

Summer Nebraskan Editorials:

To Educate Or Not

A large Nebraska daily published the third in a series of articles concerning the University last Monday. This article was extremely critical of Teachers' College curriculum and called the school a "hodgepodge of courses." Listed by the newspaper are such things as square dancing, upholstering, elementary typewriting, extracurricular activities, and two courses listed as public relations, but one is expressly dedicated to the problems of the PTA. The Nebraskan cannot say that no courses of any value are offered by the Teachers College, nor can it say that all students in Teachers College shirk in the selection of electives by taking courses analogous to early morning bird calls (ornithology) and bait and flycasting. These two courses are, incidentally, offered by the University. However, the Nebraskan can say that it is possible to receive a Bachelor of Science in Education degree with 20 hours of such ridiculous courses. In some cases, students have taken far more education courses of this nature than are required because little or no creative intellectual effort is necessary.

Such an education does not lead to a firm basis of information needed to instruct, nor does it make the student academically conscientious. The appalling thing is that persons with this educational background are the present and future teachers in Nebraska schools. They seem to have absolutely nothing to teach that can be considered an academic meat for intelligent children. All future education rests on a firm grade and secondary training basis in fundamentals such as reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, chemistry and particularly secondary English. Students have only to look around them and see college students enrolled in no-credit English and without any formal academic training. There have been college seniors unable to spell words of more than three syllables. Teachers College is as important a college as the University has. The Nebraskan wishes it were also the most difficult of any college. It seems only logical that future educators should be the best informed persons in the University. It appears to The Nebraskan, however, that the vast majority of

Teachers College students are remarkably well versed on how to teach but know very little to teach. The root of the problem, and poorly equipped college students becoming even more poorly equipped teachers cannot be classed as anything else, does not lie in the state's primary and secondary public schools. It lies within the University itself. The University should stiffen Teachers College courses, consolidate methods courses into one year, and set up an extensive program of requirements in other colleges, particularly Arts and Sciences. It is not at all wise or justifiable for Teachers College to turn out large numbers of teachers each year to meet the growing teacher shortage. The shortage is a problem but it can hardly be solved by attracting lots of students to Teachers College because it has a "snap course" reputation, and then graduating them after four years of what best can be described as superfluous courses. Numbers of teachers cannot compensate for the loss of academic integrity and a lowering of educational standards. It is obvious to the Nebraskan which is more important.—J. B.

Improvements Needed

The actions of the Board of Regents Monday are the crystallization of University administrators' attempts to enlarge and make more suitable the physical plant of the University. The University building program is of immense importance to every citizen of the state of Nebraska. Even if only three-quarters of the University's anticipated enrollment in ten years is realized, there would still be great strain on the University's facilities as they are now. The building program will serve to ease the situation and justify its existence by that alone. To serve the state, the University must grow and expand its educational facilities. A stationary

or stagnant institution of learning is worse than useless. Also gratifying is the talk Chancellor Clifford Hardin gave at a recent alumni gathering. The Chancellor outlined in firm language the decided need for more instructors and higher pay scales at the University. The University must offer better working conditions and better salary scales to keep excellent instructors now on the campus and attract new ones. The University has lost more instructors this past year because of more attractive offers than through the highly touted "outside pressures" of last spring. It is blind to expect an instructor to remain at the University despite

more lucrative positions for nebulous reasons like "he likes the city of Lincoln, or he likes the University." The Chancellor deserves all the support the state can give him in his efforts to improve the University, both in the building program and in his budget requests. The Chancellor clearly recognizes the need for more and better buildings and salary scales that compare favorably with schools of the same enrollment.—J. B.

Programs

This summer, there are available to summer session students a vast array of entertaining and educational extracurricular programs. Every summer session student should take advantage of as many of these presentations as possible. Dr. Frank Sorenson, director of summer sessions, and his staff have scheduled some of the nation's leading figures in their respective fields to address summer session students. Bob Handy and members of the Union staff are presenting a large number of activities for summer session students' leisure hours and have scheduled four outstanding attractions for their Artists Series. Both of these areas are furnishing activity to summer session students free of charge. As an incentive, both Love Library and the Union are air-conditioned.—J. B.

The Summer Nebraskan

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Dibs Comments:

Columnist Praises New Carson Book

By JEAN DIBBLE Staff Columnist

(Editor's note: Miss Dibble, one of the summer Nebraskan's columnists is a senior in Arts and Sciences at the University. She is a history major and a member of Kappa Alpha Theta. She is a graduate of Bradford Junior College, Bradford, Mass.)

If you're the type of fisherman who is always hunting for something new to improve his 'uck then you might be interested in the Mepps spinner. This is an imported French fishing lure, which is rapidly becoming very popular. It is leaf shaped and attached to it is a small tube hook. The unusual feature about the spinner is that it works best after it has become dirty and stained.

June being Dairy Month, this description of a cow by a 10 year old boy in Science magazine seems well worth repeating. "A cow is a mammal. It has six sides — right, left, and upper and below . . . The head is for the purpose of growing horns and so that the mouth can be somewhere . . . under the cow hangs the milk. It is arranged for milking."

Feel rather tardy in having just finished Rachel Carson's fine "The Edge of the Sea," which came out this past winter. She follows the ebbing tide out with her descriptions of the life left uncovered by the receding water. Her keen sense of observation can only evoke much admiration on the part of the reader.

While we're in the literary department, here is something of interest to all admirers of Goya or, for that matter, all who find Spanish history fascinating. Pierre Gassier has written a new and relatively inexpensive book about the life of the fabulous court painter. It seems to be well worth looking at.

The daily crowds at the tennis courts bring to mind the fear expressed by many of the fans of the game that the intensive nighttime tennis program of the Aussies will give them a lead over us in years to come. Already at an advantage because of the absence of snow, Australia is bringing many young tennis hopefuls into the game with the inducement of low cost. The Aussies claim that a beginner can learn all the rudiments of the game and have a place to play for as low as twenty-two cents a game.

I've become quite a fan of The Four Freshman in the last few months. They have done original versions of many of the old favorites, including an outstanding one of "Over the Rainbow." Incidental-

ly, if your musical taste runs generally along this line you might enjoy "A Pictorial History of Jazz" by Orrin Keepnews and Bill Grauer Jr. It covers jazzmen, jazz places and jazz styles for the past half century.

Just an idea for the fairer sex on these hot days — stick a bottle of cologne into the refrigerator and let it cool. After a shower, splash it on liberally and you'll find it quite refreshing.

Saw an interesting anti-ice cube device in one of the department stores today. It's a small metal piece which snaps onto the rim of a glass and holds the ice in place so that it can't bump into the drinker's nose. Quite novel, but I doubt if bumping icecubes have been hindering the amount of beverages consumed.

From— The Editor

With the temperature in the high nineties and classes in the morning, all of which require preparation, it seems to be a bit incongruous to be speaking of reading for pleasure and just plain relaxation.

However, the editor spent the weekend between the end of final examinations and the beginning of summer school catching up on what the publishers have been doing this year.

Roger Price, the originator of Droodles which appear in many Nebraska newspapers, has written a new book. Price invaded the humorous essay field a few years ago with "In One Head and Out The Other." He referred to the book as a philosophical treatise advocating the theory of avoidism. Avoidism consists of avoiding as many things as possible as much of the time as possible.

Price contends that the book went unheeded, but it seems more likely that someone beat him to the draw and the theory was so widespread that when he belatedly published his treatise that the theory had taken hold. The book was, of course, consequently avoided.

Undaunted, Price has now published a "political fiasco" of a book advocating the platform of the "Me First" Party. The book, "I'm For Me First," deals with the party and its candidate Herman Clabbercutt, Good American.

Price is amusing and his political satire, although it can hardly compare with "Candide," is fast summer reading.

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