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 Editor Dorothy Bentz.

Editorials

Culture With Democracy

With assertions that the university is not and can never be democratic as long as there are compulsory languages and mathematics entrance requirements, several high school principals in Nebraska have expressed their strenuous objections to the present system of regulation. These educators declare that they are expressing the attitude of many people in their communities, the tax payers who make the state university possible. The parents of the present students of university age are interested particularly because it is their children who will be permitted to enter the university or will be kept from entering by this regulation.

That the principals are justified in bringing to the attention of the university authorities the criticism of those men and women who support the institution is, of course, granted. It is not only their privilege, but their duty as members of a democratic society. Whether the demand that they make is a justifiable one, one that would be beneficial to the university is an entirely different matter.

They contend that setting up

minimum requirements that must be met is undemocratic, that it is not in accord with the basic ideas of American government. To discover whether or not this accusation is true, it is necessary to consider the meaning of the term democracy. In the true sense of the word, the term means equality, politically and socially. With this meaning in mind, however, is it not possible to say that all education is undemocratic since it violates the principle of equality. As soon as a person has received a little education, does he not become superior and, therefore, unequal to the person who has not had any educational advantages? The answer is, of course, obvious.

It is for this reason possible to cast aside at the outset the claim that the university system is wrong because it is undemocratic. To as great an extent as possible, the university is a democratic institution, because it accepts all those who can meet the entrance requirements; but it is not and can never be democratic in the sense that all its students are equals.

Its very purpose is opposed to the doctrine of equality. When it was established with the aim of furthering intellectual pursuits and providing cultural training, it was not for the end of making men equal, but of making leaders, who would guide those not so fortunate as themselves. It is for this purpose that the University is needed. Its existence is vital to the life and growth of the race, altho it violates entirely the democratic doctrine. For those individuals who are not interested in a cultural background, there should be an institution where a technical knowledge can be gained. Such an institution is needed today. Altho it would have no entrance requirements, it, too, would be undemocratic, as far as equality is concerned. But it would be filling a definite need in helping youth to make a living as the University should fill a definite need in helping youth to learn how to live.

Altho it is true that the requirements have been somewhat lessened for the coming year, they are rigid enough that the University (at least the college of arts and sciences) is fulfilling its purpose by maintaining some entrance requirements.

News Parade

BY MARJORIE CHURCHILL

Statuary Goes Respectable

Don't look now but—!! It's pants for "The Prodigal Son" and brassieres for Venus and the other lady statues, with a gravestone cutter or Kankakee, Illinois, as designer and clothier. At least, so the story was told by an enterprising reporter when the Kankakee school board proposed changes in the collection of some fifty pieces of statuary presented to them by George Gray Barnard, internationally known sculptor. And the statues nearly went back to their furious donor, until profuse apologies from the school board and promised removal of the objectionable garb kept the statuary in Kankakee and brought in the gravestone cutter again to repair damages.

Safety Pin Industry Boom

Move over, buddy! And one tiny communist is pushed over in the already crowded maternity crib to make room for the newest arrival, as Russia's "mass production" nears the mark of an 8,000,000 increase during the past year. Hospitals are filled to overflowing, and clubs, restaurants and factory kitchens become the scene of a seething, squirming mass of blessed events. Harvesting and the work in the factories are in many places at a standstill, as mothers "leave their agricultural crop to tend a human one," leave the fodder in the fields to rear a generation of potential cannon fodder. Meanwhile, Mussolini's subsidies to large families, taxes on childless couples, and similar tactics, Hitler's pep talks asserting that "That country alone has a safe future in which diapers wave beside the national flag"—none have brought the enormous influx of new arrivals of which Russia boasts. If it's a war time policy, then Russia has really gone "over the top."

Steed Takes on Armor . . .

He may be a rather old plug, but he's really sparkling around a bit these days, going respectable and adding a bit of haberdashery. It's the horse of the fruit vender who delivers near the campus, and it was no early morning grogginess or morning-after hallucinations that caused us to see the other morning that Dobbin had taken upon himself overalls and was wearing them on his frontal half with all the air of knowing what the well dressed horse shall wear. The sudden adoption of the wearing apparel may have been to keep the flies off, but then again—with automobiles decked out in hoods, coats of paint, radiator caps and other accessories—he may be keeping up with the Joneses!

To Be Specific . . .

What do you want? And have you found her? If you have, then she "looks like a blonde, talks like a brunette, and acts like a redhead," says Mrs. Nelle Stull, who's been setting up a sort of national get-together organization for widows and widowers. More explicitly, what young bachelors want, says she, is "good looks, health, a good figure, a girl with a job and money." And women? "Women want a meal ticket, excitement and caveman stuff."

But no mention is made of the ways and means of making connections, of getting said husband or wife, made-to-order. Practical solution remains for followers of the Pat Pending of Oz Black fame—to reduce the situation to a mail order catalogue basis, with marital prospects tabulated and published with illustrations and descriptive paragraphs, the bachelor or spinster to select the type and specify color, height, weight and disposition. And may we suggest arrangements for refunds and money back guarantees?

Speech Students to Give 'Merchant of Venice' July 28, 29

(Continued from Page 1.)

Straub has been attending the Catholic University of America in Washington, D. C., this past year and has continued her dramatic work while there in the Blackfriar's Club, a community theater group in the nation's capital. She is in Lincoln this summer for her vacation and returns to the department of speech to recreate the role she portrayed so effectively in the first Shakespearian festival at Nebraska in May, 1936. Playing with her will be Eleanor Compton, a veteran University Player, in the role of Nerissa.

Another newcomer on the Temple stage will be Charles Alexander in the role of Bassanio, lover of Portia. Mr. Alexander was a former member of the department, but for several years has been in Los Angeles, California, attending the Chouinard's Art School of Scene Design. He returns to Hollywood in mid-August to enter the Ben Bard's Dramatic School in preparation for work in the motion picture field. He, too, is vacationing in Lincoln, and like the postman taking a holiday hike, he is relaxing by memorizing lines, attending rehearsals and creating a new character.

In the title role of "The Merchant of Venice" is William Miller, who is equally at home on the concert stage, the radio, or behind the foots. For once Mr. Miller has no singing demands made of him, for as Antonio he plays a sympathetic yet appealing older friend to the two young lovers. The remainder of the cast is equally able. Many player veterans and several new faces will be found in the various roles.

Among those whose work is anticipated are: George Blackstone, talented juvenile actor whose work in the Children's Theater and the KFAB Children's Theater has been outstanding, cast as Lancelot, page boy to Bassanio; Arthur Ball as the boisterous Gratiano; Harmon Rider as Lorenzo, successful suitor of Jessica, Shylock's daughter. Ruth Van Slyke, whose momentary appearance in "The Senator's Husband" completely brought down the house, plays Jessica.

With cooler weather the general rule this summer, the Department of Speech is anticipating a record audience each night. The popularity of the play, coupled with the excellence of the cast, makes "The Merchant of Venice" a "must" on Summer Nebraskan's entertainment list.

CAMPUS WORLD

Earl T. Platt, director of supervised correspondence study, left Wednesday afternoon for Missoula, Mont. where he spoke on "New Frontiers in Supervised Correspondence Study" at the western division meeting of a national conference on extension work. Sessions were held at the University of Montana. Platt also was a panel discussion leader.

Members of the state geological survey and the federal department are now out in Scottsbluff county making an analysis of the water resources in this area of Nebraska.

Mrs. Katherine Schiefen, secretary to Dean J. E. LeRossignol of the college of business administration, has just published her eighth annual news letters to graduates of the college.

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WORCESTER TO GIVE TESTS TO DISCOVER DEFECTS IN READING

Tests for defects in reading will be made under the sponsorship of Dr. D. A. Worcester, head of the department of educational psychology and measurements, on Tuesday, July 20, from 2 to 4 p. m. in Teachers College, room 320. Although these tests are principally for the benefit of educational psychology students, anyone interested may attend, it was announced.

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