

Daily Nebraskan

Station A, Lincoln, Nebraska
OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice in Lincoln, Nebraska, under act of congress, March 3, 1879, and at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, act of October 3, 1917, authorized January 20, 1922.

THIRTY-SECOND YEAR

Published Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday mornings during the academic year.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

Single Copy 5 cents
\$2 a year \$1.25 a semester
\$3 a year mailed \$1.75 semester mailed

Under direction of the Student Publication Board
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Business Office—University Hall 4.

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What Is This Thing Called a Policy?

EVERYBODY likes to watch a good scrap, particularly if the onlookers are in no danger of becoming embroiled. Perhaps that is one of the major reasons why some of our friends have given us the kindly advice that during the coming semester we should make an effort to make the editorial policy of this paper colorful. We have been warned by several that our "essays" may be considered dull and lose their appeal to the readers. As one helpful adviser put it: "When I read the editorial page, I like to read something spicy; I don't care whether the opinion is rational or not; I like it if it is unusual and stimulates thinking." And in elaborating this thesis the adviser continued: "Pick out something and go after it hard; it will make the editorial page more interesting."

We hate to admit at the outset that our editorial page is going to be dull all semester. Furthermore, we will not admit that we would cringe before the thought of an editorial fracas the consequences of which might be embarrassing to us. But we refuse to believe that our mission to the students will be fulfilled by putting on a daily two column circus for them. We are not convinced that in order to inspire reader interest we must provide frequent victims, regardless of their merits, to be tossed into the arena for the ferocious lions to tear to shreds while the populace applauds. We protest against the attitude that we should subordinate whatever better judgment we may have to the tastes of the readers for something entertaining and "radical."

On the other hand, or, perhaps we might say, in the other ear, have been dripped admonitions to be careful. It seems that in times past some editorial opinions in the Daily Nebraskan have precipitated discussions about the students and the university which have caused some trouble for those who are responsible for the welfare of the institution, as well as for those who printed them. It all resolves itself into the old story that the university is an institution supported by taxpayers of the state. Some of these taxpayers have highly distorted conceptions of the tendencies of young people, particularly university young people. Any extraordinary expression of opinion, or any revelations of conditions here at the university, which by being subjected to intense scrutiny and high powered magnification can be made to appear in a bad light, are grounds for criticism which may have serious reactions upon the university.

SUCH advice is well taken, but we deny that where it seems advisable to point out conditions which we feel are detrimental to the students or to the institution, or where the true expression of student opinion demands that atten-

tion be called to certain controversial matters, that we will stifle such opinions or ignore such conditions. We feel that the students have a right to air their well founded and sincere opinions even tho they be out of line with orthodox ideas.

To better serve that purpose, these columns will, as usual, be open to contributions from any student or faculty member who will reveal his identity to the editor. Since the editor is himself held responsible for whatever appears in print in these columns, he must take the precaution of knowing the authority on which he relies when printing any letter. Furthermore, the editorial columns will not be monopolized by one editorial writer. Other members of the staff will contribute material to these columns which may diversify somewhat the style and opinions which will be expressed.

We have endeavored to mark out in broad sketch what we conceive to be the policy of the Daily Nebraskan. To stay within the limits of discretion without refusing to be bold if occasion demands; to refuse to attempt to be sensational without being too dull, these are the purposes we hope to fulfill this semester.

It seems unnecessary to point out any specific subjects with which we expect to concern ourselves. These will be apparent enough when they are discussed. We have no particular cause to serve. The Daily Nebraskan has been traditionally free from alignment with any group or interest on or off the campus. Its opinions are thus better left unannounced until they arise naturally.

AND so rather than to expound what we hope to accomplish during the semester in the way of concrete improvements, we shall only say that whatever comes up we shall endeavor to give opportunity for the expression of student opinion concerning it to all those whose opinions are sincere and seem to have a semblance of rationality. As for the opinions expressed by the Daily Nebraskan, we can only say that they will be sincere. We shall strive to have them rational and fair, based upon a necessary amount of knowledge; we hope that they may sometimes be original; and we would be completely satisfied if they would always stimulate really constructive thinking. But we are becoming idealistic.

One other guarantee we can make. Criticisms voiced by the Nebraskan will never be vindictive efforts to work off personal spite on any person or any organization. It would seem unnecessary to guarantee such a thing which should be taken for granted as an elementary principle of editorial writing, but experience has shown that some individuals are prone to take personally the criticisms aimed at what they are doing or the organization with which they may be innocently connected.

When the end of the semester approaches and we examine the policy of the editorials in retrospect, we may not find that much constructive change has been promoted by the Daily Nebraskan. We may not find that our criticisms have produced tangible effects. We may, in fact, find that we have been misunderstood. We may be conscious of the fact that the editorials were dull and trite.

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Official Bulletin

Pershing Rifles.

There will be a meeting of the Pershing Rifles Tuesday at 5 o'clock in Nebraska hall.

Cornhusker Business Staff.

The business staff of the Cornhusker will meet in the office of the publication Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 31, at 4.

Bible League.

The Lutheran Bible league will meet for Bible study with Rev. Erck at 7 p. m. Wednesday in room 203 at the Temple.

Y. W. Membership Staff.

The Y. W. C. A. membership staff will meet at 4 o'clock this afternoon in Ellen Smith hall.

Confirmation Class.

The confirmation class of the University Episcopal church will meet Tuesday evening, Jan. 31, at 7 in the church at 13th and R sts.

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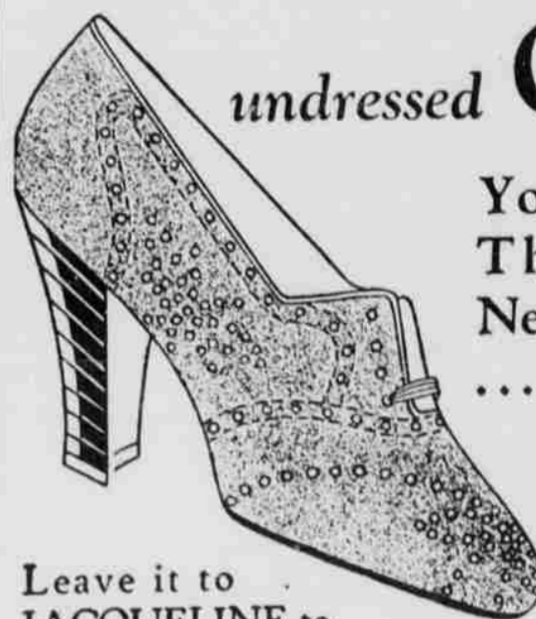
Bizad Dean Discusses Consumers' Research

Dean J. E. LeRossignol of the college of business administration

discussed the "Consumers' Research Service" at a noon day meeting of the Lincoln Advertising club at the chamber of commerce Jan. 23.

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