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How Justify Compulsory Drill?

Last June the attorney general of the United States broke the bubble of belief that land grant colleges would lessen their revenue under the Morrill act if they eliminated compulsory military training. Discussion waxed warm in collegiate circles over the merits of the force system. Some institutions have welcomed the opportunity to cast overboard the compulsory rule, making drill elective. The University of Nebraska, however, is marching along under the same old colors, choosing to retain compulsory army duty for first and second year men.

The Daily Nebraskan is opposed to compulsory military science. We believe that the collegiate draft system accomplishes no worthwhile purposes. Further, it has a detrimental influence on students who are coerced and upon those who realize that the University of Nebraska has endorsed this plan.

Promoters of compulsory training present many pleasant sounding justifications of their cause. They maintain that drill is beneficial to freshmen and sophomores from a physical angle. They assert that it develops leadership, fosters discipline, that it is valuable preparation for the "next war," or, strangely, that it will help to prevent another armed conflict between nations.

Under the present system, underclassmen drill for one three hour period each week. To say that they drill during this time is not true, for part of the period is spent in the classroom, where staff officers lecture to the sleepy cadets on the fundamentals of warfare, showing what tactics were found effective in the World War—and what ones may be used in "the next war."

This program of physical development could be greatly improved by compelling students to spend three one-hour periods in a gymnasium each week. Prominent physicians—even army officers—have expressed this opinion. We trust the judgment of the reader to determine whether compulsory military training may be even mildly justified on the basis of physical benefits.

How does the basic course develop leadership? We need not quarrel with those who believe that army training inculcates this trait in men, for our concern is with the term during which freshmen and sophomores are compelled to join the ranks of R. O. T. C. Perhaps a few lucky underclassmen are promoted to positions of slight authority, but it is more often because they have had previous training than because they show qualities of leadership. Does the ability to shout commands signify leadership? Just how, we repeat, does compulsory military training develop leadership?

Discipline is alleged to be something that young men should be taught. It involves the training. It must be made easy, we suspect, if questioning or thinking. Those who have gone through the basic training at this university emerge without having learned discipline, whether it is a thing to be desired or not. Being forced into the regiment and knowing that severe punishment is unknown in the department, underclassmen sluff through their training. It must be made easy, we suspect, if it is to remain in the good graces of any institution.

Does compulsory training teach discipline? Some individuals believe that preparedness is the best way to avoid future war. The young man who slides through two years of military drill at the University of Nebraska is not prepared, physically, for war. We believe, and our belief is backed by many experienced men, that a few weeks in an efficient army camp would more than replace the two lazy years of collegiate training. We speak of the horde of students who take drill because they are compelled to.

Unless the backers of the training contend that compulsory drill develops personality, honesty, energy, or other gold medal character traits, we have presented our answer to their assertions. If the course were made elective, The Nebraskan believes that it would be far more successful in reaching its advertised ideals than under our present plan.

In addition to the failures we cite, there is another ugly reason for which the compulsory doctrine should be abandoned. It is our sincere belief that although the R. O. T. C. fails to take effective steps toward physical preparation for war, it is dangerously effective in promoting mental preparedness.

"Our university compels us to take military drill, to learn something about fighting. It is in order that we may be better prepared to fight in 'the next war.'" This is not an unreasonable reaction from underclassmen, and it is one often voiced. Not to help pave the way for world peace, but to improve their chances to get an easy job in the next battle is the freshman's aim, which he takes as consolation.

Instead of teaching the youth of this state to think along peaceful lines, we draw them through an atmosphere of war. When we might show them that war is a horrible experience, wherein young men from one nation

slaughter young men from another, we preach to them about the glories of patriotic living, the way to carry a musket, how to fire it.

If we hunger for world peace, why do we think in terms of "the next war," and attempt to build up a sentiment of inevitability regarding deadly combat between nations?

Since it succeeds in doing only one thing, and that opposed to the welfare of state and nation, compulsory military training should be crossed from our books. To those who are interested in being officers, let us present an efficient course, but stop this deplorable practice of shoving every young man into the ranks of our army.

There are other phases to this controversy. We realize that our views will meet violent opposition, but we are prepared to answer intelligent letters of disagreement. This discussion must be based upon reason and not upon emotion. Our editorial columns are open to students who have opinions concerning compulsory military science, and we invite an open discussion of the thing which we believe should be abandoned.

We might have another honor roll for the Greek lodges who really come through with the ten bucks.

Slim Chances For University Hall.

As plaster sifts through from the ceilings of dilapidated University hall, we discover that the prospects of having the landmark replaced are extremely slim. Arthur J. Weaver, retiring governor of Nebraska, recommends that all building projects other than the construction of a women's dormitory, an addition to the school of medicine in Omaha, and a home economics hall for the college of agriculture, should be frowned upon by the legislature.

Mr. Weaver advises rejection of a plan to replace University hall, add to Morrill hall, and construct an Astronomy hall.

There is a need for some lecture hall to take the burden of classes from the cramped and ancient "U" hall. We are willing to accept economy, but is the legislature certain that it is economizing without hampering the educational possibilities of the university?

Yesterday The Nebraskan suggested that the legislature look into the university situation more carefully, acquainting itself with conditions as they exist on this campus. Such an informal investigation we are certain would make known the positive need for one structure, at least, on the city campus.

Introducing Art and Charley in a slicing act entitled "Slash and Double Slash."

Are Colleges Reform Schools?

Does the public expect its colleges to act as reform schools?

In every class that enters grade school, there are several who are destined to become more or less successful—more or less famous. These few, unknown at the time, are the subject of many an inspiring oration. The world expects great things from someone in each high school class.

This is all as it should be. But there are also, in that same class, several others, destined by heredity and environment both to a life as often criminal as unsuccessful. Of this ever-present group, nothing is said. No one makes speeches about them. Until much later on . . .

The average class is graduated from high school. It reaches college, still with its few destined for fame, still with its few destined for criminal notoriety.

The group on its way to fame and honor receives high praise. Again, they are the subject of fine speeches by overplump politicians, by business men about town. But, of the other group, one drops by the wayside in the educational race every now and then. Whenever this does happen, the public grows indignant, angrily asks, "What's wrong with our educational system?"

Does the public have any right to ask this question? Can we politely request our teachers and professors to remodel all the products of varying home environments that are handed over to them with the command, "Educate this group of promising citizens?"

We fear the public expects too much of its colleges and universities. Is a college an angel factory? Can it make honest, successful citizens from the group that is headed by environment and heredity toward a life of crime, if not suicidleness? We say no. There can be no satisfactory substitute for a good and thorough home training.

Parents should not condemn a college for their own shortcomings.

How about making a roof garden on the roof of "U" hall? Or a miniature golf course.

MORNING MAIL

Speech Filler.

TO THE EDITOR:

Gilbert H. Doane, university librarian, made a speech in Chicago recently. Appearing before the American Library association, he criticized the public school system declaring the tendency today is to teach the public school boy or girl "more and more about less and less." He stated the tendency today is to "spread thinner and thinner the butter of scholastic training."

The librarian continued, declaring that pedagogical theories of professional educators have invaded the schools and "permeated with the democratic ideal of education for everybody, which in the long run tends to lower the general level of intellectual attainment, rather than elevate it."

This makes good material to fling at an association meeting. It also serves admirably for speech filler. The doctor's idea would be very good for a group of conversationalists. But he surely could not mean it seriously. Why not democracy with education for all? Isn't that an ideal to strive for? Just because more people are getting an education, is that any reason why the level of intellectual attainment should be lower?

Let me repeat, the librarian filled out his speech with the idea. But isn't that about all it amounted to? M. C. G.

DR. BLEYER DEFENDS JOURNALISM SCHOOLS

Says 'Newspapermen Need Training; Flexner Does Not Agree.'

Although Abraham Flexner brands the department of journalism as an unnecessary part of a university curriculum, the value of the training of such a department offers its students is very great in the opinion of Prof. Wilbur G. Bleyer, director of the school of journalism, University of Wisconsin. It can be taken in defense of Mr. Flexner's accusations.

In a speech delivered before the annual meeting of the American Association of Schools and Departments of Journalism and the American Association of Teachers of Journalism in Boston, Dec. 29, Professor Bleyer said that schools of journalism have a definite place in the training of future newspapermen. This idea is directly opposed to that of Abraham Flexner in his recent book, "Universities, American, English, German." In his book, Mr. Flexner brands the department along with those of business, pharmacy, and several others as "vocational" departments and would be excluded by him from all universities.

Preparation Needed. Adequate preparation is needed by all editors and writers of the modern press, for the reason that that organ exerts a tremendous influence today. "It," stated Dr. Bleyer, "lacking adequate preparation for their work, writers and editors are half-educated, superficial, inaccurate, and unscrupulous the newspapers and periodicals that they produce will not exert the wholesome influence that is generally assumed the press should exert on readers as citizens of the state and members of society."

He further pointed out that no other profession requires a wider range of knowledge or greater ability to apply that knowledge to current events and problems than does journalism. Professor Bleyer categorizes journalism as a profession whereas Mr. Flexner dubs it a vocation.

Teaches Straight Thinking. The function of the study of journalism, according to Dr. Bleyer is to teach students how to think straight about what is going on in the world and how to apply what they have learned to understanding and interpreting the day's news. He makes the statement that "after thirty years as a university instructor, I am convinced that our college courses in subjects other than journalism do not result in developing in the average student the ability to think logically and to apply intelligently what he has learned to his work as a reporter, copy reader, or editor."

"Courses in journalism are broadly cultural rather than narrowly technical," Dr. Bleyer insists, and he further added "that I should be willing to pit the average journalism graduate against the average liberal arts graduate on the basis of his ability to think straight and apply what he has learned to present-day social, political and economic problems."

Telescopes Are Found In Queer Places; Ours Is in Heating Tunnel

Telescopes may be found in a number of queer places, not excluding the dim interior of the Sahara desert, but certainly one would never expect to find a spy glass in the depths of a university heating tunnel. That, however, is precisely the case on our own campus, according to Prof. G. D. Swezey, head of the department of astronomy.

A good many years ago, "so long ago that it is practically ancient history," to use Dr. Swezey's words, a twelve inch lens was presented the astronomy department by Dr. Minnich of Palmer, now deceased. Shortly afterward an eighteen foot mounting was constructed for the lens with the intention that the new telescope would be installed in a \$25,000 observatory which was to have been constructed.

Appropriations Blocked. By some unexpected twist of conditions the observatory appropriation did not go through, even after specifications and drawings of the new building had been made. For lack of sufficient space in which to install the telescope it was stored in the heating tunnel where it has since been lodged.

In nearly every report to the legislature the board of regents has requested an appropriation for new facilities for the department of astronomy. This year a \$50,000 request for astronomy funds is being submitted but Dr. Swezey is exceedingly doubtful of results. He hopes that some day he may have a new building with ample classroom facilities, a departmental library, and two observation domes, one for the present four inch telescope and one for the twelve inch "peeper" remaining in obscurity beneath the surface of the campus.

Largest One in Wisconsin. The largest lens telescope in the world is located at the Yerkes observatory in Williams Bay, Wis., Swezey remarked. The lens measures forty inches and the station is owned by the University of Chicago.

The largest reflecting telescope is the one at the Mt. Wilson observatory in Pasadena, Calif. It has a mirror which measures 100 inches in diameter.

McKelvie to Address Colorado Conference FORT COLLINS, Colo.—Sam R. McKelvie, member of the federal farm board and former governor of Nebraska, will be the principal speaker at the sixteenth annual conference of the Colorado agricultural college extension conference, to be held here Jan. 12 to 16.



When we last had the pleasure of annoying you it was in 1930 R. C. (Before Christmas). Since we have received no threatening messages or words to that effect we feel warranted to keep on annoying you for a part at least of 1931.

The local police received quite a surprise when they called out the riot force to quell what they thought was a communist gathering in front of Social Science Monday morning. They forgot that it was the first morning of college and that the cakes were back.

And speaking of cakes brings to mind the recent disappointment of one of the local baker's daughters. She went skating with one of our noble institution's rah-rah boys and found her evening ruined because her cake fell.

They say that good St. Nick travels a la reindeer, and also in the most modern of ways, by airplane. Personally we think he must have used an Austin.

Now that the Christmas season has passed (and what detours) and everybody got just what they wanted, we are positive that business will pick up. This time of the year is always characterized by increased activity in the 'exchange.'

A characteristic expression of cheap novels and likewise cheap movies (which gives us quite away) is "Came the dawn!" With a slight alteration and in the correct after-holiday spirit we can now say, "Came the dun!"

Women set the styles. From a close observation of any number of the more delicate sex on New Years Eve we gleaned a sure enough style tip. Believe it or not, but if New Years eve is any indication we're in for a season of "tight skirts."

It was well educated—how's that for a deep one.

General Pershing, they say, is to receive a fabulous sum for his story of the war. We wonder how much Sherman got.

They say the Indian has passed, but judging from a number of New Year noses there are still plenty of "retskins" left.

A New York paper says that the modern college girl is wearing less than her grandmother used to wear. How true! Why here in Nebraska the girls wear so little that even the corn is shocked.

That would lead everyone to believe that the present generation is not so good. Nevertheless we are rather dependable. Just think what an unstable lot they were back in the days of long ago—always losing their heads over something.

It was an open bid—every one in the house opened it.

He cudgled his brain for a thought—why the old browbeater.

Famous last words: "So long, old top."—Louis XIV.

Underclasses Deny Seniors Honor at Annual K.U. Prom

LAWRENCE, Kas. The seniors at the University of Kansas were recently denied the ancient custom of presenting the Shepherd's Crook at the Junior-Senior Prom when the underclassmen put over a successful theft of the traditional symbol.

The crook, which has been handed down thru the eighties, gay nineties, and almost a third of the twentieth century was taken from one of the fraternity houses where it was supposedly in hiding. However this does not mean that the Crook will not put in its appearance at the Prom this coming Saturday night.

The underclassmen who have stolen the Crook are said to be arranging a presentation of the Crook with their classes' colors, plus a piece of black crepe to show that the presentation was not made by the seniors as per schedule but by either the sophomores or freshmen depending, of course, upon which class stole the Crook.

The Shepherd's Crook has been stolen only three times since this old custom was started back in 1866. But from all indications 1930 will be another uneventful year for the seniors at the Junior-Senior Prom.

PITTSBURGH FINES FRATERNAL GROUPS

Breaking Rushing Rules is Cause for Action Against Lodges.

INFLECT \$75 PENALTY

Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Sigma Chi fraternities at the University of Pittsburgh were recently fined seventy-five dollars each for violation of rushing rules. They were also placed on probation for a year. Action was taken by the university's fraternity council.

Charges against both societies were that they extended to a first semester freshman invitations to rushing events before the season had opened formally. Name of the fraternity bringing accusations against the lodges was not revealed by the fraternity committee.

The period of probation will extend from Jan. 1, 1931 to Jan. 1, 1932. During this time an officer from each house will have to report formally each month the activities of his house to the dean of men.

It was alleged, in the charge against Sigma Alpha Epsilon, that a freshman had been asked to that fraternity by a pledge a number of days before the season opened. The pledge and the rushee both admitted this to a sub-committee appointed by the fraternity committee to investigate the charges. The pledge declared he was unfamiliar with the rushing rules.

Charges of inviting the same rushee in advance of the season were made against a member of Sigma Chi. Change of date of the opening of rushing season, occasioned by the Ohio State football game, had confused him, said the Sig Chi. He stated that after he realized his mistake, he attempted to rectify it.

MARSH DECRIES TREND TO FARM CORPORATIONS

(Continued from Page 1.)

Keim added, "I would like to have a tractor, a truck, and the newest of everything. The chances are if I used old Dobbin, who will eat cheap grain and hay in the summer and winter on cornstalks and oats straw, and fix up some of dad's old tools and build up a capital stock, that ten or twenty years hence I will be independent and happy and can then buy some newer things without having the banker in my wool every minute."

Agriculture needs a system of diversified farming and a cutting down of overhead, Dr. Keim stated. Much of this is evident now. The acreage of spring grains is on the increase and there is an increased use of adapted strains of corn.

"Good hybrids are becoming very valuable. A mixture of ordinary red or white corn is of no value. Hybrid seed corn deserves careful inspection, because increased yields of from 10 to 15 percent are being made.

Weeds Rob Farmers. "Weeds rob \$2 per acre from the farm income," Keim pointed out, "and there are 17,000,000 tillable acres in the state. Control of plant diseases is necessary, also, for the successful farmer does not take losses. Then, if the trend is for more livestock production, pastures must not be forgotten."

There are other phases in agriculture that the speaker emphasized and they all centered about the one point that there must be increased efficiency in farm operations. The overhead, he cautioned, must be watched.

"You must study your business," Keim charged, "and you must analyze yourself. Keep farm records and know what you are doing."

300 Yearbook Back Installments Unpaid

Ed Edmonds, business manager on the 1931 Cornhusker staff, reports that 300 bills have been mailed to students who are behind in their yearbook installments. It is urgent that these back payments be forwarded as soon as possible in order that the subscription list may be brought up to date, he reported.

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