

# Daily Nebraskan

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## Health Versus Physical Education.

SOME day the leading educators in the country are going to wake up to the fact that they have been victims of a super-delusion, namely that all students can be physically educated by herding them thru classes in games, exercises, dancing, sleeping, etc., ad infinitum. When that realization comes there is going to be a lot of head wagging over the amount of money which has been foolishly invested in equipment and instruction in the half-baked methods of making the future men and women of the nation physical prodigies.

This physical education fervor is a comparatively recent development in educational circles. Students in university now can remember some of the fads which were perpetrated when the idea of putting gymnastics in schools was first emerging.

The real germ of the physical education idea is perfectly correct. Young people who are confined the larger part of each day in classrooms and libraries (?) need recreation and physical activity. This is particularly true of elementary and high school students. It is less true of university students.

BUT the lengths to which the idea has been developed has given rise to valid objections. For one thing it is highly doubtful if there is any benefit to be derived from forced participation in physical education activities. This is particularly true of university students, and less true of students in high schools and below.

The editor has never been forced to drape himself in lacy costumes and do an interpretive dance on the floor of the armory, but if he were a girl, or rather a woman, he would seriously resent being forced to go thru such odd antics. In fact he admits that he would resent even donning the peculiar green costumes required for the phys. ed. courses, and then be compelled to participate in some form of games along with a crowd of other people, or go through mechanical exercises, or carry sandbags on his head to correct his posture. This is decidedly not his idea of sport, recreation, or even physical education.

It seems reasonable that university students are old enough to order their own lives for their use in sports and recreation. Those who want physical education courses should be able to get them. But the whole purpose of physical education seems to us to be defeated by trying to handle mobs of students in compulsory activities.

WE believe that human beings are just perverse enough so that the things they dislike to do, they will not do well. Ignoring the question as to whether some of the activities sponsored in the name of physical education are

worthwhile at all or not, we are convinced that they cannot benefit anyone who goes thru them unwillingly.

Once again we say that whatever money there is available for physical education would be better spent in making available facilities for the voluntary participation of students in sports and recreations of their own choosing. The intramural sports program is a good beginning. It needs to be extended at the expense of compulsory physical education, and possibly at the expense of specialized and glorified athletics.

If the type of presentations worked out for prom girls get much more spectacular, it looks as though only phys. ed. majors would be eligible. A formal dress is hardly the right type of clothing for performing such a feat as walking down a ladder frontward as this year's prom girl had to do.

## Putting Sincerity To the Test.

TWO large student organizations at Oxford and Manchester universities in England, the famous Oxford union and the Manchester union, voted in a recent discussion by a large majority, that the members would "in no circumstances fight for its king and country." In other words, the students have come to the conclusion that the only effective method of preventing war is to refuse to fight.

Conservative Englishmen, sons of aristocrats, in one of the oldest and most conservative of English universities! Imagine them declaring outright that they will not fight in any war, no matter what the circumstances. No longer do they believe in a "war to end war," and a war "to make the world safe for democracy." They are convinced that war cannot accomplish this or any other good purpose.

WE doubt if there is a university in this country where as many students, (750 at Oxford, 371 at Manchester) could be induced to make this supposedly radical declaration. Imagine the consternation of a few of the R. O. T. C. officers if such a vote should result in some of their classes.

Most people are likely to be repelled by this absolute pacifistic stand. But in view of the fact that war, rumors of war, and vigorous preparations for war are continually going on, it begins to

look like the only really effective means of doing anything about preventing war.

This attitude is to be sincerely admired. Certainly it is a consistent attitude for those who are opposed to war. It might be vigorously recommended to the statesmen of the world that some such consistency should be observed. This idea of signing peace pacts and then building armaments indefinitely with the very definite purpose of using them for war purposes, is becoming tiresome.

Will Rogers explains the advantages of the moratorium in a most facile manner. Now he says, all you have to do when you see someone to whom you owe money is call out cheerily: "Happy moratorium to you."

## A Bit of American Philosophy.

CONSIDERABLE comment has been evoked by the resignation of Charles E. Mitchell as chairman of the National City bank of New York as a result of embarrassing disclosures made in an investigation being conducted by a senate committee. Mr. Mitchell is now in ill-repute. His conduct is considered rather typical of what is coming to be a general impression of the type of skulduggery practiced by financial magnates.

In defense of his activities while in office, Mr. Mitchell offered this little excuse: "The subjects dealt with related in the main to events of the years 1928, 1929, and 1930, a period which has passed into history." In other words Mr. Mitchell is saying: "I got away with it then, why drag it out now."

Moralizing is distasteful, but this seems to us like a terse expression of a generally accepted American philosophy. Anything is o. k. if you get away with it.

Speaking of spring, we hereby make a solemn promise that we will not foist on the readers the customary clever editorial on signs of spring. Looking back thru Nebraskan files, we fail to find a year when such an effort was not perpetrated. This will be our first real distinction.

The emergence of knickers, white shoes, and other similar indications of a change in seasons is either a definite sign of spring or else evidence that the other suit is all worn out.

## What's the Odds?

By Artemus

Down around 15th and J streets, out in Ogallala, and in Rising City, (pop. about 500) the big concern of the day seems to be taxes and the reduction thereof. (You hecklers who keep hissing and muttering: "How about prohibition and the bank holiday" can all leave the room.) Every phase of public activity is under the eagle eye of the reductionists, the schools being right up there in the batting order.

Someone proposes an investigation of the university and it's investigate; someone suggests tossing out everything above the eighth grade, and it's considered. Something's got to be done, and thus we all become Godsakers (see Walter Lippman, et al.)

Personally, I can't get much steamed up about the whole fracas. Maybe it's because I never earned an honest penny; perhaps it's because I didn't subscribe for a sufficient number of courses in the theory of modern education. None the less, there is the incontrovertible fact that an awful lot of smart gents (a la Tommy Ryan) "ain't never had no book learnin'"; there's also enough dumb mature eighth graders to cover the surface of Great Salt Lake, leaving sufficient over to make no mean splash in the Dead Sea.

Those pious gents who sit around and poke embarrassing questions however, are always calling the above unfiled inside straight. Invariably some smart boy waves the flag of "education for all," gets off some of the pat jargon about the standard of living and calls me bitter names such as eleemosinar, leather neck and biter - of - the - hand - that's - feeding - you.

Maybe the college boys are right. Still, Honest Abe didn't have a diploma and there's a lot of rank unschooled materialists around now who're contemplating ways and means of avoiding contributions to the federal income tax officials even in this year of grace.

In case anyone happens to be in-

terested, I have to prod myself now and then to rattle out a justification for the theory that schools and schooling are essential to education. Quite often, in fact, I wonder whether they aren't a detriment, what with all the emphasis on developing rhythmic sensibilities, playing store, making iron and wood gadgets, planting Babbity in fertile soil.

But, and regardless of the efficacy of the methods or the infallibility of the system to promote intelligent thought, one thing is true. The system, good or bad, probably should be preserved. Else what will the economic system do with the seven or so million youth now in colleges and high schools. Labor couldn't stand any more flooding.

## A. A. U. W. TO GIVE ANNUAL SENIOR TEA

Invitations Are Issued To 426 University Women.

The annual senior tea given by the A. A. U. W., Saturday afternoon, March 18, at 2:30 o'clock, will feature a talk given by Mrs. H. H. Wheeler on "The University Graduate and the Citizen."

Invitations have been issued to 426 senior women of the university for the event which will be held at the University club.

Mrs. W. B. Comstock is chairman of the committee planning the affair, and her assistants are Mrs. T. R. Graham, Miss Lavicy Hill, Miss Winifred Mayhew, Miss Helen Wilson, Miss Marguerite McPhee, Miss Leah Schofield, Miss Mariel Gere, Miss Mabel Lee, Miss Margaret Fedde, Miss Elsie Ford Piper, Miss Clara Evans, Miss Berna Miskell, Mrs. T. E. Nordgren, Mrs. A. Q. Schimmel, Miss Bereniece Hoffman, Miss Helen LeRossignol, Miss Ruth Martin, Miss Mildred Kemp and Miss Ethel Bryant.

## Professor Karl Arndt Talks to Y.M.C.A. Staff

Prof. Karl Arndt discussed the bank moratorium at an open meeting of the Industrial Staff of the Y. W. C. A. Monday, March 13 at 4 o'clock at Ellen Smith hall. He explained the causes of the bank holiday and the desired results. Elizabeth Rowen is the chairman of the Industrial staff.

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