Editorial Comment

**Homecoming Snowball** 

Homecoming Decorations chairmen from organized women's houses have taken the first step to bring about revisions of a system badly needing change. In a meeting held Tuesday, women's groups voiced their unhappiness with the decorations system as it is now. They pointed out that Homecoming displays have been too compilcated and too expensive this year and said a change should be made, though none of the young ladies at the meeting could present a plan for curing the present decoration ills.

The displeasure voiced at that meeting are true reflections of the feelings of more than a few women students. Fraternity members, particularly pledge classes, will recall the nonpleasureable vacation from classes, studying and sleep Homecoming decorating always entails.

Homecoming decorations and assorted "pageantry" have grown out of all proportions on this and other college campuses. The purpose of designating one Saturday as homecoming is to welcome alumni back to their alma mater; however, this group certainly does not require or even ask for over-elaborate decorations. Decorations have become larger and larger not because of popular demand but because of the "make ours bigger and bettern' anyone else's" spirit. Until organizations examine their motives in putting up their displays, the expenses and labor required for "a good" decoration will continue to snowball.

The reason for snowballing is actually quite simple-fear. Student organizations, namely organized houses, are afraid not to attach undue attention to decorations because their organization might not look good when stacked up alongside some other, competitive organization.

The women who met to complain that Homecoming decorations are too elaborate and too expensive are simply reaping what they have sown. By constantly planning bigger and better Homecoming displays to make the opposition look inferior they have forced themselves into the situation they now deplore.

University men are exactly in the same position. Though they have not yet had a group meeting to discuss the dissatisfaction with the Homecoming system, there are many who are not happy with over-elaborate decorations required by the competitive system as we know it.

However, stating the obvious doesn't accomplish the solution to a real problem. Homecoming is too elaborate here, particularly in the realm of house decorations. Something can be done, if the organizations involved will take action to change their idea of competition. Sororities and fraternities in particular can, by mutual agreement among themselves, make the need of highly complex, expensive decorations unneces-

It is no secret that many houses went over the \$50 maximum cost ruling of the Innocents by the increased quality .- T. W.

Society in years past, and a few exceeded the \$100 limit more recently in effect despite of efforts by the Homecoming committee to prevent such activity. This shows quite clearly that legislation by groups outside the individual organizations involved will never solve the problem. Only through agreement with individual organizations and a willingness to comply among the organizations will the "bigger, better, more expensive" trend end.

Many organizations protest that an agreement to curtail Homecoming decorations will cause a reduction in quality. This simply isn't so. Decorations are good or bad as they compare to others. There is no absolute scale by which to measure any decoration.

However, there is good reasoning behind the argument that complex expensive Homecoming decorations are better than others. But those who feel this way should also agree the decorations they favor are too large projects for a single organization. If organized houses could forget their feelings of competition long enough to combine forces to work on producing a successful Homecoming, not so much for old Alpha Alpha Alpha but for the general category of organized groups at the University of Nebraska, very elaborate highly complex decorations could be made without undue expense and effort. As an example, several groups could work on one decoration representing all of the organizations contributing time and effort to the common decoration.

It is doubtful that organizations could forget their individual aims to an extent which would make such a plan a successful operation.

The suggestion which seems to be the most likely as a solution to the problem is not an ori mal-it has been tried on other campuses with some success. Its general plan begins with the assumption that individual organizations will do their best to produce a homecoming decoration. Each organization may spend what it wishes and use whatever theme it thinks desirable. However, individual organizations make a decoration only once each two years. Campuses with fraternity and sorority rows are divided into two groups, with a different group taking on the tasy of making a house decoration on alternating years.

Here, the division would be easy; 16th street organizations would put up decorations one year with R street organizations taking over the task the next. Organizations not on these streets could be assigned to one group or the other, with the different halls in the Quadrangle and Residence Halls for Women taking turns with dormitory decorations. Thus labor would be cut in half, and the desired level of expense up to the organizations involved.

As an addition to this plan, organizations not scheduled to put up a house decoration could take charge of the parade floats. The reduction in volume would be more than compensated for

## **Comics And Problem Parents**

prepare several possible amendments to the ordinance governing the sale of pictures and literature to minors. The amendments to be considered are to be based on a model ordinance prepared by the National Institute of Municipal Law Officers and, according to City Attorney Jack Pace, will be aimed at comic

It seems that before the City Council's action on the matter, Lincoln groups were already trying various solutions to what they consider to be forces which encourage juvenile delinquency. The Lincoln Woman's Club and local PTA's have distributed an approved list of comic books to grade school children. According to children who analyzed the unapproved comics in a classroom discussion, the comics contained slang expressions, poked fun at police and firemen, used poor English grammar, were difficult to read or poorly presented the classics. These infirmities were said to parallel those found by the Lincoln Weman's Club and PTA's and given as reasons why the comics should not be read by minors.

The action taken by the local groups indicates an attempt to protect minors from literature which, in the way it is presented, influences the correct attitudes toward policemen and public servants, school adacemics and the classics that society as a whole desires its children to have. In many questionable comics, policemen, or "cops," are portrayed as enemies of the criminal's genius. The classics, such as "Les Miserables" or "Wuthering Heights," are crude burlesques of the true literary art by which they were written. If children must revert to on the newsstands .- J. H.

Immoral publications are under fire once these shoddy forms of reading material when again. The local City Council announced that in most homes or public libraries there are it has taken steps to have the legal department good children's books which entertain while they thach, then it is no wonder our schools cannot turn out future leaders with the traditional cultural background that existed before

> With the coming of television the bulk of the population has been turned into a seeing and listening public, not a reading and thinking one. Books grow dusty on the shelves, their educational contents sacrificed for one favorite television show after another. However, there is one consolation which applies to comic haters. Not only books are being replaced, but also the comic books. Western shoot-em-ups are favorites of the TV small fry. But as opposed to the glorification of criminals in comic books, the "good men" always win.

Actually the problem of children reading questionable comic books lies in the interest or indifference of parents. If a parent permits a child to read this type of literature then it is the parent who should be reprimanded-not the child. If the Woman's Club and PTA's really wanted to hit home with their approved list of comic books perhaps they should send the list to every parent in Lincoln.

An appeal to the parents might bring about civic action much quicker than an appeal to the children. Most parents, if their attention were solicited, would be quite interested to know just what their children have been reading in the comic books which lie scattered around the home. Perhaps if this unfortunate reading habit in children were checked and properly directed toward other, more educational recreations there would not be adults in the future who seek out obscene magazines and vulgar pictures

**Afterthoughts** 

Whistlebait

Every day on her way to class she is followed by a chorus of whistles and wolf calls from the hundreds of men students in one of the halls she must pass, "This is quite serious," she protested. "It's a shattering experience."

Such shattering experiences are rare here, according to an impromptu survey of several reasonably attractive coeds. Can't Nebraska men pucker or just aren't they interested? Both reasons sound a bit unbelievable, and

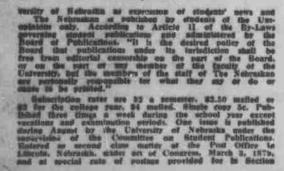
this same informal survey revealed that Nebraska coeds aren't really worried. After all, the fellows make up for it in other

No Bathing Beauties

East and West, North and South - coileges and universities throughout the nation enjoy their bathing beauties-and those coeds give their schools publicity in return for the publicity given them. Even here at NU, the "Miss Miami" queens were permissable-until they appeared on the printed page.

The Nebraskan

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of Congress of October 8, 1917, authorized EDITORIAL STAFF

REPORTERS Ruthe Rosenquist, Pat meon, Kay Lawson,

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"Your wife just called-you left your briefcase on th' back porch."

Letterip

Ivy Day Sing Dear Editor:

I agree completely with Jerry Shumway's letter concerning Kosmet Klub's ruling that only fra- Man Is Society ternity songs be sung on Ivy Day. Dear Editor: has been presented in the Ivy Day 'Em EH, Dec. 7.) sings. The rule would end that. The only true individualist this

Xmas With An X

Dear Editor: Dear Editor:
Yes, Miss Tyson, Christmas is responsibilities of them.
The idea that social integration

letter "Chi" (printed X). Chi was the modern world. used in combination with Rho The non-conform breviation.

Possibly you object to any abbreviation whatsoever. If so, you are of course entitled to your opinion. However, I point out that it happened at nu the use of symbols for the real Every year there is some stuthing has long been accepted, for deat, who, when the PBK lists example "X" for "kiss" at the come out, receives a severe shock. end of correspondence which you One such student under one yourself have probably used at such shock could only utter "And one time or another. Moreover, I told all my friends he was stuit is your own profession, journ- pid." alism, which does more than any-thing else to promote abbreviation, who complain about the presence the use of Chi as a symbol for the instructor can't scale the low-Christ in Christmas.

ized. To show my own objections was he ever smart."

to commercialization, I am not planning on buying any presents this year. How about you? DICK RALSTON

by Dick Bibler

It must be admitted that the best | I have read Dr. Robert Lindner's music being written today is not remarks quoted in Time magazine in the fraternity field. Kosmet and can only wonder what sup-Klub's rule would take from fra- posed persecutions society must ternities the opportunity to sing have heaped on Miss Elliot which their choice of the best and most would prompt her acceptance of challenging choral music in the such ideas to the extent she would world. Fine literature of this type quote them in her column (Givin'

It seems to me that it is the earth has ever produced in the team has been extended to this Friplace of every fraternity, as well form of a man was the early cave as of Kosmet Klub, to recognize man. But he soon learned the the danger of this rule to the con- advantages of social organization, tinued high quality of the fra-else, Miss Elliot you and I might ternities' part in the Ivy Day sing. be living in caves. Promoters of WENDELL FRIEST "individualism" want to enjoy the advantages of modern social organization without bearing the

here again and commercialized as has resulted in a psychopathy-proever. (Woman's View, Dec. 8). ducing "damage to the ego" and Christmas as "Xmas" is totally "loss of identity" is the most abirrelevant to the commercialize surd part of this argument. For tion of Christmas. If anything, it only through being able to identify has a direct reference to its sac- great social causes and purposes has man been able to rise above The origin of the abbreviation animalism. For example, identifi-"Xmas" is in the Greek word for cation with the Christian cause is Christ which begins with the Greek the only hope for the salvation of

(printed P) as a symbol by the isis" may throw all the roadearly Christians and is found in blocks at furthering social integrathe catacombs and in many modern churches. Thus, we haven't troy the truth of the fact that all "taken the Christ out of Christmas the troubles in the world are and replaced it with an "X," but caused by who wift not accept the have only used an ancient Chris-tian symbol in the interests of ab-individual exists only for the good of man as a society.

DORWIN RAYMONDE

and it is quite possible that journ- of some "brain" in a class who alalism is primarily responsible for ways gets such high grades that er ones, But after the PBK an-Of course, I must agree that nouncements the complaints change Christmas is too much commercial- to "Gee, he was in my class and



Free Lecture Entitled

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE:

The Coincidence of Pure Science and Pure Religion

By GEORGE NAY, C.S. of Chicago, Illinois

Member of the Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachu-

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This challenging lecture by Mr. Nay ! should be of special interest to faculty and students alike. You and your friends are cordially invited to attend. Movie Previews

## Critic Tells Procedure

By ELLIE GUILLIATT

Contrary to usual procedure, I Basically, to be artistic in my am going to devote my column eyes, a film must first have unity to a definition of how I base my only be called mediocre, Many American movies are spectacular instead of magnificent, sentimental instead of sensitive.

have sold to the American public, we need only look at "Member of Sheba," "From Here to Eternity," have your own additions to my list.

Surprisingly enough, none of these movies were in Cinemascope, all but one of them (Moulin Rouge) were filmed in black and white, and none of them was "scintilating" in the popular Hollywoodesque vocabulary. Yet each of them was a moving, sensitive, thoughtprovoking film.

and the majority artificial at to present a few sincere comments tempts? This brings us to the con- to stimulate the reader's interest sideration of a very ambiguous and his mind. These comments I idea called "the criteria of art." try to present as concisely and as Neither will I attempt to ade- coherently as possible in the hope quately explain this generality, but of entertaining and interesting my I will tell you what "art in motion readers.

. . . by this I mean the production criticisms of the movies I see. must neither be overshadowing nor First of all, I do not set myself inadequate to suit the needs of the up as an all-seeing, all-knowing plot. It must also have an integrity critic of the art of the motion in that it holds an aesthetic dispicture-although I sincerely feel tance and does not play wholely that motion pictures can and on the human emotion of sympathy should be classified as art. Such for its impact, but rather portrays a classification presupposes a high its theme with restraint and sensistandard of quality and, by the tive percepton of those human same token, many films which can values which must necessarily be apparent to give the audience an understanding of that theme. It must be selective in its presentation, neither embarrassing the In contrast to the bad films (in spectator by too naturalistic an exan artistic sense) which producers pression nor intimidating his intelligence by too esoteric an expression. I am not trying to imply the Wedding," "Come Back Little that all movies should have noble themes or be depressingly tragic, 'Moulin Rouge," and you possibly for there is certainly greatness in comedy as witnessed in Charlie Chaplin's beautiful silent fims, or in "Born Yesterday," or in

I am only saying that any intelligent movie goer has a right to expect decent, well-constructed films-often he does not get them. The sole purpose of this column, as I see it, is neither to pan a Why? What makes these few art movie nor to praise it, but rather

"Adam's Rib."

#### Final Notice

The deadline for turning in your selections for the All-University day at 5:00 p.m. There are still ten Greek and Independent organizations who have not turned in their recommendations. If your team does not turn in ballots, no consideration will be given to your organization's representatives.

Lists of your organization's selections for the All-U team and recommendations for your own team members should be left on the desk of the sports editor in The Nebraskan office in the basement of the Union.

The deadline is this Friday, December 11, at 5:00 p.m.

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