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Santa Claus Uses Intelligence.

FOREGOING the spectacular Christmas parties for the benefit of poor children which were formerly given by many campus groups, several organizations this year have adopted a scheme of using the money they have to give, to bring to these same children a larger measure of enjoyment more lasting in its effect.

In past years fraternities and sororities have received some publicity and no doubt some considerable degree of satisfaction from the parties they sponsored for needy children. At these parties a group of children, selected indiscriminately, were given an evening's entertainment, provided with gifts of various kinds, and sent home.

Their enjoyment may have been great, but it was temporary; their gifts may have been fine, but they were usually impractical; the entertainment provided them may have been good, but it was unsuitable for children. Last but not least, their Christmas celebration had no connection with their parents to whom they naturally look for their enjoyment and with whom they naturally associate the idea of Christmas.

Less particular indeed, but infinitely less wasteful and more productive of lasting benefit is the scheme being adhered to by the several groups mentioned in today's Nebraskan who are giving the money they have to use for the purpose directly to the families whose needs are legitimate. These families are able to suggest the needs which are most pressing and which will bring the greatest satisfaction to the children who will enjoy something more than a fleeting Christmas celebration away from home.

Many of these families have dire need for milk or for some other necessity which they are unable to supply for themselves. The same amount of money which would be expended on a single party will supply such families with milk perhaps for an entire winter or even a year.

IN fact several of the groups who have undertaken this method of spreading the Christmas spirit in years past, have become so interested in the families they are helping that they have arranged to continue their gifts thruout the entire year. Providing milk for a family of small children for an entire year is clearly more worthwhile than any Christmas party for a group of children could possibly be, and yet it can be done for the same amount of money which some groups customarily spend on their Christmas parties.

It is too late for any other campus organization to adopt this plan of helping some needy family this Christmas. Many who are not mentioned in the feature story printed today, are, however, already making provision for some charitable gifts. But it is pertinent to suggest that students take especial note now of the relative

amounts of good which a given amount of money will bring if used for a Christmas party, or if used to buy essentials for some worthy family.

Next Christmas some worthy members of your own fraternity, sorority, or other organization will lay their plans for a gala affair for the newsboys or some other group of children. Then will be the time to change the direction of your contribution. Perhaps it will be some sacrifice to give up the satisfaction of seeing the enjoyment which your gifts bring, but the objective is clearly worth some sacrifice. It is also worth some effort on the part of the individuals who are now submitting to the wasteful use of their charitable contributions to see to it that more effective use is made of the money.

A 'Charter Member.'

IF you join a lodge, or secret organization of some kind, in all probability you will be required to learn the names of the charter members of the organization. Those names will be largely meaningless to you, and in few cases will you ever know much about the individuals or find them actively connected with the continuing work of the organization.

Judge J. S. Dales, who will not be in active connection with the university when school work resumes after vacation, is not known to many students now in school. He is, however, one of the three "charter members" so to speak, of the University of Nebraska. Furthermore, he has been in active connection with the university ever since his graduation in 1871. Certainly, his name has considerable meaning for this university and his withdrawal from the position which he has long held marks the end of what we might almost term a tradition here at Nebraska.

Altho his position has not brought him into active contact with students, Judge Dales is well known to a large number of faculty members who will miss seeing him about the campus. He has seen the university grow far beyond his own expectations, weathering many periods when times were as hard, he says, as they are now.

After fifty-seven years more are added to the history of the university, we hope that some of the many who graduate each year, will retain as close an interest in the institution as has Judge Dales, and we hope that the progress of the university will measure up to the progress of the period during which he has been connected with the university.

Pax Vobiscum.

CRITICS of college students have pointed to the high glee with which undergraduates in general welcome a vacation respite as indication of the immature attitude with which these students regard their college education. The opportunities for absorbing learning, the critics feel, should be considered with solemnity and vacation periods, tho desirable, should not be considered childishly as a chance to "get out of school."

Perhaps it should be admitted that to some degree university students are still relatively immature and do not fully realize the value of the educational opportunities to which they are being subjected. At least it is common enough to hear graduates of some years back express regret that they did not utilize to greater advantage the possibilities for acquiring broader backgrounds of knowledge by more diligent application to studies.

But the anticipation with which students look forward to vacations is not a habit monopolized by students. Everyone bound down to routine work not only enjoys recesses and change but needs such

change and rest. College students, despite all ideas about their care-free lives, conform to a fairly rigid routine schedule and put in rather full days of work during their college careers. Working hours are not confined to any set schedule and sometimes perhaps only before examinations, extend to periods prohibited by law in other industries.

Even the social pleasures which students indulge in sometimes become a strain when combined with other activities and school work, and the few students will forego them for needed sleep, the vacation periods bring relief.

We hope vacation needs no defense. We think students need vacation and are entitled to it. Their attitude of welcoming vacation is not to be taken as any sure indication that they do not value their school work or do not enjoy it. It is merely an indication that a temporary change is desirable.

For those who have resolved to catch up on delinquent work during vacation, we wish the fulfillment of the ambition. For those who expect to put in a full two weeks of social festivities, we wish the most enjoyable of good times.

But for those who plan to discard all cares of school work and all social activities, we wish long mornings in bed and many hours of complete quiet. We think you will have the most profitable and most enjoyable vacation of all.

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

THE STUDENT PULSE

We Quite Agree.

Wehn's a vacation not a vacation? And the answer is, when just one professor is obsessed with the idea that the hunt for knowledge shall be unending and assigns a lengthy research to worry the student over every single day of the two week period given over to celebration of the holidays.

The logical reason for an idle moment midyear is not to study without classes to attend, but rather to allow the student a rest period in which he may forget all the mental activity connected with college in order to freshen its activity on the return to scholastics. Too often the professor, who is in business, takes the attitude that his students get enough layoff during the summer and can easily spend nine months working, with two days out of each week devoted to pleasures.

Along with university tradition, a rule should be inserted making a policy of cleaning up all school work ahead of vacation's official opening. It wouldn't stop the proper functioning of a college to call a holiday that is one, so bid the pedagogue halt when he talks of using a whole vacation to complete an assignment.

BARNEY.

Contemporary Comment

For Dilettantes.

The tendency in all movements in which human beings participate, literary, artistic, scientific, has been for the pendulum of thought to swing from one extreme to the other. The field of education shows this periodic trend and it is due now for a swing back to the right.

In the last two decades the university has become an intellectual bargain basement, where heterogeneous types are hewn and shaped to fit a mould which ultimately turns out neat automatons as nearly standardized as possible. Any single course of study prescribed a rigid curriculum from which the student could not deviate a jot irrespective of personal preference or aptitude.

Recognition of the biological concept of individual differences is gradually spreading to every phase of human relations, and in educational circles this recognition is bound to bring drastic changes in academic training. In universities the four year standardized curriculum has given away to the practice of elective privileges during the last two years.

Since the aim of higher learning is to enable the individual to take his place in society as a well-rounded person, the requirement of two years general study now demanded is highly desirable. The choice of a major subject in the last two years is compulsory, and to the ordinary student who is definitely preparing for the bread-and-butter fray, this system is the practical one.

But there are scores of individuals for whom this is highly distasteful. The requirements of a major choice prevent their taking courses in which they are interested because the elective privilege is limited.

Every year hundreds of graduates of this type are "bounced" by irate administrators as being unfitted for college work, and later many of these students achieve renown after having elsewhere applied themselves to that in which they were interested.

Why can't the fact be recognized officially that there are persons to whom academic rigidity is not applicable? Why can't provision be made for a "dilettante's department" in which this sort of individual can enroll after the first two years of standard study? Absurd? Perhaps—but decidedly worth an experimental trial.—Syracuse Daily Orange.

UPPERCLASS GIRLS HOLD TAFFY PULL TUESDAY EVENING

Upperclass commission had a taffy pull Tuesday afternoon at 5 o'clock at Ellen Smith hall. Mary Buffington and Caroline Link were in charge of the affair. This group and the sophomore commission are

giving a present to Mrs. Green who has been leading the discussions in these groups for the past few weeks.

After vacation upperclass commission will start a series of informal discussions on vocational guidance, and all upperclass girls are invited.

Y.W. AND Y.M. PLAN CHRISTMAS PARTY

Students Staying Here Are Invited to Attend on Wednesday Night.

For students who are not leaving Lincoln for the holidays, and for foreign students, the Y. W. C. A. and Y. M. C. A. are giving a party Wednesday evening from 8 to 11 o'clock at Ellen Smith hall.

The special feature of the evening's entertainment will be a grab-bag for which each guest is asked to bring a 10 cent gift. Other entertainment will consist of games and puzzles and dancing. Marshmallows will be roasted and corn popped.

Miss Bernice Miller, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Hayes, Rev. and Mrs. Dean R. Leland, and Dr. and Mrs. Jenness as well as other faculty members have been invited to attend.

Arrangements for the party have been made by a committee of which Lidusa Ninger is chairman. Other members are: Margaret Grant, publicity, Alice Kier and Marjorie Dean, entertainment, and Troy Meyers, refreshments.

Prof. Bengtson Goes To Washington Meeting

Prof. N. A. Bengtson, head of the geography department, will leave Sunday for Washington, D. C., where he will deliver a paper on "The Distribution of Native Peoples in Central America" at the national convention of the Association of American Geographers.

Gillespie Is Latest Winner of Law Derby

Howard Gillespie, Alpha Tau Omega punster was awarded the brown derby by the freshmen of the law college. In a discussion concerning legacies the talk eventually swung to the question of heirs. Gillespie, in his own inimitable fashion, remarked, "How about heresy?"

According to Herman Rosenblatt, newly-appointed chairman of the committee on awarding the brown derby several new rules have been formulated so that anyone refusing to wear the brown derby hereafter shall be given the title "poor sport."

This action is not retrogressive according to Rosenblatt but is for the purpose of establishing a precedent for following freshmen classes and for maintaining good fellowship among the prospective advocates of the law.

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