

# The Nebraskan.

A Weekly Newspaper Issued Every Friday Noon, by the Students of the University of Nebraska.

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The Nebraskan will be sent to any address upon receipt of the subscription price, which is one dollar a year, or fifty cents a semester.

Contributions are solicited from all. News items such as locals, personals, reports of meetings, etc., are especially desired. The Nebraskan will be glad to print any contribution relative to a general University subject, but the name must accompany all such.

Considerable indignation seems to have been aroused by that little library Epes-ode.

It is needless to urge the students to go to the University tonight. We couldn't keep them away if we tried. If there are any, however, who have the faintest idea of not attending, let them glance at the program on another page of this issue and consider if they can afford to miss such a collection of coon songs.

A pay telephone in the hall of the main building of the University seems contrary to the spirit of an institution of learning. One would just as readily expect to see peanut and banana men stationed along the halls as this box—a vender of five-minute conversations. The University halls are not the place for the private individual or the corporation to carry on business.

In spite of the fact that due (?) warning was given to the students to remove their books there still remained and now remains the placard posted in the library informing students that "All students' property will be found in the book-rooms at the right of the door." Of course the placard did not mean what it said. Doubtless it was intended to convey the idea that the students' property would be found in the basement at the foot of the stairs. How stupid of the students not to know that the placard posted in the library did not mean what it said.

One of the most striking instances of petty meanness which has recently come to light is the action of certain parties in tearing down the placards advertising the minstrel show tonight and substituting an advertisement for another entertainment which is to be given in the city. Realizing that such an excellent performance as the ladies minstrels promises to be, will materially decrease the attendance at their entertainment, these persons have stooped to such low means to injure the minstrel show and at the same time add a few dollars to their own pocket books.

It is needless to say this attempt will not be productive of any great results. Such methods never could and never will accomplish their purpose.

The University oratorical contest took place in the Chapel last Friday night.

Three orations were delivered which were exceptionally fine efforts. Besides the orations there was a musical program prepared which should have attracted attention anywhere. The officers of the association have worked for days to arouse interest in the contest.

The eyes of the University public have been for days confronted by placards announcing the contest. The business houses down town had been thoroughly canvassed. In fact it is doubtful whether there had ever been as good a program presented, whether any set of officers ever worked as hard as the present incumbent and whether any contest had been so thoroughly advertised.

And yet, what was the result? One member of the faculty, not over ten fraternity people, perhaps fifty literary society members and may be thirty or forty others. Not over 100 people in all were present.

In the face of such facts can it longer be successfully denied that interest in oratory is dead in the University of Nebraska? It had been hoped that this year the only thing remaining to make the contest a great success—the crowd—would not be lack-

ing. The expectations of those interested have been woefully disappointed. The students have shown that they have no interest in such contests and any incentive which might formerly have existed to enter such a contest has disappeared.

It is a lamentable fact that in the only great institution of learning that exists in Nebraska, there seems to be no place for oratorical contests or interest in oratory.

Such is the situation, however, and it must be confronted.

Perhaps the students of this University are here merely to furnish amusement for the "powers that be." Perhaps they have no rights which are to be respected. Perhaps their property is to be treated with no consideration whatever.

It would seem that the authorities at the library think so at any rate.

The wilful destruction of student property such as occurred yesterday morning is certainly an indication of this fact.

It seems that the librarian notified the students in the library reading room, in a short speech, to remove all their property from the various shelves. Probably not more than one-fourth of the students knew anything about the order.

We know, at any rate, that the first that a large majority of the students knew of such a proclamation was on Thursday morning when they found their books, papers, and other property scattered around in unutterable confusion on the oor of the basement.

If it had been the desire of the library board to have the student property removed why was not a bulletin posted with such a notification instead of announcing it in a speech which attracted no attention whatever.

It may be amusing to see students mourning the loss of books which they could ill-afford to buy. It may be amusing to see the notes which have cost so many hours of hard labor scattered around in such an indiscriminate manner. It may be amusing to see credit on account of missing note books which were lost in the heterogeneous mass of matter lying at the foot of the library steps. But it's a queer kind of humor and a kind not appreciated by the average student.

All day yesterday students were searching for missing property, the loss of which will seriously handicap them for the remainder of the year.

There is absolutely no excuse for the negligence displayed in the lack of proper notification.

It is no wonder that the students are aroused against the constituted authorities from time to time when so little attention is paid to their rights and privileges.

Not only was no proper notification given, but no place was provided for the keeping of the student property, for the few shelves provided were filled before the students knew of the proposed action.

It is difficult to understand any reason whatever for the steps taken. If the person or persons responsible have any defense to make an attentive audience can be secured for any explanation that might be given.

Last Friday night witnessed two University events—the first annual hop of company F, and the tenth annual contest of the oratorical association of the University.

The oratorical contest was the only event of like nature during the college year.

The hop was one of probably twenty of equal importance.

The oratorical contest was held under the auspices of the oratorical association, an organization embracing all departments and all students in the University. The hop was given by company F, one of the six companies of the regiment, from a department which is only one of many others. The oratorical contest was for the purpose of deciding who was to represent the University in its struggle with the other schools of the state and perhaps of deciding who should represent Nebraska at the interstate contest.

The hop was given for the purpose of furnishing an evening's amusement to the company and its friends.

The cost of tickets to the oratorical contest was 25 cents. The cost of tickets to the hop was 75 cents.

And yet the attendance at the two places was practically the same.

There is only one conclusion to be drawn—dancing is on the rise; oratory is on the decline. Those persons who have spent days and nights in the endeavor to write orations which may win them fame and glory, have made a sad mistake.

The time spent in such preparation might better have been spent under-

the tutelage of a dancing master, for dancing is on the rise and oratory on the decline.

Those hands which were to add vividness and life to their word pictures are now to clasp my lady's hand or wield her fan to the music of the two-step.

Those arms with which they had thought to add force to their words by fitting gestures and graceful motions have a new and higher mission to fulfill. In the future they are merely used to encircle my lady's waist during the strains of the waltz. Those feet which they had thought might be useful to emphasize their remarks on the stage are henceforward called to the new and higher sphere of doing the "glide act" in the intricacies of the five-step.

There's no doubt of it. The only important thing is dancing. There's no question but that the dancing qualification will be the basis on which our future statesmen will be chosen.

It is well we have learned the truth in time. Dancing is the only thing.

Let every one learn to dance, for oratory is on the decline and the dance is on the rise.

You old hayseeds who thought to get through life without this all-important knowledge, change your course at once.

Learn to shake those awkward limbs of yours. Throw away those No. 12 plow shoes and incase those delicate feet of yours in No. 8 patent leathers. Replace that suit of hand-me-downs with a swallow tail.

Change that indecent ambitious look for the bored expression of the society man.

There's no use in talking, we must keep up with the times.

### Disaster in the Library

At an early hour yesterday morning a terrific explosion was heard in the vicinity of the library. Closer investigation proved that the explosion took place within the library itself. When the doors were opened at 8 o'clock, a terrible scene of destruction met the students' eyes as they passed down the stairs leading to the basement. The floor was strewn with books of all sorts, note books, pads, loose sheets of paper and everything else in the stationery line.

As soon as the disaster occurred a Nebraskan reporter was immediately detailed to ascertain the cause thereof. He immediately set to work and was soon able to state positively that the explosion came from the interior and no outside agency was a factor in the wreck. The proof that the explosion came from within is that the books and papers were all blown outward and downward—out through the door and down into the basement. Further investigation showed the explosion resulted directly from the fact that somebody in the vicinity of the librarian's office was wrought up to a high pressure and got over-heated. Hence the explosion.

All day long students gathered in the basement to view the mass of debris which almost obstructed passage through the hall. Groping blindly through this pile were students looking longingly for lost note books which contained all their work in certain studies for the whole year. Freshmen, who are registered for European history, were especially conspicuous in exploring the ruins. Silently they waded through the wreckage till, their eyes, suddenly falling on some pages on Thucydides, they grasped them eagerly and pressing them fervently to their breasts, continued their sorrowful search. It was for them a grand hunt for evidence and their joy at exhuming original manuscripts was indescribable.

Later reports received today all go to prove the theory that the explosion was from some interior agency. The shelves on which the books were originally placed have all disappeared. Doubtless they were blown into atoms.

So far as is known no lives were lost in the avalanche of books but it is thought that those students who lost in the avalanche of books, but it the work for the year, will not survive the shock and will undoubtedly flunk in the final exams.



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