

Daily Nebraskan

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If Only Prayer Could Help!

PHAEDRUS, over a thousand years ago, said: "the mountain was in labor, uttering mighty groans and there was the greatest expectation in the earth. But it brought forth a mouse. This is written for you who after threatening great deeds, do nothing." Liberal arts college of the University, in this twentieth century, presented a modern parallel. Sitting in momentous council over a period of several years it heatedly debated the future of education at Nebraska. Our small world, the university, hung expectantly upon the mere utterings and least hints of its purported revolutionary changes in liberalizing education here. Finally amid the glare of publicity, the liberal arts college this year, brought forth an honor course, an educational mouse.

This honors course, a means of obtaining a degree with distinction, is a great step forward. One can most readily perceive it to be a startling innovation. Instead of applying for an honors course, it is possible through the new setup to register for it. For the first time the special course has been listed under its own heading among arts and science subjects.

After accomplishing so much during such a short period of action it was deemed necessary, by the liberal arts college, unless it over exert itself, to return to hibernation. Two startling innovations promulgated instantaneously would no doubt create such a shock to traditional university policies as to label the university radical. This would in no-wise be within the university's accepted convention of stop, look, listen, hesitate and then defer the matters to another committee.

Action of any kind would prove out of the question. In the first place it might involve criticism. Now criticism is never a good thing to undergo. Take the well-known example of Robert Hutchins, president of the University of Chicago, and one can easily see that much disparaging comment is directed his way. Secondly, while improvements might offset disadvantages it is much easier to await the results from more daring institutions and then glide along the furrow of mediocrity. Therefore an intelligent person can easily discern the advantage of being a sheep rather than a goat.

Now while it is not the intention of the Nebraskan to enter an argument upon the merits of evils accruing to sheep and goats, the Nebraskan does believe this institution is floundering because of staid and trite opinions maintained in part by the timidity of its members to branch out and expand with the progress of the times.

In this day when the world is calling for people who can and will think, when the world is crying for renewed emphasis upon intellectual and cultural attainment the university continues to stifle these forces by education continuing to adhere to antiquated and obsolete tenets.

Legion have been the number of young, progressive faculty members who joined the professorial staff with high hopes of serving an institution that might some day stand for progress. Gradually, according to the tenacity with which they held to these dreams, they were finally brought to their knees, disillusioned with the realization that attempt at reform and progress is frowned upon here. Today our faculty despairs in the face of hide-bound conservatism and clings feebly to the hope that a change may yet occur. Such a condition is not wholesome. It is either the result of timidity, lethargy, or downright ignorance on the part of the administration.

This university needs to be freed from the shackles which have throttled its academic advancement. It must liberate itself from the crippling influences of educators and administrators who persist in living and acting according to principles of a school long since relegated to the past. The university must release itself from the curse of over-specialization and institute in its place a broad, fundamental and comprehensive presentation of education.

We must not be content to wait upon the experiments of others. We must seek our own salvation for the educational ills which confront us. It is a challenge the school, which should be the greatest in the middle west, can not afford to ignore.

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.

Apathy for Examinations

To the Editor: It may be difficult to believe at first sight, but in Three Hours I learned what a whole semester's work didn't teach me. After all a course should teach a student something,

and if it fails to do so during the semester the final examination is a logical place to start. That may be an inspiration to students who are usually afraid to sleep through their classes, with the consolation that they will start the learning process with the final exam. But at first glance it isn't even good theory. If it were, the classwork might well be replaced with final examinations. And what would become of the ever-beneficent professor?

The fact, no doubt, is implied. It was a final examination which took place a short time ago, but not the usual, orthodox, conventional hair-raising and ultra-gruesome, turbulent and voluminous type which are so prevalent on this campus. We are all very well aware of these hand-cramping episodes. They are in many instances antedated by long, tedious hours of cramming, and perhaps cribbing. The definitely dumb student doesn't stand a chance; and the definitely smart are either apple crazy or just 'that way,' and in any case have probably learned too much already. It is easily observed then, that for both students the customary N. U. examination is a waste of time. Most educators will agree that for measurement purposes the subjective test is largely inadequate. And Progressive Education looks to better methods of examining than by subjecting the student to an unmotivated and uninteresting impersonal examination such as prevails to a large extent on this campus.

This may be a roundabout way of getting at the reformative explanation, but at least to the average unthinking student, as well as the unfortunate ones, the idea of doing a semester's work in three hours must of course, be striking. To arrive at the point, and will John Dewey be point up—because he's had a lot to do with modern education. Strike that off as irrelevant and unnecessary. The three hours I spent in an examination weren't accompanied by writing, or reading, and, once the professor was started it wasn't difficult to lean back easily in the chair and feel that whatever the outcome I would at least be in comfort. And it wasn't a gambling situation either, for whenever I made a statement I could give it as many qualifications as I wished, and that, is not so easy to do in writing.

The advantages are not difficult to see. There is, however, one very great disadvantage to this Personal Interview type of examination. If the professor is not perspicacious or witty or is an indifferent or slow talker the consultation would be useless and boring.

To list the advantages would be a folly, for so much of the success of this examination depends upon the professor, just as the success of a convention depends upon the principal speaker. But in general terms the advantages are these: First, ease and comfort in the process, which leads to clearer thinking; secondly, the test of a good test is the impression it leaves, and under the guidance of a professor who knows his stuff the result is bound to leave the student with a wider and more co-ordinated viewpoint of the whole subject matter. And thirdly, if it is administered like a round table discussion, where three or four students are interviewed at the same time, it places the 'whites' and 'blacks' on an equal basis. The Dumbs and the Smarts alike can enter into the discussion and each learn from the other. In one sense the Dumbs are advantageous, in that the Smarts would feel more inclined to talk—which makes the clock go around faster.

If the professors on the campus should find merit in the suggestion, and should consent to subordinate their rigid conventionality to a more elastic and flexible measuring device I am certain that the students would feel more democratic... more human... and more school-minded.—B. Z.

Off the Campus by Lynn Leonard

Blizzards and Cold have placed other news in a minor position on the pages of the newspapers, but who wants to write about the weather? Politics uses much of the space while most of the people are wondering if there is still war in Ethiopia and if the United States will be able to remain neutral. There is still a war, but definite information is difficult to obtain. Italy is claiming major victories. So is Ethiopia. The possibility of other nations in Europe becoming involved was at least suspended with the death of King George V and Edward VIII's ascension to the throne in England, which is considered to have promoted friendly feeling among nations temporarily.

has something more pressing than considering this country's attitude toward a war across the sea. The passing of the bonus bill and declaring void by the supreme court of the AAA left the country with a huge deficit. \$550,000,000 will be required to pay for the new deal's AAA substitute and the \$200,000,000 in processing taxes ordered refunded by the supreme court. Payment of the bonus will require about \$2,250,000,000. In his budget speech the president had told Congress that no new taxes would be required. He supports this stand, even after Congress and the highest court made it apparently impossible, with the statement to a press conference that there will be a new tax bill but no new taxes, only substitute taxes.

Roosevelt Received a deficiency bill from the house which carried \$196,185,000 to pay government obligations under the invalidated AAA and some 42 millions for a new social security program. The bill was preceded in the house by an argument over Postmaster General Farley. Taber of New York charged that under the democratic national committee chairman the department was being managed 50 percent worse than it was four years ago. Zioncheck, Washington, proposed an amendment to reduce the postmaster general's salary to \$1 for the year but withdrew it, explaining that he knew he could not hope to cut Farley's salary. Blanton of Texas defended him as a "good scout."



Newshawks Give Backstage Views on Foreign Headlines

Duranty, Stallings, Hunt Participate in Roundtable.

What could be better for obtaining inside information on the current international conflicts and war threats than opinions of eight ace reporters who have just returned from "exhilarating assignments in farflung corners of the restless earth?" That is the question Marlin E. Pew, publisher of Editor & Publisher asked himself and immediately invited the eight newshawks to a luncheon at the Union League club, New York, at which he asked questions to stimulate discussion. The questions are replete appearing in the Feb. 1 issue of his magazine.

What Are Edward VIII's Plans? Frazier Hunt, special correspondent for Newspaper Enterprise and the Scripps-Howard papers who has just returned from surveying the European scene began with his answer to Pew's question. "What, in your opinion, is the prospect of peace and progress in the British Empire under Edward VIII, and his probable political course?"

Hunt was of the opinion that England has two major problems. One is in the Mediterranean, which requires some formula to permit Mussolini to retain some honor in the Abyssinian affair and yet not completely cut off a road to Batsavia. The other is whether England prefers an all-dominant Germany in eastern Europe to a more powerful Soviet Union.

He thinks that if a reasonable solution of the Italian problem can be realized, France, whom England has bribed because of German threat for military assistance in the Mediterranean, and England will go back to friendly relations. Edward, according to Hunt is inclined to be pro-German, but he has not come to any definite decision. He also is worrying about Japan's advancing in the far east. Hunt thinks there is no prospect of immediate war in Europe.

Russia on Upgrade. Walter Duranty, who is a correspondent for the New York Times now on roving assignments, led the discussion on "Are capitalist nations justified in a fear of bolshevism through Russian proslaying, financing and war? What is Russia's military establishment?"

He declared that Russia has the greatest peace time military establishment in the whole world and is kept busy fortifying the east border with about four hundred thousand men and the west with about one-half million, but it has the development of its interior to consider, and with that the country is progressing.

"Japan can not longer attack Russia alone," Duranty stated, "but if Germany does something, that is another story." In reply to "under what terms is there a possibility of a settlement of the Ethiopian conflict," Josef Israels, who wrote for the New York Times from the Italo-Ethiopian war and is now public relations counsel for Haile Selassie in New York City, gave his opinion.

Selassie Underrated. "My feeling about the eventual settlement in Ethiopia is that the Ethiopians mustn't be underestimated diplomatically, because, when I say 'the Ethiopians' I mean the emperor, because Haile Selassie is no fool." He says that if Mussolini succeeds in his conquest of Ethiopia he will receive an agricultural land and a colonial army, in addition to considerable undeveloped mineral resources.

Few then asked, "what of Germany and how long Hitler?" and reply was led by Hans V. Kaltenborn, world traveler and news commentator: "Hitler, in a peculiar way, dominates the German situation," he said, "and Hitler is fundamentally a weak man, a sentimentalist; a man of no vision; a fanatic; he has a single track mind."

But the German army is not ready to start war on Russia, according to Kaltenborn, and he agrees with Frazier Hunt that there is an Anglo-German relationship and no immediate prospect of war. He thinks Goebbels is the most dangerous man in Germany, but Duranty disagreed with him, declaring that he thought the title should go to Goering.

Italy As Strong As Ever.

When asked about Italy Laurence Stallings, editor of Fox Movietone News who is just three weeks out of Ethiopia, declared that Mussolini's equipment and men in Ethiopia were second-rate and that he was keeping his best material in Europe. Italy, in his opinion, is almost as strong as ever. He thinks Ethiopia does not matter and would exist had it not been for trouble between France, England and Italy.

Wilson Hicks, picture and feature editor of the Associated Press, predicted that if there is another war there will be more photographers at that war than at any other war in history. Reply to the question, "What of the League of Nations and the power of sanctions as a peace weapon?" was started by Albin Johnson, League of Nations student and Geneva correspondent of the New York World.

He tried to defend the league only as an idea. He thinks England has been using the League for England's interests, but luckily for the League recently because the interests of England and the League have coincided.

"Sold The League Out." "As to sanction," he declared, "you can't say the League has failed, you can say that Hoare has failed or someone else has failed and sold the League out." In his opinion, the solution to international peace is the redistribution of raw materials.

Mr. Pew discussed the orient, particularly Japan, China and the Philippines. He declared that the United States should be proud of what it has done with the Philippines. They are the only Christian nation in the Far East, according to him, but they will have trouble marketing their money crops with the high tariff walls that have been erected by the American government.

"The simple fact about Japan is that she fears Russia," the publisher declared, "because Russia can strike at her vital spots." Japan looks on the United States as its mentor and model and they are praying for happier relationships, he stated.

"The little I saw in China," Pew asserted, "indicated that that nation is stunned by Japanese aggression. There is much egotistic talk but nothing seems to come out of it."



Wishing to avoid trite expressions, I will coin an original one and dub Henry (Ward) Whitaker the "Mighty Mite." Hank can stand in the shade of any of the other members arm pits, yet he is the third high scorer on the squad with 111 points. He is twenty-one years old, thus eliminating the possibility that he is not full grown. This little mass of cage aptitude came from St. Joseph, Missouri and this same little mass was an all stater in his two years of prep. He later played one year on a Missouri junior college quintet. It is a needless task to innumerate his basketball attributes, namely, his fancy dribbling, his pot sure eye, and A-1 defensive ability.

Before going into the familiar tale which I am about to unravel, please bear in mind that athletics require an infinite amount of time. To attain any success in basketball, all surplus time should be expended on the practice hardwoods. Yet along

369 TAKE EXTENSION STUDY CENTER WORK

Outstate Students Enroll in Courses Totalling 1,480 Hours. Late reports from the office of the extension division shows 369 students enrolled in outstate study center courses for a total of 1,480 hours. These figures are considered unusually optimistic in spite of the fact that the depression seems to have lifted at least for many families who had been on relief rolls. The report for Feb. 6 reveals there are twenty study centers now in operation in Nebraska and forty CCC study centers in progress in Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota, which groups are served by the extension division.

Courses most popular are high school commercial arts subjects, college English, geography of Nebraska, education, physiology and high school and college mathematics. The greater percentage of the students enrolled are between the ages of 17 and 26.

Letters to the university extension division indicate clearly that the courses are worth while and the results beneficial. Here is an excerpt from one typical letter: Genevieve Cross Clark, county superintendent of Jefferson county, expresses her opinion of the study centers: "For the most part the grades are excellent. The group reports for work at 8 in the morning and all but two work until 5 and all but one does home work at night. A wonderful spirit prevails. I feel that the student has three major advantages: 1—He gets college credit economically; 2—He must do all of the work required and 3—He sets his own pace."

NEW NEBRASKAN SUBSCRIBERS TO RECEIVE PASSES

(Continued from Page 1.) to Truman Oberndorf, business manager of the Nebraskan. Names of new readers of the Nebraskan and the number on their receipt are listed as follows:

- 28 Birdie Johnson 459 Engelen John
27 Claudine Burt 460 P. G. Taylor Jr.
28 Mack Harris 461 Alan Wrightman
28 Dale Anderson 462 Chester Patten
192 Mary Corvett 463 John Laming
26 John Lamm 464 Marion Byrd
194 John Loos 465 Lottis Therkel
195 Don Pike 466 Herbert Barken
197 Clifford Erickson 467 Robert Johnston
198 Thelma Arm 468 Jim Tiedale
199 Roberta James 469 Revn Russell
200 Ruth James 470 Fred Suckey
201 Mae George 471 Robert Hendry
202 Robert Seale 472 Mary Tree
203 Darlene Hansen 473 Orville Hutchins
204 Ford Cooley 474 David Sweeney
205 Russell Weber 475 Donald Cunningham
206 Jerome Frohman 476 Ernest Ash-
207 Bill Covald 477 Lawrence Ash-
208 Ida Jackson 478 Tom Larson
209 Eugene Patrick 479 Richard Jobman
210 Ripley 480 Paul Easter
211 Lawrence Burke 481 Norris Biesh
212 John George 482 Dietrich McCor-
213 Doris Johnson 483 Francis King
214 Sallie Peiler 484 Robert King
215 Lloyd Jeffrey 485 Bob Clark
216 Jean Hutton 486 Victor Morava
217 Margaret Andrews 487 Everett Kasper
218 John Cattle 488 Lawrence Griff-
219 Victor Morava 489 Don Reutz
220 John McDonald

SLIPS THAT PASS IN EXAMS

(Continued from Page 1.) first man of mind and matter." High honors for exam honors go to the history department, where one reader remarked that he had never had such a good laugh in his life as he did when he read the tests. Among the worst was the explanation: "The Constitution is strictly constructed so that it will last forever." "These were the points over which Parliament and the king waggled the most" one paper stated. And one of the causes of the War of 1812 turned out to be "the compression of American seamen."

New historical data came from two papers, one of which stated that "America wanted the Louisiana territory because the mouth of the Mississippi ran through it," and the other which said that "Henry VIII married his diseased brother's wife."

Language Journal Prints Saez Article on Spanish

For the January issue of the "Modern Language Journal" Prof. Hilario Saez has written an article on "The Preposition 'a' Before Spanish Place Names." This article is a study of the uses of the preposition "a" by Spanish authors from the middle ages to the present day, and bears suggestions for correcting the rule as it is stated in most Spanish grammars.

FELLMAN APPROVES NEUTRALITY POLICY

In a lecture last Thursday night before the women's extension of the Lancaster County Democratic society Prof. David Fellman approved the effectiveness of the United States present neutrality program. At the same time he criticized policies of drastic isolation, and said that the United States would be unwilling to forfeit its export trade to the extent necessary for such a program.

Prof. Schramm Reports Placements of Geologists

The geology department, Prof. E. F. Schramm, chairman, reports the following placements: Keith Rathburn, Lincoln, '34 and George Klein, Lincoln, '35, will work for the Continental Oil Co., at Ponca City, Okl.

Clark Hamilton, also of Lincoln, who graduated in 1935 has accepted a position with the Walker Mine at Plumas county, Calif. A recent visitor was Kenneth McCullum, '32, Lincoln, who is now with the Mountain Copper Co., at Matheson, Calif.

Governor's Safety Message

Irwin Ryan, Editor, Daily Nebraskan, University of Nebraska.

The traffic accident situation in Nebraska, as well as in the entire nation, has become so serious that the state and local governmental subdivisions need the support of all public spirited citizens and organizations in order to cope with this ever increasing problem of safer streets and highways.

Because of the fact that traffic accidents are taking the lives of an unprecedented number of people in our state, it has been decided to call a conference of those interested in the subject of accident prevention and safety promotion, to assemble in the state capitol at 10:30 a. m., Thursday, Feb. 13, 1936.

I know that you are vitally interested in this problem and I feel that you can offer valuable assistance. I will, therefore, appreciate your attendance at this conference.

I will be unable to contact all persons interested in helping out with this important problem. Kindly take the liberty of inviting, in my behalf, any individual whom you know would care to assist by attending this meeting.

It is hoped that the organization of a State Safety council will result from this meeting.

Very truly yours,

R. L. COCHRAN, Governor.