

The School of Journalism

... and its best interests

"The function of the press as chronicler, teacher and interpreter has become infinitely more complex and more exacting in the past seventeen years. The range of intelligence and knowledge demanded of the men who write newspapers and those who direct these policies has broadened tremendously. If that is true—and in my opinion it undoubtedly is—no further argument is needed for special training for a journalistic career."

—from a recent editorial in Chicago Times.

During the past six months those interested in the welfare of the University of Nebraska have seen many administrative and personnel changes. Within the next several weeks, more will probably be announced. In the wake of those changes came definite improvements in the school of music, now a part of the new college of fine arts, and the college of dentistry. Improvements remain to be made in many other divisions. Among those divisions where betterment is sadly needed should be the school of journalism, the accredited position of which has been hanging in jeopardy for quite a while. Like graduates of many other schools or colleges in the university, its graduates leave with little preparation for the practical—only a distorted concept of high idealism, and a knowledge of background with dubious value.

The idea that journalism can be taught has its believers and non-believers in every field of actual journalistic enterprise. There are those who say much can be learned in schools in preparation for a journalistic profession. There are others who decry journalism as a profession and say the business can be learned only by spending years in practical, actual experience. Here we should not be concerned with the possibilities presented by the latter argument. The very fact that Nebraska has a school of journalism nestling among the clouds of its curriculum gives proof that it recognizes journalism as something like a profession for which classroom teaching will fit the student. It is that classroom teaching, then, that needs the improvement, the betterment.

Those close to the school of journalism will admit that the department's status in the American Association of Schools and Departments of Journalism, an accrediting organization which sets up certain high principles and standards for curricula of a professional level, has been endangered. Thirty-one schools over the nation are so recognized. The school does not rank as outstanding in the eyes of the American Press Society's board of governors. Those schools chosen by that society include those at the universities of Boston, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Marquette, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Northwestern, Ohio State, Oregon, Stanford, Syracuse, Washington, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania State college. Like other schools, too, it might easily be accused of misrepresenting its actual facilities (such as listing professors teaching one or two courses as full-time faculty members) in order to maintain favorable position in the accrediting organization.

A recent, well-needed addition to the university was a man who had spent four years in various capacities on the university paper at Michigan, and whose father was in newspaper work at Chicago. That man was Chancellor C. S. Boucher, who recognized the need for improvement in the school of journalism as quickly as those in other departments. Though unconfirmed, it is our guess that the survey now being taken by the Nebraska Press association is a direct request of the chancellor who wishes tangible facts with which to work. The survey, results of which will probably be announced sometime early in March, was sent to all newspapers in the state requesting their advice on how the Nebraska school of journalism could be improved. It is not unlikely that the results of that survey will coincide with the opinions of the great glut of students now in the school.

Opinions of those students show definitely that there is lack of actual experience offered, that there is possibly lack of interest, at least to the point of being inspirational, on the part of several faculty members. Experience to journalism students could easily be gotten in the publication of the DAILY NEBRASKAN, but it has seemingly behooved no member of the journalism staff to become aware of those possibilities. It might be interesting here to note that possibly one member of the DAILY staff next semester will be an enrollee of that school. It is further interesting to note that most students who have "made good" have done so because of their work on the DAILY,—not because of bare training in the school.

Nebraska's school of journalism needs a placement bureau for the poorly-prepared graduates it turns out. It needs more advanced courses, and more courses dealing with the business management of papers. Most of all, it needs more faculty members—faculty members who are decisive, who have stamina, or who have self-discipline,—the requisites of any professional man. It is in need of men who know their field and who are able to

disseminate that knowledge to others. It needs an "attitude" that will make students seek advice and interest. Its more advanced courses must deal with fields of political science, economics, and history. Students are only as good as their professors. And as J. N. Darling, of the Des Moines Register and Tribune says: "Journalists need better brains and deeper understanding." The Nebraska school of journalism is sadly in need of re-awakening.

No greater proof of this necessity is needed than citation of the repute and quality of some of its courses, this nation's press of today, and the success attained by those graduates of other schools where serious training has been provided.



SACRIFICE FOR WAR

If the European war suddenly breaks out with increased intensity in the next few weeks, calling for more sacrifices from the populace of the belligerents, at least the British can't say that they haven't been warned. Viscount Halifax, British foreign minister, today prepared and called upon the British public, in an address in London, "for greater sacrifices than you have yet been called upon to make."

This address follows closely upon the heels of the Prime Minister's address of two weeks ago, and restated precisely the same warning. The two speeches were received by the public in very much the same manner. In both cases the public was disappointed that more official news of the war and its progress had not been forthcoming.

Both speeches were mainly an appeal to the patriotism of the public, and were cheered lustily when references were made to the might of the British Empire.

Halifax answered no more definitely than Chamberlain the vital issues that faced the cabinet. The Hore-Belisha incident was ignored. The question of how material aid would be supplied to Finland was equally vague. The method that Britain has found to render the German magnetic mines ineffective was carefully concealed. The question of British diplomacy in the Balkans, and particularly in Rumania, was not mentioned; neither was there any declaration of any British offensive by air against the German naval bases. Yet the speech was revealing for what it implied and for what it did not precisely say.

In the first place, it showed that the British were fearing a very severe attack by Germany in the near future, and that they were making rapid preparations to meet this. This is further corroborated by reports seeping in from Belgium and Holland to the effect that German troop concentrations on their borders indicated a new movement of some kind on the western front.

Second, recent events rather tend to prove that the British blockade is being very keenly felt in Germany.

Third, the speech today pleaded for united effort on the part of all Britons in the sacrifices which such an attack would need. It was a plea to forget party lines, past blunders and misuses of the government, and pull with the government for a victory.

JAPAN'S COURSHIP

Japan's predicted wooing of the United States has begun. Last Wednesday the Japanese foreign minister declared that Japanese-American relations "must be normalized," and that in this connection he was planning suitable measures to put in effect on expiration of the Washington-abrogated American-Japanese trade treaty which lapses Jan. 26.

Today an indication comes of what the first of these "suitable measures" is to be. According to a Tokyo journal, the Japanese government next Wednesday will issue a decree providing for continuation of existing duties on American goods after that date. Thus the Japanese hope to put the issues squarely up to the United States. In the event that our nation should take action of any type against the Japanese, the island leaders will be able to justify themselves before the home folks, by pointing to the "hostile actions" of the western power.

At first glance it would appear that it is the hope of the Nipponese that the United States will respond in the same way and continue, at least temporarily, the terms of the present agreement. The probability of such action is, however, extremely slight.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA OFFICIAL BULLETIN

This bulletin is for the use of campus organizations, students and faculty members. Announcements of meetings or other notices for the bulletin may be submitted at the NEBRASKAN office by 5 p. m. the day before publication or at the registrar's office by 4 p. m. on week-days and 11 a. m. on Saturday. Notices must be typed or legibly written and signed by someone with the authority to have the notice published. The bulletin will appear daily, except Monday and Saturday, on page two of the NEBRASKAN.

- GLEE CLUB SINGERS.**
Applications for tryouts for the university singers and the men's glee club may be made this week at the office of the school of music.
- FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP LECTURE.**
Dr. Theodore A. Kleschbach, department of agronomy, will discuss "The Mode of Agronomic Research" at the Faculty Scholarship Lecture program today in the Union. The address will follow a dinner to be held at 6:15 p. m. Dean O. J. Ferguson is in charge.
- BURNS LECTURE.**
Dr. Whitesmith will lecture on Robert Burns at 4 p. m. tomorrow in Union Parlors X and Y.
- UNION BOARD.**
The Student Union board of managers will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p. m. in the faculty lounge.
- SIGMA ETA CHI.**
Sigma Eta Chi pledges will meet Tuesday in Union 305 at 7 p. m. Active are to meet in Union 313 at 7 p. m.
- PHALANX.**
Phalanx will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p. m. in Union 315.
- EVANGELICAL STUDENTS.**
The League of Evangelical Students will meet at 7 p. m. Tuesday in Union 316.
- GAME LEADER CLUB.**
Members of the Game Leader club will meet Tuesday evening.
- YW CHOIR.**
Y. W. Vesper choir will not rehearse Monday.
- CORN COBS.**
Corn Cob workers will meet Ed Dosek in the DAILY office tomorrow at 5 p. m.
- WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED UNTIL MONDAY, FEB. 5.**
- SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.**
Students may listen to the New York Philharmonic Orchestra broadcast this afternoon in the faculty lounge of the Union.
- TOWNE CLUB.**
The Towne club will meet at 6 p. m. tomorrow in Parlor A of the Union.
- TASSELS.**
Tassels will meet tomorrow at 5 p. m. in Union 313.
- PHI ALPHA DELTA.**
Phi Alpha Delta will meet tomorrow at 6:30 p. m. in Parlor X of the Union.

Student Pulse . . .

Students and faculty members are invited to write letters to this column. Letters should not be longer than 300 words and must be signed.



Sociology majors—do they get a square deal?

(Ed. Note: It is likely that these letters were prompted by reference several days ago to jealous friction among members of departments? They, at least, suggest this great question: "Should advisers, who for some reason doubt the abilities of some of their colleagues, steer students toward those courses because of certain curricula requirements?")

To the Editor:

Do the university departments exist for students or the faculty? I am a senior with a major in sociology. What chance do I have for a job after four years of scraping together enough money to go to college? My professors tell me that there are no chances of a job unless I take from one to three more years of college. Then I see on the bulletin board the announcement of a civil service examination for a sociologist at \$2,000 a year. The requirements are:

1. Four years of college and an A. B. degree.
2. Twenty semester hours of sociology with six hours of rural sociology.

After four years of college, where am I? I have not been advised to take any rural sociology because the arts and science professors had to fill their classes. Last year when I suggested taking a course on ag campus I was told that "it is not a worth while course." Worth while?—at least to have a chance at a job? Perhaps it wasn't worth while to the professor who had the job.

Would it not be worth while for the sociology department to forget a fascist sort of self sufficiency to the extent of co-operating with the ag college or any other college which can help prepare its students to make a living?

This letter may sound bitter but bear in mind that it will do me no good. I write it only in the hope that those who are following me may be better prepared.

Because I do not graduate I can only sign this

X marks the soc. senior on the spot.

To the Editor:

This letter pertains to all students majoring in sociology. As a graduate of the university, with a major in sociology, I recommend that those students majoring in that department include a few hours of rural sociology in their class schedule. I have found the employment situation very acute for graduates from the university.

If I had been properly advised to include a few hours of rural sociology in my sociology major I would have readily found employment in the social field. I hope students in sociology will adhere to this warning and include rural sociology in their class schedule.

A Graduate,
Dale Meyer

Psychologists write paper

Dr. W. E. Walton of the department of psychology and R. W. Bornemeier, who received his master's degree from Nebraska in 1937, are authors of an article "Color Discrimination in Rats," which is published in a recent number of The Journal of Comparative Psychology.

Ferguson asked to meet

Dean O. J. Ferguson of the college of engineering has been invited by the president of the Engineering Institute of Canada to attend the annual dinner of the organization in Toronto Feb. 7. Other engagements, however, prevent his attendance.

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