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PHI BETA KAPPAS

AS A REWARD for nearly four years of feeding instructors verbal taffy and of cramming a number of sundry facts into their brains, fifty-two Nebraska seniors and graduates were elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa Tuesday morning.

It is safe to assume that less than half of this number were really deserving of any honor that can possibly be associated with this scholastic fraternity. It is also safe to say that probably fifty-two others were equal or superior to those chosen.

The biggest fallacy in Phi Beta Kappa is that the honor is based on grades rather than scholarship. It has often been stated that any normal student can be a Phi Beta Kappa if he chooses the proper course and proper instructors, and devotes a little attention to study. Unfortunately this allegation is true.

Phi Beta Kappas are the lucky lads and lassies who have picked their teachers and courses wisely. Of course they have studied—but the honor they have received does not denote keenness of intellect but ability to catalog factual information in their minds so that they can call it forth whenever needed.

Such generalizations as are made above are subject to qualification. To be sure there are a number of Phi Beta Kappas who have pursued difficult subjects and have mastered them. There are a number who represent some of the best minds in the senior class. But that does not hold for the entire fifty-two who have, in the majority, led a cloistered life while attending university. They are emerging this spring with nothing but a P. B. K. key and a diploma to show for four years of concentration on grade getting.

High scholarship and high grades are not synonymous terms—though they are frequently employed as such. Too many students get a slightly perverted view of the situation and bend their efforts toward making high marks instead of permanently assimilating the subject matter of their courses. As a matter of fact, there are a number of courses offered in this university that are not worth spending enough time on to make a grade well up in the nineties. There is some sense of achievement if such a course is mastered, but it would be better for the individual to spend a part of his time on something else.

Scholarship, when separated from the grade aspect that is so often connected with it, is what all university students should be aiming toward. The criterion of high scholarship, however, is not to be found in high grades.

Another sorry situation which so often results from the selection of Phi Beta Kappas is the smugness that these newly elected members demonstrate in associating with other students. This was very obvious last year and probably will be noted this year. These key wearers feel themselves to be the intelligentsia of the university, believe whatever they say cannot be justly challenged by anyone who is not a Phi Beta Kappa, and pronounce the organization to which they have been elected—Phi Beta Kappa, which is asinine.

This egotism is very disgusting. Those who maintain this attitude have missed the gist of their entire education. The more learned a person really is, the more he should recognize his individual inferiority in the maze of facts which confronts the world today. To set himself up as smarter and mightier than the others is where he proves he is not deserving of Phi Beta Kappa honors. Instead this election should provoke in him a humbleness and a recognition of the vastness of the field of learning in which he has been permitted to browse.

IF SMOKE THEY MUST

AT Northwestern university, where coeds cluttered up all the campus eating places and generally made themselves obnoxious by puffing cigarets continuously, students recently petitioned to allow them to have private smoking rooms in dormitories and sorority houses.

The coeds and the men both sought to have the university permit women's inhaling establishments. A questionnaire circulated by the Daily Northwestern revealed a 20-to-1 majority in favor of women's smoking rooms. The university authorities are expected to take favorable action shortly.

The situation at Nebraska is, to a degree, analogous to that at Northwestern. Coeds sneak out on fire escapes, seclude themselves in closets, invade campus coffee shops, and in the warmer weather take refuge in automobiles in order that they may "enjoy" a good, healthy smoke.

With the gradual disappearance of the double standard in everything, nearly everyone recognizes that women have as much right to smoke when and where they please as men. Parenthetically, this prevalent palaver about a single standard has resulted in pulling the women down to the men's level instead of raising the men to a higher plane.

But the single standard reigns, and women are supposed to be on an equal footing with their boy friends. In advocating that steps similar to those taken at Northwestern be followed at Nebraska, there is no desire to cultivate a taste for smoking among women. In reality, smoking rooms probably would lessen the craze for cigarets. Smoking rooms for women are needed at Nebraska to get the coeds and their inevitable cigarets out of sight to some extent.

If coeds may smoke in their living quarters, it will lessen their desire to puff incessantly wherever they can possibly inhale without being criticized. With an appreciable percentage of Nebraska's coeds reaching for cigarets instead—the university's unwillingness to recognize the situation makes it doubly objectionable.

Why need there be such puritanical restrictions if smoke they must?

LIFTING THE LOAD

WHENEVER anything goes wrong in a university the buck is passed from hand to hand in true American style to the prexy, chancellor, president—or whatever you may choose to call him. He gets the kicks from the taxpayers, from the regents, trustees or curators, from the faculty, and from the students.

And that isn't all. He must represent the university on all sorts of occasions, head campaigns, supervise budget making, hire and fire, lecture and run a college. Max McCann, dean of Lehigh university, tells these woes of a university prexy in the current issue of the North American Review,

as he points to the turnover of more than 7 percent in college presidents during the past nine months.

What Dean McCann proposes is a new way of governing the university. He believes that asking one man to head such an institution is entirely too much—that it is a man-killing job today. His interests cannot be broad enough to see the sides of the faculty, the students, and the taxpayers. Besides this the faculty, including specialists superior in their fields to him, resents being ruled by one iron hand.

To lift the load from prexy's shoulders Mr. McCann suggests the substitution of a board to be composed of six faculty members, three alumni and three undergraduate honor students. Elections would be held periodically so no one clique might control the situation permanently if the work was being done unsatisfactorily. Over this board would be trustees (for endowed schools) and the regents for state and municipal universities). But these groups wouldn't do anything unless something radical happened in operating the university.

Applied to Nebraska, it would be interesting to see how such a plan would work. Dean McCann firmly believes that some school somewhere is going to try something along this line. Experiments have been made in all other phases of the university project—in studying and in teaching, he says. Why not next in administration and government?

OF COURSE it would be folly to advocate such a proposition at Nebraska. In the first place, Nebraska isn't given over to experimentation—especially along educational lines. The University of Nebraska, chiefly because of its insufficient funds and secondly because of the very conservative nature of its people when it comes to anything in the field of higher learning, has seldom been a leader in new things.

Dean McCann's plan, however, would solve several problems that will remain problems until a change in the governmental arrangement of universities is effected. All the interests of a university would be represented. All propositions would be threshed out on a basis of their merit as seen by the composite group of governors—faculty, students, and alumni.

Nobody would hold the club. And no one person would shoulder all the complaints. Introduction of such a plan would not be a slap at the head of a university, but a system promoted solely for the welfare of the institution. Were it introduced there is little doubt but that this head would be retained as chairman of the board. With his past experience and with others to aid him and give him new points of view such a plan seems admirable in every respect.

But it wouldn't be so popular in state universities as Nebraska where "democratic" taxpayers from Valentine to Rulo want their representatives—and no others—to run their school. It doesn't make so much difference to them how it is run as it does who is running it.

And that is what's mighty unfortunate—for Nebraskans and for their university.

WESTERN WOMEN IN BUSINESS.

BUSINESS women do not enjoy the same prestige in the east as in the west, according to a statement made recently by Mrs. Lola Cranston, manager of an apartment hotel for women in New York City. Mrs. Cranston insists that she speaks with authority since she has lived in both parts of the country.

Mrs. Cranston says that in the west the business women are still considered as something of a phenomenon and are admired for their courage and independence. Men find them good sports and pleasant companions. Their married women friends consider them interesting and invite them to their homes, she says. But when business women go to New York they find that they are no longer heroines because there are too many others.

Mrs. Cranston claims it is hard to make friendships because married people who might be congenial live in the suburbs and their social activity revolves around exclusive clubs. Most single people are busy, she says, and absorbed in their own problems. They look upon business women as more competitors and consequently are reserved, difficult to meet, and suspicious of strangers.

At any rate women who plan to enter business have a much more inviting outlook in Nebraska than in eastern states. The frigidly and reserve associated with the east does not prevail in the cordial middle west. The western girl is by far the luckier even if she must wait a month or so longer for eastern fashions.

This description of New York, often romantically pictured in its glamor and intense activity, might well be taken to heart by Nebraska coeds who have cherished fond dreams of making a wonderful go of things away from home ties and warm Nebraska friendships.

+ The Student Pulse +

Signed contributions pertinent to matters of student life and the university are welcomed by this department. Opinions submitted should be brief and concise.

OUT IN THE OPEN.

To the editor:
 The many articles expressing opinion through the columns of The Daily Nebraskan, "With Fire and Sword," remarks of "A Free Citizen," and worse yet to come, cause the writer to wonder why all the long range stuff. One would think they were a million miles apart and could strike at each other and institutions only with written words and printed circulars. The truth is they are all on the same campus.

If these individuals really have grievances why do they not call a mass meeting of the students, give vent to their feelings, and air their several opinions? The Coliseum is excellently suited to this purpose. Let it be known that on a set day and hour all those interested in voicing their ideas regarding the university, its program, and its personnel, may come hither and do so.

To have grievances is natural and usual. To express them in some conventional way is sensible. To harbor them until they become an obsession is foolish. To circulate them anonymously and attack someone in a scurrilous manner is both cowardly and dastardly. Come out in the open and state your case. We like to see the color of the fellow's eyes who is shooting at us.

To state that everything is the best possible on our fair campus today is not true—of course. Things could be altered and perhaps for the better. But the writer doubts if there is any faculty member who is not anxious to meet any student half way. For these individuals to think that this university can be run to suit the wishes and whims of a few is erroneous and egotistical.

If you have a case, state it in an open discussion and abide by the wishes, desires, and needs of the majority.

ENGINEER GROUP HAS BANQUET ON TUESDAY

Meeting Is Held at Grand to Honor Fiftieth A.S.M.E. Anniversary.

Nebraska section and student branch of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers held a banquet last night at the Grand hotel in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the organization. Similar meetings were held at all the branches throughout the country and a national meeting was held in Washington, D. C.

The program consisted of a set of slides dealing with the history and development of the organization and the progress made in mechanical engineering during that time. Two recorded messages, one by Calvin W. Rice, national secretary, and the other by Dr. William F. Durand, ex-president, were given at the banquet. These messages were the same as the ones delivered at the national meeting in Washington. Prof. A. E. Bunting acted as toastmaster in the place of B. J. Latimer, Nebraska president, who was unable to attend. Ralph E. Gustafson, mechanical engineering '31, presented a few musical numbers.

Fiftieth anniversary medals were presented to foreign representatives from all over the world who attended the meeting. President Hoover was among the engineers presented with medals.

MILESTONES AT NEBRASKA

1925.
 Spring vacation; no paper.
 1920.
 Delta Omega sorority was installed as a chapter of Kappa Delta.

General Aggappian of Armenia spoke at convocation.
 Silver Serpents presented the "Big Circus" for sophomore and junior women.

1915.
 The Dramatic club presented "The Man From Home" at the Temple.
 The students who had been on

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the University Week trip were feted in a convocation at Memorial hall.

Members of the various Greek organizations voted not to use hired conveyances at any of their functions, except in case of inclement weather.

1910.
 The freshmen and sophomores engaged in an impromptu fight, described as "bloody." Both classes claimed a victory.
 The members of the junior class

elected the editor of the 1911 Corpshaker and also discussed propositions for a hayrack party.

1905.

A good sized crowd witnessed the Big Gym Exhibition given in the Armory.
 The annual staff announced that the book was in the hands of the binder.
 Local painters raised their strike and continued the work on the new Farm building.

DOW TO TEACH AT EMPORIA COLLEGE

C. L. Dow, a graduate student who will be receiving his master's degree in geography this spring, has been elected to take charge of the geography instruction work for the coming summer session in the state teachers' college at Emporia, Kas. Mr. Dow will have charge of the work during the absence of Prof. G. A. Buzzard.



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