

Editorial — Comment — Bulletin

The Daily Nebraskan

FORTY-FIRST YEAR.

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All for the Grads

It's homecoming weekend. Tonight and tomorrow all fraternity and sorority houses will be festively decorated; there will be parties and open houses galore; all organizations will be entertaining; hotels will be crowded; there'll be much handshaking and back slapping. And it's all for the homecoming grads. Because the Daily Nebraskan wants to enter into the spirit of the thing we're offering this special Homecoming Edition. It's all for a welcome to the grads.

The Big Leagues

Let's get into the big leagues instead of staying in the bushes in debating. Despite all of the conscientious efforts of those who have been directing debating on this campus, it has remained a very minor activity with few people interested either in participating or in hearing the debates. On most other campuses debate is considered by the students to be a worthwhile activity, helpful not only while they are in school, but after graduation.

A call will soon be issued for the varsity debate squad by LeRoy Laase, head of the speech department. When this call is issued, it is expected that a great many students will turn out for active participation.

There is no reason why the debate squad should not be active if the student body shows interest in intercollegiate debates held here. At other schools large numbers of students turn out to hear the debates. For example, the summary report of the Kansas University Forensic program showed that attendance at debates there last year totalled 11,000.

Debaters at other schools take part in international debates, conferences such as the Rocky Mountain Speech Conference, conventions such as the national Delta Sigma Rho Congress, tournaments such as the Western Conference Discussion and Debate Tournament which includes the Big Ten schools and to which University of Nebraska debaters are invited this year, and leagues such as the Missouri Valley Forensic League made up of the Big Six schools and a few other colleges.

It is shameful to find that the small colleges in the state far surpass the University of Nebraska with their favorite programs and gain a great deal of recognition for themselves. There is no reason why the university, with so many more students to choose from, should not greatly surpass these small colleges.

Perhaps a few decision debates would add more interest to the debate program. As an answer to those who object to decision debates it may be noted that the ag college stock judging teams take part in decision competitions and this adds more interest to their judging activities. The same might be true of debating.

Our athletic teams and squads gain most of the intercollegiate recognition the university receives. Why can't we branch out with a few more of our teams, including the debaters, to gain recognition in other fields besides athletics? We have a possibility of getting out of the bushes into the big leagues in debating if that activity only has a great deal of interest, turnout and support from the student body.

Behind the News

By David Thompson

Japs Change Cabinet

Failure of the U. S. and Japan to reach any sort of agreement on the peace in the Pacific has caused the fall of the only cabinet group in Japan that has any use at all for America, and has brought to power the military group in that country, a group whose sole aim is to combat the alleged encirclement of Japan by the U. S., Great Britain, China and the Dutch East Indies.

The result of this will of necessity make even more precarious the already strained relations between the Nipponese and the U. S. Even the more moderate cabinet of Prince Konoye was unwilling to reach an agreement unless the American government agreed to relieve the pressure upon the Far East and sanction the Chinese campaign. What then will be the stand of a faction that did not agree with that much conciliation even?

The military faction has said publicly many times in the past month that they did not fear the military and naval strength of the U. S. in the Far East, and now that they have the opportunity to again gain control of Japan's foreign policy, they will not hesitate to continue their expansionist program in southeastern Asia in spite of threatened intervention on our part.

It may also mean a move against the Soviet in the East now that Russia has weakened her Siberian army to help relieve the pressure on Moscow. The most serious move that Japan could make as far as we are concerned would be to prohibit shipping in the Sea of Japan and thus block the route for American supplies to reach Russia through Vladivostok. This would be even more serious if the Russians have to give up Moscow, and retire their army behind the Caucasus. They would then be largely dependent upon the Trans-Siberian railroad for supplies.

There is always the possibility also that Japan may even take military action against the Soviet in the Vladivostok area. Even the setbacks in the Chinese war have not caused the Japanese to withdraw their crack troops from the Manchurian-Siberian border, and with Russia's forces there weakened by withdrawals it is not impossible to think that Japan might act there. It would certainly be a move that Germany would approve, and it is well known that the military faction in Japan is in sympathy with the nazis.

What will be the effect of an aggressive Japanese foreign policy upon the U. S.? There exists a greater danger of our intervention in a war in the Pacific at this time than of our entrance into the European conflict. The waters of the Pacific are considered, even by the most rabid isolationists, part of our defensive waters, and governmental action to keep it open to our shipping would meet with almost unanimous approval by the American people. If Japan then attempts to close the Sea of Japan, or to expand further in the South, it may well mean that the U. S. will act with force now that reason has apparently failed to gain anything.

Commentorials

... from our readers

Dear Editor:

The Nebraska Band has many activities coming up which are very noteworthy. Naturally, because we do not want to make the Nebraska cheering section at least one-eighth that of Stanford's in the Rose Bowl, we have offered our services to the cheerleaders, the Corn Cobs and the Tassels. I might say that the band has had more lung power in cheering than the student section has had.

Therefore, in order to bring about better school spirit—or should I say lung power, I would like to suggest the following thoughts:

1. Have each fraternity and sorority make their members memorize all pep songs.
2. Have the Daily print the words to a song every day.
3. Place the noteworthy yells and songs in the football programs.

To any of these the Nebraska band will give its fullest co-operation.

Adequate publicity has been given to the band in all state and local newspapers. Perhaps the Daily might devote a column or several inches to the band each week.

The band is ready at all times to give its aid in fostering school spirit. Let's try to co-operate.

Sincerely,

Roland J. Urbanek,
Vice President, University Band.

With the Best Sellers

By H. Jayne Lynne

BERLIN DIARY, by William L. Shirer (Alfred A. Knopf).

Here is a first-hand, ringside-seat account of the events in Central Europe which have shaped themselves into war for the world. This tale by a pioneer "radio foreign correspondent" is presented in the form of a diary; event by event, development by development, complete with expert interpretation.

The only possible comment upon the historical value of the book is this: Had Mr. Shirer been present and observant during Napoleon's dramatic campaigns, school-boys might not now regard Napoleon as such a heroic figure. Should posterity so far forget the repugnance of Nazi ideology to democratic ideals as to endow Hitler with a similar romantic aura, this book will serve to dispel the mists of time and reveal the actuality of our today.

As a social document, the book is probably valueless. Mr. Shirer's comments on the philosophy of Nazism are based on the theory that peoples always get the sort of government they deserve. He maintains that the German people have a peculiar passion for being regimented. He says over and over again that all Germans instinctively turn toward militarism as the one aim of life. He advances the theory that Nazi totalitarianism is but the most recent of a long series of outbreaks of that militarism, which is, according to him, so dear to "the strange soul of the German people."

Through the pages overlaid with righteous hatred of the Nazis and their methods, and understandable disgust for the Munich appeasers, there occasionally

shines the light of a particularly fine bit of writing. The first entry is such a bit, and throughout the book sporadic stories of discussions and parties, a small tribute to old Vienna, and a few personal reflections contribute to the attractiveness of the book.

Whether the reader agrees or disagrees with the general tone of Mr. Shirer's implied conclusions, whether the book infuriates him, or delights him, he will find it fascinating from the first entry to the last (January 11, 1934—December 13, 1940).

THE PROPHET, by Kahlil Gibran (Alfred A. Knopf).

This book is in its 38th American printing, but far too few Americans have read it. Written in flowing Old Testament cadences, this prose-poem begins:

"Almustafa, the chosen and the beloved, who was a dawn unto his own day, had waited 12 years in the city of Orphalese for his ship that was to return and bear him back to the isle of his birth.

"And in the twelfth year, on the seventh day of Ielool, the month of reaping, he climbed the hill without the city walls and looked seaward; and he beheld his ship coming with the mist.

"Then the gates of his heart were flung open, and his joy flew far over the sea. And he closed his eyes and prayed in the silences of his soul."

As Almustafa waits for his ship on the last day of his stay in Orphalese, the people of Orphalese gather about him, and ask him to tell them of the things of life. Almustafa answers them in lyrical wisdom.

The Oriental tone of the book is no accident, for Kahlil Gibran was born and brought up in that place of many prophets, Mount Lebanon. Like all Gibran's writing, "The Prophet" is rich with his unflagging love for humanity. When Almustafa speaks with compassion and love to the people of Orphalese, it is Gibran himself, speaking to all humankind. And he speaks with wisdom and great faith.

The drawings with which Gibran has himself illustrated the book are on a par with the writing. They are mystical, and require that a conscious effort be made to understand them.

This is a book to inspire meditation, to be read only in an exalted mood.

Leverton Speaks To Campus Club

The Campus club met Tuesday evening for the first time this year at a dinner at Ellen Smith hall. Dr. Leverton spoke on "Better Nutrition, Our Descent." ...

Coeds Discuss Hobby Groups At Mass Meet

Coed Counselors will hold a mass meeting on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 19, at 3 p. m., in Ellen Smith hall. Purpose of this meeting is to discuss the three hobby groups sponsored this year by the organization: Charm school, book reviews, and "Bundles for Britain."

Dorothy Weirich will serve as leader for charm school; Janice Hagelin will be sponsor for the book review group; and Ann Kinder will sponsor the group's latest project, "Bundles for Britain."

Harriet Talbot, president of Coed Counselors, urged that not only members of the group, but also everyone interested in these hobby groups, make a special effort to attend.

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