

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

TWENTY-NINTH YEAR

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Reorganization Needed.

There's certainly something wrong some place.

Just like the bewildered Lief the Plucky, that talented freshman who wrote in to these columns a few days ago, inhabitants of Cornhuskerland are beginning to see more and more with each new day that things around here aren't what they ought to be.

In this morning's Nebraskan, on the first page, are published two articles which appeared in the Sunday, Jan. 19, 1930, issue of the Lincoln Journal. The one, a letter from Dr. T. J. Thompson, present dean of student affairs at the University of Nebraska, pertains to the solution of the situation which arose after a Nebraska graduate had been refused a teaching position in the east simply because "in the west you place athletics first."

The other article, a message from John N. Dryden, is relative to the university as he saw it fifty years ago. This, too should not pass unnoticed by followers of this organ. And as the Journal stated in its "More or Less Personal" column, Mr. Dryden's "letter will revive controversies among those who 'remember when' and who are in daily contact with conditions of today."

What is the fundamental cause of the low rating of the University of Nebraska in the educational world? Why has this school become the object of such publicity? As a student newspaper, representing student viewpoint of the University of Nebraska, The Daily Nebraskan is searching for the truth. It's a tough job, we'll admit, but surely something can be done about the matter to prevent advertising of this kind from drenching the country.

Those who have reminiscences of the days when the University of Nebraska was a university among universities, always link the present "straits" of the institution with the gradual departure of faculty members to other seats of learning. And this, in turn, has been accounted for on the basis of lack of appropriations sufficient to pay the professors adequate salaries. That this has had a part in the divorce of many an educator from Nebraska cannot be denied. But can it be said to be the only reason?

Upon investigating the thing, The Nebraskan has discovered the possibilities of other factors entering in. The problem is not singularly a present problem but has been looming for several years. The state officials, the university authorities, the university faculty, have all known of it for several years, but as yet nothing has seemingly been done about it.

In 1923 the university was advised by a legislative committee to reorganize. Nothing was done along this line until the arrival of Dean Herman G. James, who from 1925 on tried to secure from the faculty a reorganization of the college of arts and sciences. One of Dr. James' most enthusiastic aides was Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, eminent philosopher, scholar and author, then chairman of the department of philosophy at this university, but now holding a similar chair at Scripps college, California.

What the conditions were even before the attempt at reorganization made by Dean James is evidenced in a letter written by Dr. Alexander to Regent Seymour, under date of April 23, 1922. It is not the attempt of The Nebraskan to stir up a useless fuss nor to involve any former members of the faculty in the present discussion, but, although not receiving the letter directly from Dr. Alexander, we believe we violate no confidence in its publication.

Therefore, in view of the complaint voiced by the lowly freshman, in view of the widespread public discussion, not confined alone to the state of Nebraska, relative to the university's depreciation in educational values, the following letter is published:

Lincoln, Nebraska, April 23, 1922.

My Dear Mr. Seymour: It is quite possible that what I have in mind to write is out of place, but your kindly interest in getting the points of view of teachers in the university on matters that affect it leads me once more to put my own thoughts in writing. Just now they are of the bluest. A year and a half ago the University of Nebraska seemed to have the brightest prospects of any time in its history. The administration was apparently liberal and open; the regents were expressing a lively and sympathetic interest; a group of new men—"fresh blood"—had come to the campus, giving us for the first time in years a sense of drawing power for good men, and at the same time heartening the whole school and invigorating its policies with the new ideas; best of all, we had a morale based upon confidence that at last there might be a forward movement that should place Nebraska in the front of educational institutions. As one of the men said to me last evening, he had never known an institution where the prospects seemed finer; here at last seemed a place where a true university was to be permitted to grow. Today all this is gone. One of our older men remarked: "We are back to 'normalcy'; I had thought that to be a political phrase; I see that it is a description of reality." What that

"normalcy" means I hope that some regent or some public will some day come to understand.

May I remark—what is, of course, evident—that the true center and substance of any university must be the body of traditions and purposes which actuate it: the thing that can be defined as its "spirit" that gives it its character. In the early days, owing to a group of really great men who were its early teaching staff, Nebraska had a character of a quality and a standing equaled by no other state university of its size; it held rank as one of America's great state universities, recognized the world over. That tradition—now growing into a myth of the past—was its breath of life, its chief duty to the people of Nebraska more sacredly the duty of an officer of the university, whether a teacher or regent, than should be the preservation and carrying on of this central treasure—the good fame, based upon the honest achievements, of the school's spirit and character. To me, it has seemed obvious that not all members of the board of regents have really understood the fundamental fact that such an institution as a college is more than plant, officials and employees, that it is and must be a thing greater than any group of men who may happen to bear its responsibilities for a day, a thing of slow and character building growth, whose chief inheritance is the tradition that defines it, and, if it is worthy, becomes the pride of its sons and daughters. Such a traditional character cannot be built up in a less time than a long series of years; it may be destroyed, as a man's character may be blackened, in a space of a few months.

In the University of Nebraska as in every other university, the liberal college has in the nature of things been the chief carrier of the university tradition and the chief guardian of its spirit. It was the college first founded; it was the thing which the builders of the university had in mind when they secured its charter and hauled the wagon trains of bricks over prairie miles to rear its first house. The liberal college is furthermore the center of the university's functioning as a school; I have not the figures at hand, but I venture to say that the arts college staff numbers over twice the staff of all the other colleges put together; and of course there is no college in the university which does not draw heavily upon the arts college staff for the teaching which makes its own work possible. If there is such a thing as a "university faculty" it is surely in the main the teaching staff of this college. With it the spirit of the institution is held in trust.

In view of this it is exceedingly disheartening to us who are its members to see the progressive weakening of its strength by the withdrawal of men of the highest type—men who could certainly be held with no financial loss to the institution's budget. Professor MacFayden in the eyes of his colleagues and of his students was one of the university's great acquisitions. He goes virtually because not a finger was raised to induce him to stay (and I think that a word of encouragement would have been enough to hold him). Certainly, no new man in history of his caliber, even if such can be secured, will come to the university for any such sum as would have held MacFayden—whose going is a blow to the morals of the whole college. Another of our new men who goes is Vaughan, a scholar of high order, and he goes to a university where in all honesty he can say nothing that will add to our fame. A third man is now considering an offer. One of his friends, who had been asked to try to induce him to stay, said to me: "What can I say to him, except to congratulate him on getting away?" I could give no assurance.

During the past few weeks, three arts college men have come to me and virtually put their resignation in my hands. A fourth today asked my advice as to what he should do in the face of an attractive offer. In my opinion these four men represent the very finest type of spiritual resource which the university possesses. The first comes I encouraged to stay, but as time is passing and the state and standing of the college are progressively lowered, I am in a quandary. How am I to advise these men, mainly promising young men, as to their future? I can tell them that Nebraska has possessed a great name, but I can see no grounds for promising them anything for the future. I can express hopes—not yet dead—that we may still find ourselves a fortress of integrity of public idealism; but I can point to no facts which will be to them evidence that this is more than a dream. If you, as a regent of the university, can give me some good reason, that may perhaps be convincing to such men, I shall be most grateful; for of all our treasures they are what I most desire to keep with us. Most sincerely yours, (Signed) H. B. ALEXANDER.

In presenting the above letter, The Daily Nebraskan, under its present editorship, is only following what was set out in the declaration of policy made on Thursday, Sept. 19, 1929: To stand for the best interests of the institution which it represents. The university faces a situation. Why not be frank about it?

Much discussion has been raised by the administration apropos of securing a more outstanding faculty. Why not keep the present instructional force by effecting a more interested attitude on the part of the administration toward the present faculty? Why not, with the present faculty, attempt an open reorganization?

"Our Much Business Council."

The student council at its last meeting devoted the entire time to the task of selecting a committee to promote a dance, according to the story which appeared following the meeting. The appointment of the committee was, to say the least, unimportant. By such actions the council answers emphatically the question: Why is the student council of so little importance?

When an organization which aspires to a part in the government of a university fritters away an entire session in making only preliminary arrangements for one party, that organization is demonstrating conclusively its lack of interest in the affairs of the school.

At best, the interest of the student council in matters of greater importance has been only passive. It has had an opportunity to take action on the matter of class officers. Its committee reported that it found no justifiable reason for the existence of class officers. The council has no alternative but to announce that it expected shortly to start a movement to abolish the "positions of honor." The movement has failed to start.

The matter of proportional representation has been presented to the council for action. No action has been taken. The sin of omission is doubly condemning in this instance. In the first place, it is a simple case of neglect. In the second place, the proportional representation plan strikes home at a fundamental weakness of the council—the fact that it is not a representative body.

Dealings with the important matters of rallies were feeble. Here, with an opportunity for a demonstration of its usefulness, the council fell down again.

When confronted with a charge of idleness and general uselessness, the council might manage to be elusive for a moment or two with the argument that it has no authority to make final decisions, and therefore lacks proper incentive to efficiency.

But there is no escaping the truth of the statement that the council makes a poor job of its duties in an auxiliary capacity. Until the body demonstrates that it is capable to deal effectively with the matters under its jurisdiction, it cannot hope to be vested with further powers.

On The Campus

BY MARY NICHOLS, CAMPUS EDITOR

Winter Brings Varied Social Affairs at University

The wintry gales of the past week brought social activities, weddings, and announcements of engagements of interest in university circles. June days will be surpassed by January days, it seems.

Prominent Student Wedded

Announcement has just been made of the marriage of Mercedes Wochner of Nebraska City to Douglas Timmerman of Lincoln, solemnized in Omaha, Sept. 2. Mrs. Timmerman was a former University of Nebraska student where she was a member of Gamma Phi Beta. Mr. Timmerman, who is a senior in the college of business administration, is a Phi Psi and an Innocent. They will reside in Lincoln at the Lafayette apartments.

Fraternity Parties Are Varied

Though sorority parties for the week end were formal affairs, the fraternities showed originality in the themes of their decorations and entertainment for their house dances. Twenty-five couples attended the goof party at the Alpha Chi Sigma house on Saturday evening. The Sigma Alpha Epsilon house took on the aspect of a real boozery cafe when a ball was underway. Small tables about the rooms, which were lighted with candles, and a mechanical piano provided the

proper atmosphere for the bowery costumes of the guests.

A formal dinner dance was that of the Lambda Chi Alpha at the chapter house on Saturday evening, while a sports party was the contribution of the pledges of Theta Chi. The house was decorated with symbols of the popular sports, and guests came attired in sports costumes.

Alpha Theta Chis gave their firemen's ball at the chapter house Friday evening. Floodlights were so arranged as to give the appearance of a fire, and the men wore firemen's hats to add reality to the scene.

Chi O's Announce Engagements

Two university coeds have announced their engagements to Nebraska men. Margaret Hagerman, who is a member of Chi Omega, will wed LaMonte Lundstrom, Tau Kappa Epsilon. Her sorority sister, Virginia Thornton, has announced her engagement to Cyril Karschner, a Tau Kappa Epsilon. Both couples are now attending the University of Nebraska. Miss Hagerman's home is in Niobrara, and Mr. Lundstrom's in Holdrege. Miss

TWO MORE GROUPS BROADCAST SONGS

(Continued From Page 1.) Sing later this week and next week.

Winners, to be decided upon by mail vote and a Kosmet Klub committee, will have their songs featured in a medley at the interfraternity ball Feb. 8. The fraternity receiving first place will be presented with a silver loving cup at the ball.

Two trios and a select chorus of ten members with violin obligato presented the Delta Upsilon program of fraternity songs. Russell Mattson announced the numbers. The chorus opened the program with the University of Nebraska chant followed by "Dream Girl of Delta U," "Down Among the Dead Men," and "Each Fellow Has a Sweetheart." One trio consisting of Neil Dearinger, Paul Hummel, and Charles McCarl sang "D. U. Girl," and another composed of Gale Davis, Lester Schick and Kenneth Gammill sang a humorous medley. A violin obligato played an arrangement of "Dream Girl of Delta U," as a theme song. Others singing in the chorus were: Arthur Bailey, Harold Benson, Jack Lieben, Carroll Pauley, Frank Cowton, Harold Pedley, Dearinger was in charge of the Delta U. program with Gene Robb at the piano.

Using a theme song "Continuity" through its entire program, Alpha Tau Omega presented four fraternity numbers sung by a select chorus. In the chorus were: Edwin Brandes, Edwin Fisher, Stanley Day, Harry Hanson, Frank Rochi, Hal Childs, Charles Fiske, Joyce Ayres and Dorsey Balwin. Harold Turner played piano accompaniments and was featured in a piano solo.

Songs used by Alpha Tau Omega in the program included "Jewel Song," "Alpha Tau Brothers," and "A. T. O. Sweetheart."

Lincoln Man Remembers When "Barbs" Controlled Campus Politics; Weaver, McMullen, Dern Pound Were Leaders

(Continued From Page 1.) former governor George Dern of Utah, "Bill" and "Jim" Johnson, all prominent barb leaders, were responsible for Delta Tau Delta. L. C. Oberlies and Harry Shedd helped organize Phi Kappa Psi. Alpha Theta Chi was organized by Roscoe Pound, now dean of the Harvard Law school, "Fred" Clemens, and Irving Cutler.

There were many prominent barbs on the campus who never joined a fraternity, according to Mr. Towne. Among these were C. M. Skiles, R. C. Roper, Will Owen Jones, Lawrence Fosoler, now professor of German in the university, Professor Cadwell, formerly of the University of Nebraska.

There were almost as few sororities in Mr. Towne's day at the university. Included in the sororities here then were Delta Gamma, Kappa Gamma Gamma, and Kappa Alpha Theta.

Innocents Came Later.

The Innocents were organized a few years after Mr. Towne had graduated. He remembers only one prominent member and that was J. W. Seaton, now deceased, who was included in the list of barb editors of The Hesperian Student and who, upon graduation, became a professor in the Universities of Kansas and Nebraska. Football, baseball, debate, tennis, class presidencies, and the different barb literary societies, were among the prominent activities of those days.

"Jim" Johnson, remembered as one of the organizers of the Delta Tau Delta, was captain and quarterback of the football team when Mr. Towne was in school. Mr. Johnson's brother, "Bill" was manager of the team and also a debater. Mr. Towne said that although debating was started while he was in school, there were no active debating coaches.

University men were members of the state oratorical association then. Adam McMullen represented the state in a national contest once and this was regarded as a very prominent activity. Class presidencies were important then and two were elected each year, according to the present plan. The only way a fraternity could get even a "look in" at the elections, however, was to combine with one of the barb organizations.

Annual Came Rush. One Nebraska tradition which was abolished in Mr. Towne's freshman year was the annual came rush between freshmen and sophomores. This was an occasion

when the freshmen would secret places about the school at different times, so that the sophomores might not find them, and at a given signal on a certain day the canes would be brought forth and carried to chapel by the freshmen. The sophomores would try to prevent the "troop" from carrying the canes and their efforts to catch and break up the sticks always precipitated a big class scrap. Chancellor Canfield broke up the scrap that year, however, and put a damper on the tradition that has never been removed.

METHOD OF ELECTING INNOCENTS REVEALED

(Continued From Page 1.) they expect to graduate during their sophomore and junior years in succession, and who are about to take their first college degree.

"Any man entering a college requiring two years liberal preparation, shall be considered as a junior in his freshman year in that college."

"No student shall be eligible to membership in the Innocents society unless he shall have, at the close of his junior year in the University of Nebraska, enough college credits to permit his graduation with the senior class the following spring."

"This section shall not be interpreted to include any student who has sufficient credit hours, but whose credits are so low that his graduation with the senior class the following spring" is improbable.

"The minimum hour requirements at the close of the first semester of the junior year must be seventy-five hours and enough additional hours must be carried so that there is every reasonable possibility of fourteen hours credit being granted the second semester."

Alumni Control.

"At the first regular meeting following Jan. 1 of each year, three resident alumni members (not honorary) of the Innocents society shall be selected by majority vote of the active members as an alumni election committee. It shall be the duty of those members to choose a date for the annual election which may, in the discretion of this committee, be unknown to the active members. It shall be the duty of this committee to meet with the thirteen active members on the date chosen for election and to review and tabulate the results. The ballots for both the tentative list and for the final thirteen men shall be taken on the same night in one continuous meeting. No adjournment shall be permitted between the balloting for the tentative list and for the selection of the thirteen Innocents. Each man balloting shall sign his name to his own ballot. If in the opinion of the alumni committee there has been any apparent attempt to elect a slate, the ballot shall be declared invalid and the members so voting required to justify their action before the Association of Alumni Innocents of the city of Lincoln. In such cases and after such a hearing another election will be called for by the election committee."

The Tentative List.

"In preparation for balloting a complete list of all eligible men shall be certified by the registrar at the earliest date possible following the beginning of the second semester, and each man shall be certified as qualifying for election as provided in the constitution. Thirty names shall be selected from this list for the tentative list and their method of selection shall be as follows: Each active member shall ballot on thirty names, the same name not to appear more than once on any one ballot. Each voting member shall place these thirty names on his ballot in the order of his preference. Each nominee shall be credited with the same number of points on each ballot as his relative position on each ballot indicates. (e. g.—The first name on a ballot shall be credited with one point; the thirtieth name shall be credited with thirty points.) Each failure to appear on a ballot shall count thirty points. The total number of points received by each nominee on this basis on the thirteen ballots shall be divided by the actual number of times his name has appeared on a ballot. The thirty eligible men receiving the lowest number of points in the manner indicated shall constitute the tentative list."

The Final Election.

"The thirteen Innocents-elect shall be selected in precisely the same manner with the exception

Thornton lives at Fairbury, and Mr. Karschner is from this city.

Delta Omicron Dinner Dance

Members of Delta Omicron, honorary musical sorority, will entertain at a formal dinner dance Saturday evening at the Lincoln hotel. Thirty-five couples will attend the party which will be chaperoned by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Steckelberg, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Decker, and Miss Elizabeth Tierney.

Farmer Students Are Married

Announcement has been made of the wedding of Marceline Cloos of Blackton, Ia., and Francis Davis of St. Joseph on Aug. 7. Mrs. Davis, who graduated from the University of Nebraska last spring, was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha. Mr. Davis, a Nebraska graduate, was affiliated with Sigma Chi.

Sigma Alpha Iota Plans Convention

The province convention of Sigma Alpha Iota, musical sorority, will be held in Lincoln, Feb. 1 and 2. A delegates musicale and duo-piano recital will feature the two day meeting of the group. The local group has been arranging the program for the meeting of the professional society.

Miss Henderson Will Visit Here Friday

Miss Grace Henderson, a graduate of the University of Nebraska, who is now home demonstration agent at the K. S. A. C. at Manhattan, Kas., and who has been studying at the University of Chicago during the first quarter will be visiting in Lincoln Friday.

CROWD OF 400 ATTEND MIXER AT AG COLLEGE

About four-hundred persons attended the student mixer sponsored by the 4H club at the student activities building on the college of agriculture campus Friday night. Chaperons for the affair were Mr. and Mrs. Elton Lux, Dr. and Mrs. P. A. Downs, and Professor and Mrs. F. F. Kemp.

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