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Open the Swimming Pool

DR. R. G. Clapp, head of the physical education department, tells the campus that there is a decided lack of interest, especially among the men students, concerning the use of the swimming pool. As a cogent explanation for this lack of interest, Dr. Clapp points to the following two factors:

1. Many students perhaps feel they cannot stand the additional expense required to register for the swimming classes.
2. Others may not be able to secure permits because of athletes' foot.

It is then pointed out by the physical education director, who supposedly arranges the swimming schedule, that only six hours a day are reserved for classes. The other hours, (he neglected to mention the one hour a day—between 5 and 6 o'clock, which is reserved for varsity practice), are divided as nearly as possible between men and women as open hours.

Now once upon a time—nearly two years ago to be explicit—the student body decided it would like a swimming pool. The university, it was discovered, had no money for such a project but so eager was the student body for a natatorium that it pledged, by means of petitions, to pay an extra dollar each semester in fee money until the pool was paid for. Of course at the time the students were laboring under some strange impression that as soon as the pool was completed things would be arranged so that it might be possible for them to take advantage of it occasionally.

It should be definitely understood that during the time signatures were being acquired for the petition there was no altruistic idea in the student mind toward the end of constructing a \$30,000 laboratory for the benefit of the physical education department. Nor was there any impression that they were going to give one dollar of their monies each semester to provide a convenient daily practice range for some five or six varsity swimmers during the choice hour of the day. The student body, once upon a time, was building a pool for its own use. And now the director of physical education for men discovers the students do not care to use their pool.

Such an incongruous situation obviously needs wider investigation. It is not that Dr. Clapp's explanation is being doubted for it is quite sound. That is, as far as it goes it is quite sound. But it seems that there may be other reasons as well. For the moment, however, let us consider the two factors already mentioned.

Athletes' foot: For the time this restriction shall not even be criticized. In passing it might be mentioned, however, that the proper authorities should have pointed out this imminent regulatory measure at the time petitions were being circulated. It seems odd that a ban is not placed on those with the disease at other pools in the city, at least those regulated by the city itself and the "Y's." And it has been said that this same malady may be picked up in the shower room as easily as in a pool yet many students are making use of this latter agency who are not allowed entrance into the pool. However, in all fairness, let it be said that there is possibly some wisdom in letting the athletes' foot provision stand as it is.

Swimming classes: How many students, Dr. Clapp, make use of the swimming classes each day? Six hours a day—and the better daytime hours at that—is a lot of time to take away from some 4,000 students who pay some \$4,000 each semester for a pool which they are giving to the university's posterity. How can these classes and the action involved in literally taking these hours away from the student body be justified?

The only open hours now remaining for men during the daytime are between 12 o'clock and 2 o'clock. Is it any wonder that there is little interest. One can hardly lunch while one swims nor does one usually care to take a daily dip immediately after lunch. Men students were offered convenient hours between 5 and 7 o'clock. Of course few are able to use the 6 to 7 o'clock hour but the other was satisfactory until it was given to the varsity so that an average of about 5 men might work out daily for the team. It doesn't seem right. Sports should be for the many, not for the few.

As to suggested evening hours, who really cares to swim after 8 o'clock during the school year? Too many study duties call at that time. It is not even

being suggested here that mixed groups should be allowed to use the pool, thus doubling the efficiency of open hours. This is not a definite condemnation. An explanation is all that is asked for the time being.

What would the parents of some 4,000 students say—parents all over the state of Nebraska—if they knew that their sons and daughters were paying one dollar each semester for a swimming pool which has practically been denied them for use? In these times can their spirit of benevolence be stretched to conceive the fairness of turning a student-built project into a laboratory for the few?

Even as payments are arranged now the students over a three or four year period will pay for the entire pool. That is open to some question for the payments might have been stretched over a period twice that long. But students are not complaining about that. All they want is a chance to swim during the day as the impulse seizes them, or at least when it is half way convenient. Students are beginning to talk and there is bitterness in their voices. It is an unhealthy sign. An explanation, it would seem, should be forthcoming.

Protecting Freedom of Inquiry

HOW mature are university students? Can they be safely approached with new and startling ideas which do not conform to previously accepted doctrines of right and wrong? Will such doctrines mar their naive ideas and tend to destroy the fairy tale philosophy and Bible school morality which keeps them in the bounds of decency and good taste? In short, will exposure to radical thinking of others cause them to lose their equilibrium and go careening off on a wild orgy of expensive and destructive experiments in human experience?

So apparently think certain guardians of morality in the state of North Carolina who have petitioned the governor of that state to prevent the appearance on the campus of the University of North Carolina of Bertrand Russell and Langston Hughes, styled "angels of darkness" by the petitioners.

Russell as is well known holds certain views as to marriage and love which differ from the ordinarily accepted doctrines. Hughes, a negro poet, has a very decided conviction that the negroes in the South are not treated on the same basis as white people. In other words, he disagrees with the majority opinion in the South as to how negroes should be treated.

And so the petitioners seek to erect a shelter around the virgin minds of the students, and shut them off from communication with any such subversive doctrines as advocated by men who like the Pied Piper may lead vast throngs to the hell on earth which awaits them if they listen to the seductive strains of the doctrines.

The governor of North Carolina has rejected the petition. He refuses "to take the initiative against freedom" at that university.

Surely, if the petitioners are right, if students have no discrimination, if, by the time they are nineteen years old or more, still so mentally plastic that they can use no judgment in deciding things for themselves; if they accept any doctrines put before them on sight, then there is something vitally wrong with the educational system of the country, and perhaps even more definitely wrong with the very inheritable fibre of the people of this country. For surely, not even the most uneducated citizen of the nation who has much claim to full possession of his faculties, is in such a wishy-washy state of mind that he will accept as a model for his line of conduct each new idea which he may read, hear, or otherwise come in contact with.

That new ideas and doctrines should be judged by a self-appointed board of censors or any other agency is contrary to all traditions of American freedom. Such censorship is scarcely ever attempted in this country, or at least if it is, it is seldom given recognition.

But because university students are young, because they are educated at state expense in many universities, it is more or less of a popular diversion to keep them from doing any thinking which is deemed radical by conservative elements among the taxpayers. Just so soon as some student does such thinking and expressed his belief or even his tolerance for some so-called subversive doctrine, the conservative taxpayers denounce the state institution to which they are paying money because it is allowing students to come in contact with and even accept doctrines with which they disagree.

In the first place we do not believe that taxpayers, as such, are completely qualified to determine what doctrines are valid and what are not. In the second place we believe that students, even more than the average run of citizens are capable of discriminating between ideas which have value and those which are, to speak collegiately, "screwed."

And certainly if there is any atmosphere supposedly conducive to broad thinking, and consequently to the adoption of progressive ideas, it is in institutions established for the express purpose of educating young people. If university students are to be shut off from stimuli to their thinking, our universities will lose a large degree of their possible value to society, for in the mere learning of established formula, there is little which is conducive to social progress.

It is when universities recognize the possibilities of advanced thinking which can be developed within them, and construct courses more in an effort to stimulate such thought, that the universities will come to mean even more than they do in the practical progress of the nation.

The North Carolina governor has acted fearlessly in protecting the freedom of unhampered investigation or inquiry.

Contemporary Comment

What to Do—

Someone once remarked that undergraduate activities were being on the cake of academic life. This is a very tasty expression, but, like most metaphors, does not hold true in all its details. For icing is scarcely nourishing, it is often merely an adornment, and if the cake is good enough it is unnecessary.

Perhaps it would be better to abandon any round-about expression, and say plainly this: that the student who fails to take part in any activity outside his course of study is missing education and throwing money away.

Those undergraduates who have been here a year or more, and who are aware of the multitude of extra-curricular activities which surround them, must realize the truth of that statement. But the newcomer, impressed by time tables, gowned figures and the like, may imagine that he has come here to study, and nothing else.

Most of them will soon change their minds. But it would be regrettable if even a few persisted in this error, and bent tired eyes to textbooks for seven weary months. Theirs would be the folly of neglecting the chances that sport, acting, music and so on, offer to each.

One of the strongest criticisms hurled at the college of education is that it does not teach responsibility. Certainly the education confined to the intellectual nourishment set before us by professors justifies that criticism. Yet the half-back who gathers in the soaring ball as opposing wings hover about, the debater on whose rebuttal hangs a decision, the amateur designer whose scenery will make or mar a play,—they all bear a heavy burden of responsibility. It is part of the educative process of student activities.

So the freshmen and freshettes who wish the intellectual college life to the lees will take part in some work that involves more than a parrot-like memory or bookish pseudo-facts. To join several organizations and devote little time to any is also a waste of effort.

Violators or Enforcement Officers?

Two prohibition agents spent \$7.50 and several hours in a speak-easy gathering evidence recently incurred the wrath of Federal Judge Thomas Slick of the northern Indiana district. Judge Slick admitted that it was necessary on occasions for law enforcement officers "to go back frequently to a place to build up a case" but he objected very much to their "sitting down in a comfortable place and consuming several dollars worth of whisky to get evidence." Judge Slick is known for being outspoken while he is on the bench; it would be better if more judges were as frank and outspoken.

Some of our most outstanding law violators are law enforcement officers. It is not to be doubted that the police should employ any and all necessary means to apprehend criminals, but it is questionable whether prohibition authorities need to drink liquor to prevent others from drinking it.

Another frequent example of flagrant law violation by law enforcement officials is the policeman who seems to find it necessary to break all speed limits whether there is any need for speed or not. Almost every motorist can tell of numerous cases where policemen have driven madly along the streets and highways at breakneck speed, ignoring stop lights and without bothering even to warn other drivers with his siren.

While most of the law enforcement officers perform their duties well and properly, there are by far too many who seem to forget that their duty merely is to enforce the law. Any policeman who uses the privileges given him for any other reason than for strict performance of his duty should be arrested and treated as any other public enemy.

—Indiana Daily Student.

AG COLLEGE HOST TO MANY FARMERS AT ROOTERS DAY

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team is to open the Friday morning program with a demonstration. E. B. Lewis of the agricultural engineering department is to discuss the grinding feeds when he appears on the program. Harold Hedges will talk about the "battle of fats," M. A. Alexander will speak about the sheep feeding problems, while Dr. S. W. Alford of the college is to explain hog lot sanitation.

R. R. Thalman is to discuss the cattle-feeding experiments conducted at the college during the past year as another feature of the morning program. M. L. Baker, animal husbandman at the North Platte substation, is to be the other speaker on the morning program.

In the afternoon Dean W. W. Burr of the agricultural college will welcome the visitors to the campus after which W. L. Pierpoint, president of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, will deliver one of the main addresses of the day. He will speak about Nebraska's debt to the hog, R. C. Pollock, general manager of the National Livestock and Meat Board, is to be the other headline speaker on the afternoon program. He will discuss the marketing of pork and pork products.

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SEVERAL JOIN Y. W. C. A. AT MEMBERSHIP TEA

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amount in the office during the tea. E. Bash Perkins, of the finance staff presided in the office from four to five, and Phyllis Sneider and Evelyn O'Connor, chairman of the staff, took charge from five to six.

Elizabeth Rowan and Hailene Haxthausen will be in the office during the tea which will be held at the same time Friday afternoon. The Friday tea will close the membership drive, and all girls who desire to be members must have signed up by that time.

Lists of present members are posted in Ellen Smith hall, Social Science building and in the Home Economics building on Ag campus. Present members are asked to check this list and correct addresses.

The Ag Y. W. C. A. held their membership tea Thursday afternoon at the Home Economics building from 3:30 to 5:30. About fifty girls called during the afternoon. The tea was in charge of Hazel Ingers.

LINCOLN CHAMBER PLANNING EVENTS ON NEBRASKA DAY

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Every effort is being made through the various city organs to attract as large an outstate crowd as is possible.

The basis for all of this civic action is to promote a large crowd at the university Homecoming and the Nebraska-Kansas Aggie game. Success of the day is assured by the facilities at hand and the powers backing the movement.

Bill Devereaux, innocent in charge of rallies, urged the students to get behind the idea and co-operate with the chamber of commerce committee. "With so much effort being put forth by the committee and with such assurance of success we are expecting one of the biggest demonstrations in Nebraska's history," he said.

The chamber of commerce committee is composed of such men as Governor Bryan, the mayor of the city, the president of the chamber of commerce, Postmaster Trev Gillespie, John Selleck, D. X. Bible, Bill Devereaux, the executives of the various department stores in

the city with the co-operation of the Lincoln merchants, who will decorate their stores for the occasion.

VIGILANCE GROUP ELECTS OFFICERS OF ORGANIZATION

(Continued From Page 1.)

the meeting of the student council will be in about two weeks, the homecoming game will have been played. If freshmen win the tug of war between the two lower classes, they may throw away their caps and the original purpose of the committee will be thwarted.

"However, we intend to go forward and see what we can do as an unofficial organization, in the way of persuading freshmen to wear their caps," said Stredman, chairman of the organization. "All fraternities and organized bar groups have pledged their support of our program, and most of their freshmen are wearing caps at present. Unaffiliated bars are still obstinate, but we will deal with them during the next few days."

The committee will meet next Wednesday at the Phi Delta Theta house.

HOLD REGULAR MEETING

League Discusses Election Offices and College Thursday.

Discussion of the coming election, candidates and officers, the electoral college and the lame duck amendment was held at the regular meeting of the League of Women Voters Thursday afternoon.

Dorothy Wieland, president of the organization, lead the discussion. She was assisted by Mrs. Hill, sponsor of the group. Another question discussed was whether married women whose husbands are working should be employed. The opinion of most of the girls was that the women should not, if their husbands could support them. Mrs. Hill suggested to the group that they read "Do You Need Your Job?" in the Good Housekeeping magazine, in regard to this question.

It was decided that the regular meeting of the organization would be held in the A. W. S. room at 4 o'clock Thursday.

GROUP SELECTS ASPIRANTS

Northwestern Non-Partisan Organization to Choose All Candidates.

EVANSTON, ILL. (CNS). Formation of a nonpartisan organization to select best-qualified candidates for student offices this week was being completed at Northwestern university.

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The organization, to be known as the "University Movement," will present and support candidates at elections "entirely on the basis of their qualifications," leaders of the movement announced. No consideration will be given to fraternal or factional alliances, they stated.

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