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## Time to Stop Talk and Start Action.

The discussion over military drill has come again and will likely pass again unless intelligent students are willing to work for what they believe," asserts a letter addressed to The Nebraskan, but submitted without proper identification for publication.

"As in most cases of principle, university students are rather afraid to declare themselves and be liable to the ridicule which is always aimed at people who maintain a principle which smacks of 'reform.'"

Signing himself "Pacifist," the unknown author recommends some organized movement on the part of students to rid the University of Nebraska of compulsory drill. He believes that discussion has gone far enough, and that action is more essential than argument. We agree.

The Daily Nebraskan's stand on compulsory military training has been stated, without reservation, a sufficient number of times. We have answered letters defending the forced army education and have attempted to refute arguments proposed in its justification. It remains for those students who feel the importance and significance of the issue to strive for abolition of the course which they believe detrimental to the peaceable morale of the institution and the nation. Our object is not to coin a debate.

That we have chosen to run only those letters favoring or very mildly opposing forced drill is the insinuation made by certain promoters of the system. This is an unfair accusation. If few logical letters have appeared to justify the university's compulsory drill, it is because few letters have been written. We are convinced in our stand against the present plan of R. O. T. C. and welcome any letters favoring it, for our argument is based upon logic. These letters must be properly signed and their authors identified, however, to insure the authenticity of their assertions.

A letter appears in today's Morning Mail column written by an alumnus of the institution. He appears to favor compulsory drill on the ground that it is not the only useless course required for graduation. There is some justification for the requirement of cultural courses, however, whereas we see justification of forced drill neither in principle nor in practice. It is needless to answer the letter. Two wrongs do not right an evil. If other courses required for graduation are useless, that is another issue.

Someone has estimated the time spent in a uniform during the two required years of military science in an attempt to refute our argument that more actual military science could be taught in a few weeks in a real army camp than in two years at the university. He finds, we believe, that it would require much more time. Evidently he feels that military, as taught under the compulsion system, is no more efficient than it might be, if carried on in an elective course or in an army camp. Perhaps he has never gone through the underclassman's training seasons.

"Just some more destructive criticism," decide some Nebraskans regarding our attempt to abolish compulsory drill on this campus. Physicians who remove tonsils should be ashamed of themselves for being so destructive! We consider an attempt to rid this institution of a course which has no rightful place in it as a constructive step, rather than one which aims only to knock down and drag out.

We have no axe to grind with the University of Nebraska military department, with the American Legion or with the D. A. R. Neither are we courting the favor of those organizations—and we understand that there are a few—which favor the elimination of compulsory drill. As for the accusation that The Nebraskan and its idiotic editor are attempting to crash through with publicity and notoriety, we beg to suggest that those who spend their time trying to figure out left handed motives for all actions might be better off in a private detective agency.

Because we consider compulsory military drill a course which does not deserve to be continued in this institution, we have ventured to oppose it. If the men who are reputed to have a half dozen answers for every argument proposed by The Nebraskan against forced drill will put their replies in writing, we shall be pleased to publish them.

### Advice to the Authors Of Slumber-Fixing Textbooks.

It has been universally concluded that college students fail to get enough sleep, so certain highly respected authors have undertaken to provide textbooks which will provide the student with an urge to sleep which he cannot refuse. Many University of Nebraska profes-

sors have selected these sleep inviting texts for their unsuspecting charges. If one doubts the effectiveness of the writing, he need only drop in at the library some afternoon or evening. Many students, lulled into blissful unconsciousness by the clever men of letters, lean forward on the tables and doze. Realizing the value of such an educational ruse, H. K. Nixon has attributed a few paragraphs in his "Psychology for the Writer," giving complete instructions for what he terms "anaesthetic writing." Here are a few of his helpful hints:

"First, be monotonous. Sleep, as every amateur psychologist knows, may be induced by a steady, unvaried succession of stimuli. Let your words drip with the comforting regularity of summer rain on an attic roof. Avoid variety. Keep your sentences of uniform length and strive for the dangling construction which will gradually wear down your reader's resistance by fatiguing his attention and his memory."

How well many of our textbook authors follow this sober advice! Some of their books may contain very little valuable material, but the normal student never plunges in deep enough to find out. For the professors who select such texts, the mere fact that they are disgustingly boring is enough to speak for their cultural value. "What is worth reading," we suppose the instructor philosophizes, "is dry reading."

In only one respect does Mr. Nixon, an instructor in Columbia university, fall down in his directions to the wordy, learned man. "Avoid keeping the reader in suspense," he concludes. "Tell him at once what it is all about, so that he will know and will not have to read farther. This makes it easier for him to go to sleep with a clear conscience, knowing that he will not miss anything."

Several texts used in the University of Nebraska do not agree with this precept, for they sprinkle the significant material along, sandwiching it in between impenetrable phrases and terrifying words. We sincerely thank the men who have written some of our texts, but we wonder:

How could the authors stay awake long enough to write such lousy material?

We don't mind the bad odors, the sultry heat, or the falling plaster so much, but the mice and roaches in University hall are rather annoying.

Nice professors! They're parking their cars on the sidewalk between Social Sciences and Teachers college now, so that students may sneak their cars in behind. Makes walking rather tough, though.

## MORNING MAIL

### Why Compulsion at All?

TO THE EDITOR: Regarding your statement: "We are convinced that drill is not sufficiently beneficial to the individuals who are shoved through two years of training to justify its compulsory feature."

By way of analogy, perhaps someone can tell a great number of us why we were summarily forced to endure two years of Spanish or French under sometimes mediocre instructors in order to obtain other advantages of a university education. Certainly it cannot be said that the university's military teaching staff is not the best.

Most of us abhor the term "compulsory." We would express the same contempt if it were attached to gymnasium work.

If it is not the compulsory feature that is objected to it must be the course. But surely no university student wants to wipe the department out. What a blow that would be to the activity hounds who go after the "higher honors" that the corps, Pershing Rifles, Scabard and Blade and Military Ball afford.

A. R. S., '28.

### There We Have It—War!

TO THE EDITOR: By the shades of all that is reasonable, logical, and according to conformity, just what is F. M., the plastic iconoclast, the self-styled guardian of national welfare, the political seer, and the unassuming expresser of conflicting opinions, trying to do? Surely such a genius of inconsistency as the malleable F. M. owes some explanation to a reading public as to the whys, wherefores, and whence of his changeable whims.

What justification is there for a series of strange interludes, ludicrous analogies, and military forebodings, such as have been propounded in the last two visitations which "F. M." has made to the Morning Mail? Just what relation do Flo Ziegfeld's bedroom scenes, Gilbert Doane's educational comments, and Boy Scout mottoes, have to compulsory military drill?

There will certainly be another war, says the youthful prophet of things international. Train the infantry, he cries, waving his red flag before the student body. Train them here at the university so the country will be prepared, he adds.

And there we have it—a future war, a trained infantry, and preparedness, all linked together in an argument so strong, so binding, and so irrefutable that even F. M. bashfully admits that the editor himself was forced to evade it.

Then a new dawn and a new idea. The whole trouble is that discipline is a bit lax in the military science classroom, he decides. So he proceeds to give the department some new ideas for discipline enforcement when things suit a lot of us very well just as they are now. We can only wait until F. M. writes another letter—maybe his next belief will be to the effect that drill should be abolished entirely, at least that seems to be the next step in keeping with the pace of his arguments.

Speaking of preparedness, trained infantry, and future wars, I incidentally happen to recall that England, Italy, Japan and Germany have done some noteworthy things in the line of constructive aviation development during the past few years. I just thought I'd mention it, that's all. MORPHEUS.

## FIRE BURNS ROOF OF SIGMA KAPPA HOME YESTERDAY

Conflagration Ruins Third Floor Rooms; Second Story Damaged.

### PEDESTRIAN SEES BLAZE

Firemen Save Wardrobes; Furniture Is Soaked by Water.

The entire roof of the Sigma Kappa house, 1515 L street was burned off and third floor rooms were ruined when fire broke out in the structure between 2 and 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

Although Mabel Heyne, sorority president, was unable to make an estimate of the damage late last evening, she declared that the second floor would have to be redecorated, in addition to the third floor. The entire roof will have to be replaced.

Club in Session. The blaze was discovered by an unidentified pedestrian who was walking in front of the house at the time. The Mother's club and two girls of the sorority, who were in the house, were unaware of the blaze until informed by the passer-by.

No wearing apparel was lost in the fire, although one girl's entire wardrobe was drenched as firemen fought the flames. All furniture on the third floor was water-soaked, although little of it was burned.

Starts From Spark. It is believed that the blaze started from a spark from the chimney, which was burning out. The roof was a shingle attic and the flames quickly spread over it.

When first seen, the flames were leaping from all parts of the roof. Miss Heyne, chapter president, said last night that girls who had been rooming on the third floor of the structure had made arrangements to stay with alumnae living in Lincoln, and that girls who lived on the first two floors would be able to remain in the house until it was redecorated and roofed, despite water damage to second floor rooms.

The loss was covered by insurance, Miss Heyne said. Although she could not say definitely, she intimated that repairs to the structure would start tomorrow. The sorority rents the house.

### LOOSE THREADS

By Gene McKim

While we like to think of ourselves as living in a highly civilized day in which the crude passions of men are at least restrained by the regulations of society, incidents occur from time to time which rudely remind us that perhaps we are not so far removed from our primitive ancestors after all.

Monday a mob of some 1,000 persons reverted to primitive methods and lynched a negro for an attack he was supposed to have perpetrated Dec. 16 on a school teacher near Marysville, Mo. People near him in the mob say he confessed to the crime, but no one is certain that he was the guilty person. He was taken from the hands of the law by the mob as he was arriving at the courthouse in Marysville for the arraignment.

GUILTY or not, he was tied over the ridge pole of the school building in which the crime was committed, and then as the other 1,000 human beings stood by and watched the structure was burned. This sort of thing reminds one of stories of Indian cruelty which caused the early settlers of this country to shudder—and yet the Indian was defending his home and native land from an invader.

Courts of law have been developed and are supported that every one in this republic may have the assurance of a fair trial by other disinterested persons, should he become implicated in some misdemeanor against society. Surely this man, be he black or white, was entitled to such action. He was denied a fair trial by some 1,000 other humans, who were so crazed that they destroyed public property—the schoolhouse, in wreaking their vengeance.

One of the early bills presented before the legislature, which convened during the past week, is one which proposes that capital punishment be inflicted upon persons guilty of holdups by means of firearms either on the highways or the state or in banking houses and other institutions.

Such a bill, while being drastic, particularly in cases where no one was injured, nevertheless should be a strong deterrent to crimes of this nature. If criminals knew they would face capital punishment rather than a fine or prison term they would certainly be apt to think twice at least before holding up travelers or institutions.

Though drastic, it would seem from the number of offenses being perpetrated daily, that the time had come for severe action.

Another proposed bill aims to make the highways safer for travel by inflicting severe penalties on drunken drivers which are apprehended.

Whether one is opposed to prohibition or not, no sane man can argue that an intoxicated per-

## SHORTHAND [in 30 Days]

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son is fit to be at the wheel of a car, and have control of as much power as is represented in modern automobiles.

Such a person is a menace of the worst sort to society. It is to be hoped that the legislature may see fit to make such action punishable by a severe penalty.

The depression received a bit of a jolt Monday morning when 70,000 men marched back to work in Detroit, following several weeks of inactivity. The most of the re-employment was accounted for in the Rouge plant of the Ford Motor company. This plant had been idle since an inventory shut-off Dec. 18. The Ford company also announced that 32,000 other workers were ordered back to work in various parts of the country.

Other automobile plants also indicated increased employment. The Buick company increased its man power by 1,700 workers at Flint, Mich. Cadillac and Chevrolet companies also were increasing their activities.

From San Francisco come reports of 400 men being re-employed by the Santa Fe railroad. Who knows, perhaps things are looking up a bit at last, and conditions will continue to improve.

### K. U. STUDENTS USE \$35,000 WORTH OF PAPER PER YEAR

LAWRENCE, Kas.—Students at the University of Kansas use more than \$35,000 worth of paper per year, according to a survey made by R. O. Baker, a graduate student in the school of business. The students in seven of the classes were questioned and out of the 260 to whom the questionnaires were given, 204 replied.

According to the reports each student spends an average of \$8.00 or \$9.00 each year. Of the total amount \$8,754.50 per year, that is spent for notebook paper of the university students, nearly one-third or \$3.07 per student is spent for personal stationery. An average of \$2.03 is spent for notebook paper alone. The expense of notebooks for all students amounts to \$6,862.50. About 35 percent is spent during the school year for drawing paper.

### EIGHTY ENROLL IN IOWA COURSE FOR HERDSMEN

AMES, Ia.—Eighty students are enrolled in the herdsman's short course and twenty-seven in the farm management short course at Iowa State college. The herdsman's short course is a two term course offered each winter quarter for those interested in care and management of livestock. Twenty-three of the eighty students are taking the second quarter of the work, according to Prof. W. F. LaGrange, of the animal husbandry department.

The farm management short course is a one term course being offered for the second time, primarily for young farmers interest-

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ed in more efficient management of their farm business, according to Dr. A. G. Black, head of agricultural economics.

Beta Theta Pi removed from its chapter rooms to quarters at 1630 G street, vacated by Phi Kappa Psi, in the fall of 1901. The new chapter house was described as one of which the Betas could be proud. A chatting dish party was given

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## He Got the Facts Behind the News!

Stretching its huge bulk across the San Francisco Canyon, the St. Francis dam cupped a deep blue lake of water against the hills. Peacefully, fruitfully tilling the soil in the valley below were the water-hungry farmers of Santa Clara.

Then, something happened! Without warning, the great man-built barrier crumbled. A vast flood reared its bulk into a ferocious torrent—smashed everything that stood in its path. Another unwarranted disaster. Lives lost! Property destroyed! Why?

An Engineering News-Record editor in San Francisco hopped a fast plane. Rapidly he surveyed the scene; investigated and photographed the remaining traces of structural fault; wired his paper.

Fast news? Yes, but what of his story? Nothing sensational in the story he wired—no wrath-stirring adjectives calculated to arouse public sentiment. This editor tersely related the reasons for the disaster—scientifically pieced together the causes of foundation failure—gave construction engineers the facts which they could not get from newspaper stories.

Many weeks later an official investigating commission confirmed, almost to a word, that first telegraphic flash of the McGraw-Hill editor. Meantime, editors of metropolitan dailies used the McGraw-Hill story to reassure their readers that similar disasters were not likely to occur in other places.

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