

The Daily Nebraskan

Forty-first Year

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Editor Paul E. Svoboda
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Ulterior Motives Come to Light

This editorial is dedicated to those persons in the habit of reading between the lines.

Letterip

Dear Editor:

The Hall Fund provides the university money—from three to seven thousand dollars a year—for the purchase of contemporary American art for its gallery. Last week this annual income was spent.

And last Sunday, one of the judges, the curator of fine arts of the Chicago Art Institute, gave a commendable discussion of the chief function of art. All art, he said, must make people aware: it must epitomize so concisely, truthfully and dramatically whatever idea it is expressing that people are drawn to it, go away impressed, and are able in the future to recognize it unmistakably as an old friend.

Then the purchases were announced. The unanimous first choice was Max Weber's "Landscape," a dark, drab forest scene painted in a manner poorly imitative of Cezanne (French), with three trees and a vague background. The rest of the acquisitions were with few exceptions highly satisfactory.

This writer was not pleased last Sunday by the choice of the Weber Landscape. In fact he was nauseated, horrified, and pained, and excited to a frenzy which bid him writhe and storm and bend his every effort to force the committee to reconsider of resign.

He knows that the gallery is one of the nation's finest collections of America's contemporary art. He feels a pride and thrill and a kind of prof of the pictures as a friend and revisits them often. To him they are the one aesthetic bit in this operatory interest in it. He knows and loves each less, ballet-less, drama-less, concert-less forsaken village; the one spot of green on this white spot of the nation.

Arguing from both his psychological training and his admiration for regional art he goes on from agreeing that art must make people aware, to insist, that if art is to succeed at all in playing its necessary invigorating and enlightening role as an aesthetic haven for people's thought it must not only attract people's intimate participation, but also, by the sheer force of its color, structure and ideas it must teach people to recognize similar stimuli in their own everyday, non-museum lives; so that from their gallery learning-experience their profit will be an increased awareness, a fuller appreciation of the meaning and goodness, the problems and pleasures of their own humble lives.

Therefore, the choice of Max Weber's Landscape is vehemently opposed for these reasons: (1) it is a bad picture: because it can not produce awareness in any Nebraskan for the simple reason that it is a product of a foreign artist, a foreign training, and a foreign technique, of a subject matter which is foreign to Nebraskans and therefore, even if it attracts the people's attention, an event of low probability, it will impart no feeling of fam-

Eleanor 'n Me

By Alan Jacobs

(The following letter was received yesterday.)

Washington, D. C.
March 26, 1942

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

My attention has been called to the column, entitled "Eleanor 'n Me," written under your name in the Daily Nebraskan. In "my day," and there have been many of them, I have never read such downright audacity. Although Franklin, soft, kind soul that he is, explained the principals of freedom of the press when I told him of your reference to relations between you and me, I soon sat him straight. I let him know that . . .

Philadelphia, Pa.
March 27, 1942

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

As I was saying before the a plane took off, I told him that I hated newspaper columnists who were constantly destructive. He agreed; James agreed; Elliott agreed; Sistic and Euzzie agreed. The only one who disagreed was the members of Congress, and they are always disagreeing. I was talking to a Congressman from Montana the other night. Now there is an individual. We were . . .

Minnea Olis, Minn.
March 28, 1942

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

You'll excuse these interruptions, but I am a busy woman. My plane is cooling off here after crossing all of the states in the Ohio river valley and Alabama. The reason we crossed Alabama was because I have never been in Alabama, and you know how Alabama votes every election. I was writing you about that Senator from Montana; he is the one whom I am flying to meet. But about your column. . . .

Tombstone, Montana
March 29, 1942

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

Here I am in Tombstone, and after traveling all of this way, I found that my friend, the Senator was buried here a week ago. But I have always said that Senators are always disagreeing, and Freddie's bar is no place to disagree. I know; that's why I am now boarding a train for the west coast. That Two-gun Miller or whatever his name is will never. . . .

Phoenix, Ariz.
March 30, 1942

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

To get to the point, the suggestion that I change the name of my column to "Alan 'n me," was very nasty. I still cannot figure out how you found that I was associated with the Senator from Montana, and that his first name was Alan. But I should think you would have enough decency to keep it secret. Now that Alan is in—I mean under—Tombstone, the truth can come out, and I can tell you what I think. . . .

Washington, D. C.
April 1, 1942

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

Only because you are so young and because of civilian defense and what dear Fiorella, Melvyn, and that dancer—what was her name—advised me, I have decided to forgive you, forget all, and start everything anew. But I am still unhappy: Although in my most recent trip to Tombstone, I have intended to fly over every state in the Union, only 47 were so honored.

I missed South Dakota again, dammit.

ilarity nor enable the viewer to profit from his experience by perceiving the picture's effects upon him in his environment when he goes home: (2) it is a bad buy: because its cost of \$3,000 is exorbitant and could be spent with far greater result in awareness-producing stimuli on the following favorite paintings: Joe Jones' colorful threshing scene (\$500), Peter Hurd's "Waterhole" (\$400), Gropper's dynamic and socially significant "Civilization" (\$750), Negler's moving religious masterpiece, "The Draught of the Fishes" (\$1,000), Kirsch's excellent familiar "Crossing" (\$250—a bargain). Total, \$2,900.

Each one of these artists is a recognized "arrived" American painter. Each picture is typical of the artist's work. . . None of these artists are now represented in the university collection, and all ought to be. Moreover, these pictures give a higher probability of pleasing a greater number of people because there are more of them, they are in a familiar vernacular, they are colorful, and they deal with a variety of ideas.

Every time the writer thinks of the Weber Landscape he thinks of the pictures we might have had for the price, and he mourns.

The judges claim that we will grow to like it. Maybe we won't. We should not gamble all our eggs in one basket.

—Herbert Meyer.

College Oddities



PRINCETON U. HAS THE LARGEST COLLECTION OF DEATH MASKS ("PORTRAITS IN PLASTER") IN THE UNITED STATES.

THRU THE DISCOVERY OF OIL ON ITS LAND, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HAS PROFITED TO THE EXTENT OF \$30,000,000!

THE SENIOR CLASS AT MUHLENBURG COLLEGE IS ALLOWED TO PLANT IVY IF THEY ARE ALL BACHELORS!
IT HASN'T BEEN PLANTED FOR 20 YEARS!



'Norway Still Fighting Effectively'—Ellen Repp

"Very few people realize that the Norwegians have a cause, but the Norwegian Merchant marine, part of which escaped the German raids, is operating very effectively," said Miss Ellen Repp, in an interview Tuesday night. She also stated that it has been supplying much of the oil and food supply of England. Miss Repp is very interested in the Norwegian cause, and has been doing much to further it. She has been singing for Norwegian youths who are training in the school called "Little Norway" in Toronto, Canada; she has also organized a number of "Little Norway" clubs which do war work comparable to our American Red Cross.

Prefers Norway's Music.

Altho she has not favorite composer, song, or audience, Miss Repp does show a marked preference for Norwegian music. This is probably due in part to the

fact that her parents were born in Norway and that Norwegian traditions have been observed in her home.

She traveled to Oslo, Norway, to study with Johanson, one of the greatest Norwegian musicians of the present time. There, she learned approximately 75 Norwegian songs, some of which she includes in every concert. Miss Repp, herself a member of the Mu Phi sorority, began her singing career in 1934 a few years after graduating from the University of Washington as a History major. She made her debut in New York and has appeared several times in Town Hall in New York.

The highlight of the Sixth Annual Scholarship Concert will be the presentation of the Scholarship award to a freshman girl in the school of music. Immediately preceding this presentation, Miss Repp will sing Aria "Air De Lia" by Debussy.

Boucher Says No Final Exams Due to War

In a further attempt to speed up the closing date of school, Chancellor Boucher today declared that no final examinations will be given. Instead students may leave for their respective homes May 18 the time originally set for finals. C. S. in an official statement to a Daily reporter declared, "Without a doubt the students at our university will feel the loss of the privilege of taking examination, but I know that they as good Americans will be willing to sacrifice for their country."

No examinations will be given in place of finals, but university officials hope that many of the students who will be in the service of their country next year and thus unable to attend school will enjoy the last few months of school to the fullest degree.

Resignation . . .

(Continued From Page 1) of the stirring event. The question on the minds of every person gathered there was what was it that she was about to say before she weakened. After tender care had been administered by Charley Yount, he asked her in a kind semilfluid tone with words that flowed with a gummositous viscosity, "Say there, Miss Fedde, what was that you were about to say?" . . . A smile came over Miss Fedde's face as she restated her unfinished statement "I hope you don't take his too seriously because after all, isn't this April Pools Day?"

YW Heads Meet Tonight at 7 p.m.

Members of both city and ag cabinets will meet with all staff heads and freshmen commission leaders tonight at the regular cabinet meeting promptly at 7 p. m. in Ellen Smith. The meeting will be used for mid-semester reports and time will be spent explaining the work of the WSSF. All members must be present.

Men's Dorm . . .

(Continued From Page 1.) three lounges, several smaller rooms for study, music, recreation, and so forth. Rear wing of the ground floor will house the general dining room, kitchen, and heating plant. The entire basement will be made up of several recreation rooms, ranging from ping-pong and billiards, to two badminton courts, while the basement in the front wing will be given over to a ballroom.

Two Buildings Razed.

Excavating will begin on the present library site, following the razing of that building, with U-hall being razed at the same time. Materials for the new building were assured thru the work of a special committee appointed by the board of regents to investigate the possibility that war priorities might prohibit construction of the building at the present time. It was estimated by the board that completion of the new dormitory would come "sometime shortly after December of this year, with the first residents moving in at the end of the first semester."