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### Is P.B.K. Membership An Achievement?

THE thirty-seventh regular announcement of newly elected Phi Beta Kappa members was made Tuesday morning. Forty-three university undergraduates were chosen. Approximately 100 people attended the convocation in the Temple theater. There was slight applause as the names were announced.

This is not unusual. For years the announcement of Phi Beta Kappa selections has created little more than a ripple of mild concern among students. Perhaps this may have been naturally expected during the gay twenties. But with the sobering effect of the depression on university campuses, it seems unusual that so little student attention should be paid to this occasion.

Sufficient justification for student indifference may easily be found. Indeed, they are simply reflecting the barrage of criticism leveled at Phi Beta Kappa for many decades. Some of the critics are misinformed. Others find ample evidence at hand to justify their criticism of an organization that has seemingly lost its original usefulness.

Phi Beta Kappa, oldest Greek letter society in America, was created to award deserved distinction upon undergraduates excelling in scholarship. Those admitted to its membership represented the true scholars of a university. Its creation fulfilled a much needed function. Theoretically Phi Beta Kappa still epitomizes scholastic endeavor on our university campus. There is unquestionably a place for this type of organization. From this point of view, Phi Beta Kappa—as an organization, and its specific purpose—cannot be severely criticized.

Theoretically this is an ideal situation. But the actual picture is far different. In practice the benefits of Phi Beta Kappa chapters on university campuses, at best, has been doubtful. As the system actually worked out, the best interests of the organization have suffered. But far more unfortunate, it has not stimulated students, generally speaking, to achieve higher scholarship and eventual membership in its ranks.

The basic evil, we feel, lies in the system of selection employed by Phi Beta Kappa. At present the only prerequisite necessary for membership is high grades. Obviously well meaning members of this organization labored under the illusion that students with high grades meant good scholars.

Common sense teaches us differently. There are students in the university, it must be admitted, for whom high grades mean success and above average ability. On the other hand, there are students who do not revel in ability to obtain high grades, contenting themselves, for the most part, with thorough understanding of their work. For them, high grades hold little significance.

cially its system of selection, is by no means a local issue. Indeed it has been a controversial issue the country over. Most recently a serious argument flared up in New York when the former president of the New York state organization of Phi Beta Kappa voiced a stinging attack on the system of selection. We do not feel that this was "sour grapes." Neither do we feel that it is impossible to remedy the situation he described. At least, Phi Beta Kappa might take steps to rectify an unnecessary evil.

ASIDE from this, membership in Phi Beta Kappa is a mark of real distinction. Many worthy students are included in its roster. New members elected Tuesday morning should carefully guard against illusions that they possess outstanding ability. They should not allow themselves to be victimized by a superiority complex. Phi Beta Kappa membership, in itself, means little. The flashing gold key of Phi Beta Kappa is not an "open sesame" to economic success. Neither should it be regarded as an end in itself. For material values, like popularity, die as quickly as they are created.

## 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.

### The B.M.O.C. Hatchery Begins Activity.

Activity workers and embryo E. M. O. C.'s are in action. The motion of stirred waters is discernible in the distance. It's only a few weeks until spring elections will be held, and shortly following, Nebraska's greatest tradition, Ivy day, will put in its annual appearance. All very well and good, and necessary portions of the student life. But what of the results? Too often these events are considered fine old traditions, and nothing more.

Lacking them, something important would be missed from the campus, but even as they are there is something that is conspicuous by its absence. And that is the candidates for the honors. At least until a very few weeks before the names are to be placed on this or that ballot, or until it becomes necessary to be seen once or twice about the campus before Ivy day recognition.

If history repeats itself, and it has never failed year in and year out, activity workers will begin being busy within a reasonably short time. It is uncanny the amount of energetic hopping candidates can do when the political pudding is about to be dispensed. Then and only then (almost) is it known just who is who among those who would be a who's who on Nebraska campus. Such is the situation and such it has probably been for a long time. The remedy lies in the hands of those who purport to be activities men and women. They are seeking positions in the campus sun or they would not be working, for the most part, at all. It seems to me that there is room for many more earnest workers. The publications offer positions to nearly seventy-five students, not to mention other activity centers. Observation of these centers will reveal a much smaller number actually participating until, perhaps shortly before election, meetings of the publications board or the eventual day in May.

Why can't those who desire positions take upon themselves the responsibility that goes with the positions available each year? Chuckles, and many of them, for those who be vain enough to believe that concentrated effort at the last minute deserves generous servings of the political pudding.

W. C.

## Contemporary Comment

### A Saga of a Modern Criminal.

Those few persons who had retained some degree of sympathy for Samuel Insull following the collapse of his vast utilities empire more than a year ago, probably feel that his present flight from Athens has destroyed that remaining sympathy.

The great American idea in the past has been to accord deep respect to anything done on the grand scale, that consideration often outweighing ethical factors or rather causing such confusion of perspective that what would have been regarded as criminal in a small concern became merely big business in a large concern. This idea has cast a sort of halo around the Insull case so that he was not regarded universally as a common criminal, but in some instances as a great business leader who became unfortunately entangled with the law.

It is reported that the fugitive's escape was engineered by an international band of criminals operating out of Roumania. This direct connection of Insull's name with the Roumanian criminal band, whether true or not, would serve to dispell the idea that he was anything but an ordinary law breaker.

Rumors have persisted that Insull offered the Turkish government \$15,000,000 toward the furthering of their five year plan if they would grant him asylum. Whether he has that much money is doubtful, but it is hard to feel sympathetic toward one who is even rumored to have carried that much wealth away with him.

American ideas about a great many things have changed in the years of the depression, due, some sociologists assert, to the fact that people whose comfort is disturbed will do much more thinking about problems not directly applied to themselves, than in times of prosperity. The halo which we have previously cast about the heads of our financial leaders has been abruptly removed by recent senatorial and other investigations, and the sensational revelations of the manipulations of Ivar Kruegar, Swedish international financier and Samuel Insull probably will preclude such hero worship for years to come.—Daily Kansan.

### A Definition For Education.

The Trojan open forum topic for next Sunday night is much more juicy than it sounds. "The Aims of Education" at first glance does not appear particularly enticing, but when one considers that almost every educator's opinions of the aims of education vary more or less, and that students who are faced with unemployment when they graduate are beginning to question the aims, the subject becomes more potent.

For instance, it has long been a popular theory in the United States that education's purpose was to fit one for the ordeal of earning a living; later pupils were taught how to spend their time when they weren't engaged in working; now education attempts everything from teaching how to earn a living to training for citizenship.

Similarly, there is variation not only of time,

but of schools. Some scholars believe that education should be a training period, others that education should be imbued into the minds of pupils in secluded spots, far from the problems of the world, another school thinks that education should be a part of life itself, with all its difficulties and environmental factors. And students, who have been subjected to one or more of the processes, have ideas of their own.

At least we do. We think that education should be a training not for life, but to develop processes of thought and methods of learning, in order that a person may be able to select intelligently the ways of thinking that govern him and his community. Next Sunday night's forum will undoubtedly bring out other definitions.

The beauty of the open forum is that one can get up and say anything one wants without being hooted down by the audience or hammered down by the chairman. As democratic as ancient Athens, the forum is becoming the most valuable institution on the campus.—Daily Trojan.

## BENEATH THE HEADLINES

By DICK MORAN.

APPARENTLY Russia isn't the land of stiff beards, huge factories, and government spies that many people think it is. At least they are emphasizing more than ever before the social side of life, and the paternalistic government is encouraging all forms of amusement and entertainment. The leaders now feel that the crisis has passed, that the experiment has passed the stage of struggle and work successfully, and that it is time for the people to relax and to enjoy a gay and brighter life. In addition the administration has done an about face in policy in the direction of much greater freedom and a sweeping change in attitude toward the lives of the soviet workers. Russia is going in for night life as well as day life.

Jazz, which formerly was barred to the residents and restricted to the so-called foreigners' hotels, has invaded a number of the larger cities, including Moscow and Leningrad. Numerous orchestras are playing, dance halls have become immensely popular, and the fox-trot, once considered arch-bourgeois, is now in vogue in the dance halls and skating rinks of the Russian proletariat. The hotels, which a short time ago were almost deserted and depended mainly on foreign tourists for continued existence, are jammed every night with pleasure-seekers. Russians were given the privilege of wearing newer and brighter clothes a few months ago and they are taking advantage of this new liberty. And more than ever the Russians are going in for all types of sports, especially the youth of the country. Baseball is the craze at the present time. Many causes contribute to the change, but the most important are political independence and higher wages.

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THERE is at least one person in this world who can really take it when it comes to eating. This

### FEATURES PLANNED FOR AG BREAKFAST

Arline Wilcox Will Give Violin Solo; McCamley To Sing.

Two features of the Ag college Easter breakfast program Sunday morning, March 25, are a violin solo by Arline Wilcox, university graduate, and a vocal solo by Max McCamley, Ag freshman. Dr. Roy Spooner, superintendent of the Lincoln district Methodist churches will address the meeting. Ward Bauder, Ag junior, will be master of ceremonies.

According to Milan Austin, program chairman, the invocation will be by Rev. J. J. Sheaff of Epworth church, and Rev. W. L. Ruyle, Warren church, will pronounce the benediction. It is expected that a number of members of the Ag college faculty will be present at the breakfast, which will be served, the committee reports, promptly at 8 a. m. Sunday morning.

Chairmen and co-chairmen preparing for the Ag college gathering Sunday morning are as follows: Menu, Irene Leech, chairman; program, Milan Austin, chairman; decorations, Louise Bernhardt, chairman; reception, Leo Ruyle and James Warner, co-chairmen; tickets, Virginia Keim and Wesley Dunn, co-chairmen.

### AFTERNOON TEA CLOSES PRAIRIE SCHOONER DRIVE

(Continued from Page 1.) The Y. W. C. A., Elaine Fontein, president, and Theodora Lohrmann will be in charge of the tea. About thirty of the workers are expected to attend. Captains of the teams are as follows: Bash Perkins, Marjorie Shostack, Carolyn Kile, Florence Buxman, Dorothy DeKay, Beth Taylor, Elizabeth Momaw, Martha Watson, Margaret Medlar and Dorothy Holland.

### WELL DIGGERS CLOSE MEETING THURSDAY

(Continued from Page 1.) products on exhibit. The luncheon will close the convention. Burnett Welcomes Group.

The first day of the convention was opened at 9 a. m. by E. A. Burnett, chancellor of the university, who gave the address of welcome, followed by the response from Andrew Olson, president of the Nebraska Well Drillers association. Short talks and the taking of still and motion pictures of

person is a woman in Brooklyn, from whose stomach doctors recently removed 1,203 separate pieces of hardware. When asked why she swallowed these things, her only explanation was that she did it to be funny. She is recovering from the operation now, and doctors plan to put her on a more orthodox diet for her recovery. Included in the items found in her stomach were: Upholstery tacks, carpet tacks, screws, bolts, picture frame hooks, nuts, safety pins, nails, pins, beads, wire, glass, china-ware, and hundreds of other pieces. The woman said she had been an employee in a hardware store and had swallowed all of the items in a week. They had given her a little trouble, which she had treated with patent medicines, until the pain became so acute that doctors ordered her to a hospital for examination. An X-ray revealed the mass of foreign substance in her body.

ALTHOUGH congress, on paper has a heavy load of legislation on its hands, party leaders seem confident that it will be out of the way in time for the body to adjourn by the end of May at the latest. They probably will, because President Roosevelt wants to leave about the first of June for his vacation in the West Indies and possibly the Hawaiian islands. Congress has about five major emergency measures up for consideration as well as the same number of permanent reforms to enact into law.

The emergency measures include the Bankhead cotton crop control bill, which the president endorses, and the agricultural adjustment administration brain trust is sponsoring. The bill would use the taxation power of the federal government to stop over-production of cotton. The tariff problem is being tackled in the Hull-Roosevelt plan, which provides for executive authority to secure reciprocal tariff agreements without the advice and consent of the senate. The bill also gives concurrent power to change rates on dutiable articles as much as 50 percent without previous investigation by the tariff commission. Another important emergency measure is the Patman bonus bill, a carryover from last year calling for immediate full payment of adjusted compensation to war veterans to the tune of about \$2,400,000,000. The administration also wants some settlement on the labor problem through the Conner 30-hour week bill, another carryover from last year establishing a maximum work week of thirty hours and providing the penalty for violations of barring goods from interstate commerce.

The permanent reforms now pending will arouse considerable debate before final action is taken. In the first place the perplexing air mail situation must be solved, and hearings on this question are now being held. Then the stock exchange control bill will receive much opposition from Wall street, if from no other place. The bill concerning Philippine independence has been favorably reported out of committee in both houses, and immediate action is expected. Another bill now pending proposes to settle all communication problems by bringing all telegraph, telephone and radio facilities under federal control. And then there is Senator Wagner's plan to establish a national labor board to settle all labor disputes. Congress has plenty of work to keep it busy for the next two months, it seems.

### Professors at California Differ in Opinion of Students' Sense of Humor

Daily Californian. What kind of a sense of humor does an undergraduate have? None, says one professor; pretty good, says another.

"Students are so sunk and half drunk with undigested masses of assignments, they suffer from a lack of intellectual metabolism," A. F. Blanks, professor of public speaking said. "They have no sense of humor, intellectually speaking."

Students don't laugh, but rather they guffaw for relief, he added. It is not that they are incapable of appreciating real humor, but because of the life they lead.

Prof. C. F. Shaw, of the soil technology department, believes the average undergraduate is at heart serious minded. "Life, especially to freshmen, looks too big to be taken lightly," he said.

On the other side of the fence is Prof. G. P. Adams of the philosophy department. It has been his experience that students have a keen sense of humor which takes unexpected ways of expressing itself.

"Possibly better than the professorial," is the way R. L. Olson, professor of anthropology, characterizes undergraduate humor. Students are pretty fast on the retort, except in 8 o'clock and 1 o'clock classes, he said.

Prof. Gordon McKenzie of the convention followed the response. At 12:15, the convention had luncheon at the Lincoln chamber of commerce.

The afternoon was started by viewing exhibits in Nebraska hall. Reports of district chairmen followed. Next, at 3:30 p. m., was a lecture on "Repair of Well" by H. H. Brown. The afternoon was concluded by talks from E. E. Brackett, head of the department of agricultural engineering; Prof. E. B. Lewis, college of agricultural engineering, and a Dutch lunch at the Lincoln hotel.

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## BELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM

## KOSMAN ISSUES CALL FOR CORN COB NAMES

### Forfeit Year's Membership Penalty for Failure Have Candidate.

Henry Kosman, president of Corn Cobs, men's pep organization, stated Wednesday that names of all candidates for initiation into active membership must be submitted to officers of the club at the meeting Thursday night. The meeting will be held in room 205 of Social Sciences at 7:30 in the evening. The place of meeting was previously announced as the Temple.

Fraternities failing to have a man initiated into the club at the spring ceremonies next Thursday, March 29, will automatically forfeit their right to representation by a member in the organization next year.

Plans for the annual Corn Cob spring party which will be held on Friday, April 13, will also be discussed at the gathering.

Officers to whom the names may be submitted are Henry Kosman, president; Emmett Morava, vice president; Charles Flansburg, secretary; and Jack Fischer, treasurer.

Exactly 105 prisoners at the Ohio prison farm have applied for enrollment in Ohio State university's junior college radio course.

A course in mental hygiene and social work has been established at the University of Buffalo.

The University of Kansas has on the walls of its auditorium autographed photographs of famous people who have visited that institution.

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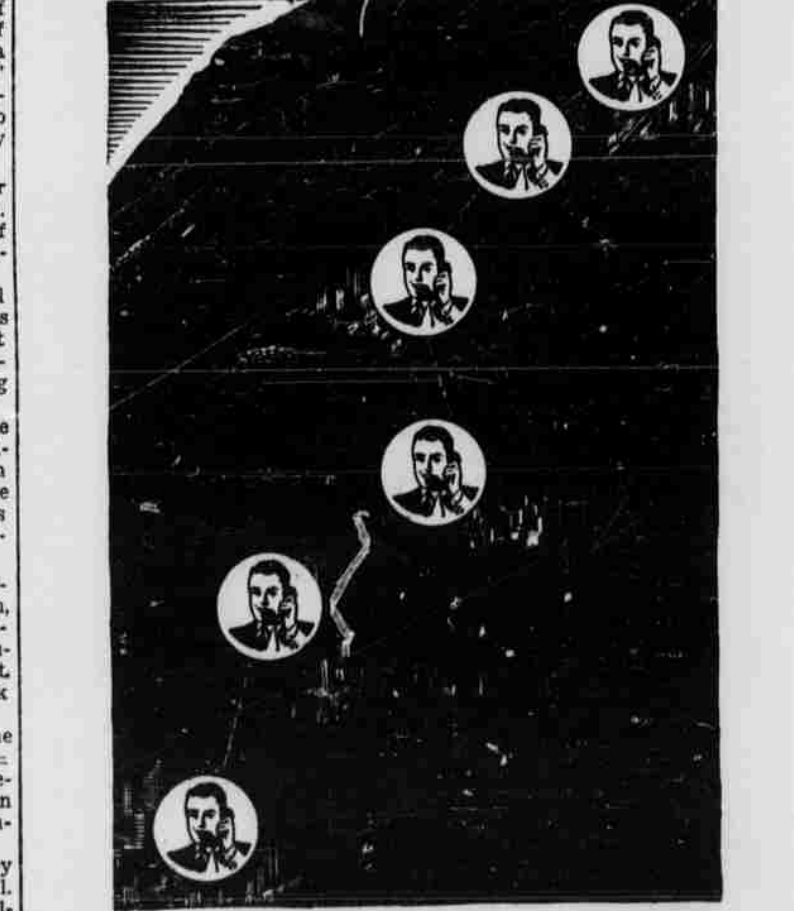
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