

The Daily Nebraskan

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Offices: News, Basement, University Hall; Business, Basement, Administration Building.

Telephones: News, L-4841; Business, B-2597.

Published every day during the college year. Subscription, per semester, \$1.

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second class mail matter under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

WHAT IS A TRADITION WORTH?

Ivy Day is a University tradition that has become a part of the student spirit. It is one of the things that helps us to a love of Nebraska, one of the things out of which that love has grown, and upon which that love will flourish.

The American people have gone to war because of a tradition, handed down to the Americans of today by the Americans of '76 and '61. It is a tradition of high ideals, embracing the equality of the equal right of all men to develop their individualities; to be free.

The United States is engaged in a war, dedicated to the enforcement of the principals underlying the great tradition of the nation. If that tradition had not been founded upon truth and justice, it would not be worth fighting for.

With the thoughts of all men today turned toward the need of worthy traditions and the necessity of fighting for them, students of the Cornhusker school will feel a deeper responsibility toward this, their Ivy Day tradition. Only the highest of motives should govern in the selection of the juniors who are honored today, and they in turn should dedicate themselves to preserving the honor of the day. For should Ivy Day become tainted by pettiness, it must cease as a tradition of this University.

the condition? There is disunion in the faculty. Let some real instructor do something great for the education of the people of Nebraska and today you have a political ring not to boost this man, not to give him the praise, but to check his influence, to hold him down. We as students see these political rings but we cannot move them. There are other stones as heavy as these which as yet have not been moved. Why? Because of disunion of the student body. What is the reason the dramatic students call for an audience, but their call is unheeded? What is the reason the debaters call for support, but battle alone? What is the reason the athletes call for real spirit but their call is in vain? Hear the answer. The student has no voice in the affairs of the University—why support them? That is why we lack University spirit while fraternity spirit runs high. Belong to a fraternity or sorority and you are part of it. Belong to a University and you a stranger within its walls. We talk democracy and yet we refuse it to the University student. Can we have Nebraska spirit under these conditions? We want it, will we pay the price for it? It travels only on the tide of democracy. Let us rejoice that the ebbing tide carrying the Cornhusker spirit is returning. Before long, we hope, the Cornhusker spirit will again reach its height. Student union, student council, honor system, all are but indications of the incoming tide. Hurry the day when we will not be governed by a self-perpetuating secret fraternity; but we shall worship at the shrine of a student council. Hurry the day when Nebraska shall not tolerate her political rings but shall give honor to her worthy red-blooded instructors. Hurry the day when students will no longer tolerate petty grafting and cribbing but shall prefer to burn out incense at the altar of student honor. Hurry the day when each is to play his part, when all are to have a voice in the affairs of this University state. With this day will come greater duties and responsibilities. Assume these responsibilities or these new conditions will fail.

"We seniors are in the twilight of our University life. In a few days our college course shall have ended, for some it has ended. But we are getting deeper into the duties of a great democracy—our country. The needs of our University fade away for the country calls in defense of an ideal. When we think of the duty to our country, all minds turn to the great crisis we are now facing. For nearly three years we have kept free from the great world war, but we will no longer. As President Wilson puts it, "we will not choose the path of submission and suffer the most sacred rights of our people to be ignored or violated." This was a golden moment for those upon whom we placed the responsibility. They made no mistake. The war had to come. We will stand by the president and our representatives who declared it. The time has come when every loyal American must stand by the untainted emblem of liberty and democracy. All the sacrifices made by our sires in the years of struggle and development, all the blood that was shed by them was spilled in vain if we do not advance the liberty for which they fought. Our flag is to hold its meaning. Our glory is to retain its purity. Every patriot of today will defend that standard. The stars and stripes are to remain untainted.

"But these violent crises in the lives of nations usually produce their remedies, as they should. They grasp the attention and stir the consciences of men, and usually evolve leaders and measures to meet such needs. But these great crises are by no means the only ones of importance. The quiet turning point is reached and passed often with slight attention and wholly without struggle. Today are people are like a hive of bees—full of agitation. They are ready to sting. Public sensitiveness is calling into blossom questions of the most vital bearing upon the future.

"While the storm is passing, the cry goes up on every hand for men to lead the people in the upward march of civilization. The call is for men endowed with wisdom. Men who can express for the people the vaguely conceived policies they wish to pursue in solving these great problems.

"At these times of unrest, when new and important issues are arising, when old convictions are being questioned, men of learning, men who know the history of the past should be most active in the guidance of public opinion. No University should trim its sails in times like these. Clay hardens by immobility, men's minds by standing pat. What can be done, what must be done to make true and uninterrupted progress in that those members of the democracy to whom opportunity has brought instruction in the dynamics of law and self-government, shall so lead and direct the methods of development as to respond to the noblest impulses, the highest purposes, the most practical idealism of this great law-making multitude. Then the growth of the law shall receive from the best, and not from the worst forces of the community.

"But as students of an American University we have a third great re-which the University provides should take on the dignity of social worth. We hear the cry of distress from every clime and from every class of people. We cannot hide from these dark facts of life. Life is not a matter of listening to murmuring brooks

and wooing ferns. Life is a stately bearer of sorrow, a fighter of battles and a lifter of burdens. Most of us are blessed in knowing about a mother's love, a father's counsel. We know the sacrifice, the devotion. But there are thousands of homes which are not happy. They are poverty stricken. They are hungry. They are over-worked. The father sleeps on the gutter. Child labor still lays its tired head to sleep. Society holds the misdoer down, forbids her ever again to climb. Of what use is the University? Why are the people taxed? We fail to meet our responsibilities if we close our ears to the cries of humanity. We are on the sea of life. We are responsible for the guiding of the ship. You may cross the Atlantic once, perchance twice, without facing a storm; but you can't spend your life there and escape it. Neither can you escape the storms of life. And, too, every submarine of selfishness and vice has been sent forth on its errands of contamination and destruction. The Telemachus who has been paid to give his passengers safe passage never shrinks his duty. The state has paid you to guide humanity through the storm of selfishness graft or war and by the ice bergs of indifference. You must not shirk your duty.

"Give us men who will face responsibility; the University needs them; the country needs them; humanity needs them. That responsibility is exactly proportioned to each man's capacity—to his education, to his experience in life, to his ability, to lead. Friends, you have drawn the lucky land. Be careful how you play it. Our University spirit, the progress of our country, the welfare of humanity, depend upon the game you play. The fussy clothing, the mysterious hand-grip, the scars of social vaccination will be of no assistance. Intellectual development, character, courage, and the heaven-born gift of sympathy are the merits of the winner.

"When the University closes its doors upon us and we pass out upon the threshold of active life, let us raise our standards to loftier heights and face our responsibilities.

"The Ivy planted by the class of '17 will battle against the heat of summer, defend itself against the cold of winter, but will ever climb upward reaching out for new crevices in the crumbling walls of this institution; so may we battle against the new conditions, defend ourselves against the forces of evil, but ever climb upward, reaching out to meet the responsibilities which we as University students owe to our Alma Mater, to our country, and to humanity."

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UNIVERSITY NOTICES

Deutscher Gesellige Verein

The Deutscher Gesellige Verein will meet Thursday evening, May 3, in the home of G. O. Cast, 660 South Twenty-eighth Street. Prof. A. Schrag will speak on Pennsylvania Dutch.

OUTLINES DUTIES OF UNIVERSITY MEN

(Continued from Page 1)

gift of sympathy are the merits of the winner."

This was the keynote of the Ivy Day oration. "The Responsibilities of the University Man," given in the auditorium this morning by E. Everett Carr, of Beaver City.

The responsibilities of the University man can, like Gaul, be divided into three parts—to the University, to the country, and to humanity, the speaker said.

Raps Faculty Politics

In his consideration of the duties toward the University, Carr rapped faculty disunion and political rings, which, he said, students could see but had no power to move. He pleaded for University spirit which like fraternity spirit, ran high. He said that the needs of the University tended to draw all organizations together and he prophesied the early return of Cornhusker spirit.

The war calls all students, he said, to a realization of the responsibility of their duty towards our country. He expressed confidence that every University man would defend the flag, and work loyally and wisely for its welfare, whether it be on the stricken battlefield or in the quiet home.

The responsibility of a University man toward humanity he summed up as follows: "The state has paid you to guide humanity through the storm of selfishness, graft, or war, and by the icebergs of indifference." He also exhorted them to express through their lives the great truths which, when fully appreciated, assure the continued advance of the people of the nation and the attainment of a still higher degree of human happiness.

winning the Callingham & Co. Law prize for proficiency in history and system of common law. He has been a member of the intercollegiate debating team for the past two years, and is an active member of Acaela, Delta Sigma Rho, Phi Delta Phi, and Phi Alpha Tau.

Following is the oration in part: "A half century ago, the people of Nebraska in their first legislature assembled passed an act providing for institutions of learning. Only fifty years have passed since the first step was taken to establish our University. The same act that located our capitol located this campus where thousands have and will spend the four greatest years of their lives. The legislature at that time faced the situation, met the problem of the hour, saw the need of a great democracy. It was observant of the moment to adorn this state and to promote the best interests of the people. They improved the opportunity and made it to tell for time and eternity. We are here today because they faced responsibility.

"From then to this day the people of this state have given to their posterity, with little price, the benefit of the highest education at their command. They surround us during the four years of our University life with every uplifting influence to bring out the highest and best within us, and they ask of us in return nothing but to meet the needs of the day. What think you is the chief need? Your answer would be men, men who can assume responsibilities and discharge them, and who know their duties and fearlessly perform them.

Need Men With Initiative
 "The need of the hour then is full-blooded men with initiative: men who realize that life is an on-rushing, dynamic thing to be freshly reported by each beholder; men who are individual both in the quest itself and in the thing sought. Imitation is a poor thing either in art or in life. We must cut out the monkey work. It is ours to create new masterpieces. With due respect to the precedents of the past, the present and future responsibilities are in our hands.

"Like all Gaul, our responsibility may be divided into three parts—to our University, to our country and to humanity. Never was there a time when so much responsibility rested upon the student as today. We are facing a new era. The tide of democracy is drifting back to the place it held in the early days of our institution. Golden days were those when the students and faculty met together in one of the democratic literary societies. The tide reached its height when the students and faculty knew each other, when all stood as a unit for the loyal support of the University. But the tide drifted back. The literary society could no longer form a home for students and faculty. The secret fraternities came in to fill the need. But here was the trouble—they couldn't all get together—they lacked union. The spirit fell. What now is

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