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Who Is Responsible?

"I hate to say it," said Dr. G. W. Frasier, professor in the Colorado State Teachers college, "but we have too many dumb teachers in America."

"High schools are educationally in a mess," declared Burton P. Fowler, headmaster of an exclusive eastern high school. "Colleges of this country are crying for boys and girls who can read and write."

A similar opinion was voiced the other day by an undergraduate reader on this campus, who after two years of grading papers for a freshman course was still unable to view with complacency the fact that a goodly number of the papers he read were nearly unintelligible in spots because of the atrocious spelling and frightful sentence structure, not to mention the frequent misuse of words and the terrific writing.

"How can it be," said the reader, "that these numbskulls are ever allowed to continue the farce of 'getting a higher education'? Why were they ever allowed to leave high school, much less ever come to the university?"

The answer, we presume, is that popular education, supported as it is by taxes, means that every one is entitled to the advantages provided by the state. This in turn means that education must be conducted on the "mass plan," or mass plan, whereby individuals are run thru standardized school systems, where the teachers are necessarily obliged to pass one bunch in order to take on the next group. Combined with the fact that a large number of teachers are dumb, or careless, or hampered by extraneous duties besides teaching, it is relatively easy to see how the ignoramus manages to slide thru and show up at the university intent upon getting by in the same way.

The problem is a difficult one for the university instructor, no doubt. If he flunked all the students whose low degree of literacy indicated a hopeless lack of preparation for college work or for further development, the university enrollment, we venture to say, would be considerably smaller than it is.

While it is undoubtedly to be expected that under the system of popular education the standards of educational excellence indicated by a high school diploma and by a college degree are bound to be lowered, there is still an evident necessity for far greater care and re-organization of the secondary school system in Nebraska as well as other states. The system of popular education is not the only reason for the laxness which is evident in the high schools in the state, and the reasons for this laxness might make an interesting and illuminating study.

One thing that is necessary, of course, is that the teachers who are certified to teach should really be competent. It is the job of the university and the normal schools to see to that. But another thing which seems necessary is that the

high schools and even the grade schools of the state start pruning out some of the flub-dubs from their curriculums and concentrate on seeing to it that the students they turn out are at least literate. No doubt it is valuable for students to have a good sense of art and music appreciation, to be able to make things with their hands, to be skillful gymnasts, and to know many other things that have been inserted into the teaching program. Their future advancement and diversified knowledge however, is seriously hampered if they diversify before they know fundamentals.

It was difficult for an attendant at the military ball to imagine that Lincoln people were suffering seriously from the depression. There was little room for any more people and we are sure that some of the formal dresses we saw were new because we never have seen anything like them before. The only evidence of hard times was in the ladies wearing apparel. The cost of the dress material apparently prevented some girls from including backs in their dresses. We might also compliment the military department on the substitute orchestra; it turned out to be o. k.

One of the startling developments coming from the recent disarmaments conference is the decision of Monaco to disband its entire army and scrap all its arms. The army, it seems, consists of ninety-six officers and men. With that problem settled, perhaps Afghanistan will see its way clear to postponing international debt payments due it.

Why So Provincial?

In acknowledging a very courteous criticism of the Daily Nebraskan which was sent in some time ago, the Nebraskan would like to make a brief explanation. The critic suggests that the news policy of the paper is narrow because of the fact that the news is composed almost entirely of events happening on this campus.

The Nebraskan has as its prime purpose the complete coverage of campus news. Its editorial comment is concerned primarily with campus happenings. Particularly at present with the severe space limitations imposed by the reduced size of the paper, it is sometimes difficult to include full accounts of campus events and consequently is nearly impossible to include news or editorial comment on national or world news.

The policy is provincial, we admit, but it is necessary. In any case it would be impossible for the Nebraskan to compete with the daily newspapers and periodicals. We believe that students should regularly read at least one daily paper, and certainly they should read some monthly or weekly magazines on current affairs. We realize that many do not, but that is a matter of lack of interest on the part of the students rather than a lack of opportunity. Consequently the Nebraskan feels no responsibility for providing information on affairs which other news agencies cover completely; it does feel a responsibility for reporting campus news.

It has been, and will continue to be, the policy of this paper to include matters of broader interest than mere campus happenings whenever it is possible to secure well-informed opinions and facts on such matters in connection with campus personalities. In editorial and feature story material there is frequently an effort made to indicate the connection of certain matters of national or international concern with the interests of students on the Nebraska campus.

FROSH CABINET PLANS WEEK'S VESPER DINNER

Reading by Lois Rathburn To Feature Christmas Program.

"Freshman Fireside Frolic," a special dinner for vespers of this week, will be given in Ellen Smith hall Tuesday, sponsored by the freshman cabinet.

A Christmas program, of which the feature is a reading, "The Other Wise Man," by Henry Van Dyke, given by Lois Rathburn, has been planned. Lorraine Hitchcock will preside, Betty Barrows will lead devotions, and Celestine Humphrey will give the prayer. A special procession, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," will be used by the choir. Other Christmas carols will be sung.

There will be a grand march preceding the dinner, and entertainment afterwards will consist of stunts and singing of Christmas songs. Any interested freshman girls may attend.

Committees in charge of the dinner are: General arrangements, Evelyn O'Connor, Katherine Fitzsimmons, Betty Christensen; publicity and ticket sale, Margaret Buol, Jean Walker, Phyllis Jean Humphrey; entertainment, Elaine Woodruff, Margaret Grant, Priscilla Herrick and Margaret Test.

The freshman cabinet, a new organization this year, has been formed to promote the interests of freshmen on the campus. The girls mentioned above, with the exception of Evelyn O'Connor, Margaret Buol and Elaine Woodruff are members of the cabinet, as are also Lorraine Hitchcock, Bereniece Cain, Virginia Erickson, Lois Rathburn, Kathleen Long, and Helen Humphrey.

AG COLLEGE CLUB TO SPONSOR STOCK SHOW

(Continued from Page 1.) go to the high ranking five in each class. Prizes will also be given to winners in the coed and professional classes.

The Block and Bridle will also sponsor special contests for meat and student livestock judging, according to Shadbolt. The purpose of the contest, Shadbolt stated, is

to promote showmanship. Any student is eligible to compete except those who have already won in the championship class.

Judges are headed by Mr. Kendall of the Omaha National bank, who will supervise the horse and championship classes; M. A. Flack, dairy extension department of the university, coed and dairy classes; W. W. Derrick of the Nebraska animal husbandry department, sheep and professional classes; and K. C. Fouts, county agent of Seward county, hogs and cattle.

2,500 WATCH WHILE CEREMONY REVEALS MISS JANE AXTELL

(Continued from Page 1.)

top of the balconies on the east and west sides, and blue streamers on the north and south ends making it nearly impossible to see the structures of the building.

The walls of the main floor were covered with groups of thirteen red and white stripes, with a door between each group of thirteen. A large blue stripe was extended around the whole wall next to the floor and about the doors.

An indirect lighting system was used for the fete. Approximately thirty flood lights were shone upon the large flag. The light was reflected from the flood to the floor.

Colonel Oury Presides.

The dance program was dedicated to Col. W. H. Oury, chairman of the military department, who with Mrs. Oury and the military staff and administration, presided the ball.

The girls who were honored as sponsors of the cadet companies at the ball were: LaVerle Herman, Elizabeth Barber, Louise Harris, Louis McIntyre, Annabel Pace, Martha Hershey, Roma deBrown, Evelyn O'Connor, Elizabeth Struble, Mary Ulrich, Ruby Schwem-

ley, Jane Robertson, Leah Carlsen, Marjorie Bell, Arlene Steepe, Aileen Miller, Lucile Reilly, Margaret Chase, Mary Gerlach and Jane Von Seggern.

Among the out of town guests present at the fete were Cadet Colonel Clyde C. Hutton, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Ted R. MacDougall and Cadet Major Eugene R. Clearman from the University of Iowa R. O. T. C. unit, and several cadet officers from Creighton university.

SEVERAL ALUMNI VISIT ENGINEER'S COLLEGE OFFICES

Several alumni have called at the offices of the college of engineering recently. Among those visitors were Noel L. Smith, '27, assistant project engineer, Jackson county highway department, Independence, Mo.; Rex L. Haase, '28, mechanical engineer in the research department, Detroit Edison county, Detroit, Mich.; Fred M. Chase, '29, production engineer, Storz Electric Refrigeration Company, Omaha; Claude D. Kinsman, '12, farm paper editorial work, Chicago, Ill.; Lester F. Larsen, '32, International Harvester company, Hastings; Joe J. Styskal, '29, Ulysses; Harold M. Clute, '28, U. S. army engineer's office, Kansas City, Mo.; and J. Roland Carr, ex-'28, American Can company, Oak Park, Ill.

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