

Other Opinions

A Tapping Oligarchy

To the Editor: I'm still dazed. Along with hundreds of other undergraduates, I always looked up to and revered the Innocents. I supposed that the society existed primarily as a real honor society, and that to be made an Innocent was the reward that came to those men who had shown themselves to be the real leaders in intellectual pursuits, in activities, and in athletics. I supposed, of course, that elections to the society were made solely on the basis of merit. And then, along comes this O. V. B. person.

Say, that fellow certainly laid the cards on the table. "There you are, take it or leave it," says he to the Innocents.

But to get back to the subject. I really didn't believe it all at first. I asked some of my more experienced friends. They laughed. "Why everyone knows that the Innocents have been running on this six-seven split for years," they said. It seems that the only point that O. V. B. missed is that they have been selecting men on that basis for three or four years longer than he thought.

Now it wouldn't be so bad if the Innocents were only what they proclaim to be—an honor society—and confined their activities to "honoring" their members. Even the out and out crookedness could be overlooked. The appalling fact, Mr. Editor—at least the fact that appalled me when I took the trouble to find out a few things the other day—is that here in this supposedly democratic university of a democratic state COMPLETE CONTROL OVER ALL STUDENT ACTIVITIES is vested in a close corporation, a self-perpetuating organization, whose members are elected not necessarily according to merit but by manipulations of two rival fraternity political machines—for such an organization is the Innocents fact.

It is a well-known fact that the Innocents, evidently mistrusting representative government, have forced the Student Council to its present ineffective position and, with the knowledge of administrative officers, have silenced ambitious Council presidents, telling them that only the Innocents have complete power to regulate student activities. I wonder if the Faculty committee on student organizations gave that power to the Innocents?

On the whole, things are in a bad way. The student body of the University of Nebraska should demand a show-down, for to tolerate such a condition as the recently exposed facts indicate, is to compromise with those ideals which a University should hold the highest. Ivy Day this year will be one of the most tragically comic events in the history of the University. In the first place, of course, there isn't

a thing about the ceremony that is any more symbolic of the real Nebraska than are dill pickles. But there, under the shading elms, etc., thirteen young men will be "tapped" according to tradition. Two thousand or so students will be looking on. They will be smiling, most of them. For the two thousand will know beforehand just who will be tapped; they will know that, whatever the merits of the men selected, the prime requisite for membership is the support of a Greek-letter fraternity faction; they will know that the society which those thirteen young men are joining is an oligarchy which, by its actions, has shown itself to be fundamentally opposed to the exercising in student affairs of the support of the American people—the right of democratic, representative government.

P. S.—While it is hardly to be denied that the present emblem of a devil's head is quite appropriate, why doesn't someone suggest to the Innocents that they could better carry out the idea of the six-seven split, in spirit, as in truth, if they would use for their insignia a numeral 7 superimposed on a 6.

Innocent Fun  
To the Editor:— This is a very amusing thing you have shown us—the Innocents, a

self-perpetuating aristocracy of cheerleaders whose membership is determined every year by a system that is farcically obvious in its crookedness, deciding to take charge of any activities they want control of, and regarding any interference with this policy as 'opposed to the best interests of the University.'

It is amusing that thirteen men who are selected because they happen to belong to the right fraternities, because they have been errand-boys to the athletic department, or because they have played politics in 'honorary' organizations should say that they are able to define 'the best interests of the University.' It would not be funnier if they were chosen because they part their hair in the center. But the most comic thing about the whole spectacle is that they should take themselves quite seriously. If they had handed down this dic-

tum as a joke on the school, then the laugh would have been on the students. As it is..... But why tell them what asses they make of themselves? Let them go on providing fun for us; they may some day acquire a sense of humor themselves. After all, the thing was set forth pretty well on University Night in the 'comic-opera' skit, 'Bigger and Better,' when the Chorus of the Innocents sang: "On Ivy Day from the Junior class We manage to tap every thorough-

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bred ass. We run elections and pull the wires; We manage the rallies, and we build bonfires. From all of the grafts we pull the plums, And so we have everything under

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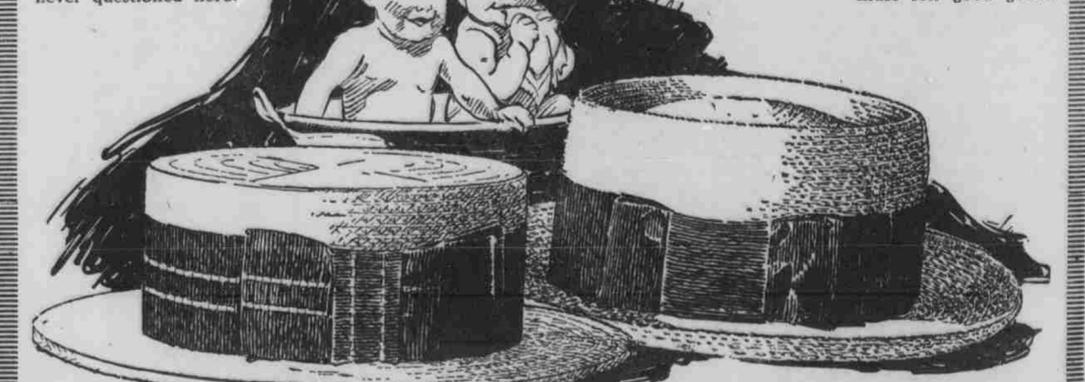
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