

Fair Comment and Criticism

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR

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'Re-Examine Your Fundamental Truths.'

The reformers are at it again. Yesterday, an investigatory committee of the Student Council submitted two reports for action by the campus' supreme governing assembly, both intended to take politics out of student elections. The Nebraska does not question their sincerity, but it does wish to inquire into their methods of reform.

The first, a plan for complete "abolition" of political combines, provides for election of Student Council members "on an entirely independent basis." Student factions are "absolutely prohibited", and "a finding of collusion by a combination subsequent to the actual election shall make the candidate so elected prima facie ineligible to hold any office during the duration of his collegiate career."

The purpose of student government is threefold: to enable students to enjoy control of their own organizations for their own welfare, to give them an opportunity to practice self-discipline, and to provide a field for men of merit to exercise leadership. It is the third purpose at which the proposal strikes. Students are not being elected because of merit, or abilities as leaders, but by political combines centering around fraternity alliances. Abolish factions, they argue, and the men of merit, filling as independent candidates, will be elected.

Such an argument is shot with inconsistencies, and based on no practical experience. There is no better parallel for comparison than women's activities, from which politics was supposedly purged. Yet the condition that no agreements have been publicized does not alter the fact that nine sororities refused to file nominees for Prom Girl this year, regardless of the "merit" any of their members might possess for the office. And to believe that an edict of the Student Council will prevent combines among fraternities is nothing short of ludicrous.

Suppose factions were abolished; imagine the Utopian dream of no alignments, each candidate an independent. What would result? Elections would become popularity contests for the athlete with the most letters, or the ladies' man with most dates, neither of which contribute essentially to the candidate's ability to serve in office. Voters would have little knowledge as to whether one out of 6,536 students would be better fitted for office than another.

The second plan, a modification of the first, is harmless. It proposes to remove party names from the ballot, as was done in the fall election, with few startling effects. It would also abolish the

Only God Can Change the Court.

A budding historian entered into the Supreme Court controversy in your Tuesday issue, adding his weighty knowledge of the past to the opinions of lawyers, journalists, and political scientists. My we come in?

Holding no brief for President Roosevelt's plan to increase the size of the Supreme Court, we wish, however, to criticize the historian's (Mr. Marshall's) defense of the Supreme Court. Mr. Marshall's letter reads, "A certain respect for the political tradition of 150 years' duration might be in keeping even with journalistic propriety."

Since when is a "respect for tradition" a prime necessity in any social order, from a practical point of view, or from an historical standpoint? Was George Washington concerned with the tradition of "God save the King?" Was Lincoln respectful of the tradition of slaveholding in the south? We sincerely doubt that even Mr. Marshall would care to defend those traditions today. Yet the Supreme Court today represents much of the same type of tyranny, under the guise of a venerable tradition, as George III typified in 1776 and the "chivalry" of the southern plantation-owner in 1861.

Mr. Marshall has attacked the plan as dictatorial—perhaps! But may we support the editor's answer that the Supreme Court is and has been, the most dictatorial department of our government. The record of judicial injunctions and the filing of power by the court throughout our nation's history shows the most consistent record of tyranny in our democracy. We suggest that Mr. Marshall read what he recommends to others—Article III, sections 1 and 2 of the Constitution of the United States.

If we are going to be constitutionalists, let's go whole hog and let Congress "from time to time ordain and establish" the makeup and personnel of the court. Where did the Supreme Court get its power to "interpret" the Constitution? A careful analysis of history shows that Mr. Marshall's namesake (an ancestor whom he is defending?), John Marshall, one time supreme justice, seized for the court the power of interpretation. Perhaps such usurpation of power was justified by the needs of that historical period. Perhaps the needs of the present historical period will bring about loss of this usurped power. Perhaps the rights of property, of which the Supreme Court has been the high priest, may be forced to give way to human rights. Intelligent historians indicate this probability.

Let us close with a quotation from Nebraska's Senator Norris, from his debate in the senate on Feb. 14, 1936, referring to the Supreme Court's decision on the AAA: "I think the decision is an amendment to the constitution; but that is not a new thing. The court has amended the constitution before. In fact the Supreme Court now, in effect, for all practical purposes, is a continuous constitutional convention. 'The people can change the congress, but only God can change the Supreme Court.' D. R. BURLEIGH, Graduate Student of History. H. F. JONES, Graduate Student of Economics.

Bulletin

PI Lambda Theta.
Pi Lambda Theta, honorary professional teachers organization, will meet Thursday, Feb. 18 at 5 o'clock in Ellen Smith Hall.

Barb Volleyball.
All entries for the barb intramural volleyball contests must be in the intramural office before Friday noon.

Fair Board.
The Farmer's Fair board will meet tomorrow, Feb. 18, at 7:30 p. m. in the Home Economics parlors.

ARCHERY CLUB.
There will be a meeting of the Archery Club in the Girls Gym at 5 o'clock tonight. Pictures for the Cornhusker will be taken and all members are urged to be present.

Interclub Council.
Members of the barb interclub council are requested to meet at the campus studio at noon Thursday for the Cornhusker picture.

Furthermore, the presidential appointees will have to have the confirmation of our representatives. Witness the enviable success of England, which leads the world in political science; yet, England has no judicial review whatever—other than the tribunal of public opinion. . . . Indeed, a packing of the supreme court will simply mean a fruition of the enactment of the public will so emphatically expressed last November—the enactment of expedient, indispensable legislation in keeping with progress and social justice.

Now let's turn to the alternative—constitutional amendment. I am in perfect harmony with Dr. Stoke, who says: (Ed. note: Dr. Stoke's full quotation can be found in the Nebraska of Feb. 7. He views some method of liberal interpretation as inevitable, "like it or not," and shows the amendment system to be practically unworkable.)

Is Dr. Stoke right? As the apostate A. Smith says, "Let's look at the record." The last two amendments, the repeal and lame duck, involve no great economic issue; one involves a technical, procedural change, the other, a moral change. But the great social and economic problem, the child labor amendment, relic of the middle ages and disgrace to society that it is, falls short of ratification because of the pressure of a small, self-seeking minority.

Any form of government which time and again invalidates the public will and engulfs our machinery with stagnation is incontrovertibly undemocratic. Our government will be more democratic when our supreme court is liberalized, thereby permitting the rule of the people through their representatives without a supreme court guillotine threatening the life of every great social measure.

Prom Committee Signs Anson Weeks as Faculty Changes Date to March 6
(Continued from Page 1.)

band available, and consequently the finest party of the year. With Anson Weeks we hope that we satisfy the students' desire to dance to a truly big time orchestra at a reasonable price.

Satisfy Students' Desires.
Jane Walcott, co-chairman, states "Members of the prom committee have fully realized how much the student body wants to dance to a really good orchestra, and it was with this thought in mind that we were able to secure Anson Weeks and his orchestra."

Anson Weeks' orchestra was secured thru the services of an association of midwest colleges with a central booking agency. Member schools of the Big Six conference have access to the booking agency's services in securing top-notch American dance bands. Anson Weeks and his orchestra play Thursday, March 4, at the University of Oklahoma, Friday, March 5, at the University of Kansas, and Saturday, March 6, at the University of Nebraska.

Uhr's Presentation Wins.
The presentation plan submitted by Gordon Uhr was announced by the presentation committee as the winning plan for the presentation of the 1937 prom girl. His introduction scheme, termed "unusually clever" by members of the prom committee, won the \$10 prize.

Filling date for prom girl entries has been extended to Friday noon, Dave Bernstein announced Wednesday.

Tickets go on sale Monday, Feb. 22, at the price of \$1.50 per couple. Members of the prom committee and Corn Cobs will sell tickets. Members of the committee from whom tickets may be purchased are Jane Walcott, Dave Bernstein, Betty Cherny, Web Mills, Virginia Anderson, Bob Wadhams, Marie Kotouc, Bill Clayton, Rosalie Moti, Genevieve Bennett, Al Moseman and Bob Martz.

F. Sorenson Reappointed As Instructor at Ohio U.
Frank M. Sorenson, formerly assistant in geography at the university and now graduate assistant in geography at the state university of Ohio, has received notice of his reappointment as assistant instructor for next year. Mr. Sorenson was formerly superintendent of schools at Syracuse, Neb., and is now carrying on his graduate program leading toward his doctor's degree in geography.

Meet Your Senator

John Knickrehm, Grand Island.

When we asked Senator John Knickrehm of Grand Island whose interests he was down here fighting for, he told us, in no uncertain terms, that the interests of the common people were nearest to his heart.

But a glance at the senate file records cast more specific light on the record. Of the scores of bills he has introduced, they have covered nearly every phase of public welfare. One proposed codification of the professional practices of engineers; another set up standards for barbers and cosmetologists. One dealt with the regulation of itinerant merchants; another proposed the regulation of unfair business practices. Teachers' retirement provisions, gas taxes, collateral on public funds, liability laws for cities on injuries to employees—everything falls into the scope of this lawmaker. When he told us that he represented the common people, perhaps he wasn't just kidding a kid reporter.

He has one interest we're sure is common with the rest of us—Cornhusker football. Asked his opinion on the acquisition of Lawrence McCeney Jones, he replied with a declarative "He's all right. He ought to put a lot of color into this team."

Football isn't his only sports interest. Formerly a ball player, Senator Knickrehm is head of the Grand Island ball club, and formerly president of the state baseball league.

This is Senator Knickrehm's first term in the legislature. He is a republican, counts forty-six birthdays, has three children, and represents district No. 39, which includes Hall and Merrick counties.

Schlesseman to Teach At Ohio Summer Session
Dr. George W. Schlesseman, professor of geography at the university in 1935, and now professor of geography at the A. & M. college in Texas, has been engaged to teach in the summer session of 1937 at Ohio University at Athens.

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CAMERA CLUB ELECTS PROF. KIRSCH, HARKNESS

Faculty Members to Serve On Executive Board of Lincoln Group

Two members of the university faculty were elected officers of the Lincoln Camera club at the regular meeting Tuesday night. They were Prof. Dwight Kirsch of the fine arts department and Prof. D. H. Harkness of the civil engineering department, who were elected executive committee members for one and two years respectively.

"Students are always invited to attend meetings of the Lincoln Camera club" assured Mr. Claude Pilger, who was re-elected president. "We are gratified," he continued, "to have received a membership of sixty, the highest in the four years' existence of the club, and hope to include an increasing number of students as members."

The other officers elected were Mr. F. E. Roth, vice-president, and Miss Madeline Girard, secretary-treasurer.

DEBATERS ARRIVE AT KNOX COLLEGE TODAY

(Continued from Page 1.) eastern cities. All the debates will permit audience discussion and questions in an open forum that will follow the main speeches.

Curtis is a new man to the University squad this year but has had considerable experience in high school and college forensics. Krueger was a member of the Nebraska representation to the Student Legislative Assembly in Topeka in January 1936. At the legislature he took a prominent part in both committees and sessions of the House and was chosen leader of the Independent party. Krueger debated on the Nebraska squad last year and so far this season has debated against Kansas State college, the University of Kansas, and the University of South Dakota.

Another representation of Nebraska forensics will be heading south today as Coach H. A. White and four other members of the Nebraska squad travel to Sabetha, Kas. for a series of debates. This evening at 6 p. m. James Reilly will meet a representative from Kansas State university on the subject. "Resolved, that Kansas should adopt a system of old age pensions." The debate will be held before the Kiwanis club of Sabetha. Then at 8:30 this evening James Edward Murray will debate against another representative of K. U. on the same subject before the Brown County farm bureau.

Friday noon Bryce Smith and Byrle Shuck will meet the Kansas arguers before the Holten, Kansas Rotary club. At 3 o'clock the same Jay Smith and Shuck will challenge K. U. over radio station KFEQ at St. Joseph. The question will be "Resolved, that we should approve the social security act."

A preliminary announcement of the courses and instructors available for the forty-third summer vacation of the university was issued in a bulletin from the extension division, Dr. A. A. Reed, director.

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Student Pulse

Critic Howard Answers His Critics.

To the Editor:
From the friendly letters appearing in the Student Pulse of yesterday's Nebraska, I learn a number of surprising things:

1. Webster's dictionary is the ultimate authority in the definition of terms. (Perhaps the department of philosophy should be informed of this innovation.)
2. That the person who wrote the review of the Players' most recent effort, namely, myself, is "offensive, insultingly insolent, and vulgar."
3. He is dishonest, a crook, a reporter, and a little boy.
4. That the patrons Monday night were forced to reach for hankies after hankies in a vain effort to stifle their heart-rending sobs.
5. That the reviewer did not read the right play, perhaps he didn't read any play, and that it is entirely possible that he cannot read at all.
6. That a certain Mr. Max Gould, a self styled "martyr" and "humble student of the speech department" thinks that the play was swell, that the critic is not a "crook" and justly deserves a Bronx cheer.
7. That everyone in the audience except the reviewer immediately presented Miss Peterson with a gardenia at the final curtain.
8. That my prose is at the same time "vivacious" and "rank."
9. That "Lost Horizons" is not "Lost Horizons" at all, but another play by the same author bearing the same name. This new play is called "Lost Horizons" and is not to be confused with the old play by the same name, by the same playwright, with most of the same characters, much of the same dialogue and many identical scenes. Thus it is easy to see that it is an entirely different play.
10. That the only persons who read the review and disagreed violently enough with its tone

to write a Student Pulse were students in the department of speech.

May I humbly try to defend myself on a few of the charges:

In item 5 of the bill of particulars a reference is made to the "original script" which I did not read. May I here and now relate a little story, the history of the play "Lost Horizons." Once upon a time there was a man by the name of Harry Segall who wrote a play which Rowland Stebbins would not produce. He called it "Lost Horizons." This would be, I suppose, the "original script," but let us refer to it simply as No. 1. Stebbins called in a man by the name of Dunning, who attempted to collaborate with Segall, but the play remained pretty much as it had been. This is number 2. Segall then went to Hollywood where he wrote still another version, which we will call No. 3. Stebbins bought No. 3 and called in a Mr. Hertz to revise it. The result we will call No. 4, and here I quote Burns Mantle: "Apparently no one liked it but Mr. Hertz." Stebbins had a stage director called John Hayden, who rewrote the thing another time, making now, No. 5.

This version was called "Lost Horizons" and John Hayden is acknowledged to be its author. As such, it was produced on the 15th day of the month of October in 1934, at St. James theater, on 44th street near Broadway, with the leads being played by Jane Wyatt and Walter Gilbert. It ran six weeks and six days, and had several false alarms at closing.

When the University Players' publicity announces that "Lost Horizons" the "Broadway success" (six weeks and six days) "by John Hayden" is to be produced, one would naturally assume that they were going to produce "Lost Horizons" as it played St. James. (No. 5) or at least an emasculated version thereof. In the jump from 44th street to "R" street, someone has rewritten the thing again, making No. 6, dragging in by the heels the spectacle of science fighting to

save humanity from infantile paralysis.

I suppose that I might have looked up Mr. Harry Segall, and talked him into letting me read the "original script" by the original author," which Mr. Gould so blandly assumes that the players are presenting.

I contend, with a certain amount of factual evidence, that the players are not presenting the original version by the original author." That they are presenting a REVISED VERSION (No. 6) of the Broadway production by John Hayden (No. 5), and that in referring to it in their publicity as "a three act drama done on Broadway a season or so ago" (Lincoln Sunday Journal and Star, February 14, 1937) they are guilty of misrepresentation of fact. If it is not the same play as presented in 1934 at St. James theater, it is dishonest to refer to it as such.

If the department of Speech and Dramatic Art, and the students enrolled in it, do not agree with me as to the worth of the play, and want to call me a few bad names, I do not mind. If, in good taste, they call me a bad critic, poor writer, say that I am lacking in discernment, all I can say is that that is their opinion, and I shall stick to mine. I wrote what I thought, refraining with some difficulty, from engaging in personalities at a thing which my opponents seem unable to do. If I ever cover a play for the Nebraska again, (I am not affiliated with the newspaper profession) I shall write as I please. Oliver Howard.

The Nebraska Agrees.

To the Editor:
Monday school was excused at 10 so that university students could attend the Charter day program in the coliseum. Over 5,000 were let out of classes and about 2,000 showed up at the convocation. Where was the rest of the student body, the other 3,000 who had been liberated for the occasion? Perhaps, if you had dropped into the Drug, the Moon, or the Tasty Pasty we would have found a portion of the deserters. Others were lounging around in fraternity and sorority houses or pur-

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