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### EDITORIAL PAGE

# **Unspecialization Move Needed**

"I don't know anything about politics; I'm an engineering student." "Who cares about history? I'm going to teach grade school." "Contemporary art? It's silly and anyway, I'm an ag student-not an artist."

Thus we specialize. Thus we allow professors to poke facts about only one field, or two at best, into our heads. Thus we refuse to be interested in developments and happenings within areas other than our own.

An engineering student who knows little -and cares less-about the political scene

# We Offer Help

Oh joy unbounded! The iron rule of Ellen Smith Hall will be relaxed for one night this weekend. Coeds may stay out one whole hour past closing time on Friday night. This means 1:30 a.m.!

The situation is at once preposterous and praiseworthy. It is preposterous to think that late minutes become moral when sponsored by an organization. However, with Mortar Boards at each door to greet latecomers, to escort them back into the purity of an "organized house," the University will probably not be deluged with telephone calls from outraged parents.

On the other hand, the end toward which these dubious means are directed is good. Mortar Board Society is sponsoring a tour of Nebraska for foreign students. To do this they need money. One cent a late minute will be collected for this purpose.

A common ground of complaint from foreign students at the University is that they want to meet native Nebraskans-not just each other. In addition, they will probably learn things about this state on the tour that even Nebraskans do not know.

The Nebraskan feels this is such a worthy project-and the means are so unusualthat the paper lends its support.

We not only offer moral support-we'll be practical. The Nebraskan offers to sponsor an hour of late minutes sometime at the reduced rate of one-half cent a minute. In addition, we will donate one cent an hour for each coed willing to stay out later. Pro ceeds will go to the foreign student tour. Staff members will be at the door to collect conts and half-cents from coeds.

Of course, The Nebraskan plan has not been approved by Dean Johnston, AWS and housemothers. Yet we fervently hope our suggestion will fall with grace upon the attentive ears of these persons and that it will be received with favor.

So, with a plan to help and a chuckle about the means involved, The Nebraskan says to NU womanhood, "Support the cause. Be reckless and stay out an hour later. You will be helping a good project."-S. H.

is missing the real meaning of the University. Likewise elementary education and ag majors who refuse to admit that history and art have something to offer are not in tune with the University.

For the word - university - comes from the Latin "universitas," meaning "all together, the whole, the universe." The conotations of this definition are two: 1. a university is the common ground for persons of diversified backgrounds, communities and personalities; 2. a university is a place in which one should acquire a "universal" education, a concept of "the whole" of life.

The latter definition is the one which concerns The Nebraskan at the moment. Concern was prompted by two unconnected happenings. One was a convocation-interesting and ill-attended. The other was a newspaper item received in the office.

The convocation attracted a small handful of listeners; most of them were faculty. The subject, Congressional investigations, should have been of universal interest at this time.

The newspaper item told of the installation of a senior course for students of widely different major interests. The course will be open to outstanding scholars in chemistry, zoology, English, and other subjects. Seniors will discuss a variety of topicstopics confined to no one field.

The first happening is a result of overspecialization; the second may be a cure.

Specialization of vocations has led to an increasing specialization of interests. This sequence is understandable, but deplorable at a time in which persons need to know of many things to read a newspaper with understanding, to talk intelligently and to lead an interesting life.

A senior-level course aimed at broadening the interests and knowledge of students could be only a partial answer to the problem. A handful would be reached,

A freshman-level course-a survey of all phases of history, i.e., art, music, politics, governments-should be instituted here. The University should live up to its obligations as "the whole, the universe." It could take that step to counteract the narrowness within which its students now develop.

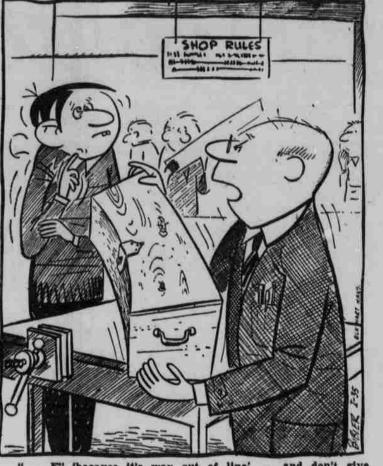
Specialization of vocations is necessary in this age. Specialization of interests is harmful in any age .-- S. H.

# Language Machine

Machines, their abilities and seeming never-ending power to do things better, faster, easier than their makers have been the subject of several Nebraskan "Margin Notes" and have received attention from a University faculty member in a "Letterip."

#### THE NEBRASKAN

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



". . . F" 'because it's way out of line' me that 'bad eye' routine again' this year." ... and don't give

# Slide Rule Study Of Calculus Useful As A Means To An End By JOHN MARKS

Some time ago I wrote an article questioning the purpose of calculus in the engineering curriculum. I suggested then that the theory of calculus was seldom if ever utilized in any other

courses. Since that time I have had a chance to discuss the real impact of calculus on the student's mind. This discussion has been with students and faculty members alike.

First of all, calculus serves as a discipline. By discipline I mean training or co-ordination of thought. The engineer learns to use an analytical approach by use and re-use of the theory of infinitesimals. After considerable practice, the engineer can sepa-rate the significant variables from the constants. Then he can properly evaluate each of these quantities and effect a solution to a problem.

The second use of calculus is to permit the engineer to investigate physical phenomena and produce an accurate description of these phenomena. This description is in the language of mathematics.

Consider, if you will, an engineer who is restricted to the use of trigonometry only in the solution of all problems. I doubt if the engineering profession would have advanced at all without an almost universal application of calculus. The engineer, then, would be hindered without the aid of calculus. His field would be limited by no more than a mode of expression.

only ones who are required to learn this discipline of analytical approach. The Geology Department also requires one semester of calculus in its curriculum.

by Dick Bibler

In geology calculus finds application in petroleum résearch, paleontology, and geophysical sci-ence. The geologist, then, must also be disciplined to adopt a definite analytical procedure in the solution of natural or physical problems.

Changes which occur within the earth over a period of years can-not be accurately represented except by use of calculus. Some of the technical papers that I have inspected in the Geology Department contain more mathematical theory than many engineering papers.

In engineering, hardly an ex-planation of fundamental theory appears which does not use the fundamentals of calculus. The present trend in engineering texts is to use calculus and to make the student realize its importance. Hence, discipline that is taught in a course may be the important part of that course. More generally, this idea of using the study of a subject as a means to an end rather than the end in itself is perhaps common in a college curriculum. I have no doubt that curriculum. courses taught in other colleges are conditioners as well as being useful as background courses.

### The Student Forum

## Second Glance relatively weak and leaderless as

By PAUL LAASE

From the atmosphere in Wash-ington, D.C. one would almost be-lieve that the Communists were ready to start a revolution in the United State tomorrow. Such, at least, has been the impression fosiered by self-appointed Red hunters having headquarters in that city. The "Red menace" re-ceives headline space each day, until it has become almost im-possible to evaluate realistically the actual extent of this threat.

There can be no doubt that ex-ternally the Communists are a serious threat to our national security. Their war machine, on the basis of numerical strength, is the largest in the world. Events in Korea prove that they are not unwilling to use this destructive force. We in the United States would be making a serious error if we were to underestimate either of these factors.

Internally, however, the situa-tion is somewhat different. Communist espionage is a real and ever-present threat. Three can be no doubt that secret information has been stolen from the U.S. Government in the past. At present and in the future we can expect further attempts , on the part of the Communists, to gain access to vital security information. In the field of espionage and sabotage, we can find a real threat to our national security.

But we would be making an equally serious mistake to BSsume that the Communist revolu-tion in the United States will come tomorrow or at anytime in the near future. At present there are less than 75,000 Communist party members in the U.S. Be-caus of the recent notorious publicity devoted to Communism, the number of Communist sympathizers has dropped considerably. The top 105 party leaders are cur-rently under indictment, under the Smith Act, for conspiring to overthrow the Government by force. Today the Communist party is compared to former years. Lenin, the Bolshevik master of revolution, makes it very clear in

his writings that no revolution is to be attempted until the party has a preponderance of strength. To the Communist, it is better to attempt no revolution than to have an attempted revolution fail. These conditions are obviously not to be found in the United States today. The Communists, it can be

safely presumed, do not have control of our Army, Navy or Air Force. Our "secret police" ag-ency, the FBI, remains faithful to our present Government. With only 75,000 loyal Reds scattered throughout the nation, along with a handful'of supporters, there is no danger that our government will be overthrown from within by superior force of arms.

During and since World War II great steps have been made toward eliminating the effectiveness of Communist propaganda in the United States. American labor is not downtrodden and oppressed by the "bourgeois" capitalistrather, the American laborer enjoys the highest standard of living in the world. Indeed, he often owns stock in the corporation which employs him. The economic status of the Negro and other minority groups, while not on a par with white Americans, has improved considerably since 1942. Their standard of living is above that of the Communist nations. All Americans enjoy freedom and civil liberties to a degree unknown

in most of the world. It becomes obvious, then, that the Communist threat in America has been greatly exaggerated by some individuals. Communist military strength and esplonage or sabotage pose a serious prob-lem for all Americans. Nevertheless, the revolutionary aspects of Communist activity in the United States must be considered in its proper perspective. From this direction the danger is rather slight,

## **Exchange** Definition

# Here It Is Gals—College **Men Get Their Caricature**

To sort of even things up the following piece of sarcaam gleaned from the University of Saskatchewan "Sheaf" this is printed as something of a rebuttal to an article their writer produced caricaturing the trpi-cal coed and which the Nebrakan re-printed a week or so aso. Please mote, this is not anything written by NU coeds, nor is it a relection on the male segment of the Nebrakan staff or this reporter. But the similarity of the Canadian college chap and the American variety can be noted.

tua, the aspirations of a Casanova, and when he wants something it's usually money. "Between the senility of second childhood and the light-hearted

"He likes good liquor, bad liquor, cancelled classes, double features, Playtex ads, girls during football weekends. He is not much for hopeful mothers, irate fathers, sharp-eyed ushers, alarm clocks or letters from the Dean.

the practicality of a Don Quixote,

the kindness of a Marquis de Sade, the imagination of a Bill Sykes, the appetite of a Gargan-

"Nobody is so late to rise or so much fun out of girls, snooker or Bright's Catawba. Nobody else can cram into one pocket a sliderule, a Marilyn Monroe calendar, Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason." a collapsible pool cue, a Mugsy Spanier record, and a YMCA towel. "A college boy is a magical creature—you can lock him out of your heart, but you can't lock him out of your liquor cabinet. You can get him off your mind, but you can't get him off your ex-pense account. Might as well give up; he is your jailer, your boss, and your albatros-a blearyeyed, noaccount, girl - chasing bundle of worry. But yhen you bundle of worry. But yhen you come home at night with only the shattered pieces of hopes and dreams, he can make them mighty insignificant with four magic words: "I flunked out, Dad."

Tuesday, March 23, 1954

### Consistent Excellence

"Two books published by the University of Nebraska Press have received recgonition as Top Honor Books in the Chicago Book Clinic's fifth annual exhibit."

This statement makes up the "lead" on a news story in today's Nebraskan.

The story, as many students will undoubtedly feel or say, does not carry earthshaking importance for the majority of University students. Perhaps they are correct.

The announcement does carry significance when it is noted that the University of Nebraska Press has consistently produced work of superior quality.

The Nebraska office regularly receives notices from public relations offices connected with book exhibits beginning the same way, "Several books published by the University of Nebraska Press . . . top recognition for fine production and printing."

Consistent excellence whether it be on the football field, class room, laboratory or in the administration is worthy of recognition and acceptance where it originates. -T. W.

# Which Way Progress?

Progress is astounding. It certainly is. The latest scientific sensation is the development of the hydrogen bomb. The test explosion recently set off in the middle of the Pacific indicates that man has reached a new high in power.

The nuclear wonder resulted in a cloud 17 miles high.

Shock from the blast was felt 176 miles Dust evidence was discovered 333 miles

äway. Numbers of Japanese fishermen, and per-

haps others, although many miles from the explosion, were burned by radiation.

And so the fearsome atomic bomb, which startled the world by the vast destruction it wreaked upon Hiroshima and Nagasaki, begins to look like a toy next to this new giant. Fears, which first sprang into being with the unleashing of the new energy, that atomic warfare might eventually blast the whole world into eternity have been strongly fortified.

This, then, is progress-but which way are we progressing?-M. H.

the subbon publishes of Record Publics, in your by the University of Record Publics, in your by the Committee of Student Publics, alon of the Committee of Student Publics, alon at the Committee of Student Publics, alon and the Committee of Congress, Mar-an, Rebunsta, under Act of Get. 8, 1917, aut

The machine preoccupation seems to have spilled over to one (possibly more) nationally circulated "slick" magazine, Colliers.

In the April 2 edition of the magazine, the editors devoted a large section to an editorial about a machine. This particular mass of wheels and wires is able to "speak" in any of several languages. Although it does have the slight assistance of an operator, the machine can take the text matter of a manuscript and translate it from the original to any of several languages, French, Spanish or Russian.

In its trial run, the machine was given the task of translating from English to Russian and vice-.versa. All went smoothly, the machine showed its true worth by translating words in context where there might be several meanings.

The sad, perhaps pathetic side of an otherwise perfect operation was that the words "free elections," "democracy," "freedom," etc., went through the machine without so much as a flashing red light. Without a single fluff, the hard working scientific wonder turned out words, in much the same way the persons who "fed" it do.

Perhaps the machine can give those who hope for understanding, peace and good will through words alone an object lesson. For all our rights and portions of government we Americans hold dear, the "other side" has the verbal equipment. And yet, there is gulf of difference between the active interpretation of "democracy," "freedom," etc.

The machine has done much to aid the difficult translation problem where spokesmen of many countries meet. It has speeded up and assisted the accuracy of the group responsible for handling the thousands of words spoken every day around the council tables.

It has not, however, solved any of the problems facing the men around the conference table. It has made it easier for them to understand each other's words, but it has not done much toward solving the problems they are discussing, have discussed and will discuss.

The translating machine's lesson has another facet. Development of extraordinary new wonder machines whether for translating, flying, traveling or killing have not made material gains toward lessening the tensions between East and West .- T. W.

Actually, engineers are not the

Hence, the next time we criticize a course perhaps we should take a second look. Perhaps we are not cognizant of the thought process going through our own minds.

Copped Copy To Get In On Time Use **Rope, Dramatic Ability** 

By BRUCE BRUGMANN At Oregon University a coed who had been recently pinned found it increasingly difficult to make it back to the dorm by 12:30. Sure enough one night she didn't make it. She was prepared, however, and shortly the life-saving rope began shaking its way down from her room-mate's window. Tied to the rope were pajamas, bathrobe and

slippers. Making a quick change and securing the discarded evening clothes to the rope, it quickly and mysteriously disappeared from sight. The girl screamed, the housemother came running, the policeman appeared at a moment's notice. All to find the poor girl draped unceremoniously over a bush as if somehow she had fallen from the upstairs window.

She recovered quickly enough to go out the next evening, however.

At Kansas University Alpha Tau Omega fraternity was listed in the paper as having lost its charter, advertising that "everything must go" and that an auction would be held the next day to get rid of all household furnishings. As soon as the paper appeared, the phone began ringing. Potential buyers wanted to know the price of rugs, pictures, fixtures. One even wanted to inquire about repaneling the walls. An elderly couple arrived in a taxi cab to attend the auction.

The cause of the commotion was a group of ambitious pledges on their skip. They placed the ad in the hopes that it might frustrate the actives.

At Hardin-Simmons Univer-sity, Col. Howard F. Rice was lecturing merrily to his ROTC students when an alarm set for the proper time went off, somehow dislodging a shoe-box full of confetti upon the unsuspecting speaker. The Colonel displayed remarkable equanimity, presence of mind, and sense of humor' even though moments before he had commented on some cadet dissatisfaction, Comments the student paper, "Even its bitterest critics concede that in this plot chapel stunts have reached a new apex of ingenuity."

At Washington University, at-tempts are being made to divide basketball seating into women's and men's divisions. The purpose of the proposed plan is to encourage groups of girls to come as a whole, and to remove the inhibiting influence on male

yelling by the fair sex.

Itchy-fingered students at various colleges have caused odd rebuttals in their respective college journals. One item in the Lost and Found column of the Bona Venture states: "If the person who stole the alcohol from the laboratory will kindly return the cat's intestines, no questions will be asked.

The Sheaf, student paper at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, reports that students want beer served at their student building. But, according to the law, "... beer parlor can only be installed in a hotel ... one solution . . . is to build a hotel." If students get their beer parlor in the union another problem must be faced. Women are not allowed to enter beer parlors in Saskatchewan province.

Minutes for a meeting of women's student government at Syracuse University carried the report that, according to Uni-versity regulations, "All women must be covered with blue slips while practice-teaching." At Oklahoma University a

photographer decided to learn just how money-minded the students were. He glued a halfdollar to the sidewalk and hid in a nearby building. From there he snapped pictures of the students hard at work trying to dislodge the 50-cent piece.

In the Arkansas University student paper was a front page story of a freshman whose car was pushed off a lot by campus police. In doing so they smashed his front fender and did other damage to the car. The cops then left a ticket on his windshield. At Hardin-Simmons Univer-

stiy between quarters a girl spent nearly all her time cleaning her room. It wasn't that her room was dirty. It just seemed that she fell from one calamity into another. First she waxed her cleanly scrubbed floors, only to find she had used concentrated soap instead of wax. She scrubbed her floor again until the soap was gone, but when she buffed the floor, the wax turned out to be a dud and it still didn't shine. Now the distressed girl is wondering how much the administration will charge for putting a new floor in her room.

assorted sizes, weights and states of sobriety, but all college boys have the same creed: To do nothing every second of every minute of every day and to protest with whining noises (their great wea-pon) when their last minute of inertia is finished and the adult male takes them off the Employment Office or the Draft Board.

lechery of the teens we find a

oathsome creature called the col-

lege boy. College boys come in

"College boys are found everywhere-breaking train windows, tearing down goal posts, inciting riots or jumping bail. Mothers love them, little girls love them, big girls love them, middle-sized girls love them, and Satan protects them. A college boy is lazi-ness with peachfuzz on its face, Idiocy with lanolin in its hair and the Hope of the Future with an over-drawn bankbook in its pocket.

"A college boy is composit-he has the energy of Rip Van Winkle the shyness of a Mr. Micawber.

Letterip

#### Native Southerner NU Student Says Dances Held Here 'Stuffed Shirt' Dear Editor:

I want to know what is wrong with the dance situation around the University of Nebraska, I have never seen anything like "stuffed-shirt" dances that the are the general rule around here.

I have been of this opinion since I arrived here at school in September, but thinking I was the only one of such an opinion and that the opinion was contrary to custom, I kept my mouth shut. Getting around to my gripe, I am wondering why there are no stags at the dances. I have been to all the major dances and have not been tagged yet. In fact, I haven't heard of

anyone being tagged—why? I think it's being very nice and very loyal to dance with your true love all night, but how much fun is it? Fun, I mean, compared to that which could be had by getting to know more people and gaining a more "lib-

eral" education on campus. In my part of the country, which is the Delta Land of the South, things are done on a much different scale. It is considered the thing to do to dance with every girl you know at least once for courtesy's sake.

If one takes a more popular girl to a dance, he will rarely get more than a couple of steps before someone tags him. When he is tagged he smiles at the newcomer and thanks his partner for the dance. Then he may tag some other girl or maybe stand in the stag line and comment on the girl's dresses or maybe what's in the girl's dresses.

I have a little voice over in the corner saying that he likes the situation the way it is and that it is just as much fun as dancing with people other than one's date. To answer that I would like to remind those who don't know, that this type dance (with stags) was incorporated at the last dancing lesson at the Union and that everyone had a wonderful time. I say that there is the comparison.

At a stag dance, a stag has as much fun as the boy with the date (except before and after the dance). The procedure for a stag is this: he sees a girl that he has seen before and would like very much to meet. All he has to do is walk up and tap her partner's shoulder and she is his until someone tags him (which is usually plenty of time to be-come acquainted).

I do not expect Nebraska to change any time soon, but I'd like to say this; if you really want to have a whale of a time, just go to the Southland sometime. Then again, I don't see why it couldn't be the same

Bill Rucker

### University **Bulletin Board** TUESDAY

Dr. Gerrett Bevelander, Den-tistry Lecture, 3:30 p.m., Room 301, Andrews.

Phi Beta Kappa-Sigma Xi Meeiing, 6 p.m., Union. Kosmet Klub active meeting, 7

p.m., Union.

Art Lecture, "The Sources of Form." 8:30 p.m., Gallery B, Morrill Hall. WEDNESDAY

Dr. Gerrett Bevelander Dentistry Lecture, 2 p.m., Bessey Hall Auditorium and 3:45 p.m., Andrews 301.

ASME Meeting, 7:13, Richards Lab.

Provost Corps, 7:30 p.m., Mil-tary and Naval Science Building.

THURSDAY Ernest Munter Lecture, 7:30 p.m., Ag Engineering Building. Dr. Garrett Bevelander Lec-

ture, 3 p.m., Andrews, 301. FRIDAY Orchesis Spring Program, 8:13 p.m., Grant Memorial Hall. SATURDAY

All Sports Day, all day, Collseum and Stadium.

Orchesis Spring Program, 8:15 p.m., Grant Memorial Hall. Audubon Series, 8 p.m., Love Library Auditorium.

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The Nebraskan

FIFTY-THIRD YEAR

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