

# The Daily Nebraskan

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## OPPOSE POLL TAX

BARBS FAIL TO NOMINATE MEMBERS FOR ATHLETIC BOARD.

Present Resolutions to Present Board Requesting Them to Remove the Twenty-five Cent Poll Tax.

Contrary to expectations, no candidates for the University Athletic Board were nominated at the meeting of the Associated Barbs held in Memorial Hall yesterday morning. A number of men were expected to be in the race for the nominations and an exciting meeting was looked for. The meeting did prove exciting, but not over candidates. A set of resolutions was introduced condemning the present method of election and refusing to participate in the election under the present system.

After some discussion these were passed almost unanimously. The following are the resolutions:

Whereas, The present system of election of members for the Athletic Board is generally criticized; and

Whereas, The experience of former years has clearly shown the tendency toward corruption and unjustifiable methods of obtaining votes; and

Whereas, The present system fails to secure members perfectly representative of the student body; be it

Resolved, That we, the Associated Barbs, hereby petition the Athletic Board for the immediate removal of the twenty-five cent poll tax, which we believe to be the cause of the tendency toward corruption; and, be it further

Resolved, That we will neither nominate a ticket nor participate in the election for said Board unless such poll tax be removed; and, be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Chancellor of the University, one copy to the Athletic Board, and that they be published in the Daily Nebraskan.

A committee was appointed to elaborate the resolutions and state the reasons for the stand taken in the matter. The following is an official report of the committee:

We, the committee appointed for the purpose of explaining these resolutions and declaring the reasons for the action taken by the Association, report as follows:

The elections of former years have been of such a nature as to excite adverse comment by the leading newspapers of the State and have not failed to be criticised by certain prominent members of the faculty.

The practices which have been criticised are matters generally known to both faculty and students, namely: A slush fund, subsidizing of votes and advanced machine methods of campaigning. What is known as the "slush" or campaign fund is raised prior to the election by contributions from individuals and organizations of the University. The purpose of the fund is to reimburse the voter for the tax collected at the polls.

It has been charged and published in the newspapers of Lincoln and other cities of the State, and not de-

## Company B Hop

### Fraternity Hall

\$1.00. WALT.

May Four

nied, that certain University organizations engaged or employed in forwarding the interests of one of the tickets at the Athletic Board elections are assessed fixed sums which constitute the campaign fund. This campaign fund is not expended directly at the polls, but as follows: Any member of these organizations who escorts a voter to the polls is handed a small slip by trusted lieutenants as he passes out, which is redeemable at campaign headquarters for its face value, namely, twenty-five cents. The member who has escorted a voter only pays the tax for which the ticket is a reimbursement. Thus the buying of votes or more properly speaking "setting 'em up to a vote," for the one voted is taken to the stall for a twenty-five cent vote just as for a ten-cent glass of soda water.

This system of voting for student members of the Athletic Board, which has been in vogue in the University in the past few years, is one which tends to place the control of the election in the hands of the faction having the larger campaign fund, instead of deciding the result of the election on a question of principle and the merits of the respective candidates. The organization and machine methods have become so thoroughly developed that in order to win in a contest a candidate must be backed not only by men who support his candidacy on a question of principle or merit, but he must also have behind him a large sum of money with which to pay for the vote of the indifferent student and thus influence his ballot.

Such indifferent votes, although counting as much as any other in the election, are not representative. Such practice tends to prevent a true expression of the ideas of the individual voter. It fosters illegitimate and corrupt methods of campaign and schools the participants in unjustifiable practices which causes him to lose his sense of right and responsibility necessary to secure proper results in an election. We believe that such methods should not be encouraged or al-

lowed to exist in connection with an official University election.

Two years ago the Associated Barbs succeeded in electing a full quota of student members to the Athletic Board. These men were pledged to vote for the repeal of the twenty-five cent tax. The matter was brought up in a meeting of the Athletic Board and the present system sustained in operation by the votes of the faculty members of the Board.

Last year, to show that the Barbs were ready to practice what they preach, they, even at the sacrifice of victory, refused to put up a "slush" fund and entered the campaign on principle. An appeal was made to the individual voter to come out and cast his ballot uninfluenced by the use of money. This appeal apparently had little effect upon the University students, as the Barbs had the mortification of seeing the indifferent or gulleless voter again go to the man who had the money to pay for the tax on his vote.

Then, having tried these two methods of securing a repeal of the tax and doing away with the corruption—first, by having our five members vote against it, and, second, by making an appeal to the indifferent voter to properly exercise his franchise—we now take the stand that we will not participate in the election unless the tax is removed.

It may be argued that the money raised on the day of election is necessary to the maintenance of athletics. To this argument we reply, if the money must be secured to maintain athletics in the institution, then some method should be used which does not tend to corrupt University politics, lower the moral tone of University life, and school the voter in questionable machine methods. There are a number of methods which might be suggested as more feasible than the present one and the Barbs stand ready to support any reasonable plan.

J. M. PAUL.  
S. M. THOMPSON.  
H. G. MYERS.  
FRANCIS O'GARA.

## GYM ASSOCIATION

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION WAS FORMED YESTERDAY.

Discuss Plans for the Future Work of the Organization—Dr. Clapp Was Elected Temporary President.

The gymnastic team does not come under the supervision of the Athletic Board of control and this fact, together with the fact that there has been no organization to which they have been directly responsible, has, in the past, handicapped the work of the team.

Yesterday at chapel time, in Dr. Clapp's office, a permanent association was organized, which will look after the interests of the gymnastic team and its work.

After discussing pro and con whether or not the association should be strictly a student affair with the president elected from the student body, it was finally decided to elect Dr. Clapp as temporary president to act until a suitable man was decided upon.

Then the matter of electing a treasurer came up for consideration and Dr. Clapp suggested that Mr. Westerman, the University accountant, be asked to act in that capacity, and by motion it was decided to do so.

When it came to the matter of electing a manager it was suggested that the temporary president also act in this capacity, but he thought someone else should take charge of the work and that he would at all times be ready to assist him in it. Dr. Clapp said that at New Haven a man was elected gymnastic team manager who wasn't necessarily on the team, but who was a man that could arouse interest in and attention to gymnastic work. The question of a manager was allowed to rest and will come up at some future meeting.

The team captain for next year was considered and the association decided to elect him this year, but he will be elected by the team in the future. On Copeland's motion Johnson was unanimously elected.

The next in order was the election of a secretary, and Dick Patterson was chosen.

Two committees were then appointed and one, consisting of Johnson and Moss, on constitution and by-laws, and one to look into the matter of new suits for the gym team. And this brings up the question of furnishing the team with suits. The manager of the gym exhibition held on March 31, 1906, the department and the six student members on the committee decided to use a part of the surplus from the exhibition in buying suits for the gym team and this with the idea in mind that it would arouse interest in the work and in a measure repay the men for their work. It was possible to do this, since the dual meet with Wisconsin which was to be held here was called off. These suits will aggregate between twenty-five and thirty dollars and the balance will be turned over to the association's treasurer and

(Continued on page 3.)

## FOOTBALL

TO TEST NEW RULES

NEBRASKA VS. DOANE

ATHLETIC FIELD,

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

ADMISSION 50c