

The Daily Nebraskan

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If the comments of O. V. B. and The Nebraskan upon the Innocents, have been enjoyed as much by all students as by recent contributors to the "Other Opinions" column, the publication of such articles has been fully justified.

This newspaper is always reluctant to appear in the role of a crusader; our purpose is simply to provide you with interesting views and facts. The continued silence of the accused parties in this little episode, however, is sufficient evidence that these particular facts were both interesting and true.

But if the Innocents care to perpetuate a rotten system of fraternity politics, that is their business. If they prefer to choose members on some other basis than merit, even though it costs their self-respect, The Nebraskan is perfectly willing that they should. We only demand equal freedom, that is, the right to tell our handful of constituents about it.

If the society were anything more than an errand-boy committee the case might be different; but the members run their little errands well, and very little harm is done. Of course, they claim to have power to define the best interests of the University; but that claim is so futile and laughable that it provokes more hilarity than serious thought.

In order that we may not appear entirely destructive, however, we submit these recommendations for the improvement of the undergraduate organization system:

- 1. The Innocents should be a purely honorary organizations having no duties, and meeting only once or twice a semester. 2. Members of the Innocents should be elected by a committee composed of five students and three faculty members, the students to be elected by the student Council and the faculty members to be appointed by the Chancellor or the Executive Dean. 3. The Student Council should appoint an Athletic Committee to take over most of the work (Cornhusker banquet, rallies, football trips, etc.) now done by the Innocents. 4. The Student Council elections should be held under faculty supervision; and crookedness (such as has been rumored concerning the last election) made as difficult as in an official state election. 5. Abolition of freshman, sophomore, and junior honoraries.

It will be answered, of course, that the old split could still continue in Student Council elections. But there is nothing inherently wrong in political parties, if they are conducted openly and freely. The danger arises when they are able to pull the wires under cover. Although the split might continue, the politicians would be forced out into the open by such a system. With the election before the entire student body rather than a secret session of political bosses, there would be less danger that undeserving men would be chosen.

In short, this system would be democratic rather than oligarchical. Some people don't believe in democracy, but this University is preparing young men and women to live in a supposedly democratic government, and it should insist that students at least go through the motions of a democratic system.

In the case of the elections to the Innocents, there would be absolutely no chance for such fraternity wire-pulling as O. V. B. turned the spotlight on. In order to control the choice of members, one faction would have to control all five student votes (four would not be a majority, you see); and that is unlikely in view of the nearly equal strength of the two groups.

And if the Innocents were a purely honorary society, rather than an athletic booster committee, the candidates would be of a higher type. There would still be plenty of capable men available, of course, for the Athletic Committee which the Stu-

Phi Gamma Delta Inalterably Opposed to Sophomore Pledging

Cecil J. Wilkinson, editor of The Phi Gamma Delta and vice president of the College Fraternity Editors' Association, states that second-semester pledging systems may be desirable, but that his fraternity stands inalterably opposed to sophomore pledging. His letter follows:

PHI GAMMA DELTA May 18, 1926. Editor, The Daily Nebraskan, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Mr. Torrey: Mr. Horace I. Brightman, president of the Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta, has referred to me for reply your letter of April 29 regarding the pledging and probation-week practices.

Phi Gamma Delta stands inalterably opposed to sophomore pledging. It seems to us that it is desirable as a general proposition to delay pledging of freshmen a month or two, or perhaps even a semester, but a whole college year is an inordinately long time to be allocated for the freshman to find his fraternity affinity.

If the fraternity is, as Phi Gamma Delta is striving to make it, a supplementary educational institution, the new man, if elected, should be permitted to be matriculated in the society of his choice as soon as it becomes apparent that that choice has not been hasty. The fraternity as a teacher has many valuable lessons to impart to the plebe and the course should begin at a time earlier in his college career than the sophomore year. It is unfair to the freshman to delay his pledging for more than a semester. And of what value can it be either to the college or the fraternity?

Phi Gamma Delta is also opposed to excess in probation-week practices. As long as the vigor of youth

is the only dignified thing that they can do. Before we go further let me explain that I have nothing whatsoever to do with the organization. I have never been an Innocent and I have a special reason for believing that I shall never be one. In fact I am very little interested in them, having found that it is not always safe to pick friends by organizations.

The popular opinion around the campus is that something should be done to change the split. The man who has uncovered the sensational news, which everyone knew anyway, is hailed as "A Nebraska Man." And the inference is that the way the Innocents conduct their election is contrary to all ethical rules. This cannot be true, we feel, since the Innocents are selected on their ability to appear loyal Cornhuskers. And even though it may be true, would we dare to break up the grand old spirit of seven and six? Why that is the thing that has always fostered and promoted the best that our country has produced. At the expense, even of the "Cornhusker spirit" we cannot afford to destroy a tradition.

And anyway who wants honorary societies to do anything? For after all, what is an honorary society but a formal recognition of superiority? The most disgusting thing about the present system is the secrecy. "You understand, of course," everyone who mentions it says, "that I am talking to you in confidence, and this information is not for publication." "Yes," the other party answers, "it's just between you and me and the fence post." Now formal and informal conferences sprinkled through and through with such remarks are lots of fun and somewhat thrilling for most of us, but they do not tend to inculcate honesty and high ideals.

A semester spent romping up and down the avenue, jabbing our editorial cane at everything along the way, convinces The Nebraskan that student government is at a very low stage at this University, and that the political graft, corruption, and pull somehow have for some time centered about the Innocents. But despite that fact, people who care to do so can still get a reasonably good education here, and the situation is not as serious as the hypocrites seem to think. The crooks suffer more than the virtuous, and there is little occasion for alarm. Our advice (worthless or valuable as it may be), therefore, is to let things slide until the villains all kill one another off.

Other Opinions The Daily Nebraskan assumes no responsibility for the sentiments expressed by correspondents and reserves the right to exclude any communications whose publication may for any reason seem undesirable. In all cases the editor must know the identity of the contributor.

To the Editor: It has been very interesting to follow the accusations of O. V. B. against the Innocents. Many people have been surprised that the Innocents themselves have offered no defense. They claim that this is proof enough of their guilt. But I am inclined to differ with them in this respect. I approve of this discreet silence that the organization is maintaining. It seems to me that

And if honorary societies wish to keep their superiority they should contrive in every way not to do anything. They are to be respected and not to be questioned. They are to be admired and not to be criticized. Everyone recognizes the danger of obscuring really big men in the vast numbers of students in a great university. There are so many of them. Honorary societies help to take care of this lamentable condition. Otherwise many a flower is born to blush unseen. The Innocents have remedied this defect in our school. They bring these big men out in the open. What more can we ask? And then there is the matter of pins. The Innocent pin is of great value to its owner. When he becomes a lawyer and gets up to plead his case he can stick his hands in his pockets and contrive in a natural way to push his coat back so that his Innocent pin will show. Coupled with his frat pin and his "N" pin it will help him greatly. The other lawyers and the jury—especially if there happens to be a prof on the jury—will know exactly what to expect. Perhaps the Innocent pin will keep his wife and family from starving. What greater mission could any pin have? Then there is another reason which few people admit but, which I believe, is sufficient justification for the organization as it now stands. You all know that when you have been in the habit of wearing a pin of any sort it makes a prodigious hole in a garment which it happens to distinguish. Now just what is the poor student going to do when he has to take off his Viking pin that he has worn the year before? They not only make holes but they precede the holes by black marks, of which anyone may be justly ashamed. Criticism is not such, we understand, unless one offers some sort of a panacea for the existing conditions; so we will prove our loyalty by recommending a substitute for pins. Why not put patches on where the pins should go? They would be more striking than pins, and they would anticipate all the blackening and tearing qualities. Then we should have a pure democracy in the

University. The man who had the most patches on his clothes would be the biggest man on the campus. D. A. R.

On The Air

University Studio, broadcasting over KFAB (340.7.)

Manday, May 24 9:30 to 9:55 a. m. Weather report by Prof. T. A. Blair. Road report and announcements. 10:30 to 11:00 a. m. "Gas Engines," by Professor C. W. Smith, Department of Agricultural Engineering.

1:15 to 1:30 p. m. Musical numbers by Arthur Goldstein, Pianist, Student with Herbert Schmidt. 3:00 to 3:30 p. m. "Service Rendered by the Department of Educational Service," by R. D. Moritz, Director of the Bureau of Recommendation of Teachers.

"The High School; An American Contribution to Education," by O. T. Doran, Professor of History and Principles of Education. 8:05 to 8:30 p. m. "Plant Pathology as a Life Work," by Professor G. L. Peltier, Department of Plant Pathology.

"Telling Stories," by Elton Lux, Extension Editor, Colleg of Agriculture.

Cook Writes of Fossil Dog Harid J. Cook, ex-'10, is the author of a paper, "New Gigantic Fossil Dog," recently received at the Museum Library.

EAT at The Little Sunshine Cafe Meals, Sandwiches and Lunches QUICK SERVICE First Door East of Temple

Interior of Social Sciences Redecorated

(University News Service) Social Sciences building is being rededicated inside for the first time since the building was erected eight years ago. The old color scheme was plain white throughout. The new is a buff. In the halls a darker shade is being used for a lower border. A great many of the class rooms have been finished, and last week the third floor was also completed. Teachers College building was rededicated a few weeks ago. The spring maintenance cleanup of the campus has also included painting of exterior wood work of most of the buildings on the downtown campus.

BOOMERS TEACHERS AGENCY. TEACHERS needed now.

Hamilton-Johnson Article Printed (University News Service) In the May number of the Journal of the American Chemical Society, is an article "The Action of Alkylchloro-carbonates on Hydroxyarylarmonic Acids," by Prof. Cliff S. Hamilton of the Department of Chemistry, and F. Millard Johnson, graduate student.

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