

Daily Nebraskan

Station A, Lincoln, Nebraska.
OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
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Associated Collegiate Press
1924-1935

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.

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Career Men and Ditch Diggers

"FORGET career-fixations and take a bread and butter job which will keep you going until you get a job in your chosen field," says Dr. Walter B. Pitkin of Columbia University and author of "New Careers for Youth."

Although this statement seems a truism, it is surprising to check up on the number of college graduates and undergraduates who may well take the advice to heart. According to the Columbia professor, the fixation of the mind on a career is the "grand tragedy in so many cases of highly trained young men of intelligence."

Newspapers throughout the United States each spring carry stories announcing long lists of young men and women who are being graduated from the nation's numerous educational institutions. Most of these young people have specialized in some particular field during their college days with an eye toward a bright career in that field. And loud has been the wailing when their would-be employers do not receive them with open arms.

In most cases the embryo career men and women honestly tried to find positions, but no positions were open. Beautiful hopes were shattered and the whole world came down around the heads of the now thoroughly discouraged youngsters who threw up their hands and muttered, "What's the use?" Thus was that necessary enthusiasm of youth completely killed.

ALL this could have been prevented if students had realized while still in college what they would be forced to face upon graduation. Old ideals could have been broken down while there was still time to build new ones. Instead, not one ray of the cold light of truth filtered thru to disturb the calm of academic halls. Collegians went merrily on their way to classes, dances and football games, secure in the belief that the economic depression was effective only on the lower, uneducated classes.

It is high time that such a situation is corrected and it is encouraging to see that such is being done to a certain extent. But to prevent further tragedy students must completely disillusion themselves. They must be prepared to dig ditches.

Mortar Board's Tea and The Grading System

MORTAR Boards are again entertaining at tea women of the three upper classes who have made an average of 80 or above for the two semesters of last year. Thus again grades are unfairly made the basis of judging educational accomplishments.

Blame, however, should not be cast upon the senior women's honorary society. They are conforming to a time-hallowed tradition of the educational world. Since grades have become the fetish that they have, it is only fitting the Mortar Boards should in some way recognize those who have succeeded in garnering a high average. Whether or not the honoree has gained anything in the way of real knowledge need not enter into consideration at all.

All this leads up to the conclusion that grades are not a fair criteria of scholastic endeavor and that the whole system is somewhere out of kilter. A student with a high average may deserve it, but on the other hand a grade of 80 is not too difficult to attain. There are certain methods known to most students by which they can slide through four years of school with a good record, and not once in those four years display any real knowledge.

FAMOUS LECTURER SPEAKS AT TEMPLE

Scholfield, Noted English Christian Scientist, Talks Sunday.

Ralph B. Scholfield will lecture on Christian Science Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the Temple theater. Sponsors of the program have invited all students to attend the free lecture as Mr. Scholfield is one of Christian Science's most prominent representatives. Mr. Scholfield comes from London, England, having obtained his education at Eaton college. A

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member of the First Church of Christ Scientist of London since 1907, he has filled many positions in the church during this time. The



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On the other hand, the best student may come out of college with no better than a 75.

Various experiments to remedy the situation have been instituted. Their results cannot be predicted with any degree of certainty, but surely they cannot lead to anything worse than the present method of evaluating a student's work.

Browsing

Among The Books

By Maurice Johnson

AMERICAN WRITERS: WALDO FRANK.

A FEW years ago newspapers carried pictures of Waldo Frank among Kentucky strikers, his head bandaged after a beating by a mob. Later he told in the New Republic, to which he is contributing editor, how he and his associates had tried to get help for the strikers, and he described unpleasant living conditions in the Kentucky hills. Certainly Waldo Frank is a spokesman for the proletariat, and one who should be listened to—but he is a number of other things as well.

Waldo Frank is an experimental novelist, a critic, a mystic, a journalist, a writer of superb and disconcerting short-stories, and a specialist on Spain and Spanish-America. He is one of the editors of the new book on America's evolving art, "Alfred Steiglitz and America," and he wrote the preface to the collected poems of Hart Crane. The man's activity seems to be boundless.

"City Block" (1922) is a volume of short-stories meant to be read as "a single organism." Subjective interpretation is here more important to Waldo Frank than any mere recording of action, and this is true of all his fiction. "Murder," the second story in the book, has in it strangely effective paragraphs:

"The baby's voice was a little green vine, stringing its way across the brown breath of the room. It clambered up into the air; it lay athwart the window; it drooped upon the bed, touching Sophie's hands with its tender shoots. It touched her ears that slept beneath her hair... Louisa's crying was red small flowers upon the green of her hunger."

Here is eloquent writing indeed; but the casual reader is likely to be frightened away by Frank's placing imagination over reality in importance. This is unfortunate, because Frank has no intention of making his work elusive. Of "Holiday" (1923) he says that it is "a story as simple and direct as I could make it..." The novel is concerned with a simple and stark enough theme: there is a lynching on a sultry Sunday in the South. It is a tale of Whitetown versus Blacktown. This is how it goes: "—What is God for? Jesus, what are you for? —Ain't it a shame God's so hard to git holt on?"

"Voices thickly dryly twine a straw tangle through the slow mass moving up to Main Street;... maze of eye-seek, lip-curl, finger-twist-and-jerk...; gnaw of the spark a cancer in their brains throbb shuttle thresh deliberate slow to Main Street: HALT."

One is so concerned with Frank's style that the story becomes of secondary interest. In "Chalk Face" (1924) Waldo Frank tells one of the best psychological mystery tales ever written, in this same intangible manner of writing. The three murders in "Chalk Face" are so far removed from reality, however, that the style is peculiarly appropriate. The book is mainly given over to the delineation of mental agony, and no ordinary reader can encounter The Man With The White Head ("it has a plastic and smooth pallor like the form of certain larvae") without feeling somewhat perturbed.

Turning from the lucidity of his "America Hispana" (1931), Frank has published another novel concocted in his intensely personal style. In "The Death and Birth of David Markand" (1934) Waldo Frank has written another book hallelujahed by critics and unnoticed by the general public. He dedicated it to "the American Worker, who will understand," but one is inclined to doubt that. The American Worker will never hear of "The Death and Birth of David Markand" because he would not understand its symbolism and strange phrasing. It is ironical that Mr. Frank's chosen audience should not know of the book, while the library-bound critics, in whom he is not interested, cry out that it is important.

But New Jersey-born Mr. Frank is not yet dead; he is only forty-six, and other books will come from him. He has something vital to say, and perhaps in time he will keep his self-expression from becoming entangled with his allegories—or perhaps we will in time accept and understand his personal style. In the preface to Hart Crane's poems he assures us that "necessity, day after tomorrow, will drive men to think personally (poetically, cosmically), in order that their survival may have meaning."

lecture which he will deliver today is one of a series to be given in the United States and Canada.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Book Shop.
The following books are in demand at the Swap Book shop: "Analytical Geometry" by Love; "Governments of Europe" by Munroe; "Social Psychology" by Allport; "Typing," college edition; Gregg Shorthand; "Money and Banking" by Bradford; and Gregg Speed Builder. Those students owning copies of these books which they wish to sell should bring them to the Swap Book shop in the Temple theater building.

Christian Science Lecture.
Free lecture on Christian Science by Ralph B. Scholfield of London, England in Temple theater Sunday, Feb. 10, at 3 o'clock. All students and faculty members are invited to attend.

Social Problems.
There will be a meeting of the Social Problems club Wednesday evening at 7:30 in the Y. M. C. A. rooms of the Temple building.

BIZAD STUDENTS TO HOLD RUSH SMOKER

Men's Commercial Group Sponsors Affair for Freshmen.

The bizad rush smoker, get-together of new bizad students entering the university, will be held at 7:30 o'clock Tuesday evening, Feb. 12, at the Delta Tau Delta fraternity house, according to an announcement by Ralph Nollkamper, president of the Men's Commercial club, honorary Bizad society which is sponsoring the meeting.

Dean J. E. LeRossignol of Bizad college will address the group, Nollkamper related, and he will probably discuss some aspects of the work connected with the college.

"Students already attending the college as well as those now entering are invited to the affair," the president stated. "The purpose of the gathering is to better acquaint the students with one another and Dean LeRossignol."

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