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NEGRO WEEK

The Negro's contributions to civilization, and to American civilization in particular, are numerous; but they are too little known. It is to correct this neglect that the association for the Study of Negro Life and History was organized in 1915, and it was for the same reason that Negro History Week was instigated.

The average schoolboy can speak eloquently of the battle of Bunker Hill and Bull Run and of Generals Grant and Lee. But, can he give anyone an idea of how many Negroes fought in these battles and of the heroic part they played in the Civil War? Can he say how many Negroes represented southern states like South Carolina and Mississippi in the highest body of our government, the Congress? Can he tell of the tremendous contributions made by Negroes in the fields of science, engineering, the arts, and all other phases of human endeavor?

Negro History Week was instituted for the dissemination of information about the Negro through cultural activities depicting his contributions to the artistic and scientific life of his community; learning Negro history is learning what another group has contributed to America. It is learning how to get along happily with others in a community. The week does not stress tolerance, an attitude which connotes patronage and bigoted allowance of existence, but, more realistically, calls upon people to become completely aware of the contributions of the Negro and to appreciate these contributions—to appreciate the individuals and group that does so much for the American culture and by so doing break down the barrier of prejudice whose very foundation rests on the fact that many people are uninformed of the contributions made by this group of Americans.

This year, Negro History Week was Feb. 8-15. Today is the last day of the official week established in Nebraska by a proclamation of the Governor. But God have mercy on the souls of those people who allow this to be the last day of appreciation of the minority groups that form so integral a part of our very lives and existence.

Eugene Berman.

Ancient U Hall's Story Outlined in '89 Report

The University of Nebraska, celebrating its 79th birthday today, first knew the power of rumor when, in 1869, prevalent talk marked the newly constructed U hall as insecure—even before a student had entered its doors.

In a report to the State Historical Society in 1889, Professor H. W. Caldwell gave an interesting document of the early history of U hall.

"On June 5, 1869, the sale of lots began and the first day 105 lots were sold for about \$30,000. The next day **The Commonwealth** (the predecessor of **The State Journal**), remarked that 'now the completion of the State University and Agricultural College is assured.' The plans of Mr. J. M. McBird, of Logansport, Indiana, were accepted on June 2, and on August 14, **The Commonwealth** contained an editorial description of the plans for the new building, classing the style as Franco-Italian. The same issue of the paper announced that the excavation for the basement of the university was completed.

Contract Let

"On August 18, 1869, the contract for the erection of the building was let to Silver and Son for \$128,480; soon afterward the troubles which followed the university for so many years began. Even the **Brownville Advertiser**, a good friend of the university, thought the policy of letting a contract for \$28,480 more than the appropriation unwise. **The State Journal** came to the defense of the regents, arguing that it was a better policy to begin the erection of a building of sufficient size and well suited to its uses, even if it were necessary to have an additional appropriation, than to spend \$100,000 upon a building that would soon have to be tore down because it was unsuitable to the needs of the future.

Cornerstone Laid

The cornerstone was laid on September 23, 1869; two days after a glowing account appeared in the columns of **The State Journal**. The

exercises were in the hands of the Masons with Major D. H. Wheeler as master of ceremonies. A brass band from Omaha, imported for the occasion, headed the procession. In the evening a grand banquet was given. The banquet—thanks to the good people of Lincoln—was enjoyed by fully a thousand people, with dancing from 10 until 4 o'clock.

"The regents visited the building and after inspection, approved the plans of construction on Jan. 6, 1871, but before a student had ever entered its doors, the cry was raised that it was insecure. In June, 1871, three professional architects were employed to examine the building thoroughly. Their report was made and they pronounced the building safe for the present and probably for years to come. The probability, they thought, could be made a certainty by a few repairs that would not be very expensive.

"These repairs were made and Sept. 6 the university was opened with an enrollment of about 90 students the first week. However, the rumor of insecurity of the building would not die down; so in March, 1873, a special meeting of the regents was called to consider further repairs. After a report from another set of architects, a new foundation was ordered to be put under the chapel.

Chancellor Reports.

"The chancellor in his report of June 26, 1877, again called the attention of the board to the condition of the building. Four architects were now employed. On the strength of their report, the regents resolved to tear down the building and to erect a new one at the cost of \$600,000, \$40,000 of this amount to be raised by Lincoln.

"The citizens of Lincoln, however, were not satisfied, so they sent to Chicago and Dubuque for architects who examined the building and pronounced it easily repaired. A new foundation with some other repair was ordered and the bill paid by Lincoln."

News Print

Secretary of State Marshall, in a recent address to the National Farm Institute convention in Des Moines, delivered from Knoxville, Tenn., described the formation of a western European union as "our great hope."

The goal of the establishment of a united political western Europe is one that has been of great importance at previous times in history and is, even now, becoming ever more important as new international crises threaten world security and as western Europe struggles to re-establish a sound economic and political basis. The issue, which reached great proportions of probability in the League of Nations was abandoned as the chaos of Japanese and Italian aggression disrupted the world. Now, however, the unification of western Europe gets new champions from the United States and Britain. Both Bevin and Churchill have dedicated the British towards the creation of a united states of western Europe.

There is little doubt of the great economic advantages that can be derived by each state from such a union. It would break down the arbitrary trade barriers and differences of currency that so complicate and restrict the freedom of life-giving trade. The political implications of such a union are tremendous. A third power in the two worlds would be created. A power with a population greater than either the United States or Russia would arrive on the scene. The question is whether such a western European power would have Eastern or Western leanings.

Out of the chaos of second and third rate states that currently are battling one another in western Europe would arise one united states that could throw the balance of power to either the United States or Russia or could remain an independent group playing the East against the West to its own advantage.

Economic unions are becoming more popular. The Soviet has recently been negotiating customs unions with its neighbors and has been arranging for almost unlimited reciprocal trade agreements for the eastern block. In the west, Belgium, the Netherlands, and tiny Luxembourg have recently worked out an economic union that may well serve as the germ from which a united states of western Europe may grow.

Back in the 1920s, France was the champion of such a union. Now the tide has changed, and the United States and Britain are the primary champions of union. The reason is that France fears the re-industrialization of Germany, which would take place under the project, and also feels that she is too close to Russia to be willing to alienate such a tremendous power by becoming a member of a "western" block excluding the eastern states and backed by the western powers.

Campus News In Brief

University Alumni club charter day program will occupy the city Union Sunday. The Ag Union will open at 4 p. m. but no afternoon movie will be shown. Ag Union coffee hour starts at 5 p. m.

Epworth Methodist Youth Fellowship will meet Sunday at 6:00 p.m. at the church, located at 36th and Holdrege. A cost luncheon will be served and Marion Nottingham will lead devotions at 7:00. Judge John L. Polk will speak on "Experiences in Juvenile Court." All students are invited.

Ag Men's Social club initiates will meet in the Ag Union lounge at 8 a. m. Monday for instructions.

Latin American dance instruction will be given by Donna McCandless in the Union ballroom Monday and Wednesdays at 12:15 noon.

Exchange Scholarship applications may be turned in at the registrar's office, Administration 103, Monday.

Theta Sigma Phi, women's journalism honorary, will hear Dr. W. S. Swindler at a tea in the Kappa Alpha Theta house at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Howland-Swanson

NO more of this LOOK...

the NEW-for-YOU-for-spring LOOK's

as the seal-sleek

infallible at dazzling

spring formals

swim suits

stags as the

we'll show in our...

because

smooth

you'll see..

filmy



MALE-TESTED

COLLEGE FASHION FLING

Tuesday and Wednesday nights at 7

February 17 and 18

SEE your Tuesday issue of the Daily Nebraskan to be in the know on this big College Fashion Show event... and to meet the MEN (all Nebraska campus "eligibles") who will choose the "Look" they like for YOU!

