

Daily Nebraskan

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Power To It.

EXPIRING some years ago from an apparently unknown ailment, the Student Forum was revived Thursday morning in the Temple with much gusto and the New Deal as a theory of government as the topic for discussion.

Despite the fact that few classes were dismissed for the occasion and that many students are not on the campus at 11 o'clock, some 500 undergraduates were present to back up the arguments of their party. The discussion was wanting in spirit and enthusiasm at no time and student responses came readily and abundantly.

The event is significant in that it indicates again a willingness, in fact a definite desire, of the part of students to participate in an educational program beyond the confines of classroom and lecture hall. It calls to mind again a student need which, altho a legitimate and vital adjunct to education, has been grossly neglected by the university, for opportunity for students to participate in convocations and forums here has been entirely too scarce.

The Nebraskan has pointed out the weakness of the convocation program of which student forums may rightfully be considered a phase. Not only has no adequate auditorium for convocations been provided but the program has been entirely too meager. As a rule, three prominent speakers of national repute have been presented to the student body each year. And with that, the business of convocations has been dismissed.

This has been a "gripe" of students and student leaders for many years. But nothing has been done by the administration to remedy the situation. The revival of the student forum yesterday was not due to administrative or faculty initiative but to the student council, altho the former groups co-operated in making the event a success. Taking into account the possibility that securing more speakers of national prominence is prohibited by lack of finances, the fact remains that there has been no effort on the part of the university to utilize the talents it already possesses in the field of convocations and forums.

Nebraska is fortunate in having professors whose discourses on topics of the day or of general interest would be welcomed by student audiences. Their numbers are limited, but we do have them. Why then confine their energies and talents to the classroom when this vital, intellectual influence is so badly and urgently needed? The Nebraskan sincerely believes that convocations and forums with an all-Nebraska cast can be staged successfully and that students would support them heartily.

Thursday's program sent the student forum off to a flying start. It should now be given every incentive to flourish and prosper which it can do with speakers and talent available locally. Students and faculty should combine to develop the forum into the important and educational extra-curricular force of which its possibilities make it capable. The interest now aroused should not be permitted to lapse because of long periods between discussions.

We often hear that students today are not interested in pertinent and vital problems of today and the future. The Nebraskan feels that this criticism is unjustified, especially when students are given no opportunity to discuss them. It hopes that the administration and faculty will give students a chance to refute that criticism by establishing an adequate and comprehensive convocation and forum program, an accomplishment which is still possible this year. Certainly the attempt would not fail from want of student support.

Student Pulse

A 'Buck' Private Speaks.

TO THE EDITOR: A few minor corrections in the somewhat hasty, though earnest, letter of Co-ed F. S.

1. That the "empty honor" accorded the honorary colonel is no advertisement for war, but an evidence of social prominence and popularity, has been conclusively proved by the intense competition which goes on for that honor, and the number of candidates who aspire to it. Few women are known of who advocate war, or its advertisement. This custom, in fact, is taken from a similar old army custom by which soldiers show themselves to be gallant gentlemen as well as men of war.

2. The sabers to which Miss F. S. refer are hardly likely to fall into bloody conflict, since: (a) They are designed for use in military ceremonies only. (b) Sabers are no longer a part of the fighting equipment used in war time by the U. S. army.

3. In criticizing "brassy soldier suits," Miss F. S. automatically condemns both the regalia and members of the numerous lodges to which a large percentage of the American male population belong. In her search for ulterior motives, Miss F. S. ignores the fact that such a function really offers one of the few opportunities for men to wear something else besides the drab conventional clothes of ordinary use. The brassy uniforms are far from cheap, either in quality or design, for they are carefully styled, are noted for their neatness. No instances have been noted on this campus in which co-eds have deliberately snubbed men attired in these uniforms. To be consistent, Miss F. S. should advocate that all women appear at social functions in flour bags, carefully avoiding the use of any and all cosmetics and decorations.

4. Miss F. S.'s criticism of a lack of effective organization has been characterized as typical of a great many university activities, by leaders of student opinion, therefore need not be expressly applied to the Military ball alone.

5. Such boycotting as has been attempted has been largely the expression of "sour grapes" by men who are unable to attend the ball. In evidence, I offer the scrawled, anonymous comments on many classroom blackboards. Again, despite Miss F. S.'s prediction, there has been no general rush of refusals to accept dates for the ball.

6. (a) The ball attempts to give no proof that war is necessary. A policeman's ball could be criticized on the same grounds: That its participants are uniformed, and are prepared for trouble. Incidentally, one of the best uniformed bodies of men in the country, the American Legion, is also one of the principal opponents of war.

(b) No evidence of unified opposition to the ball has appeared. Can it be that Miss F. S. is heroically trying to break a stone wall with her head, by herself? Take care, human heads are far more fragile than stone walls.

(c) Whatever its original intention, the Military Ball has long since become merely an institution of the formal season, can hardly be interpreted as an endorsement of "violence, destruction, and desecration of human life"—Unless Miss F. S. has reference to the dancing itself!

(d) Miss F. S. may rest assured that the affair will not smack of cannon and blood, unless someone injures himself at the ball, in which case, blood-flow is a possibility. Such human sacrifice and ignorance as are in evidence, is typical only of the elaborate preparations which are being made by many people for the few hours of entertainment. Such sacrifices are perhaps foolish and ignorant, but they are typical of practically all social functions, cannot be said to be an undesirable feature of the Military Ball alone. Does Miss F. S. wish to include all social functions in her indictment?

7. Has it occurred to Miss F. S. that in writing her contribution, she was doing a splendid bit of advertising for this ball? P. T. Barnum specialized in this kind of advertising, and found it highly successful. Have a care, Miss F. S., you may find yourself one of the ball's best friends, instead of one of its bitterest enemies.

8. Miss F. S.'s capsules for gaseous pains and a bad taste are well made, but she has omitted an essential part of the prescription. These capsules should be taken with the strong, hot water of rath, because they lose their effectiveness if taken any other way. Cold water does not have a favorable effect on these capsules.

9. Lest Miss F. S. condemn this letter as a piece of propaganda, I will add the following facts:

(1). The writer is a "buck" private, and heartily opposes compulsory military training, altho he believes in the training for himself.

(2). As such, he will not be in uniform the night of the ball.

(3). This letter is written, not as advertising, propaganda, or a defense of war, but as a well-meant attempt to clear up a few points on which Miss F. S. seems lamentably ill-informed.

Bloody yours, THOMAS HICKS.



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