

EDITORIAL * * COMMENT

The Daily Nebraskan

FORTY-FIFTH YEAR

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How About It??

Editorials are to be written on pertinent questions always. There are, however, certain ones that go unnoticed if left until such time when they are legally such. One of these is the question of finals.

The process of final week has come back in all its two week glory again, according to the new N book and therefore should be discussed while there is still time for suggestion. It is hoped that this will not go entirely unnoticed by some influential persons.

Finals at Nebraska might well be considered as part of tradition since the theme, vein and style in many courses has failed to deviate over a period of years. This is a form of retrogression in education rather than progression and should be dealt with accordingly.

Progressive education does not promote standardization in any form and such practices as finals and tests should be no exception to the rule. Age-old as they are they are deserving of revision to a great extent.

Assuming that finals have to be given why not at least make them an instrument of increased learning instead of a sweat session, the outcome of which depends on an individual's power of memorization following hours of cramming. Under the present system the degree of good a final does a student is practically nil. He crams and crams himself with too many abstract terms and titles that will be of little or no value to him.

In the form of suggestion why wouldn't it be possible to adopt a system of final testing along these lines? Each instructor would accelerate his his program to cover the entire course in one week less than the time designated now. Then devote the last week to covering the five or ten most important points of the course and give a final over these points. Additional work would be required of the instructor to condense his course but the over all student benefit from the course would undoubtedly be greater.

One strong argument always raised to the above plan is that by testing in such a manner the student would only have a few things to consider and would practically know the questions before they were given. This is true in every detail but what of it?

If he at least knows these he would, under this system, know the most valuable aspects of the subject and would retain them longer since the practice of cramming would be gone, replaced by actual knowledge of the condensed material.

Another argument might be that certain subjects can not be cut so sharply or reduced to a small number of questions. This too may be true but by simplifying complex questions and connecting related ones, the number would be reduced to a few, yet covering exactly the same material. If it is absolutely impossible to cut a course at least the hieroglyphic questions could be eliminated and the dual meaning ones clarified. By doing this the coin flipping practice would be eliminated.

Instructors, how about giving us a break and trading us our mystification for your simplification? —D.N.

Huskies . . .

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the Nebraska starting lineup. Alex Cochran, 168 pound Ord wingman, may be at the right end post in place of Jack Pesek who is bothered with a sprained thumb, and 230 pound Mike Dibase, former St. Mary's preflight performer, is slated to replace Vern Stiner at the right tackle slot.

Otherwise the Scarlet first string is unchanged. This means that Jack Hazen will be left at left end, Carl Samuelson at left tackle, Fred Lorenz at left guard, Joe Partington at center and Ed Schwartzkopf at right guard.

Vacanti is the probable starter at quarterback, with Dick Hutton and Cletus Fischer at the halves and Tom Novak at fullback. Ready for instant duty behind these backfield performers are quarterback Fred Metheny, game captain for the clash, halfbacks Bill Moomy, who scored the only touchdown against Minnesota, and Jim Myers, plus Fullback Jerry Moore. 36,000 Expected.

Business Manager A. J. Lewan-

dowski expects a crowd of 36,000 fans to jam Memorial stadium for the contest. This number will include knothole section kids, as well as 17 high school bands.

The bands will present a colorful halftime program, as well as a parade before the game, beginning at 1:30.

Nebraska's gridgers will be attired in white uniforms for the game, for new red jerseys, always a part of the Huskers' home game garb, have not yet arrived in Lincoln.

Chancellor R. A. Gustavson will toss out the football to open the game, with Corn Cobs and Tassels, student pep organizations, massed for the occasion.

Nebraska's squad will spend Friday night at the Ashland national guard camp, returning to Lincoln an hour before game time.

The Kansas State squad will arrive in Lincoln tonight and will headquarter at the Cornhusker hotel. Eight coaches of student rooters have been chartered for the game, as Kansas State President Eisenhower has declared Saturday a holiday at the Manhattan school.

Letterip

To Whom It May Concern:

One of the things which was most apparent to me upon my arrival on the University campus was the fact that in order to accommodate the vast sea of students, which have been allowed to enroll this semester, every service and facility that the University has to offer would have to be geared to its absolute limit.

It was not long, however, before it became equally apparent that this was not being done. Though in most instances neither time nor expense has been spared to produce the maximum in convenience and efficiency from these services, there is still room for a great deal of improvement in some departments on the campus. The one with which this article is particularly concerned is the library.

Due to the tremendous influx of students and the limited supply of essential reference books it has become necessary to place time restrictions upon the use of these books. Also, for a student who lives any distance from the campus it is a near impossibility to check out a reference for overnight use. These books cannot be checked out before the last hour that the library is open and must be returned within the first hour of the next day on which it is open. It is perfectly understandable how necessary these restrictions are to give the maximum number of students the opportunity to obtain this material; however, for no obvious reason, the library remains closed on one day out of every seven.

I have been told that the reason it did not open on Sunday afternoons in former years was that a sufficient number of personnel could not be obtained in order to staff all the rooms on this particular day. Surely this is not the case this semester. If it is, why would it not be feasible to staff only the main reading rooms where most of the reference material is kept and leave the remainder of the library closed.

There are many classes in which all the assignments must be filled from reference material. I am sure there are other students who, like myself, would find it very convenient and helpful if we were allowed to spend a few hours each Sunday afternoon toward the fulfillment of these assignments.

Nearly every other type of experiment has at one time or another been carried on within the halls of our great institutions, so why not place this on an experimental basis until we can determine whether or not it is worthy of permanent consideration.

A fellow grind,
Bob Caffrey.

Dear Madame Editor:

We choked on our oatmeal breakfast Thursday morning, when we read the Nebraskan's report that the Innocents will set up a point system "under which all men's activities will be controlled." We were surprised at two things: first, that men's activities need to be controlled; second that the Innocents should do the controlling.

For the last two years men's activities have bumbled along pleasantly enough. We have needed no guiding mind to announce who can do what and for how long. Men have played the activities game for the fun of playing; and we have all had something of a good time. But now we are told that men's activities are more than the simple business of having fun at something. Men's activities are mysteriously significant matters that must be controlled by a masterful intelligence, The Innocents Society.

For those who do not recognize the Innocents Society, we should explain that this is an association for the perpetuation of wearing red flannel nightgowns when every other male animal is wearing trousers. The purpose of the Society's existence is unknown; and when it went out of business in 1943, everyone supposed that it was happily defunct. Its membership now consists of tired veterans who were big men on the campus way back in dear, dead 1943.

But instead of being either quiet students in graduate school, or getting their diplomas in January and disappearing decently, these refugees from the rigors of adult life are back to run the campus for us children. This first step is to gain control of a point system for men's activities.

Our humble advice to the Innocents is this: If you want to play

activities. If you are a group formed for mutual admiration, pass yourselves the hand mirrors and enjoy your reflected glory. But if you are a pack of power hungry master minds, why not transfer to some other school?

Finally, this campus, too long overloaded with big time operators, has never needed the Innocents Society, and does not need it now. Why not choose up sides and vote yourselves out of existence as Innocents, gentlemen. Then you might look at men's activities for the fun that is in them, and not as an excuse for your society's continued burdensome presence.

Sincerely,

ELMER SPRAGUE.

Ag Exec Board, Faculty Sponsors Reception Tonight

Ag college students and faculty are invited to attend the Ag Student-Faculty party, to be held from 8:30 to 11 in the college activities building tonight, under the joint sponsorship of the Ag Exec. Board and ag college faculty.

No tickets are needed for the party which will feature mixers led by Ralph Copenhaver, dancing, and refreshments of ice cream and nuts. The purpose of the party is to give ag college students and faculty chance to get acquainted.

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