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Ask for Nebraska editor.

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## What About Phi Beta Kappa?

Phi Beta Kappa, national honorary scholastic organization, was made the subject of an attack last week by Dr. Edward Ellery, former president of the New York state organization of the society. His statements brought forth a storm of protest. The discussion casts new slants on a debatable question.

According to Dr. Ellery, the fraternity has done nothing to "enrich the life of the college world or of the individuals who compose it."

The acting president of Union College declared that the principal reason why Phi Beta Kappa has failed to exert any "definite and positive influence" in the intellectual advancement of individuals and institutions is its reliance on the grades received by students. It merely "seconds the motion" of professors who give out grades, he said, and makes no distinction between difficult and easy courses.

"Phi Beta Kappa can adopt an independent basis of eligibility—one of its own devising and under its control," he declared. "It can demand from all candidates an idea or two, instead of an ability to reproduce on call a few facts from a mental store accumulated during undergraduate life."

As a remedy the eminent professor suggests that the society should blacklist those courses which require a small amount of mental effort and which are generally regarded as pipes. He also suggested that the grading system be abolished.

The blanket indictment made by Dr. Ellery is not a new one. Rather has it been sounded before. A great deal of time and words have been wasted on this controversial subject.

Dr. Ellery suggests a change little short of revolutionary. At the outset, we suspect Dr. Ellery would encounter some difficulty in setting up a workable system that would ultimately weed out the pipe courses. In addition Dr. Ellery fails, rather prominently, in suggesting a substitute system for establishing requirements for membership in the organization.

The professor's suggestion that the grade system be abolished has come in for considerable rehashing in recent times. As a matter of fact a few educational leaders have made revisions of the grading system. On the whole however, it has remained unchanged.

Dr. Ellery's message has often been heard on this campus. Especially at convocation time do the critics of the system make themselves heard. For the most part they are "sour grapes." Others have substantial grounds to base their claims upon. It is a commonly admitted fact that some students fail to make the necessary average by a few points. Others miss it quite a distance. As such, membership in Phi Beta Kappa does not indicate superior intelligence. Furthermore it points rather conclusively to the fact that the system of selection is far from perfect—even inadequate.

For lack of a better scheme educational institutions such as Nebraska have continued to use the grade system. As such, Phi Beta Kappa on this campus will, of necessity, continue to use the grade system to determine membership.

Reform in this direction, we feel, is in the far distant future. Students must content themselves, perforce, with the status quo. One thing is evident however: Thinking individuals are beginning to tread upon the heretofore untrampled havens of Phi Beta Kappa.

### Close Ups and Long Shots.

ACCORDING to yesterday's Nebraskan the Pillar Committee is again showing signs of activity. They have been working for some time and everything is decided except where to put the pillars, who will put them up, when they will be put up. All this action depends upon the board of regents approval when the plans are completed. The project, when completed, should enhance the university malls.

The prom committee took a nice picture. They also indicated in yesterday's Nebraskan that the winner of the presentation contest has not been decided. For a while we thought they were not going to have anything to present.

A tune detective will speak at the University school of music convocation Friday afternoon. From all appearances it should be good. We pertinently suggest, however, that the good gentlemen do a little detecting with the glee club.

Ogden Mills little piece has seemingly aroused the ire of many editors. Boiling it all down most of them seem to consider presidential-hope Mills only as much as Mr. Mills hopes to be president.

## The Student Pulse

Brief, concise, contributions pertinent to matters of student life and the university are welcomed by this department, under the usual restrictions of sound newspaper practice, which excludes all libelous matter and personal attacks. Letters accepted do not necessarily indicate the editorial policy of this paper.

### A Message to the Councilmen.

TO THE EDITOR:  
Last Thursday under the pretense of doing something constructive, the Student Council called together so-called leaders of the various organizations to discuss the proposed reorganization of the council. Included in the gathering were some truly sincere and capable students, some astute and enterprising campus politicians, and some unclassifiables. Supposed to bring student criticism of the student council to a head and to formulate some idea of revision, the meeting resolved itself more or less into a good "bull session," and often strayed far from the subject at hand.

For its deviations the meeting may be forgiven. But what is inexcusable and what is one of the most abysmal failures of purposes perpetrated so far this year was the instruction given those present to go home and think the matter over. The student council president, after sitting smugly for over an hour as chairman of the discussion and saying very little, said to go home and think about the very idea the meeting was supposed to consider! The meeting was absolutely inconclusive! No decisions were reached. Very few definite plans of revision or procedure were advanced. With one or two exceptions, indecision was the keynote of the whole discussion.

What is wrong with student leaders? Have initiative, resourcefulness, originality, and individuality fled to the nether regions that such stifling of campus progress shall continue? How long will such dilly-dallying pervade the atmosphere of supposed student leaders' gatherings? How long will the campus tolerate such half-hearted and insincere efforts on the parts of supposed leaders and especially its governing body?

I point specifically to the business of council reorganization as conducted by a special committee appointed at the first of the year. After five months of effort (?) the committee comes forth with two plans, the fruits of its toil, which are of doubtful quality of merit. Specific weaknesses of the present arrangement were entirely neglected. Is it possible that they were blind to these defects? I say no. They are too evident.

Witness the present set-up of the council based upon proportional representation from the various colleges. I ask how many campus activities are carried on thru the medium of the respective colleges? Few indeed. And on what grounds is the present system of proportion based? Review the figures on college enrollment for the past semester: Pharmacy, 72; Dentistry, 73; Law, 181; Agriculture, 396; Graduate College 396; and Business Administration, 578. The enrollment varies from 72 to 578 yet each constituency has but one male representative. True enough, the latter three colleges included both men and women, but the male enrollment in each of those still is in the majority. Engineering college with 578 enrolled, the same number as Business Administration, has two representatives on the council however. Is that proportional representation? I say no and that is but one example of a number which show that the very idea of proportional representation on the council is hooey and has been thrown to the winds.

No provision is made for ability. If there should be no capable or interested man in some college, one is elected anyway. I cite as proof the cases of the past two or three years when in some colleges but one candidate filed and that one often not until the last minute when no one else would. Similar cases among the women candidates could be cited if necessary.

But ceasing my comment, I believe the student body want a change and are expecting the council to assume the leadership in correcting its own defects. So far its disposition has been not to do this. The council is "on the spot" as a result and can well afford now to throw off its mantle of lethargy and show the students it still has some semblance of a governing body left. How about some action on reorganization right away?  
B. R.

## Contemporary Comment

### Placing the Blame For Bank Failures.

DURING the American banking debacle which culminated in the national bank holiday of last March, bank directors and officers, defending themselves and their system against a welter of criticism, united in shifting responsibilities for losses on the depression in the securities market. Thousands of banks failed, millions of dollars were tied up in frozen assets, and for answer the banker pointed blandly to the drastically falling price level and considered himself wholly absolved. The question of mismanagement was indignantly rejected.

Now that the tumult and the shouting have subsided, exponents of that magical formula will take small comfort in a report prepared by Prof. Robert Weidenhammer of the University of Minnesota and published in the January number of the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. In a survey covering 50 banks out of 479 in Minnesota which closed between 1920 and 1932 the report charted and correlated such factors as cash and secondary reserve, loans, real estate, ratio of capital funds and deposits, bond holdings and bank borrowings. The results point conclusively to a lack of objective criteria in banking methods, and to an equal lack of understanding and experience on the part of the bankers themselves.

A number of specific abuses was revealed. One of the most notable was the overexpansion of loans in proportion both to capital stock and to deposits. Moreover, it was found that in every case the bank failed to maintain a proper secondary reserve to protect its liquidity. In many cases it was found that even the cash reserve was inadequate. Other factors such as excessive real estate holdings, large borrowings to permit loan expansion, and pretentious bank buildings contributed in many cases to the collapse of the institution. In relatively few cases could the bank's failure be attributed to the decline in security values.

Granted that banking reforms have been instituted under the federal insurance act and the consequent tightening of government supervision, the record of the '20s nevertheless remains a black reproach, both to the nation's bankers and to the laxity of the official examiners who failed to remedy the situation in time. With a view to preventing a recurrence of such conditions, the survey recommends a number of reforms, two of which are particularly emphasized. The first is a standard by which to limit the quantity of loans and provide for adequate secondary reserve, and the second applies to the personal and supervisory powers of bank ex-

aminers. Federal and state authorities seeking to fortify the American banking system and insure the safeguarding of depositors' money will do well to consider these recommendations.—Minnesota Daily.

## Ag College

By Carlyle Hodgkin

### Big and Burgeois.

One of the stereotyped phrases most commonly used by university officials, even on high and dignified occasions, is this: "the student body." Now why do they use such a phrase as that when to simply say, "the students," would mean the same thing and save a word?

The reason is that, once it is started, one easily falls into the habit of using such a phrase, and this "student body" phrase got started because it tends to give the mind a sort of picture not found in the single word, students. But what sort of a picture does "the student body" call to mind? Is it a complementary one to the most of the students who help to form that student body?

To most students the student body is probably a coed—a vague and indefinite one, but a coed nevertheless. To a few, however, the student body may be a Rah! Rah! boy in a balloon pants and a red sweater. Which ever it is, it is sure that the student body is big and ungainly. It is a great hulk sitting somewhere on a chair or two, holding a lap full of text books, staring in awe at a university professor, and wondering what the score is.

Because the students who are represented in the phrase form a large, relatively disorganized mass when they are all together, it follows that the stereotype of the student body must be large, ungainly, and disorganized. It is no complement to any individual student to feel himself a part of such a body.

The student body, of course, must have all the usual parts that make up a body. That means that some few students get to be the brains. Others have to be the beef. Still others have to be even less desirable parts. Now few would be willing to be anything but the brains. And if no one will be any part other than the brains, there can't really be any student body at all, only a large number of students.

It follows also that if there is a student body, there must be a student mind. And who will volunteer to define that? There is no more a student mind than there is any other kind of a public mind. Try to get any large part of the students to agree on any subject which they have given any thought!

No, the student body as an entity in itself is so vague, so indefinite, so trite so uncomplementary a picture for the average student to contemplate, so big, so awkward, and so dumb that it might be a good idea to just forget about the student body and give each student a chance to be an individual. Why not let the students be called just—the students?

### For Other Years.

This week the Coll-Agri-Fun committee meets to settle the year's business and to elect a committee for next year's show. They will be thinking about and talking about ways to give the show new

A new tradition has been started at Christian college with the holding of the first pet show at the Columbia, Mo., institution.

The University of Hawaii sent a squad of 25 men a distance of 10,000 miles to play Denver uni-

versity in football last fall. The players on the Hawaii team, despite shoes, yet kick for fifty yards or more with great accuracy.

Most Chinese universities are co-educational, but none of the high schools are. The only courses avail-

able for women in universities are teaching courses and training for secretarial work.

The giraffe is unique among mammals in the respect that it has absolutely no power of making sound with vocal cords.

## OFFICIAL BULLETIN

### Y. W. C. A. STAFF MEETINGS.

The staff meetings for Y. W. C. A. members and leaders are: Social, Evelyn Diamond, Monday at 8. Vespers, Alaire Barks, Monday at 5. International staff, Lorraine Hitchcock, Tuesday at 4. Social Order, Bash Perkins Tuesday at 1. Finance, Marjorie Snostak, Thursday at 4. Publicity, Dorothy Cathers, Tuesday at 4. Swap Shop, Theodora Lornman, Thursday at 4. Program and Office, Phyllis Jean Humphrey, Wednesday at 3. World Forum, Beth Schmidt, Thursday at 4. Posters, Ruth Allen, Thursday at 4. Church Relations, Mary Edythe Hendricks, Wednesday at 5.

Miss Miller will conduct a special study group on "The Life of Jesus." This study is led on Thursday at 1 o'clock and on Sunday morning at 9 o'clock.

### Y. W. C. A. INTEREST GROUPS.

The follow Y. W. interest groups will hold meetings in Ellen Smith hall this week:

Tuesday at 1—Books and poetry, Janet Vacek.  
Tuesday from 12:30 to 2—Handcraft, Ruth Armstrong.  
Tuesday at 4—Kodakery, Margaret Ward.  
Wednesday at 5—Keep Current, Violet Cross.  
Thursday at 4—Know Your City, Lois Rathburn.  
Thursday at 5—Art of Being a Hostess, Ariene Bors.

### STAMP COLLECTORS.

7:30 Thursday evening, Feb. 22, in Social Sciences 301, there will be an organization meeting of a University Stamp Club, to which members of the faculty, student body or administrative staff, are invited. Plans also call for an auction so bring anything you wish to sell, either U. S. or foreign.

### LUTHERAN STUDENTS.

Lutheran students will meet for Bible study Wednesday in room 203 of the Temple building. Reverend Erick will have charge of the class.

### GIRLS COMMERCIAL CLUB.

The Girls Commercial club will meet Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock at Ellen Smith hall.

### CORN COBS.

Corn Cobs will meet in the Temple building Wednesday evening at 7:30.

### PENNSYLVANIA.

Speaking of his football career while at Northwestern to a Pennsylvania interviewer, Billy Sunday, noted evangelist, said with characteristic modesty: "The interference never was of any use to me as I ran so fast I left all my interference far behind me." All shrinking violets aren't found in a vase!

**Fried Half Spring Chicken**  
Unjoints on New Peas  
Glaze Crisp Bacon... **35c**  
**PTOMAE TONY'S**  
FACING CAMPUS

# Loading a pipe, son, is like building a fire

"NOW if you want to build a fire you've got to have the right kind of chimney, and you've got to have the right kind of wood, seasoned right and packed right in the fireplace. If you've got all this, it's easy to light up."

"It's pretty near the same way in smoking a pipe. Now if you've got Granger Tobacco—the right kind of pipe tobacco—any old pipe will do."

"And if you put in a pinch at a time and pack it down good and tight—the way to load a pipe—all you need to do is strike a match."

"Granger smokes sweet and cool right down to the bottom of the bowl."

"That's pipe comfort, I tell you."



# Granger Rough Cut

the pipe tobacco that's MILD  
the pipe tobacco that's COOL

—folks seem to like it