THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

THIRTY-SEVENTH YEAR

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ON THIS DISUB

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The Editor Speaks

To the Pub Board;

Gentlemen, you are meeting tomorrow to choose a new staff to suffer, sin, and shine with the Daily Nebraskan for another semester. Since this is the last letter I shall ever write you, bear with me, I'd like to make some sug-

There is something you should consider besides staff positions. It is in your power to initiate a change in policy on the Nebraskan, which would have a most vital and important influence on this campus.

But first I must tell you a story. I made it up so it's probably not very good. Anyway, my story concerns a mythical group of athletes, say about 200 of them. These athletes are all potential football players, but, as yet, they know nothing about the sport. They are victims, or benefactors, of newspaper publicity. These 200 athletes, all fine physical specimens, have heard a lot about football and they want to learn to play it.

Consequently, they find themselves at a university in the fall. They all turn out for the first football practice, get their suits, and betake themselves to the stadium greensward with the school's coaches. The coaches make a few speeches, introducing themselves around, and then assign limbering up exercises for the

first day. The next day the football enthusiasts go again to the stadium and go thru some drills that are not too exciting. The boys begin thinking that football isn't what it's cracked up to be. On the third day one of the boys brings a jack knife with him and smuggles it into his football suit. When the coaches start their instructions, he nudges

a companion and shows him the jack knife. Know how to play mumbledepeg?' asks the culprit.

'Sure, let's play." Two others join the little game and these four don't pay much attention to football that afternoon. The next day there are three groups of mumbledepeg at the stadium. The brighter boys-Coach Jones calls them the better boys -all bring their knives after a few days, and mumbledepeg becomes the important activity of many of the men who could have become the best football players.

These mumbledepeg players really came to learn how to play football, but, well they already knew how to play mumbledepeg and football was a little complicated, and the campus daily was lots more interested in mumbledepeg as something with more originality and sparkle than football. Consequently, the best potential football players never became very good football players. Their attention was distracted by mumbledepeg. In later years at this school mumbledepeg became so popular that a mumbledepeg mansion was built at the corner of 14th and R for them to relax in.

I suppose you publication board moguls think this is rather a strange story. Athletes coming to school to learn to play football and spending all their time playing mumbledepeg. But here's what the story means.

Football in the story represents academic studies at Nebraska. Mumbledepeg represents extra-curricular activities. Students really come here to study, or the bright ones do, but learning to study, settling down in other words, is a bit tedious so they immediately begin fiddling away their time at the mumbledepeg of activities.

Activities at N. U. are preventing some of the best young minds in the state from getting an education, meaning by education that understanding, refinement, tolerance, and appreciation of value to be had from associating with good minds and good books. It is the best minds that go into activities. The activity ruts are so deep here and the empty vial of dubious honor in Innocents and Mortar Board so often stressed as the proverbial pot of gold that students with good minds, but as yet little discernment, are drawn into the maelstrom.

Participation in one activity might serve as relaxation instead of a distraction. But there is no such thing as moderation among the more competent students. If they go into activities they have to try to get enough of them to make Innocents or Mortar Board, and

this is fatal. The good minds and the good books are neglected for activity haunts, outlines of courses, and cramming. The result is often, as has been the case of the Nebraskan this semester, ineligibility.

The emphasis on activities as a part of education is largely misplaced. Activities offer, not education, but the opportunity to ap- sis on that one grade-it counts ply what is already acquired. Nor do activi- too much. You can't tell me that ties develop personality because it is the students with fine personalities, for the most part, knowledge that he's gotten in a who engage in activities. Any necessary con- whole semester. tact with people, so highly lauded by pro-ponents of activity careers, might better be had with some intelligent conversation over a coke or in a fraternity or rooming house.

The notion of activities as an opportunity for practicing the business management of people, and the carrying of responsibility is false because college is not life; it is a preparation for it. It is the one opportunity for standing apart in life as a spectator and getting a bit of perspective on the bustle.

Why, then, has the harmful tradition of extra-curricular activities grown up at Nebraska? The spurious honor attaching to Innocents and Mortar Board is a partial answer. If the sororities and fraternities were to use Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi as talking points instead of the activity honoraries, it would

The real explanation of the emphasis on activities is in the Daily Nebraskan. The Nebraskan is the dean of student activities. It would help a lot." not only acts as a stepping stone to the hon- Arts and Sciences freshman: oraries for a few people, but it helps to make every person who is tapped or masked on Ivy day.

In fact, the great share of activities on the wish that's all I'd hear about campus are nothing more tangible than pub- them." licity in the Daily. And often the Nebraskan Bizad Sophomore: is little more than publicity for these othereal netivities. The Nebraskan must take the lion's share of responsibility for the mumbledepeg at the university of the manufacture of the publicity for the mumbledepeg at grades. If you want to, in some baseball congress as director of Investigation of the qualific the university,

You, gentlemen of the pub board, can remedy this. The Daily Nebraskan needs a wire service. Either an AP or a UP wire would make an almost incalculable difference on this campus. If the Daily staff had wire news to serve up for the campus every day, it would not have to run columns on Student Council meetings where nothing went on; it would not have to rewrite an ag campus party story five times during one week for the odd hundred persons who will attend. It would not have to give a string to Kosmet Klub; and so thru the whole gamut of activities much less significant than those mentioned. Activities would have to be activities. There would be fewer of them, and perhaps even a few significant

You will answer that a college daily should print campus news. The answer now is that the real news of the campus is never unearthed. Features and news stories are crack it; but if you're all nervous missed every day. We pseudo journalists be. and excited, you can really mess come so engrossed in activities ourselves that we cannot see anything else. We dish up perfunctory tripe because the emphasis is wrong. strikes already on him. It's not so We are so deep in the activity ruts that we cannot see out.

Furthermore, if the Daily had a wire service it could become more than an activity itself and a waste of time for those engaged in it. Newspapermen in the state have told me that activity writing for the Daily Nebraskan is the worst possible experience that a journal- instead of in three hours. ist could have. We learn false news values. We pad. The writing is sloppy. The proof reading is so bad that a corrigendum should be published for each edition. But we make student can either get a grade for Innocents and Mortar Board ourselves and make others Innocents and Mortar Boards.

Instead of being a laboratory for journalists, the Nebraskan is a joke. It is not written by seniors in the School of Journalism, but by freshmen and sophomore and junior activity workers. It prints bad news badly. A wire service would bring a serious tone to the Daily, to the campus, and to the

School of Journalism. Why don't you talk it over today at the moeting of the board, gentlemen?

The Departing, Disillusioned

EDITOR.

CHICAGO SOLOISTS PRESENT DEBUSSY OPERA TOMORROW

(Continued from Page 1.)

tire opera takes only an hour and Maria Matyas, who sings the ns. She also appeared with the Metropolitan opera in New been heard in concert York last spring where she will re- regularly over the radio. turn again this year. Her other in "Jack and the Bean-

musical world she is known as "the most famous boy in opera." Mary Garden's Protege.

Robert Long has appeared with the same company in the leading tenor roles of "Faust," "Martha," "La Traviata," and "Rigoletto." His extraordinary talent and brilrole of Lis in the presentation has liant voice so attracted the attenbeen with the Chicago Opera com-pany before in many performances, including that of "Lakme" with opera repertoire classes. In addi-tion of Benzothieone" is the title tion to opera work Mr. Long has of an article by Dr. A. W. Weitbeen heard in concert work and kamp and Dr. Cliff Hamilton of

Raymund Koch is a well known was published in the recent issue opera soloist, and has sung the of the Journal of the American leading roles of many of the fa- Chemical Society. Dr. Weitkamp litical science faculty has the lead-Stalk," Carmen in the opera "Carmen," and Hansel in "Hansel and Gretel." The last role she played over 400 times and thruout the "Mendelssohn's "Elijah." He has Nebraska in August, 1937.

be the master of the role.

Members of the Beatrice Woman's club last week enjoyed an il-lustrated lecture by Dwight lustrated lecture by Dwight Kirsch, chairman of the department of fine arts.

the chemistry faculty. The article

Inquiring. Reporter



Finals are all right in haven't succeeded in finding that place.

This, in substance, seems to be the campus opinion on the subject of semester examinations. Long the practice at Nebraska, they are in fairly general use thruout the colleges and universities of the country. The recent trend, however, seems to be away from the semester examination and toward the comprehensive examination given at the time a certain course has been completed and the individual is prepared for it.

How do you stand on the sub-ject of finals? What is good about them or wrong with them? Have you any suggestions which would change them?

Arts and Sciences Junior:

anyone can come in and in three adequately express the

"Too many profs seem to go into exams with the idea of seeing how many of their students they can flunk. In that short a time, only the main points of a course can be touched on, yet a prof usually drags in some minor point you've never heard of.

"I'd say cut them out-let each prof give his own tests and make up his grades on a basis of classroom work, attendance, and the grades in these smaller tests."

Engineering college sophomore: getting the course. What I don't to have all the main points about all your courses in your head at once, and that's just what we're exams were given, but were spread out over a much longer period, it

"I don't know anything about them, except that they have me scared. My sorority mother has told me some about them, and I

class for a semester, cram for a

grading problem in their own man bands two decades ago jus way. After a semester they know what you can do. I've had profs semester. Let them, then." Arts and Sciences junior:

son can do his best work when grades you get depend too much start when he accidentally fell duron how you're feeling and on what ing rehearsal. Since then Ernie's kind of a start you get on the 150 pound body has dropped to the test. If you're feeling O. K., and floor more than a thousand times.

"The whole idea seems to be putting a fellow up to bat with two encouraging to know that you can ruin a whole semester's work by a slip on the final exam.

"I'd like it a lot better if each teacher would give a little test every week or two and make up his grades from a series of grades which would show what a student could do over a period of time, Bizad freshman:

Tve heard so much about these finals that I'm getting plenty worried. It doesn't seem fair that a himself or lose one in the three hours that he's taking a final." Arts and Sciences sophomore:

"I favor a comprehensive examination system, but not the jumbled up scheme we use here. A fellow may be called upon to take an exam in Spanish in the morning, one in psychology on the same afternoon; English the following morning, and economics that afternoon. How can anyone keep his facts straight in a situation like that? I'd like to see some of the profs try it.

"We should adopt a plan similar to that in use in Chicago. When students have completed a specified amount of work, and feel that they are prepared, they come and been proclaimed by some critics to take an exam over the course. Arts and Sciences sophomore:

"I can't see where the present examination system is so bad. It's used pretty generally all over, and that should prove that it's worth something. There just doesn't seem to be any practical substitute for it.

"Anyway, if you've gone to a class for a whole semester, studied, and taken part in class discussion an exam shouldn't give you a lot of trouble, if you just take the time to review properly."

Dr. David Fellman of the po

Highlights.
On the Air

By Elwood Randol. gone highhat or whether the exponents of the classical type have at last seen the light will be con-clusively decided tonight on the Camel Caravan when the Coolidge String Quartet will do Mozart's G Major Quintet with Benny doing the clarinet part. The staggering announcement that Goodman will do Mozart follows closely upon the swing master's concert in the staid Carnegie Hall Sunday. Also on the program will be Jimmy "Schnozzola" Durante who has been finally lured forth. Durante feature program which begins at 8:30 tonight over KFAB.

Roy Harris has written a new composition called "A Song for Occupations." The Westminster choir school of Princeton, will feature the work this afternoon at 2:00 over the Columbia and KFOR. John Finley Williamson will direct the choir and Harris will speak briefly before his music is played.

Let's Pretend, dramatized by children for children, will move from its regular Saturday spot to Tuesday and Thursday afternoon 5 over KFAB.

Eddie G. Robinson, star of the serial Big Town, will be heard from the big town tonight. The script for the next two shows will be written so that actors in New York can take the supporting parts

Alias Jimmy Valentine, starring Bert Lytell, famous actor of stage and screen, is the name of a new serial taking the air over the NBC-Blue tonight at 8:30 over KOIL. Lytell is supported by a good cast in a tense drama that has as its theme the struggle of a former penitentiary inmate to redeem his name and honor.

James C. Douglass was appointed today to the newly created post of program director of the Central States Broadcasting Sys-tem effective immediately. Douglas is 29 years old, married and the father of one son three years old. He is a graduate of the Hast-The examination idea is all ings college conservatory of music right. You must have some kind and the University of Nebraska. of tests to see if the students are He was assistant manager and getting the course. What I don't program director of WAAW. As like is all of them being given CSBS program director, Douglas practically at once. It's impossible will work directly under Don Searle, general manager, and will have charge of all production on dapper Frenchman (whose name all three stations. Heretofore, each means "Hot Time") returns to supposed to do right now. If the station has had its own program the position of a leader to a bedirector. Searle also announced wildered people. He was denounced the resignation of Bob Cunning- a few years ago as public enemy ham, program director of KOIL not announced his future plans.

Jeanette MacDonald, lyric so-House, was voted the most popular female star in the recent radio poll SEARCHING OUT conducted by newspapers thruout baseball congress as director of ourses, you could stay away from radio relations for the 48 state tournaments preceding the nafew nights, and get a good grade tional finals at Wichita in August in the final and pass the course. . . Incidentally Johnson is back Maybe someone else goes to class on the air with pre-baseball seaevery day, studies, and just be-son stuff. He may be heard on cause he makes a poor showing Monday, Wednesday and Friday at in the final, he gets a low grade.
"I'd say take them away. Let
the teachers handle their own
their own
"The say take them away are the teachers handle their own
the say take them away are the teachers handle their own
the say take them away are the say to show how "you push the first valve down" when the craze was who said that they could tell for music to go round and around within five points what a person He liked the instrument so well would get in his final just by the he is still using it . . . Every time other work he's been doing all the Lone Ranger knocks down an enemy during the episodes heard rts and Sciences junior: three times a week over MBS and "You can't tell me that a perfloor. The professional "fail guy" he's all hopped up for a final. The is Ernest Winstanley who got his

> DEAR DEL CASINO: "For the last two years my case has been studied by many authorities in the medical world. After a long illness, which I had two years ago, I suddenly acquired the ability to capture radio programs with nothing more mechanical than my own ears. Due to some predominance of salt in my body there is an electrochemical basis which makes radio waves passing thru my body actually have sound. In rainy weather, especially, or when I'm lying on bed springs which act as a ground, I get things very clearly. So far I have never been able to get short wave programs. The continual noise sometimes just about drives me crazy and I often go up in airplanes where the noise of the plane makes me forget the buzzing in my ear. But what I wanted to ell you, Mr. Casino, was that your voice comes into my ear very clear and fine. Where I travel, the Columbia station KMOX is nice and powerful and of all voices I receive it's yours and Gabriel Heatter's that's the most pleasing. Keep up the good work. Sincerely."— E. M., Moberly, Mo.

Dean J. E. LeRossignol of the ollege of business administration will speak on "Revolutionary Dielectics" at the graduate scholarship dinner meeting Jan. 25 at 6:15 p, m, at the University club. Dr. Ray W. Frantz of the English dem. at the University club. Dr. partment is in charge of arrange-

Serve LIKE A BOMBSHELL ZANE THEY BLAZE GREY'S INTO 'Thunder ACTION Trail" Plus Hit No. 2 Chas, Bickford What unseen force keeps America from Gilbert Roland Maraha Hunt SEE 'MISSING WITNESSES!



THERE'LL BE A HOT TIME . . . "

third day of its political crisis, are with no ministry as yet and leaders of the innumerable parties laof reconciliation. Camille Chautemps, premier since June 22, resigned last week, precipitating the crisis and political confusion which construction being planned to comhas ensued since that time. He returns now to bring some order out of the chaos, to create a cab- that Italy has defaulted in debiinet agreeable to all factionsmammoth undertaking.

What It's All About. For the past year France's political situation has been in a turmoil. Fragments of the peo-ple's front-formed to combat fascism-remain, though dissention within the group makes agreement along any policy almost impossible.

To begin at the beginning: Leon Blum, first people's front premier, is ousted in the spring of 1937. The Chautemps regime them comes into power, With the resignation of Chautemps Financier Diplomat Gerge Bon-net, radical socialist leader, is appointed by President Albert Lebrun to create a new cabinet. Bonnet finds himself faced with the opposition of the socialist faction, the dominant party. Communists, likewise, are definitely antagonistic because of his demand for decreased government expenditures.

Blum, socialist leader, takes try and fares no better. He abandons his effort to form a ministry which would reach beyound the popular front,

Now Chautemps is back. By one of the quirks of political fate, the a few years ago as public enemy way-up-on-the-list. He is later elefor the past two years, to take vated to the position of prime im-effect Jan. 14. Cunningham has portance. And now, in his desperportance, And now, in his desperation, the French king brings him back as a political Moses to do his out-of-the-wilderness act with the prano and hostess on Vick's Open | myriads of different factions and political beliefs.

Investigation of the qualifications of Stanley Reed are begun by a senate judiciary subcommittee. Indications are that a thoro investigation will be made. The

senate evidently has become wary STUDENT NIGHT Your registration card and 30e

STUART-Hurry! Fnds Friday! CLAUDETTE Extra on the Stage! COLBERT TOVARICH' 7-9:20 Master with CHARLES BOYER Singer EXTRA! Charlie McCarthy Rosalle

will admit you

to see - -



HURRY! ONLY I MORE DAYS BIG TOWN GIRL' Claire Trevor rand on the radio pro-tram BIG TOWN with EDW. G. ROBINSON Wheeler Woolsey Get the OBPHEUM 20¢ Thursday! ! STAGE!! 8 Headline Acts of VAUDEVILLE

"SENSATIONS OF 1938"

GIRLS AND LAUGHS GALORS!

IN THE INFIRMARY Lester Trabert Roscoe Hines, Ruskin. Raymond Potter, Alma.

Dismissed. Claude Tetherow, Wood Lake. (Note: A typographical error was committed last week among the infirmary dismissals when the name Barry Ginsbery appeared in place of Harry Ginsberg.)

following the Black episode, and are determined that there shall be no slip this time, Approval of most democratic senators and some re-publicans is voiced, however, and there seems tto be no question that the appointment will be confirmed.

READY—AIM— . . . ?

Russia casts caution to the winds and anounces her new firm stand toward the fascist nations, France comes to the end of the All payments due to Italian firms suspended, Russian planes are sent to the aid of China-"at least 100 Russian planes and more than 100 soviet pilots and mechanics boring to bring about some sort operating from the Nanchange air base, about 400 miles southwest of Shanghai.'

Reports from Moscow carry the story of a heavy program of naval pete with the fleets of Japan, Germany and Italy. Russia defends action with the declaration owed to Russian firms and that the three fascist nations either have never consented to limitation of armaments or have made "scraps of paper" agreements which they have never intended to keep. At any rate the two factions are from all appearances "getting set," with ammunition in readiness and with China as the most likely place to play off their differences



COMING THURSDAY!



Melvyn DOUGLAS Helen WESTLEY 25¢ Stuart ERWIN

"KING SOLOMON'S

10e **EGIO** ... SCORE ANOTHER VICTORY DON TERRY MARY RUSSELL

Dedicated to the American Legion. See the doughboys clean up the rack-clears . . . NO. 2

He rounded up the sang which s'ole the famed Mona Lian but was betness at the hands of his own gang of touch populs. A lively, exciting camedy-drama! WHERE THERE'S

A WILL' WILL HAY LILLI PALMER



MARTHA RAYE "MOUNTAIN MUSIC" plus-2nd FEATURE tile enemy to public here!

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