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How About Some Action?

HUMAN laziness seems to be a primary and prevalent characteristic. College students are human, and some of the campus leaders possess that primary element in abundant quantities.

There are several things that should be done by students who have been placed by election in positions which are so far more important only in name, and which are rapidly losing any atmosphere of prestige that has previously surrounded them. One of these offices is that of the senior class president.

On several previous occasions this semester, the editor of the Daily Nebraskan, after conferring with students who are in positions of responsibility, has urged the president of the senior class to take steps toward organizing that group into some sort of potent force. The feeling that some such move should be made was expressed by student leaders and by the editor of the Nebraskan several days before nominations were made for senior class president. Any aspirants, who at that time felt that they would like the honor but didn't have time for any work, were given ample time to withdraw from the political race.

This year's senior class president has done nothing. There is much to be done. If the senior class at the University of Nebraska was organized each year, addressed by prominent alumni of the institution, Nebraska's alumni organization would be much more potent than it is at present. This school has a fine alumni organization and a good secretary working under the handicap of a largely uninterested graduate body.

On other campuses of the United States organized senior classes gather several times a year, particularly in the spring months, for affairs of interest to the entire group and also of ultimate value to the universities. Such functions as Senior week, a Senior reception, a Senior dance, and a series of convocations would be of great value on this campus if they were immediately planned and sponsored by a competent committee of class members.

Laziness, lethargy, and inertia must be cast aside in order that a program of organization can be started immediately. There is certainly good and sufficient reason for organizing the senior class. Will something be done?

A Cyclone Hits Lincoln.

Saturday evening basketball will again swing into the limelight to punctuate the post-holiday period of cramming preceding examinations. Coach Browne will send his 1935 Nebraska basketball machine against the undefeated Iowa State Cyclones on the coliseum floor, with the visitors favored to start the Huskers out on the wrong side of the Big Six ledger.

Nebraska basketball has been down in the dumps for several years. Coach Browne, however, has been gradually improving the teams. This season many cage followers are saying that the Scarlet quintet is the best that has appeared for four years, the most proficient since the 1931 team.

As the Big Six season starts, the Kansas Jayhawkers are favored to cop the conference title as they have done the past three seasons. Iowa State, in the picture with an unusually good team, is rated the dark horse of the conference, and might go places this winter.

Nebraska student spirit doesn't, as a rule, wax warm over basketball. This year, however, students should back the basketball team in its Big Six competition, because the football team failed for the first time since 1930 to cop the conference football bunting. There is a strong team in Nebraska togs this year, and it is deemed capable of some very good basketball. Considering the fact that last winter's five was the only one in the conference to defeat Kansas, and that this year's team is obviously improved, there is no reason to feel certain that the Husker team doesn't have a chance for the title.

Between-the-half programs offered by fraternity and sorority groups will live up to the proceedings this season. This fact was demonstrated at the

Iowa game preceding vacation. The yell leading is also much better this year, and all in all there seems to be a much livelier student spirit budding among the basketball spectators.

Military sponsors, held together by the mighty want-something-to-do bond, are organizing. They plan to hold a tea at which they will entertain all cadet officers. We suggest blood scup for refreshment. The Spartan women used to feed their men with that delectable dish.

STUDENT PULSE

Brief, concise contributions pertinent to matters of student life and the university are welcomed by this department, under the usual restrictions of sound newspaper practice, which excludes all libelous matter and personal attacks. Letters must be signed, but names will be withheld from publication if so desired. Contributions should be limited to a maximum of five hundred words in length.

The American University Succeeds.

To the Editor:
(This is the third of three parts of a letter, the first section of which was published in the Wednesday Daily Nebraskan. It was written in answer to a series of articles entitled, "The American University Fails," which appeared in this publication last spring.)

It seems to me that 90 percent of all students who fall do so for one reason, and one only: That they have as yet seen no way in which to adapt themselves in which the course had any relation to their lives. And without that they cannot learn. Without that the greatest genius on earth could not learn—unless he learned by rote, as men may learn nonsense syllables. There is no man living who raises above the level of a moron who cannot learn that which makes life meaningful to him. They tell us that the athletes are slow—are "dumb." Yet they learn the rules of the game more rapidly than any professor (who presumes to flunk them out of his course) could do. Why? Because the rules of the game are the rules of life as they live it, even tho it be but for a few brief moments on the football field or the basketball floor. And if the professor were wise, he would cease his mutterings about knowledge being useful for its own sake, and show his students how that knowledge, too, is a part of the rules of life. Then he would have no failures. And until he does do this, then even his "A" students are failures.

Judged by this criterion, namely, that the purpose of education is adaptation to life, is the American university a failure? No! In fact, the American university is among the first since the dawn of higher education which is not a failure. Many have called attention to the vacillation and weaknesses which have recently prevailed among American universities. Such an indictment is perfectly just. But the reason ascribed for this fact is in error. It is a mark of the transition whereby the American university is turning from a learned and highly colored failure to become an institution capable of serving rightly the young men and women who attend it. It is the sign of the growing predominance of pragmatism (by which I mean emphasis on the practical) over a mistaken idealism. It is the sign of the growing governance of able and energetic men. It is the sign of the passing of the old guard who were nurtured on the tradition of Newman's "Idea of a University," who follow knowledge for knowledge's sake.

When these gentlemen have passed on to a well-deserved emeritus chairmanship, the days of vacillation and cowardly policies will be about over. We will be ready to take up the work of building a university which can serve as no other university has ever done. We will be ready to settle students' problems which have for them a real and vital interest. We will be permitted to discuss the topics that sway the world without being recalled to some dry-as-dust textbook discussion. We shall be permitted to discuss the topics that move men, the goals for which they live and die—as they never do for the sake of pure knowledge. Oh, I shall grant you that a few rare and great souls will sacrifice their lives in the interests of pure science, but most of us live out our lives by other rules. And if the men of science persist in putting in the hands of these other men the instruments whereby life is destroyed without at the same time so 'pragmatizing' the institutions of learning that men may learn to live and adapt themselves to an ever-growing life, then these scientists but dig their own graves in a common shambles of war and desolation.

The ideal of human understanding, of teaching men how to live with one another, is the ideal toward which the 'pragmatic' American university strives. This is true idealism; idealism which is meaningful and real, and not a mouthing of empty phrases about 'knowledge for its own sake,' 'pure science,' or 'independent research.' There is no knowledge for its own sake, for knowledge, whether of how to bake a pie or of the factors in the infinitesimal calculus, is knowledge which bears relation to life, and should be so taught. There is no pure science, for the discoveries of the most aloof scientist may be used by some man whom that scientist never sees, to revolutionize a world. And there is no independent research, for the whole system of our reasoning and our thinking is interrelated, and the whole structure is related to life, to the life of every man.

The true idealist is the man who accepts the world as it is and strives to make it a better place in which to live; not that man who turns his eyes away from reality to a mystical ideal of things as they ought perfectly to be. And it is the greatest and surest mark of the dawning success of the American university that it is turning away from vain and foolish flights of professorial fancy and misbegotten 'idealism' to the realm of fact and truth.

—Gerald H. Agans.

In future years you can gaze at the guy with the big ears sitting in the middle. Get your Cornhusker group picture taken.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

CORNHUSKER PAYMENTS.

Third installments on copies of the 1935 Cornhusker are due this week in the yearbook offices in University hall.

Lutheran Club.

All Lutheran students are invited to attend the meeting of the Lutheran club in 205, Temple Bldg., Friday evening. Prof. A. L. Lugin will speak on "The Geography of the Holy Land."

Komesky Club.

A regular meeting of the Komesky club will be held Friday, Jan. 11, at 8 o'clock, in room 203 of the Temple building. Dr. Vraz, professor in charge of the program, said all students interested are welcome to attend.

SOCIAL SCIENCE TEA.

Social science department will hold a tea hour for the faculty and graduates in Social Science, room 217, Friday, 4:15 to 5:15.

Y. W. C. A.

All new members of Y. W. C. A. should fill out membership cards by Friday noon.

about these aims. The article attacks un-American activities at the University of Minnesota with specific reference to the Armistice day anti-war anti-fascist mass meeting held last quarter.

In considering this charge, condemning Minnesota students of casting aspersions on the reasons for which 2 million American youths went to France in 1918, those reasons must be reviewed. Most boys who volunteered or peaceably submitted to the draft believed that they were fighting to make the world safe for democracy in the war which was to "end all war." These worthy aims, used as slogans in every newspaper and by every public speaker during the war years, are certainly nothing any student is ashamed of.

However, all can see that in spite of the American doughboy's honest and idealistic trigger pulling for democracy, three-fourths of Europe is now governed by dictatorships. Regardless of all the thousands of men who died under machine gun fire in 1918 with the fond hope that they were doing their bit to guarantee future peace, war scares fill the newspapers and every major power is arming to the limit.

Therefore some college students are interested in drawing up peace action programs to disclose the machinations behind America's entry into the war. Next time war threatens, thinking students want to know the real reasons behind supposed attempts to preserve democracy or safeguard America's honor. University students are not ashamed of the aims for which they were fighting, but they are determined to resist future attempts to set up false patriotic aims in order to build war-time armies.—Minnesota Daily.

ALPHA KAPPA DELTA HAS DINNER MEETING

A. B. Hollingshead Reports on National Convention Held in Chicago.

Alpha Kappa Delta, national sociology research group, held its monthly dinner meeting Thursday evening. August B. Hollingshead, delegate to the national meeting in Chicago, gave a report of that meeting and announced the schedule for the remainder of the school year.

The complete program schedule for meetings in the following months is as follows:

January: Report on social trends in southwestern Nebraska by August B. Hollingshead.

February: Report by the district representative of F. E. R. A., Robert E. Nuernberger on, dealing with homeless men in Lincoln thru the FERA, and a discussion of organization of the American church by Rabbi Jacob J. Ogilvie.

March: Esther Powell, Barbara Harrison, and Margaret Medlar will report on different phases of the administration of relief to needy families and relating subjects.

April: Dr. Earl H. Bell, Marian Dunlevy, and Paul H. Cooper will speak to an open meeting on different phases of "Extinct Indian Cultures in Nebraska."

May: Annual picnic and steak fry.

Ag Column

BY DICK JACKSON and GORDON HOBERT

Interest this week is centered around the meetings held as part of the Organized Agriculture program. It is possible for the student on the Ag campus to get a fairly good summary of some of the college's activity during the year and at the same time obtain a broader outlook on the situation of the business by listening to some of the speeches delivered by O. E. Baker and other prominent men and women who know what they are talking about. Many of the alums are here for the week getting reacquainted as well as acquainted.

About the only activity on the campus this week is the whipping into shape the Col-Agri-Fun skits which are to be presented a week from Friday night in the Activities Building. The program promises to be one of the best ever presented.

The Harvard Crimson, student daily, has gone "Wall street" with the announcement that "From time to time . . . the Crimson will present a few individual recommendations that seem to offer better than market opportunities to make or lose tuition fees."

At the University of Alabama a girl has just enrolled in a boxing course.

CHANTS BY CHANCE.

When you hear a soft southern drawl and see the performance of Jack Nicholas as the American soldier from the south in "Yellow Jack," you will be seeing that young man in his debut as a University Player. Although he has participated in high school and junior college productions, he is a newcomer before local audiences. Besides dramatics, Jack is interested in track and sailing boats. He owns two sail boats and a motor boat, and during the summer, spends his leisure time fooling around with them. Chop Suey is his favorite dish, and one of his idiosyncracies is that he smokes nothing other than a pipe. This is Jack's junior year, but his first year was not spent here. At the present time, this blond-haired chap is assistant business manager of the Awgwan and a member of Beta Theta Pi. When he attends the movies, he prefers to see Madge Evans or Spencer Tracy. When queried concerning his ideas of an ideal girl, he said, "She must have average intelligence, a good sense of humor and be a good sport." Well, that was a very wise and rather vague statement to make; but it is understood that he likes to play the radio at the Delta Gamma House; so, enough said. Okay, Jack!

Now that the recent announcement was made of the plans formulated by the music department for presentation this coming May of the opera "Aida," it is another sign that opera is still appreciated. "Aida," Verdi's spectacular opera which will be given, closed the recent engagement of Fortune Gallo's San Carlos Grand Opera company when they were in Omaha. The tour which the company is making is Gallo's silver jubilee, or twenty-fifth annual excursion. A survey record shows that his company has sung for more than 16,000,000 persons, with an intake of almost \$18,500,000.00 in theaters and auditoriums from Maine to California, British Columbia to Louisiana. In some years the income has exceeded \$1,000,000.00. More than that amount has been

paid the railways, tours have been run as high as 25,000 miles, and total mileage has been slightly above 300,000.

Gallo has given 6,800 performances in 365 cities of forty operas, often at a season's cost for preliminary expenses amounting to \$25,000.00. The company owns a music library worth \$100,000. The impresario's best season was when he had Anna Pavlova and Leonora Duse, in addition to his opera company. He made \$300,000 that year. His best single opera week was in 1927 in Richmond, Va., with receipts of \$61,000. His record single performance was an outdoor presentation of "Aida" in New York in 1922, with 60,000 persons paying \$65,000.

This season's tour is booked for forty-four weeks, and opens for a month's season in Los Angeles the first of February, continuing to San Francisco the first of March for another month's engagement, before returning east via southern cities. When "Aida" is given here in May, the local music lovers will have a chance to see the same type of music drama this company is presenting. Reinald Werrenrath of the Metropolitan Opera company will be one of the artists scheduled to appear in leading role. So, if any of you singers are interested in being in the performance, the course in chorus is commended to you, as all students in that organization will appear.

Harvard university library has purchased a collection of more than 8,000 photographs of notables of the past century.

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It will be your opportunity. We are planning a campaign which will be sure to interest those unfortunate students who are not at present subscribers to the paper. It will be your opportunity.

The Daily Nebraskan

Contemporary Comment

A Slight Contradiction.

"But, while we are on the subject of liberty, I may confess that is something that I am very much interested in. That part of the constitution of the United States that means most to me is the guarantee of the right of free speech, free press, and free assembly. . . I haven't looked at the constitution for a long time, but that is where they were when I last looked. And I don't think that they have been deleted or trans-

planted or amended. I think they are still there."

This and more of admirable vein was expressed by Secretary Ickes in an address before a small group in Washington recently. The secretary went on to disparage such organizations as the Liberty league and such people as James M. Beck; he called "certain gentlemen who go about the land uttering loud outcries about the impending destruction of our liberties." The speech was delivered with considerable force and with apparently great sincerity; it was received with applause.

But this privilege of free speech seemingly does not apply to Park Commissioner Moses. He has criticized some of the PWA projects, and according to Secretary Ickes, he must go.

between your words and your actions, Secretary Ickes. But perhaps you wished to make that clear when you said in your address: "I think that all of us make the very human mistake of emphasizing the right which happens to mean most to us. . . It is dangerous for me to subscribe to the theory that fundamental constitutional rights may be turned on or off, just as you turn water in a spigot on or off to suit your own convenience."—Daily Princetonian.

American Legion Condemns Students.

In a banner head the Minnesota Legionnaire, official publication of the Minnesota American Legion proclaims "U. Students Ashamed of Aims Vet Fought For" and then proceeds to say no more