

# Wimberly declares colleges are not achieving purposes

By Bob Aldrich.

"Colleges," comments Lowry Charles Wimberly, "aren't getting the results they should. The classes are too large. Teachers are not advanced because of their ability to teach but because of their researches or published matter."

Doctor of Philosophy, English professor, Editor of The Prairie Schooner, Professor Wimberly is well qualified to discuss the subject of teaching.

### Good teachers?

"A teacher who publishes a tenth-rate piece of writing has a better chance of being promoted than a teacher who is just a good teacher," he continues.

"Another thing—I notice the great number of buildings on the campus devoted to science. Now, I'm not saying there should be less attention to science but I do think there should be more attention given to the humanities—that is, to literature, philosophy, and the classics."

Writing and authors likewise come under his keen analysis. Migrating north from a Louisiana river town to Nebraska, bringing malaria germs for company, he also brought a searching interest in literature. Eventually, the malaria left him, but the enthusiasm for good writing is still in his blood.

### Whiskey and Quinine.

"The older people lived on whiskey and quinine," he recalls of his malarial Louisiana days. "We youngsters just had the quinine."

He carried the malaria for 15 years, longer than any other case his physician had known. During his first two years in Nebraska the malarial attacks struck him daily at 1 p. m. sharp.

At Nebraska university he took all of his college work except for a short stay at Morningside in Sioux City, Ia., and a summer at Columbia.

### Majoring in English.

He majored in English at Nebraska. For his graduate work, toward a doctor's degree, he studied English and Scottish popular ballads as well as folklore and its origin in religion and magic. He still collects ballads but they are becoming increasingly hard to find.

Before teaching, he was a book-keeper, hotel clerk, farmer, stenographer, and preacher. The book-keeping was done in a sugar beet factory in Greeley, Col., the clerking in a tumbledown hotel in Lexington, Neb.

### Whole damn works.

He was "the whole damn works" in the hostelry. Though officially the night clerk, he met all the trains and carted baggage to the hotel, arriving breathlessly in time to assume his post behind the desk and greet the rather confused guests. Between trains, he bell-hopped and "chambermaided."

Following his brief and unenthusiastic career in the hotel business, he worked as a farmhand and was stenographer for a physician in Sioux City.

His father and five brothers were Presbyterian ministers and it was generally assumed that Lowry would make it an even half-dozen. But after listening to his own first sermon, he "gave it up as a bad job."

### Topography.

Olive-complected, beak-nosed, with sharp, brown eyes, coal black hair, and a passion for cigars that are still blacker, Professor Wimberly's personality is quiet, studious, reflective, and always interesting. Leaning back in the swivel chair in his office in the southwest corner of Andrews, he stares thoughtfully at the ceiling or moodily at the pile of Schooner material on his desk.

### Dry, brittle wit.

Sometimes he rests his bony cheek against two slender fingers in the Bernard Shaw manner, or watches blue smoke drift lazily upward. His opinions are given in a low, apparently humorless drawl. His wit is dry, brittle, and always delivered as though he meant it to be serious. His classes have been known to shriek with laughter over some dry remark five minutes after he has unburdened himself of it.

### Founded Schooner.

One of the founders of the Prairie Schooner and its guiding light as editor since that memorable year, 1927, he is awaiting, almost incredulously, the approaching end of 13 years of publication.

He is himself author of two books on ballads and co-author of several textbooks for English students. His stories and articles have appeared in Harpers, Forum,

Atlantic Monthly, and American Mercury.

No, the Schooner doesn't pay its authors. "We're lucky if we pay the printer," he says wistfully. Circulation is "small but select." Many universities, including Yale, Chicago, Brown, Princeton, keep complete files of the magazine.

### Welcomes writers.

The Schooner, he insists, does not cater to Nebraska writers or backgrounds but welcomes writers from everywhere. New York provides the largest number of hopefuls with Los Angeles, especially Hollywood, and the South second and third.

### Knows where bread buttered.

Only a few stories are left out each year on account of type. The Schooner editor knows on which side his bread is buttered.

Prof. Wimberly is puzzled by the increasing difficulty of finding good stories. Writers, he feels, do not work hard enough, expecting success to fall on them. He is convinced that anybody who works hard enough and long enough can learn to write. "But most of them can't stand the re-buffs." He cites the case of John Steinbeck who refused to kowtow to editors even while on the verge of starvation.

He doesn't read many modern novels. Writers of the older Lewis-Dreiser-Hemingway school interest him more.

He thinks writers shouldn't write propaganda. The proletariat writer is on the wane because—with the possible exception of Steinbeck—he hasn't produced anything worthwhile.

### Romance and realism.

Personally, Wimberly prefers romance to realism. For his own amusement he would rather reread "Huckleberry Finn" than anything else, though "Don Quixote," he thinks, is the most entertaining of stories, taking the long view.

The South, he believes, is currently the most promising background for writers as far as material. For the place to write, he recommends any rural community, away from the nerve-wracking distraction of cities.

Dorothy Thomas, well-known writer from Lincoln, has been the most successful of his pupils. Lasele Gilman, author of "Shanghai Deadline" is another. For seven years a resident of China, Gilman is now in Hawaii.

### Hobby is archaeology.

Wimberly's principal hobby at present is being a "very, very amateur archaeologist." He goes tramping north of Schuyler and near Genoa, looking for Indian arrowheads. "It's a lot cheaper than golf," he comments.

## Beauty queen candidates file by Dec. 5

**Cornhusker pictures close Saturday—finally;—and no extensions!**

Nominations from fraternities and sororities for the Cornhusker beauty queens must be submitted to the yearbook office by Tuesday, Dec. 5.

All nominations for queens must be accompanied with a photo of the girl. Snapshots will suffice. Pictures will be taken at Townsend's immediately after the nominations close, free of charge.

According to Orval Hager, Cornhusker editor, fraternities as well as sororities may nominate queens. Only requirement is that 20 books must be bought by members of the house. Every yearbook bought by anyone in a house may be included in the number.

## Weatherly to discuss 'Price of Being American'

Dr. Arthur Weatherly will speak on "The Price of Being American" at the All Souls Unitarian church this morning.

Theodore Marburg will lead the discussion which will follow.

## Zoologist makes visit

Dr. Milan J. Kopac, assistant professor of cell physiology at New York university, visited the department of zoology this week. Dr. Kopac graduated from the university in 1927 and received his M. S. degree two years later. During his visit the former student showed films on micro-dissection before the zoology seminar.

## Airplanes monopolize conversation

Of all things, explorer talks and predicts in elaborate 'bull session'

By Paul Svoboda.

It was some bull session. Maybe it could have been called a roundtable discussion led by Mr. Stefansson, the famous arctic explorer and now connected with the Pan-American Airways.

Stefansson sat on the edge of the bed; his blue eyes twinkled as he prophesied the future of airplanes, saying that the only logical air route today with regards to speed and safety is across the arctic regions of the north. He talked endlessly of the work with which he has been occupied since his retirement from active exploration some 20 years ago.

Stefansson had the floor approximately the whole time. The conversation ran somewhat like this.

### Futures of airlines.

"Mr. Stefansson, what do you think are the futures of the airlines?"

"There is no doubt that eventually the arctic regions will be the great cross roads of the airways. This is due almost entirely to the fact that the greatest majority of the wealth and power is situated in the north temperate zone."

"But... a..."

"Another reason is that it is undoubtedly the safest and fastest route for air transportation. Speed is the essential thing in air travel. It is entirely too costly to build and operate faster and faster ships as time continues to demand. Across the arctic is the shortest circuit route that connects the United States and Canada with the Old World and the Orient and as long as the earth continues to be spherical this route will be the only acceptable one for transcontinental, by this I mean, trans-oceanic, air travel."

"Then you would say that today it is..."

### War ruins plans.

"Of course today with the present international complications the work has been slowed up and even stopped in some cases. When we started investigating the possibilities of an arctic route there were no war conditions present. The soviet union was doing a lot of work along this line and would have initiated an airline between Russia and the Americas if the state department here had shown any interest in the plan."

Prof. Arndt during the first portion of the interview said nothing. He sat with a benevolent smile on his face looking first at aerial-fan Stefansson and then occasionally at your reporter who was still attempting to get a word in edgewise. Finally he said,

"Is it true Mr. Stefansson that Eskimos are healthy because they eat the whole animal?"

(My stomach began to get uncomfortable.)

"Of course not, Stefansson replied.

### Speaking of diets.

"Thank God for that," Arndt said. My wife has been threatening to put me on some sort of diet like that for health measures."

I could see we were getting off the subject but the whole thing was off the subject anyway so I didn't mind. I had often heard that he was a firm believer that salt was not a necessary part in the human diet so I queried him about it.

### Salt not a necessity.

"Mr. Svoboda (he slurred over the consonants), I do not believe salt is necessary for the human diet and when people see me using salt they think I am terrible irrational. I say that it isn't necessary but I don't say that one doesn't have to use it."

Mr. Arndt broke in again and said, "I understand that you are doing some work with mapping courses for ships in the Arctic regions. I heard you mention it at the faculty luncheon."

"Yes it is," Stefansson replied, "but I don't think the newspapers would understand it. The process is so long and difficult."

## Explorer Stefansson suggests future Arctic exploitation

Convocation speaker decries polar concepts

"The time honored concept of the Arctic as a vast stretch of lifeless barrens was abolished on the 22nd of May, 1937," declared Vilhjalmur Stefansson Friday morning speaking before a convocation audience of 600 interested students and Lincoln residents.

"On this date," continued Stefansson, "four four-motored planes landed a party of Russian scientists at a point four English miles from the north pole, and on the following morning the party was awakened by the song of a wild bird spending the summer in the region."

The convo speaker, only man to serve two terms as president of the famed Explorers' club, added that during their stay at the pole the scientists observed not only nine species of birds, but seals and polar bears as well. Bear cubs seen near the pole were thought to have been born in the immediate vicinity, the explorer stated.

Further evidence which abolishes the old fashioned idea that the north pole regions are void of life is found in the marine life abounding in the 14,000 feet of water that underlie the polar ice cap. Samples taken by lowering traps to differing depths in the ocean above the pole show that plant and animal life in these waters are similar to that found in other parts of the world.

Before discussing the abolition of earlier ideas regarding polar regions, the one time instructor in anthropology at Harvard, traced what he called his "own views of how the Arctic started," beginning with the Greek philosophers.

The ancient Greeks, according to the convocation speaker, believed that the earth was spherical and that men were prisoners between the walls of burning tropics and the polar glaciers. Eighteen centuries later Columbus expressed the theory that no land is so near to, or so far from the equator as to make it uninhabitable by man. However, the theory advanced by Columbus remained unproved until two years ago.

Speaking of temperatures found in the Arctic and elsewhere the distinguished adventurer admitted that the place where he had experienced most discomfort from cold was Australia. He explained this admission by stating that no provisions for heating were made in Australia.

"We do not endure the cold," said Stefansson, quoting a fellow explorer, "We protect ourselves from it. We live in houses, build fires, and wear clothes when we go out."

Temperatures of 100 degrees in the shade have been recorded above the Arctic circle, the lecturer explained, and far northern blizzards are no more intense than those of Dakota, where his boyhood was spent.

Stefansson also referred to his notable experiences with non-vegetarian diets. For a year and a half he ate only animal tissues and over a period of almost five months his only food consisted of unsalted fish and the water in which they were boiled. The advantage accruing from such a diet is that it allows longer polar journeys to be made, without the necessity of packing heavy load of food.

"Northward the course of empire takes its way—in the long run," the explorer remarked in introducing his subject, pointing out that man has progressed from tropical cradles of civilization, thru Mediterranean nations, to northern countries. At the present the average temperature in the leading cities of the world such as Chicago, New York, Montreal, London, Berlin, and Moscow is only a few degrees above freezing. The speaker, however, contented himself with merely hinting that exploitation of the Arctic would be the next stage in world growth. In ending his address he predicted that Russian expansion northward, which was started by Lenin, would resemble America's expansion westward.



—Lincoln Journal and Star. VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON

## Pan-hellenic gives cups for 'scholarships'

Alpha Xi Delta ranks first; seven awards presented at annual tea

Friday the Lincoln Pan-hellenic association honored the sororities with the highest scholastic averages for the last year at tea. Tickets for the tea read "Pan-Hellenic 'Scholarship' Tea." And for the "smart girls" at that!

Alpha Xi Delta's scholastic record for the last year placed that sorority the highest on the campus at the annual tea sponsored by the Pan-hellenic association Friday at the Union.

The other sororities who received cups are, according to their scholastic rating: Sigma Delta Tau, second; Gamma Phi Beta, third; Kappa Kappa Gamma, fourth; Kappa Alpha Theta, fifth; Chi Omega, sixth; and Alpha Phi, seventh. The scholarships were based on the rating of the sororities for the two school semesters of 1938-1939.

The theme of the presentation of the awards was a pot of gold and a rainbow flanked by pots of gold. In the center of this stage was a dial, from which Marion Stone, dressed as a messenger boy, stepped and presented the scholarships to the sorority presidents and to the six girls who won individual scholarship awards.

The sorority girls receiving scholarships of \$35 each were: Janet Steckelberg, junior, Alpha Phi; Frances Platt, senior, Delta Delta Delta; Eleanor Jeanne Hecker, sophomore, Alpha Xi Delta; Annbella Van Denbark, junior, Alpha Chi Omega; Dorothy Heumann, sophomore, Alpha Omicron Pi; and Eva May Cromwell, junior, Alpha Chi Omega.

The entertainment which followed the presentation was a radio program. Henrietta Dierks was the master of ceremonies and Jane Tucker was the commercial announcer. Music was furnished by Frances Keefer, pianist; Ada Charlotte Miller, violinist; Esther Mae Helm, xylophonist; and Betty Vianik, whistler. Pat Herminghaus also entertained with some novelty dancing.

Those who were in the receiving line with Mrs. Wendell Groth, city panhellenic president, were: Miss Marguerite Klinker, Miss Helen Hosp, Mrs. C. S. Boucher, Mrs. Samuel Avery, Miss Elsie Ford Piper, Mrs. Ada Westover, Mrs. Clarence Penton, Mrs. Fred Coleman, Mrs. Joe W. Seacrest and Mrs. Walter Miltzer.

From 3:30 to 5:30, tea was served from three tables, arranged with lace cloths, lighted with tapers in three-branched candelabra and centered with large bouquets of chrysanthemums in fall colors.