

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

Station A, Lincoln, Nebraska
OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
Published Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday mornings during the academic year.



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Members, We Salute Thee.

Tuesday morning Phi Beta Kappa announced its forty-five selections for the coming year. There was slight applause as the winning names were announced.

There has always been a distinct division between activities and scholarship. From the list of forty-five chosen this year to Phi Beta Kappa only eight activity workers can be selected.

Or perhaps it works the other way. Perhaps the scholars are not activity workers. Perhaps they see the futility in campus leadership and refrain from participation.

At any rate there is a distinct separation between activities and high grades. That is apparent at a glance. The reason is as obvious. Time, the all important factor, is the answer.

There are a few in the list who have the power of concentration which has enabled them to participate in both. The ruling which keeps women in a limited number of activities accounts for the fact that there are more women than men on the list.

There are few, too few, who are classed as scholars by Phi Beta Kappa. Many of the ones selected and honored have no right to be on the list.

A Scholar writes that activity people are honored by the number of organizations they have been able to worm their way into. By the same token, then, people are chosen to Phi Beta Kappa as a result of the grades they have been able to worm out of professors.

That does not prevent educators from demanding a change in those arbitrary standards. There is nothing in the rules of human conduct which forbids criticism, legitimate criticism, of standards which critics believe to be wrong.

It is difficult to understand the average college man's conception of ethics. He would seem to rob a bank, he would grow on refusal to pay honest debts, and yet he blatantly displays towels and silverware "lifted" from hotels and other establishments he has visited.

Perhaps it is a feeling that such items as towels and silverware are common property. But a little thought will show that they are rigidly on a par with any other form of private property and, as such, should be viewed with all due respect to the owner's rights.

Gate-crashing is another collegiate breach of ethics. Some college men boast openly of the number of dances they have crashed, much as the Indian would flaunt his scalps and take pride in the heap he had been able to capture.

Phi Beta Kappa is to be praised for the number of good selections which it does make, despite the system of choice which it is forced to use. Scholarship is as intangible a quality as good moral character, the other requisite for membership in the organization.

or just college is the problem which every student has to decide.

The new members of Phi Kappa made their choice. They worked hard and fought hard for it. They have won. Salutations and greetings.

A New Club.

A new experiment sponsored by the Carnegie Institute is worthy of note. The International Relations club is instituted to promote study of international problems.

This club is distinctly not an activity. It is a group founded for the purpose of studying. Interested persons will find here a club organized only by its common bonds of study.

MORNING MAIL

Merited Distinction.

TO THE EDITOR: Why is it that every year when Phi Beta Kappa announces its new membership a great outcry is raised over the doubtful scholarship of some of the members elected to the group?

"Scholarship is not considered" in the selection of members says the editor of the Daily Nebraskan. "Scholarship is an intangible quality," he continues and the only way to measure it under our present system is according to grades received in courses taken.

Agreed that grades may be a poor measurement of scholarship. Agreed that some members of Phi Beta Kappa may not conform to our ideas of true scholarship. What is the answer? Shall we refrain from recognizing "scholastic" achievement in college, and if we continue to recognize it by what other means than grades shall we measure it?

The point is that every recognizable form of achievement in the world is an arbitrary standard based on just such an artificial foundation as grades. In college we see athletes receiving letters as the indication of their prowess, not necessarily because they played the game well, but more because they played so many minutes during the season.

If we are to take them too seriously, however, as many people do, then we will probably be unhappy all our lives when we see some of the crude people who are rewarded or when we are rewarded ourselves.

Emerson said that a man does his best thing easiest. Yes, a man does his best thing easiest because he concentrates without effort, and concentration without effort is interest.

A man may be deeply interested in a particular kind of work, however, and still fail to distinguish himself because of certain shortcomings. Without physical strength no one should undertake a strenuous career.

Why then pick on Phi Beta Kappa? Let us congratulate the ones who were recognized and take satisfaction in the thought that the honor will bring them about as much happiness as they deserve to get.

College Editors Say—

Ethics?

It is difficult to understand the average college man's conception of ethics. He would seem to rob a bank, he would grow on refusal to pay honest debts, and yet he blatantly displays towels and silverware "lifted" from hotels and other establishments he has visited.

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Gate-crashing is another collegiate breach of ethics. Some college men boast openly of the number of dances they have crashed, much as the Indian would flaunt his scalps and take pride in the heap he had been able to capture.

This points to another of the many inconsistencies in collegiate ethics, and at the same time to a likely means of bringing these standards up to a plane where society will respect them.

Phi Beta Kappa should not sit complacently atop the heap, hands folded, regarding itself as the best. It is among the high ones. It is a worthy organization and it is an honor to belong to it.

WHAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN CHOOSING A VOCATION?

BY CHRIS PULOS

Third Prize Essay in the Chancellor's Contest

What one should consider in choosing a career falls into two divisions—facts about oneself and facts about the various vocations. Man is like a plant. Before we can know under what conditions a given plant will prosper, we must understand its characteristics; before we can know where those conditions exist, we must discover the nature of the soil.

A person has gone far toward knowing himself when he has ascertained the tendency of his interest. Ability and interest are interdependent. Interest is always active; if it is not active, it is not interest but fancy.

One should not feel that one is interested in a particular profession unless one enjoys doing those arduous things that are a necessary preparation for it.

Whoever enters on a calling in which he is deeply interested can not but be happy. Vocations are often regarded as the necessary routine of life, but in reality they are the very essence of life. Work and enjoyment should be one, and when they are not, the highest degree of happiness can not be attained.

Interest, however, makes possible not only happiness but also vocational success. I have already stated that interest and ability are interdependent. It is almost impossible for one to be interested in the kind of work in which one shows no facility.

When one enters on a calling, therefore, which offers the kind of work in which one has been interested for some time, one may feel assured that one will not prove incompetent in that calling.

Do Best Things Easiest. Emerson said that a man does his best thing easiest. Yes, a man does his best thing easiest because he concentrates without effort, and concentration without effort is interest.

A man may be deeply interested in a particular kind of work, however, and still fail to distinguish himself because of certain shortcomings. Without physical strength no one should undertake a strenuous career. One should seek to develop physical fitness before one chooses a vocation that requires strength and vigor.

Before one chooses a certain vocation, one should also make sure that it is pretty much what one thinks it to be. We are all familiar with the fact that Woodrow Wilson practiced law for a year or two only to find that he had chosen the wrong profession.

If one's physical constitution will not enable one to enter on a strenuous career, let one accept the fact with resignation, and make the most of a less strenuous vocation.

Without leadership it is inadvisable for one to enter on a career that requires leadership. The lack of leadership does not mean that one can not be successful; it merely means that one can not be successful in certain things. There are various degrees of leadership. The great leader is original and daring, dominating and audacious.

Still, let no one feel that he is destitute of leadership. In fact, let no one feel that he is not a leader before he has tested himself conclusively. Some of the world's greatest leaders were once sensitive and shy. They feared to assert themselves because they were too conscious of their own imperfections; but in time they came to realize that if things be judged by their freedom from imperfections, silence is sweeter than music.

In the foregoing paragraphs we were chiefly concerned with the advisability of knowing ourselves before choosing vocations. After we know ourselves, we are in a position to utilize as well as to secure facts concerning the various vocations. Information concerning vocations is just as important as knowledge of ourselves.

"Do not be content to enter on a business," said Garfield, "that does not require and compel constant intellectual growth." Now any respectable and useful work requires and compels constant intellectual growth. If a person can not see, however, that a certain vocation offers such an opportunity, that person should not choose that vocation whatever it be.

When one finds that the margin of the untraveled world of one's work does not move when one moves, one will soon die though one live a hundred years.

Be Sure of Vocation. Before one chooses a certain vocation, one should also make sure that it is pretty much what one thinks it to be. We are all familiar with the fact that Woodrow Wilson practiced law for a year or two only to find that he had chosen the wrong profession.

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choice, I believe, was this—he failed to ascertain whether the typical lawyer of today is exactly like the typical lawyer of the past. Wilson was a lover of history. He associated law with great orators—with men like Webster. But Wilson soon discovered that the profession of law had undergone a tremendous change.

There is, furthermore, a growing tendency at the present time for men and women to concentrate their abilities upon one branch of their chosen vocations. A dying scientist said that he had unwisely tried to learn all about beetles, when he should have confined his study to horned beetles. Not long ago psychology, sociology, education, and political science were all included in philosophy. Today they are not only separate fields, but also are fields with their own plots.

Money isn't Happiness. If there be any mistake made again and again in choosing a vocation, however, it is to make salary the chief consideration. No one should let salary divert one from one's true calling.

One were wise, nevertheless, not to consider creative art a vocation—at least until one has distinguished oneself. If one loves creative art, let one consider it one's avocation until one has established a reputation. Musset said that his state of poverty was conducive to his ability as poet, but one must remember that the French poet was famous when he made that statement.

Choice Important. In one's choice of a vocation, one should consider, finally, to what degree each vocation is or is not crowded. It is a mistake to believe that every one has a decided bent for a particular calling.

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son whose abilities are balanced in this manner will do best in the least crowded of his possible vocations.

The happiness of the individual and the welfare of society alike depend upon every one's choice of the right vocation. If every young man and woman would think seriously before choosing a vocation, human suffering would be greatly ameliorated and crime considerably reduced.

Military Department Juniors Meet Thursday

All juniors in the military department are requested to meet in Nebraska hall Thursday, April 7, at 7:30. Pictures will be shown by Captain Spoerry. Seniors also are invited to attend.

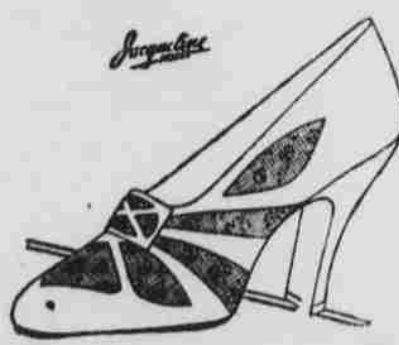
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