

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR

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SUBSCRIPTION RATE

\$1.50 a year Single copy \$1.00 a semester
 \$1.50 mailed 5 cents \$1.50 a semester mailed

Editorial Office—Student Union Room 30-A
 Business Office—Student Union Room 28-B

Entered as second-class matter at the post-office in Lincoln, Nebraska, under act of congress, March 3, 1879, and at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, act of October 3, 1917, authorized January 10, 1935.



1938 Member 1939
 Associated Collegiate Press
 Distributor of Collegiate Digest

Published daily during the school year, except Mondays and Saturdays, vacations and examination periods by students of the University of Nebraska, under the supervision of the Board of Publications.

REPRESENTED FOR NATIONAL ADVERTISING BY
 National Advertising Service, Inc.
 College Publishers Representatives
 420 MADISON AVE. NEW YORK, N. Y.
 CHICAGO BOSTON LOS ANGELES SAN FRANCISCO

Editorially Speaking

Lawmakers at Work

Minus the parliamentary statesmanship of the initial unicameral and the awe with which the "first" is always regarded, Nebraska's legislature opened the 1939 session with a show of partisanship and a jittery demonstration of opening day procedural complications. There was a great deal missing from the 1937 unicameral opening—guest speakers, mustaches, packed galleries and 23 state senators who failed to return this year.

Because of the University's close relationship to the unicameral, the Daily Nebraskan is vitally interested in the legislature's dealings with the University. For this reason, the Daily plans to "cover" as intelligently as possible all state legislation that is related, directly or indirectly, to the University of Nebraska. It is sincerely hoped that the Daily's legislative endeavors will not be shrugged off by the student body as unimportant to the undergraduate life.

As an instrumentality of a state-supported institution, the Daily finds itself in an unique newspaper situation. The University itself is non-partisan, which forced the student newspaper to assume the same political status. The Daily, therefore, is restrained from delving into the political ramifications of the state legislature which is, in theory, non-partisan—a theoretical presupposition which should be taken with a few hunks of sodium chloride.

But that is the topic of which the Daily is supposed to shy clear. Speaking in behalf of the University family, the Daily Nebraskan welcomes Nebraska's legislature to the campus, extends best wishes for 1939, hopes for a successful session and prays for the unanimous smile of approval by the state senators upon the University of Nebraska.

High Time In 1939

Filled with boundless energy surging forth from the relaxation of the holiday season, Nebraska's students are back to their collegiate tasks. Except for those individuals who whiled away the time in idle pursuits, there is a sparkle in the eye, a note of cheerfulness in the voice, a lighter step in the foot and a warmer grip in the hand of the returning students. It is good to see and hear this campus spirit again.

We hope this friendliness of the first day of school in 1939 is not brought about alone by the traditionally short-lived New Year resolutions. They have grown to be only a first of the year custom that has faded out in significance. They accomplish some purpose, however, when the resolutions grow out of a looking back, a recapitulation of 1938, performed seriously and soberly.

Although we are a half-week past New Year's Day, we are still concerned with the passing of eventful 1938. Stop and think of the past year, chock-full of episodes during each of the twelve months, so many of which although far away had a direct bearing on the lives of all of us. Before plunging head-first into 1939, stop and think of what you personally contributed to 1938—what accomplishments, what you have learned and what advancements. Stop and think and take careful and impersonal stock of yourself.

If anything, 1939 is a bold challenge to us. To those who graduate this year, it means a job and the eventual taking of a place as a citizen. Business soothsayers forecast big things for 1939, but a graduate of the 1939 class cannot bring himself around to seeing a receptive world, awaiting the college student with open arms. To the remainder of the undergraduates, 1939 means little more than another sheltered year spent in college without the specter of the outside world haunting the immediate future.

Perhaps it is asking a great deal to expect college students to give serious thought to anything outside their own little worlds, but it is high time that we take cognizance, first of all, of life beyond that of the campus. Sooner or later, we must realize that "life is real, life is earnest." The sooner, the better.

Ninth, N. U. Library

The state planning board last week made public a 10-year state building program which called for a total expenditure of \$4,645,000 during the decade or \$460,000 per year. Ninth on the list was the University of Nebraska library, the cost of which was cited at \$800,000. The projects, listed in the order of their relative need as judged by the board, are for all state institutions. Those ranked before the university library are:

1. Equipment for PWA financed buildings for board of control \$140,000
- Tunnels and service lines to PWA financed buildings at Lincoln hospital 3,000
2. Remodel buildings at Milford institutions and install fire escapes 50,000
3. New ward building for 150 at Hastings hospital 204,000
4. Repairs in administration building at Lincoln hospital 35,000
5. Penitentiary building, fence road 60,000
6. Fire escapes at Geneva and school for blind, Nebraska City, to be built from maintenance funds.
7. Enlarge laundry at Hastings hospital 15,000
- Enlarge dining room space at Hastings hospital 5,000
- Remodel old boiler room as laundry at Kearney T. B. hospital 6,000
8. Major repairs and replacements for the Nebraska State Teachers' colleges 15,000

Twelfth on the list is a hospital building at the university college of medicine in Omaha estimated at \$275,000 and thirteenth is a \$600,000 engineering building. Only three university building needs were observed, therefore, during the next ten years.

The planning board members made an exhaustive study of all of Nebraska's institutional needs before they submitted their report to the governor. The board did not urge the state to spend this four and a half million dollars during the next ten years, but merely disclosed the results of a careful investigation of "items urgently needed."

The word "urgently" strikes home hard as far as the university campus is concerned. Even more, "emergency" is more appropriate for the state university—library, U hall, engineering building and Nebraska hall. Crumbling U hall, by the way, was conspicuous by its absence on the planning board's list. If there is a statute of limitations for emergencies, the one on old U hall has most certainly expired.

Our deep-seated conviction as university students is that the university library project merits first consideration. But the planning board is not pro-university, not pro-Lincoln hospital, not pro-penitentiary and not pro-Hastings hospital. The board is only pro-Nebbraska. The investigation convinced the board that the university library is ninth in urgency, and unless the state legislature can see a more imperative need for the library, the university must wait for nearly two years before the library can be expected to receive state approval and appropriation.

The eight projects which precede the university library will cost approximately \$533,000. This means that funds for the consideration of the library will not be available for nearly two years, if the state continues its building program of the last ten years along the same lines. Existing economic factors—brought on by the fifth year of drouth—may cause the state to delay the program a year and pick up the slack in some future biennium.

With all due respect to the state planning board for its maiden attempt to budget the state building program into a well-mapped ten-year period instead of spending the state's money haphazardly, the university's existence thru its so-called cultural center—the library—is being placed in further jeopardy by prolonging the time before the new library becomes a sorely-needed reality. Without being selfish and without failing to co-operate with other state institutions whose needs are probably as pressing as the university's, Nebraska's second unicameral legislature may eventually recognize and honor the university's prime "emergency" need—a new library building.

Alumni at Rochester Organize Chapter

University of Nebraska graduates in and around Rochester, N. Y., have taken steps to organize a Rochester chapter of Nebraska alumni. The first event will be the observance of the university's birthday Feb. 15, at which time a permanent organization will be formed. Officers for the time being are Hugh H. Wilson, '23, chairman; Maurice Moss, '34, vice chairman and Glen Atkins, '31, secretary-treasurer.

The December issue of the Journal of the American Chemical Society contains the second paper of a series of studies on the mutarotation of sugars by Dr. B. Clifford Hendricks of the chemistry department and Robert Ruppel, graduate student. The first paper dealt with the preparation of the sugars under study, while the second reports original findings concerning the properties of a modified form of sugar called galactose.

Dr. E. V. Telle of the department of Romance languages is the author of a book, "The Works of Marguerite d'Angoulême, Queen of Navarre, and the Woman Question," which was reviewed in the January issue of Humanism and Renaissance by M. Marichal, director of the national archives of Paris. Prof. Meylan of the University of California reviewed the book in the December issue of Modern Language Notes.

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