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FORTY-SECOND YEAR

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Victory, Major or Minor?

Newspaper headlines the past few days have carried the story of a withdrawal of the Japanese fleet from the Solomon islands combat area "signifying a major victory for allied forces." The Jap withdrawal came after two months of maneuvering, carrying out "feeler" attacks, and bringing troops to reinforce land forces on Guadalcanal and New Guinea. With the departure of the enemy fleet, the Nip land fighting troops "were left at the mercy of marine forces on that island and the bombing efforts of allied planes."

But was it a major victory? Does withdrawal of the enemy fleet necessarily indicate that? Are those troops on Guadalcanal "at the mercy . . ." of our forces there? It would seem, all factors considered, that the "major victory" was much more of a very minor victory, possibly tinged on defeat.

While a part of the U. S. fleet, operating over a thousand miles to the north of the Solomons, in the Gilbert island area, was sinking "one destroyer, one cargo vessel and damaging two Japanese cruisers," our southern fleet was first hit, hard, in a daring naval offensive action by the enemy. Net loss: At least two airplane carriers, at least two destroyers, at least one naval tug, and several smaller vessels. All of that has been indicated, not confirmed.

Two weeks ago, the Japanese began a major offensive sea action around Guadalcanal to land troops on that island; to a great extent, they succeeded. In fact, they succeeded so well that in ten days marine forces on the island were occupying an area three miles deep and six miles wide. With a defensive action on the part of allied forces obviously the only answer, would not the allied command throw into battle every possible available reserve?

The sinking of two allied carriers would indicate in itself that tremendous naval superiority was the chief advantage of the enemy, while we relied on air superiority to balance the power. The one very important factor which should not be lost by readers in considering the battle is the fact that most of the enemy fleet was intact when it withdrew.

If that fleet is still able to land troops on Guadalcanal to throw against already worn-out allied forces, or if they can gain control of allied supply lines thru that superiority of the sea, it definitely means the battle of the Solomons has only reached a new stage, has not ended, even temporarily.

When Jap forces on the island surrender or are slaughtered, when the enemy fleet has been engaged and defeated, or forced to withdraw completely from the area—then a "major victory" can be claimed. That victory, major or minor, whether it has come or is still among the things to come, will very probably determine a swing of the balance of power in the south Pacific.

—G. A.

Soldiers, and Coeds . . .

Coming as it did, the announcement from the dean of women's office to the effect that "mass entertainment of soldiers by university coeds is out" was, to put it mildly, somewhat of a blow to the local armed forces. Indirectly, if it points the way to precedent thruout the nation, it is a blow to men of the university, themselves potential material for the armed forces.

University women who had participated in the two soldier-coed dances held last year thought it a good idea to carry out a similar plan again this year. Two chief arguments against the plan, as given to War Council representatives conferring with the dean, were: That the Lincolnettes, women's group sponsoring dances for the soldiers, was serving the purpose well; and that it would be unfair to men of the university.

Quite possibly, if the coeds themselves want the dances, there is little to be said against having them, since it seems unlikely that two dances, or even several more than that, would be unfair to university men.

Whether the Lincolnettes are or are not providing sufficient entertainment for the soldiers is not important. Most of the "unfairness" comes in the idea behind refusal on the dean's part, that university men should be considered. A majority of the men in the university will be in the armed forces in the not too distant future, and the fact that a man is taken from his own environment, moved to some other city, and put in a uniform should not mean he is a different individual.

Soldiers are, after all, only human. If they favor dancing with coeds, it is only a compliment to university women. If university men are unanimously against the plan, and if the same is true of university women (and is it?), then the plan is just as well left alone. University men thinking of their own future, and coeds, thinking of brothers and cousins in similar positions, should be taken into consideration.—G. A.

Letterip

Dear Editor,

At the very outset of this short note there is one point that I should like to make very clear. I'm not arguing for or against the "Sweetheart" decision; neither am I arguing for or against the barbs or the greeks. The point I wish to make is concerning the present editorial (and at times not limited to the editorials) policy of the Daily Nebraskan.

The Daily Nebraskan, as it is now set up, is the only paper on the campus. It is the tripe read by every student regardless of affiliation or rank, and because there is no other reading, it is read by necessity. Therefore its chief duty, according to the rules set up by its own profession, is to present unbiased news, as well as a sound, sensible, constructive editorial policy.

The latest few lines scribbled off by one of the romper editors of the Rag illustrate my point. The barbs were interested in voting for a "Nebraska Sweetheart," weren't interested in who was the "Kosmet Klub Sweetheart." The Greeks and the Rag did a most beautiful job of presenting the question from the Greek angle. Not enough said, they introduced the barbs as ravers, tradition-breakers, and actors capable of putting on an unintentionally humorous show. The front page, in manner of presentation, insinuated that the barbs had no basis for their arguments.

The coverage and the editorials written on this story represent the lowest level of common sense presented by a newspaper with the status of the Rag in quite a while. The paper is not a political organ (or rather a sad imitation), but is a medium of reporting the news from both sides of any question or conflict. The material written is supposed to represent the work of college journalism students, not would be "Edgar Allen Poes" or copies of larger party editorials that exist in the daily papers. Don't forget everybody payed fifty cents for a newspaper, and it wasn't so that the romper editors of the Rag could smoke Luckies instead of Sensations.

And I quote the idea "A disgruntled reader makes an appeal to the Daily Nebraskan: Why not spend a little less time running off at the mouth in criticizing the efforts, moves, or acts of any party and make an effort to become a backbone of any worthwhile movement of benefit to the campus as well as a decent newspaper of some interest to the readers.

KENNY GREENWOOD.

Note: This is a fact: Professor Lantz's statement following the Student Council meeting Tuesday night made all the arguments seem humorous; so the Nebraskan editorial writer wrote that it was humorous. Not being Edgar Allen Poes but young college journalism students, the Daily staff sometimes fails to be as objective as possible, but the desire to be unbiased in the news columns does exist. The editorial page is open to anyone's opinion; yesterday's editorial was written by a managing editor since the editor was busy planning a trip to Chicago for a press convention.

And the romper editors often feel lucky to have a cigarette at all. Sorry, there's no rake-off.—A. J.

Dear Eidor,

Once upon a time there was a big, big forest of all kinds of trees. This was not an ordinary forest. This forest had political parties. Now there was one party ran by I think it was a Douglas Fir, who had all the evergreens, that kept fighting and smashing down the Poplar Party.

One year the Poplar Party put up two of the most beautiful Trees-of-Heaven you ever

War Stamps . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)

room. Among the booths the Student Union sales topped the list with \$31. MA and ag ran a close second and third with \$22.90 and \$22.10 respectively. The fourth booth, Sosh, made sales worth \$15.35.

As in past weeks, the booths were in charge of organized groups, with members of each group selling the war stamps for a certain length of time. Plans have been made for the sales to continue all year.

Chips

By Gene Bradley

THE SPORTS PARADE.

One thing concerning athletics we know for a fact: A GOOD sports column is as hard to find as a Sig Alph in a W.C.T.U. meeting.

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FLASH: Last night, the AGR's defeated the Farm House Fighters in the finals of the annual intramural cow-milking contest. When asked the reason for the failure, the Farm House sportsmen replied: "We have no reason; we failed udderly."

FLASH: The Delts yesterday challenged the Sigma Chis to a fudge-baking contest for next Tuesday. Unfortunately, the Sigma Chis were forced to decline. They had made previous arrangements to play bridge with the DU's.

FLASH: The Kappas defaulted to the Tri Delts in the semi-finals of the women's badminton tournament. When interviewed as to this default, Miss Pat Catlin, chairman, remarked: "We girls were busy down at Salt Creek, slugging rats."

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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD OF SPORTS:

1—On the ag campus. The "Athletics and the War" committee has announced complete success in its latest experiments. It has crossed an owl with a homing pigeon so that the animal can carry night messages.
2—Joe Byler, grid iron-man, stated that he prefers to play football against men whose upper limbs have been completely cut off. When an explanation of this statement was asked, Byler replied, "Well, they're usually rather 'armless.'"

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One caution to the would-be sports writer: Don't tell everything you know. So remember: Writing a sports column is like meeting Errol Flynn—some things you have to keep a little quiet.

saved to run for Queens of the two local lumber companies (both, of course, managed by Woods Brothers). The idea had always been to have the whole forest pick the two trees with the most shapely limbs. But this year, that Douglas Fir spruced his boys up and told the forest that the lumber companies had decided to eliminate politics and to appoint a Board of nine evergreens and one poplar to pick the queens. Needless to say, in a few years, this would have led to an evergreen domination.

But the Poplar Party had another bud up its pedicel and proposed that a few changes be made in the furniture of the Big House that governed the forest. You see every year the furniture was replaced in the House and each party tried to have its members elected. The Chair, I understand, was particularly important. Well, in years past the only seat that was Poplar for sure was the Love Seat. The evergreens kept getting the rest, year after year, by having some of their best hard wood stay over for another term. This fixed things so that the Poplars could never get a majority of the seats in the House.

Well, this year the Poplars proposed that the furniture staying over should be picked on the basis of what the whole forest wanted; not just by what the evergreens wanted. They proposed that if fifty per cent of the forest voted Poplar, fifty per cent of the selected furniture should be Poplar. Several of the Evergreens even agreed. This proposal was logical. It was fair. It was democratic. Did it pass? I do not know. Will it, Poplars?

Sincerely,

BOB DEWEY.

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