

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR

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Tottering University Hall—The Shame of the Campus

A large transom window above the doorway into the Nebraska office, its frame rotting and its murrings warped by the decaying foundation of University hall, was blown out by the high winds yesterday and crashed to the floor. Any person entering the office at the time would have been severely injured. Had the velocity of the wind been much greater, the entire wall would have probably collapsed.

If University hall is being preserved for the sentimental tradition associated with the first building erected on the campus, those sentiments have mellowed to the point of rotting. But if its decaying remains still stand because of the lack of an adequate building program for the university, the trustees of this institution—the legislature, and the people of the state—should become rightfully alarmed.

In an old edition of Morton's History of Nebraska, the author comments that "The early public building of Nebraska were remarkable in being of a uniform structural type; all of them had to be propped up or burned down to keep them from falling down." University hall was one of those structures that had the misfortune to be propped up.

For fifteen years—until 1886—University hall was "The University." It housed every department and college, and its eight base burners warmed the first hardy scholars in their pursuit of Latin and literature through raw Nebraska winters. In a tiny cubicle on the second floor, Professor Caldwell conducted his seminar in history and economics. There Miss Ellen Smith taught Latin and Greek, and in another corner of the first floor, Professor Collier gave the first course in physics, cradling the college of engineering. Professor Fogg, later the first head of the department of journalism, conducted his famous "think shop" within its walls. On the third floor was a dormitory. Right inside the door could be found the office of Chancellor Benton and a library that averaged seventy new volumes a year. There was a spirit of humanism that characterized the building, but it came from the students and instructors, not the bricks and mortar.

For the whole history of University hall, as a building, is hardly inspiring. As the feature in today's Nebraskan illustrates, the structure was condemned from the start, and only constant patching and propping have saved it from a strong wind.

Built in 1869, celebrated with a dance that lasted until four in the morning, the whole city of Lincoln rejoiced over the new institution arising on the flats of Salt Creek. But before the building was completed in 1871, the cry arose that its construction was insecure. Before a single student had entered its doors, three professional architects examined the building, recommended certain repairs be made to increase its safety. In 1873, the

Board of Regents voted in special meeting to tear out the walls and put a new foundation under one wing. In his report of 1877, the Chancellor again called attention to the condition of the building, and the regents resolved to tear it down, and erect a new one at the cost of \$80,000. Citizens of Lincoln, fearing that the university might be removed to Nebraska City, quickly raised \$6,000 for superficial repairs.

In spite of all their noble efforts, the roof began leaking, so 1883 saw \$1600 sunk into a new slate roof. When a hotel on 12th street collapsed from old age in 1916, concern was again felt towards University hall, and after another investigation and condemnation, the heavy steel rods that now decorate the ceiling were added to keep the walls from caving in. With the exception of minor repairs, U hall's defects were ignored until 1925, when a collapsing stairway caused another investigation. This time, it was decided to remove all but the first floor and basement, after examiners had termed the building totally unsafe.

At that time, Chancellor Avery issued this public statement: "I hope that the repairs on the stairs will make University hall safe for the present. We will not open the hall for use of large classes until competent experts authorize its use. I do not anticipate that this will have any effect on the present building program, but we shall probably ask the next legislature to provide for housing the departments now in University hall and Nebraska hall." Twelve years later, and the present administration is still asking.

Today, ugly and decapitated, University hall still stands, a monument to indifference. With all its fire and accident hazards, it houses the entire department of romance languages, the school of journalism, publications offices, and meeting rooms. Condemned many times since 1925, it is a threat to the safety of faculty and students who are housed within its cockroach-infested walls.

Some day, an electorate and a legislature that are aware of the needs of the university will remove the last remains of the decaying structure that now clutters the campus. We will not sorrow in its passing. We revere its memories, but they will live long after the ugly shell is gone. No words could explain better the remains of University hall than the poem "University Hall," written in 1925 by M. C. Thomas for a class in poetics.

There is no one to understand this place.
 Destroy it quickly, tear the powdered walls.
 Stop not to see the yellow fragments fall,
 Rebound in dust and quiver in the sun!
 Here is a body with the spirit fled,
 Hollow, forgotten, Don't pretend to grieve.
 You headlong and impious ones who swarm
 About it now! You're of another race.

Where is the spirit of this barren place,
 This loyal, ruined, ill-made house of ours?
 —Wherever keep the heroes of the plains,
 —Wherever wait the hopes of driven years,
 —Wherever rest the souls of pioneers.

Inquiring Reporter

Beginning with this edition, the Nebraskan will daily present comments of students on some problems of timely interest. A different group of students will be interviewed each day in an effort to add variety to the comments and make the opinions here expressed a true cross section of the university.

Featured in yesterday's Nebraskan was an article which quoted Dean R. A. Lyman, head of the pharmacy department and of the student health service. In view of the recent 25 million dollar government subsidy for a nation-wide educational campaign against syphilis, Dean Lyman stated, "Part of every man and woman's education should be to understand hygienic living and the prevention of disease. Any school system that does not provide such courses falls as an educational institution."

So far, such courses have been conspicuous in their absence from the schedule of students in general. Because facilities are inadequate, and a favorable hour is not set aside for the course, Dr. Lyman's physiology class, the only general course in the university offered on the subject, has been limited to 30 or 40 students.

In view of the current student interest in the topic, the question, "Do you favor a general course, available to all students, in sex education and marriage hygiene as proposed in yesterday's Nebraskan by Dr. Lyman?" was asked.

Mildred Holland, Teachers college senior:
 "I am heartily in favor of such a course. There isn't enough attention paid to so important a matter. It is a subject with which everyone should be reasonably familiar. If a university is to be co-educational, the performing of such a function is absolutely necessary."

Delford Brummer, Arts and Sciences senior:
 "I'd favor it as an elective, but not as a required course for any degree. It is practical, necessary, and covers a field in which every

student should be vitally interested."

Evelyn Hannah, Ag college sophomore:
 "A very interesting and constructive course. It would take up the problems which we will all face sooner or later, and aid in living a normal, sane, and healthy life."

Patrick Kelley, Arts and Sciences freshman:
 "Good idea. Everyone should be educated in regard to sex matters, and especially in the field of venereal disease. Such a program of education would do away with diseased children and moral degenerates. It would better the morals of the students and in general clear up the attitude of one sex toward the other."

Frances Scudder, Bizad junior:
 "An excellent idea. It is a subject with which most people are not sufficiently familiar. Too much of the common knowledge is here, say and not based on fact. After all, our colleges and universities are training grounds for life, and that plays a very important part in life. Such a course should be available to the students of all the colleges, for, no matter what else we do, most of us will make a home."

Al Simpson, Arts and Sciences sophomore:
 "I'm in favor of such a course. I favor a more open and healthful viewpoint, throw a little light on these facts which have remained too long in the dark! We recognize it as an important problem, and a little education on the matter would in time improve our people."

Ethel Jensen, Teachers college senior:
 "I believe such a course would be a good idea. In some states physical examinations are now being required before people can marry. This seems to show that a fight for healthy enlightenment is being carried on. Really a valuable function, which the university should perform."

Ralph Wodruiff, Arts and Sciences junior:
 "Sex is a subject about which everyone knows a little. Since we are going to learn about it, I believe that it would be much better to secure our knowledge thru the medium of education rather than by means of smutty jokes."

Elinor Brown, Arts and Sciences freshman:
 "It's a subject that is too often

avoided. Civilization as a whole would be better if education were available on such matters."

James Lawson, Teachers college freshman:
 "Too many times wrong ideas and impressions are gained from faulty sources of such information. It is a function that every co-educational school should perform."

LARSON WINS MICHIGAN GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Ag Major Gets Award for Showing at National Judging Contest.

Richard Larson, ag college senior from Newman Grove, has been awarded a graduate scholarship to Michigan state college for his showing on the college dairy products judging team in national competition last fall. The award is offered by the Dairy and Ice Cream & Supply company.

The judging team, of which Larson was a member, won fourth place honors in the nation contest at Atlantic City. Larson is majoring in dairy manufacturing and expects to go to East Lansing next September to take up his graduate work. He is the fifth University student to win the award. Only 42 have been awarded to students thruout the country.

The Nebraska team was composed also of Albert Pearl, Norman Weitkamp and Arell Wasson. Dr. P. A. Downs is the coach.

Geology Grad Given Job With Shell Oil Company

Alfred N. Sharrick '37, graduate of the department of geology, has secured a position as computer in the geophysical department for the Shell Petroleum corporation, Tulsa, Okla.

In The Infirmary

Editor's note—Commencing today the Nebraskan will print daily the names of students who were received and discharged from the university infirmary.



Senator Harry L. Pizer had just retired to his hotel room following a busy session of unicameralism when the Daily Nebraskan reporter called. A man with dark hair beginning well back on his forehead, a prominent black moustache, and wearer of attracting horn-rimmed glasses, Senator Pizer was slowly preparing for a banquet which keeps most of the representatives busy during their dinner hours.

But Senator Pizer had time enough to point out that he considered none of the bills before Nebraska's first unicameral assembly greatly significant. "Aside from a few corrective measures, we do not need any new legislation," the senator maintained.

Opposed to a new sales or income tax reform, the representative from North Platte explained emphatically that he was not in favor of legislating for 5 percent of the people. The senator is considered by one of his colleagues as being the "humorist of the house."

Senator Pizer, who he tries to ease the strain of legislative debate by a bit of humor, is sincere in what he says and does. A member of both the regular and special sessions of the 1935 bi-cameral legislature, the senator is in hearty approval with the new state legislative organization. He feels sure that not as much "personal legislation" was introduced in the present assembly as there was in former years, and is convinced that the senators are sincerely legislating on bills that they consider would be a benefit to the people.

"I consider the legislature members as a board of directors for the state and such members should govern themselves in the spending of money in the same manner as would the board directors of a corporation."

Born in North Platte where he has lived all his life, Senator Pizer represents Lincoln and Frontier counties which comprise the 38th district. He attended Wentworth Military academy and later was a student at the World War. The representative is a democrat, 39 years of age, and is not married. Senator Pizer read the Daily Nebraskan even before this reporter knew that there was a university, but there was no "Meet your Senator."

Bulletin
 Kosmet Klub.
 Kosmet Klub tryouts will continue Thursday evening, starting at 7:30 p. m., at Temple theater.
 Farmers Fair Board.
 Farmers Fair Board will meet Thursday evening at 7:30 p. m. in the home economics parlors.

Lutherans.
 Lutheran Student club meets Friday evening, 8:15 o'clock, Feb. 26th in 203 Temple. Prof. Alexis will be the speaker. All Lutheran students are invited.

Corn Cobs.
 All Corn Cobs are requested to report at the student activities office in the coliseum today or Friday and check out fifteen Junior-Senior Prom tickets. One free ticket is awarded for the sale of 15 cducats.



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ART EXHIBITION DRAWS PRAISES OF INSTRUCTORS

"Surprisingly good," is the favorable comment of the fine arts faculty which judged the regional art exhibit of the Junior League which is now showing on the north wall of the third floor corridor in Morrill hall. It will remain on display until March 14.

According to Kady Faulkner, painting and drawing instructor, there are some parts of the exhibit that are very good, especially in the water color section. R. H. Williams, instructor in sculpture and ceramics is much impressed with the quality of the sculpture exhibited. "All things considered, the works show serious application and use of ability," he believes.

Variety Art Forms.
 A great variety of art forms are represented in the exhibition. There are masks, sketches, wall paper and textile designs along with photographs, many taken abroad, water colors and oils. Sev-

eral examples of professional art are shown. In the corridor show case on the second floor, there is an additional handcraft display and the statuary pieces.

First and second prize ribbons were awarded in each section by representative members of the fine arts department who judged the exhibit. The winning entries will go to the national Junior League exhibition. The present exhibit includes the best works of Junior League members in the 19 sections in region seven which encompasses territory from Winnipeg, Canada, to St. Joseph, Mo., and from Chicago to Lincoln.

A similar meeting is held every other year by the arts department of the Junior League. This is the first time that Lincoln has acted as hostess to the regional exhibition. A business meeting will be held next Tuesday afternoon at the Cornhusker hotel.

The purpose of the arts department of the Junior League, as explained by Mrs. Walter White, in charge of the exhibition, is to make art available to indigent persons and to utilize the artistic ability of the members themselves.

Miss Gellatly Gets Stolen Purse Back In Cracker Carton

That a cracker carton may contain considerably more than the contents usually found within was shown yesterday when the purse, stolen Monday from the office of Miss Pauline Gellatly, instructor in dramatic art, was returned to her in the afternoon mail, wrapped in the covering of a cracker box. The contents were left intact, with the exception of 75 cents in coin which was taken. The address was in a rather crude type of printing. Police have secured fingerprints from the articles within the purse, which may lead to a solution of the theft.

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