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Those Awful Caps.

Traditions are fast disappearing from the better colleges and universities of the country. These institutions of higher learning have finally become aware of the nonsense and uselessness of a number of such things and therefore have hurled them into the scrap heap.

Yet at the University of Nebraska, recognized as one of the leading midwestern educational plants, there still exists that old, worthless tradition of requiring freshmen to wear green caps. One should not become excited over this, however, for it is not the university that requires this of the yearlings.

According to a recent editorial in the Lincoln Journal, "the wearing of green caps by freshmen is a student ruling over which the Nebraska university authorities have taken no jurisdiction. The plan is sponsored by the senior men's society, the Innocents, who collect the fee and give out cards to be presented at a furnishing store for the cap."

"The fact that the card is stamped on the back, 'Validated, Sept. 20, 1929, John K. Selleck, agent for student activities,' has led the recipient to believe that the university gets the \$1 fee. Mr. Selleck says this is a mistake. The tickets pass through his office the same as all fees for dances and other university activities—a method adopted several years ago to prevent graft by individuals."

The Nebraskan is grateful to the Journal for the enlightenment it has spread throughout the state. That's the kind of publicity this university should have in order to dispel the many malimpressions that are formed by its financial supporters.

The green cap ruling is not authorized by the university. It is not a matter of life and death for the freshman as far as the university is concerned. The university does not receive the money; therefore, why should it sponsor the tradition?

Furthermore, the "tradition" has seemed to have become anything but a real tradition in the past few years. Especially is this so this year when that group of thirteen "representative" seniors—no need to give the name—has made no organized attempt at enforcement of the project.

To us it appears the "tradition" has become a source of revenue—a money making scheme—for this body. If it were a tradition, why don't these men aim to enforce it? All they seem to have cared about is to snatch the dollars out of the freshman's hands at time of registration and then let the frosh do what they will about getting the "lids" and wearing them.

Today, in the Echoes column, N. D. gives his views concerning freshmen rules. He cites the many advancements made by the University of Nebraska in recent years in abolishing "hell" week, Olympics, and similar unnecessary traditions. Then he winds up by saying, "Why not have Nebraska be a leader in such affairs instead of a follower?" But, poor fellow, he gives us no clue as to what would be a good starter.

The clue, however, is not needed. We can start right now and be a leader in doing away with the green cap folly. Just as N. D. says: "They (the freshmen) have all passed through the period of fun working and should be able to take care of themselves without having to obey rules befitting youngsters." Why single out the humble first year men by requiring them to wear those insidious caps and thereby widen the breach between them and their bigger brothers?

The tendency today in all schools of repute is to break down all barriers between frosh and upperclassmen. Some schools, fortunately, have never had such an assinine rule as that pertaining to the wearing of green caps. There have been other traditions of a like nature, but the majority of these institutions have been wise enough to see their mistakes and discontinue these practices.

The few faithful Nebraska freshmen who are wearing these caps, thinking they would be penalized if they do not, should see further what the Lincoln paper has to say about it: "So far as the university itself is concerned the caps may be worn or not according to the wish of the student."

If that's the case, freshmen, and since there's no enforcement of the rule in sight, we see no need of your wearing of the patrid little things.

Country Education Chained.

Because country school education is not progressing or keeping abreast with general trends in the educational field, pupils who attend it are handicapped materially in high school and find university life four years later much more difficult due to the poor foundation of fundamentals they have obtained.

That, declares James William Crabtree, secretary of the National Educational association, is one of the reasons country schools must

be liberated from retarding fetters which have had a malign influence over the rural youth for more than a decade while urban schools were developing new methods and improving curricula.

Brought back to the spic and span Fairview district school near Elmwood, Neb., on the fiftieth anniversary of the school's opening last month, Mr. Crabtree who taught his first classes and feruled his first mischievous students in the old Fairview schoolhouse, earnestly pleaded with a large crowd of farmers and townspeople gathered there to bend every effort toward improving rural education.

The gist of Mr. Crabtree's entire address at the desk carved Fairview school was that country education must be pulled up to par with the city's. Need for this is perhaps most plainly visible in a university as Nebraska maintains. To Lincoln annually flock hundreds of new students with quite diverse backgrounds from elementary and secondary grades. Herded together in university, many find themselves woefully inadequate to face some of their lessons simply because of their lack of standard training through earlier years in school.

Of those who flunk out at midsemester or who are unable to remain longer than the first term, the majority are those who do not make an organized effort to study in university. But there are many others who really are unable to make the grade because of poor schooling previously.

There is no reason that country schools cannot be improved. And there is no broader field in which American educators are privileged to practice today. Individuality, as viewed by modern scholars, is excellent and worthy of development. But standardization of a number of fundamental branches of knowledge—foundation stones of one's entire life—is equally necessary.

Echoes of the Campus.

Freshmen Rules.

To the Editor of The Nebraskan: Now that the school year has started in earnest, there will be much evidence in the various schools of the ridiculous treatment of the freshman by the upperclassman.

A brief but interesting story giving a view at the amusement had by upperclassmen in a Wyoming school at the expense of the freshmen recently appeared in a local paper. Strict rules and regulations governing the life of the "frosh" on the campus were published. The regulations were not beneficial but entirely ridiculous.

There has been a noticeable change in the attitude toward freshmen on the Nebraska campus. The first year man is being looked upon as being more of an equal and not merely a person to poke fun at. Why should a person here for the purpose of obtaining an education be put through a routine that is of no benefit to him or to the ones who are enforcing it?

There has been much agitation on the part of the students themselves as well as outsiders to abolish all forms of hazing in all universities. The doing away with "hell week" and with the Olympics at Nebraska was only a continuation of the nation wide movement to raise the level of the freshmen. The movement must and will go still further until all new students are welcomed as young men and women, not as small children. They have all passed through the period of fun working and should be able to take care of themselves without having to obey rules befitting youngsters. Why not have Nebraska be a leader in such affairs instead of a follower?

N. D.

Dirty Politics?

To the Editor of The Nebraskan: Are politics really as "rotten" on the University of Nebraska campus as they are accused of being? Or is the accusation made by the men who are on the losing side and feel that they are being cheated out of offices? Which?

The condition of politics on this campus in the past few years has become critical. It is no longer a question of who is the best man for the office but rather is the decision of the strong party as to which man they shall place in the office. They meet and pick the man they shall run for the office and then unite whole heartedly in seeing that he is elected.

The bulk of the criticism against this practice is being made by the organizations which are the "under dogs." And that they are justified in their arguments is clearly shown in the makeup of several organizations on the campus.

One organization, which is supposedly the highest honor to be conferred on the campus, is so full of rotten politics that it fairly reeks. Membership in it is no longer governed by the worth of the man but by the whims of the group which control it.

The incidents in such organizations cause one to ask: Are politics really rotten on the Nebraska campus?

C. G.

Contemporary Sentiments

Choosing Clubs.

Denver Clarion: The season of clubs has just begun. Organizations are holding their first meetings of the year, establishing a new regime of officials or proceeding under the direction of old officials, planning the program for the new season just opening before them.

Now is the time for every student to select those clubs to which he wishes to belong. A certain amount of club activity is necessary for students who desire to be intimately connected with university life; an excess of clubs causes an excess of isolation and of activity along certain unvaried lines.

To prevent such an occurrence, the college student must exercise a process of selectivity; he must choose his clubs wisely, to fit his schedule and his future plans, avoiding any organizations that, although interesting for the time, are unproductive of future benefits.

A Student Looks at Public Affairs.

By DAVID FELLMAN.

The air is full of talk about the next senatorial race in Nebraska. Senator Norris is distinctly on the "out" with the Hoover administration. He booted the republican ticket in the last presidential campaign, and actively supported Al Smith. He has voted consistently with the small group of progressive republicans, who have been at loggerheads with the executive. He is the very antithesis of republican regularity.

President Hoover, it is rumored, wants a regular to take Norris' place. It is further rumored that he intends to run former Governor Sam R. McKelvie, who is at present a member of the federal farm board. A fight between McKelvie and Norris, between the administration and the progressives, would be most interesting.

Albert B. Fall, former member of Harding's cabinet, is now on trial in Washington for bribery growing out of the oil scandals. Mr. Fall is old, feeble and ill to such an extent that the judge was willing to dismiss the case. The special United States prosecuting attorney had already requested a mistrial. Mr. Fall was wheeled into the courtroom and demanded a trial. He insisted upon acquittal and vindication "before passing into the Great Beyond."

The senate passed an amendment to the tariff bill last week which lifts the ban customs officials have put on certain books. Senator Bronson Cutting of New Mexico, who is coming more and more into the national limelight, started the argument with a declaration that the customs officials are not qualified to pass upon the merits and decency of literary imports.

The customs officials went the limit when they recently put Voltaire's "Candide," a classic for centuries, on the forbidden list. The list also included various works of Balzac, Rousseau, Havelock Ellis and Aristophanes. Senators Borah, Wheeler, Norris and LaFollette joined with Cutting and thirty others in taking away the right of the customs officers to pass upon the decency of imported literature.

This week marks the seventieth birthday of John Dewey, America's greatest living philosopher. Columbia university's great savant is an important leader of American educators and thinkers. His birthday will be celebrated in New York in a manner fit for a king.

And on this occasion, John Dewey expresses himself on politics, and broadcasts this statement throughout the land: "The old parties have continued to mouth the old phrases and flout the old slogans... behind the scenes they have surrendered abjectly to big business interests and become their errand boys."

The significant fact about the recent negotiations with Great Britain over the matter of disarmament is the back seat taken by Secretary of State Stimson. All Stimson did was meet MacDonald at the station and take him around town. President Hoover did all the talking. For that matter, he has been doing all the talking and all the thinking since his term of office began. The office of the president is just what its incumbent makes it. Given a strong domineering man, like Herbert Hoover, and the presidency assumes tremendous proportions.

FASSNACHT REPRESENTS LIFETIME PREPARATION

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lief in his part enables him to easily refuse these tempting proposals.

Although Mr. Fassnacht has been defrauded several times of the entire proceeds of certain performances he has given in this country, true to the life he portrays, he has not condemned those responsible, but has been their benefactor in that he assumed all the indebtedness and did not prosecute his malefactors.

"I like your American people, they are so different, so progres-

sive and democratic," stated Mr. Fassnacht, "and they have been so enthusiastic in receiving this production which attempts to portray the higher and the more beautiful."

Mr. Fassnacht and his company thinks that the chorus, composed of university students and others in the city, is wonderful, and the music, furnished by local people, is very good.

Admire Lincoln.

"Lincoln is a wonderful city; I like it very much. Your coliseum has very fine acoustics, and the large stage is admirably adapted to the presentation of such a production," continues Mr. Fassnacht. "I admire the arrangement and cleanliness that so typifies your universities, and this with your wonderful instructors should be of good influence upon the future of America."

Play Begun in 1264.

The Freiburg Passion Play was first presented in 1264 and at irregular intervals after that up to the birth of Martin Luther in 1517. During the Reformation the play was discontinued, but in 1600 Catholic priests began giving it every year. Later, when the laymen began to take part in this production the intervals of presentation were extended to very four or five years. After the Fassnacht family began taking part the intervals were changed to every ten years. The last play was given in 1922, and Mr. Fassnacht and his company must be back in Freiburg, Baden, Germany, in 1931 to again begin rehearsals. At that time he is planning to have 3,000 on the stage.

Just to meet Mr. Adolph Fassnacht is to understand the fineness of character and the loftiness of ideals that form the makeup of the world's greatest Christus impersonator, and the sincerity and gentility of his every word and action shows a result of years of countless and ceaseless preparation for the role he assumes.

PLAYERS BEGIN SEASON BEFORE LARGE AUDIENCE

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pecially when he walks in with a dog and a Hindoo servant.

Frances McChesney, who of past years has been often seen among the Players, carries the character role of Fanny Cavendish with unusual skill. As the white-haired, frail, actress grandmother who packed the houses in her youth and still rules her own household with her courage and sharp tongue she wins the admiration of the audience. It is a difficult part, but Miss McChesney is equal to the task.

Dorsel Jaeke takes the ingenue role of Gwen, the grand-daughter who jolts the family by marrying a non-professional man and forsaking the stage. It is only temporarily, however, for like the rest of the family she can't give it up for good. Miss Jaeke makes a very charming young wife in the play. Harlon Easton and Maurine Drayton as Herbert and Kitty Dean kept the stage hot with their incessant quarreling. Zolley Lerner was well received as the bluff, kindly producer who did everything the Cavendish family wished. Mr. Lerner has been connected with the Players for many years and served in the capacity of business manager last year.

The rest of the cast proved to be also well selected. It consisted of Alto Reade, Edwin Quinn, Richard Page, Robert Reade, Joy

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Storm, George Holt, Paul Miller, and Nora Osburn. The scene of the play was laid in a New York apartment. The stage decorations were in modernistic design. Music was furnished between acts. All those attending future performances of the Players are urged to arrive on time as late arrivals are very disturbing to both the audience and the Players. The curtain rises promptly at 7:30 p. m. in the evening and 9 a. m. Saturday morning. Single admission price is 75 cents.

PROFESSOR WERNER SPEAKS AT VESPERS

"Vespers will be held in Ellen Smith hall Tuesday afternoon at 5 p. m. Lucille Ledwith will lead, and O. H. Werner, professor of principles of education in the teachers college will speak on "Supremacy of the Spirit." A special musical program has been planned. All girls welcome.

Nebraska is an Indian word meaning flat water.

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