand little chance.

Last year the choosing of men qualified for membership was handled by the army officers. Members of the organization voted on the men, it is true, but all good men were given the chance of proving their worth. This year the officers again decided who was best, thus eliminating the greatest opportunity for political feeling entering into the election of members.

By doing away with the rough initiation, and substituting for it an examination, Pershing Rifles has eliminated the feature that was most objectionable in the class societies which underwent the axe last year. There is certainly no place for a rough initiation in an organization such as Pershing Rifles.

It is gratifying to learn that the members chosen last week were selected on a basis of merit rather than on political likes and dislikes, and that the rough initiation has been abolished. And it is even more gratifying when one considers that the reorganization came from within, and not because of outside influence.

THE RAGGER: After buying a car, a student is usually out a good deal,—perhaps twenty-five dollars,—usually in the evenings.

The Germans believe that the return of the Graf Zeppelin might be called a snappy comeback.

One thing about having the editorials razed is that it proves that somebody reads them.

Heaviest rooters for the snow were those responsible for the campus sidewalks. The white drift covered up the tramped lawn edges and the consecutive ponds which so delight the walk investigators.

"IN MY OPINION— We Have Brilliant Loafers"

"The tragedy of modern colleges is that brilliant students develop into first class loafers," said one of this university's history teachers recently. Because university work is scheduled to the level of the average student, he feels that the brilliant one simply loaf on the job. Is that a fair judgment of university students?

If a student can cover the same amount of work as another, in less time, that does not necessarily mean that he becomes a loafer. A particularly brilliant student may loaf in a certain course or even in two or three, and still know as much about the subjects as the so-called average student. Let him find a course or a field in which he is greatly interested and he is apt to devote all of his efforts toward it while he loafs along in a few other courses that do not attract him.

If he learns readily and easily he is usually the type that also applies himself and puts in quite as many hours of work as the average student, often more, providing he likes his work. In any event, he is active, and surely does not become the "cake of the campus." It is incredible that a person who finds a course comparatively easy should devote as much time to it as another who finds it not quite so easy. M. H.

OTHER EDITORS SAY—

THIS FREEDOM

We are tired of hearing the constant cry of our present college generation for a liberal medium of expression. We are tired of hearing its chronic complaints against personal restrictions. We are tired of hearing its infantile whines for freedom from traditions and conventions.

We hear these complaints in our schools, in our churches, in our editorial columns. They are wide spread, they are popular, they have become, ironically enough, almost traditional. They are not criticisms; they are whimpers.

We cannot understand them. Are they defense mechanisms? Does a deficiency or failure find solace in blaming its unfavorable situation? Is it soothed by admitting that the environmental conditions were insurmountable? Does a specific shortcoming console itself by a belief that no progress of any kind can be made in a "world like this?" We must confess we do not know.

But we do maintain that any person who is worth his salt can surmount his environmental obstacles. We do maintain that anybody who has anything valuable to say can get a hearing. We do maintain that anybody who wants to do anything can do it if he does not violate the fundamental laws of life and property. He may be criticized to be sure, but he certainly should not expect to find unanimous accord with his views. If instead of complaining idly he would do what he feels is right, and be willing to face inevitable opposition, then he would be leaving the ranks of childhood.

We are not attacking criticism. Constructive criticism is the necessary catalyst for progress. But we cannot help comparing a healthy battle-cry for social, educational, and political advance to a passive snarl against the sorry plight of things as they are.

—Minnesota Daily

THERE ARE TWO SIDES

Classics are of little value in the teaching of modern language.

This opinion was advanced recently by Professor Macy, head of the modern language department at Tulsa University.

Teaching modern languages is his business, and he probably knows, but we are not inclined to agree with him entirely. Certain the utility of modern languages as they are now spoken is of importance to those studying the course.

That side of teaching a foreign language should not be neglected. Yet there is another side to consider.

Utility of an education is not the only thing of importance. If one can learn to read the literary gems of another nation from his university training then he is better able to enjoy life.

Surely that side is worth consideration.

—Oklahoma Daily

FROM OUT THE DUST.

Amid the rush of activities, social and curricular, I came to my room and from the dust covered bookshelf I drew a volume, scarcely noticed by me. Here I find, surprise from the unobtrusive grins of the days which seem to stumble upon the heels of those preceding.

Interpreted by Phil Blake and LaSelle Gilman.

We hear so much about the intellectuality of the Great American Public. One reads the observations of some unknown English or French or German traveler in the United States who states emphatically that Americans are so busy pursuing the filthy lucre that they have let their minds go to dry rot. So the money chasing Americans snap up the statement with loud cries and boast the unknown knocker up onto their shoulders and proclaim his name in the streets. Generally the lecturer or writer of these things is extremely busy trying to fill his pockets with American money, also, and uses this method to get it.

One of the most frequent accusations of these eminent bunkers is that we have no time for good literature, either to read or write it. We were rather interested by that, and wondered what Americans did read. Books? Yes. Magazines? Assuredly. What kind of magazines? What is in them?

We picked a magazine which is found on all newstands and has probably the largest circulation in the country. One doesn't pay much for a copy, yet the "best authors" write for it. Let it serve as an example of what Americans read.

There were six short stories in this issue. One concerned the—er—love life of a perpetually drunken musical comedy producer. Another was a stormy love affair of a thus. There was one about the amazing progress of a college student in which classes were not mentioned but a dubious social whirl was emphasized. A fourth concerned the fame existence of a Hollywood actress. The other two were mystery stories, one with a dull oriental background and the last with a dull English background—body found after ten years, Oxford accent, astounding sleuthing, don't you know.

There were three serials. One related the business like doings of a gay nineties captain of finance. Another was rather adventurous, with Indians and trappers and battles and all that. The last was the conclusion of a wild story of a wild girl.

These stories were set off by six

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articles. The first concerned Mr. Mussolini, by himself. (Of course). The second told about race horses and paddocks and smelled of the track and stables. The third was an essay on crooks, hijackers, gangsters, and their lovely lives. Another was the autobiography of a Jewish comedian. The fifth seemed to be reminiscences of Civil War days, and the last was a discussion of labor problems. A few editorials and jokes were sprinkled into the magazine for seasoning. A picture on the cover suggested Hallowe'en.

Now there are those from Europe who rant, that would condemn this magazine without hesitation to the ashcan, after holding it up as a horrible example of what the American Public stuffs into its mind. But let us make this comparison. The stories may be improbable, and many of them not the right tone. Some of them may be extremely boring. But foreign magazines can boast no more. And these stories are written in good English and in American style. If we may use the term. They typify our race and our pursuits. They are what we demand. We do not attempt to develop a philosophy from them, nor ponder over them. We do not have to decipher them. They tell us things about ourselves, they amuse us, and that is what we want of them. We do not pretend to get a literary background from them. There are other sources for that.

As an afterthought, we should mention that this is not a defense and a praise of all American magazines. Half the magazines on the stands are not worth the trouble to set fire to. They cater to the type who want them, however, and they serve a purpose. So does a burglar and a garbage-man. And on the other hand, there are magazines just the opposite. They also cater to a type, and the type takes pride, undoubtedly, in wading through their ponderous articles, because it is "intellectual" to do so. But we wager that the self-conscious readers get brain-fever doing it.

Freshmen at the University of Arkansas must not wear only the regulation green cap and arm bands, but also a black tie and cotton socks.

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TWELVE MEN ENROLL IN TESTERS' COURSE

Two Week Period Fits Men For Cow Examination In Dairy Group

The opening day of the cow testers' short course at the College of Agriculture found twelve young men on deck prepared to fit themselves for future work with testing associations. The group is in charge of M. L. Flack of the dairy department assisted by Jay T. Pierson.

The course of study will cover feeding, Babcock testing, dairy judging, separators, and cow testing association methods. The instruction will consist of lectures, laboratories, and observation of improved methods.

Upon completion of the two weeks course and passing of examinations the students will be available for official testing work for the various associations. There are twenty-three cow testing associations in the state and as vacancies occur they will be filled by the men who have completed the

course and are eligible for official testing work. The formation of new associations also offers opportunity for trained testers.

OKLAHOMA NEXT!

When the "Powerhouse" begins percolating on all eleven and the true Husker Spirit flames high, there is only one ending to the story, and that is Touchdown.

Where is there a line that can stand up under the smashing line drives, the powerful off tackle thrusts and the bruising play of the Crimson forwards?

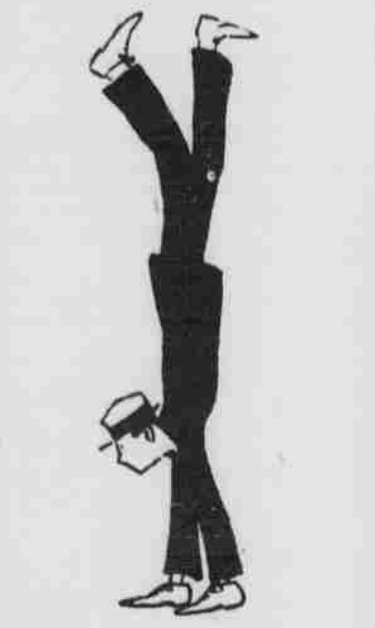
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