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Other Opinions

The Daily Nebraskan assumes no responsibility for the sentiments expressed by correspondents and reserves the right to exclude any communications whose publication may for any reason seem undesirable. In all cases the editor must know the identity of the contributor.

To the Editor:

Ivy Day approaches! On that day thirteen red-robed men will "tap" thirteen men of the junior class as Innocents for next year. They will be chosen, according to past announcements of the Innocents, on a basis of their record in activities and of promise for service to the University in their senior year.

The Innocents were organized in 1903 and they have had a long record as having constantly promoted the "best interests" of the school. They have done this by supporting all football games, by putting on Dad's day, by giving the Cornhusker banquet, and by ever lending a quiet but helping hand to whatever they considered the best interests of Nebraska U. As an "honorary society", copied after senior societies from Yale to Leland Stanford, the Innocents have acquired no little prestige. Juniors who are tapped this year will feel that Nebraska has bestowed her greatest honor upon them. Since they were freshmen, these men have been taught to look upon the Innocents as models of greatness, types of the true spirit and highest virtue of the school. Freshmen idealize the Innocents, sophomores regard them as "big men" on the campus who are doing "big things" for Nebraska, juniors know that they are second to none in influence and prominence.

At the present time, the Innocents are looked upon as the fountain-head of all that is beneficial to the University. Several years ago their president wrote to the Chancellor stating that the Innocents were assuming the right to take over and control any student activity of the school. The Innocents are supposed to promote, in an unassuming way, all that makes for a bigger and better University. Because of the tremendous influence they exert, because they represent the true leadership and prominence of the Nebraska student body, and because, through their long-intimate alumni and faculty advisers, they are sure to become huge business successes after graduation, the Innocents hold a position that is aspired to by every normal undergraduate man.

The solemnity with which this organization is regarded and the importance attached to it even by alumni and members of the faculty is seen when one observes how they rush to defend their undergraduate honorary society in the event of some criticism or when one hears how they congratulate themselves in the absence of such criticism. They seem to regard it as extremely influential and important. Yet, in view of the lack of value and importance that we are to note later, these men should be the first to admit that the organization is what it is and prevent its misrepresentations to the "great unwashed."

For, in truth, the Innocents are not all they seem. Their reputation far exceeds their power and value. In reality the Innocents are little more than errand boys for the football enthusiasts on the faculty and among the alumni. The activities of this organization in the past few years have been confined almost exclusively to: staging rallies, greeting teams, building bonfires, advertising football games by publicity stories in the Rag, promoting mob hysteria before the Notre Dame game, and giving the Cornhusker banquet. The so-called freshman initiation is one non-athletic activity, but it is largely in the hands of cheer-leaders and the faculty football fans who are the Innocents' advisers.

The meetings of the Innocents society must be relatively unimportant. This should be especially true after the football season, when there are no more pep editorials to be put on the front page of the Rag, and before the time for electing successors. In fact between December and March or April meetings tend to be brief, frequently they are abandoned.

The most convincing proof of the innocuousness of this society is the change that comes over its members. To one who has watched the organization for five years or so, it is amusing to note how proud, pompous, and swell-headed the president and the members are after they are tapped. About the end of the year, however, signs of disinterest, even disgust, are observable. From bumpiness to disillusionment! Sometimes it is a tragedy. The initiation must be impressive and idealistic, but all that is shattered by the end of the year—after the election of new Innocents. And something about elections might well be said in another letter.

O. V. B.

Fraternity Presidents' Express Opinions  
 (Continued From Page One)

strongly favor deferred initiation and open pledging than delayed pledging and prompt initiation.

Relative to the matter of probation-week practices—it is difficult to clearly answer an inquiry so general as the variations in the practices indulged in in so-called "probation-week" make it difficult to get a concise, clear and opinionated answer. If your inquiry is directed to mock initiation or "horse-play," so-called the fraternity which I represent is directly opposed thereto or to any similar tactics to be indulged in as a part of or in connection with initiation ceremonies, as we feel that the solemnity attendant upon the assumption of an obligation by a candidate for initiation should in no wise be detracted from by the administering on the candidate of any form of duress or undue influence or public humiliations.

Relative to the matter of second-year pledging and initiation, and speaking only in person, but basing my opinion upon the judgment of many fraternity men with whom I have come in contact, I am of the opinion that second-year pledging is not as beneficial to the fraternity system as first-year pledging with deferred initiation for the reason that it deprives the freshman of the ability to come in contact with the upper classmen during the time that he is in his freshman year, when the best influences of serious minded upper classmen can be most advantageously directed and when the opportunities to form class friendships and fraternal ties are in a much more receptive state, in my opinion. Fraternities are endeavoring and are in my opinion exerting a much greater beneficial influence as a part of student life as time progresses. The seriousness of the purposes of fraternities is, through the influences of the greater body in numbers of alumni, becoming more and more understood and decidedly more apparent, and I think the opinion is well founded that the fraternity should have the opportunity to urge on the first year men, by having personal influences and contact with them, the benefits and advantages of the fraternity system.

I am confident that you will understand that this reply to your communication is personal and it perhaps may be at variance with the views of other members of my own fraternity. I have attempted to the best of my ability to give you my views on the general questions contained in your communication, for such benefits as may be derived from their publication in the Daily Nebraskan. I shall thank you for a copy of your paper containing them if you so desire.

Very truly yours,  
 President Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity.

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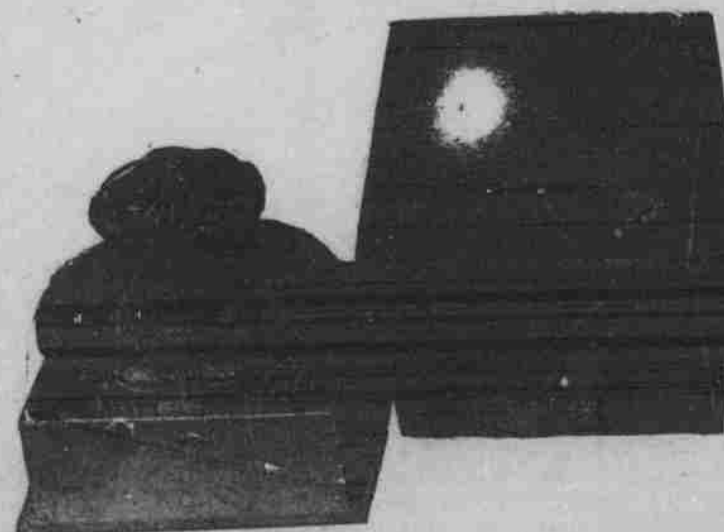
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New at The Famous—the "Vagabond" Sport Hat!

—an altogether new wrinkle in summer millinery! The vagabond is a hat that makes you better looking; a soft panama with gently rolling upturned brim of medium size. Banded with any of a number of gay colored ribbons it is ideal for wear with any of your summer sport clothes. However, should you prefer a tiny hat, it also awaits you in panama at the Famous, with its band in the color you prefer. Choose either style and know you're hatted fashionably — all for the remarkably low sum of \$5.95.

Ben Simon & Sons Are First with the new Summer Shoes!

—dash down for a look anyway — those of you who'd like a peep at the smart novelties that have been designed exclusively for Ben Simon & Sons' shoe section! There are white sport shoes with either Cuban or flat heels in a number of altogether new and appealing styles; oxfords of maple calf (a very light shade) that harmonize beautifully with light summer clothes. Trimmed with a bit of alligator, they are dashing! You'll find the shoe you're looking for at Ben Simon & Sons, for as you know, they cater to the collegiate taste. Prices, \$4.85 to \$7.85.

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—get out your needle, for here's a bargain that no college modiste can afford to pass by! Printed and bordered are these crepe of firm heavy quality, so it's just a matter of a few dollars and a few seams, if you want to look like the pictures in Vogue. Choose from large splashy patterns, or from quaint silks of small figure — in most any color you might want. Of course these are an extra special purchase or you'd pay about \$6 a yard for the very same material. From 1-3 to 2-4 yards makes a dress, so figure it out!

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—Soukup & Westover are the cure-all for curly lapels, pleatless pleats, wrinkles, mud splashes, and that general air about your clothes of having ceased to struggle against the elements! Perhaps the last few rainy days have left you with a wardrobe that needs only to be pressed in order to regain its former smartness; mayhap you have strolled in the wake of somebody's motor as it rejected the muddy pitter-patter. In either event call F3377, and spick and span clothes will shortly be yours for a surprisingly small sum!

The thrill that belongs to the victors was felt by The Nebraskan yesterday morning when the Iron Sphinx announced the results of their annual voting session. We noted with utmost pleasure that two sergeants-at-arms were elected.

The chief duty of the sergeant-at-arms is to keep people out. The election of two such officials is indicative, in all probability, that many more people want to get into Sphinx meetings than can be accommodated. One man would be unable to handle the rush. Therefore, say the logical Sphinx, we need two.

But why the rush? Well, modesty prevents us from claiming all the credit, but we are willing to admit that we believe that part of the widespread, general, and powerful desire of young collegiates to get into Iron Sphinx meetings is due to the very flattering comment which this newspaper published some time ago.

The Sphinx, we proved by irrefutable arguments, are deserving of much honor, and students in a University where honorary societies are so scarce and hard to get into, naturally flock the Sphinx because of that fact.

The Nebraskan hopes that two sergeants-at-arms will be sufficient to hold the angry mob in check. We'd hate to have any of the full-fledged voting members of the Sphinx get hurt.

Kosmet Klub members are now making arrangements for the annual interfraternity sing on Ivy Day. It would be well, therefore, for the various fraternities to practice up a bit, and have their songs well under control in preparation for the event.

Ivy Day is always very, very interesting. If the engineers can just arrange to take down the bridge on that day it should be even more thrilling this year. The program for the day will include vaudeville acts of unquestioned merit, and the fraternities must stage a good sing if the high quality of the entertainment is to be maintained throughout.

In speaking of the bridge and Ivy Day, permit us to quote from "The Sledges," an engineering college publication which is supposed to be funny. "The Sledge" rakes The Daily Nebraskan over the coals with these words:

"As for leaving the pile driver in place until the tapping of the Innocents, we think it would be a good idea. The school could then see who had been chosen for the coveted thirteen places, but they would not be bothered with them during the next year. When an Engineer does a thing he does it right and believe us, if they let us tap the Innocents this spring they will stay tapped."

If you have been reading the letters from national officers of fraternities, which are now appearing in The Nebraskan, you may have noticed that nearly all contain expressions of disapproval of horse play and childish antics during probation weeks.

This attitude on the part of national leaders within the fraternity, and such regulations as the local Interfraternity council passed this year, should eliminate all objectionable features of probation weeks. The stories of crazy, kiddish stunts circulated over the state, do the fraternities and the University more harm than all the "destructive criticism" which was ever spoken or written. The movement to eliminate such stunts deserves the support of all friends of the organizations and all persons interested in the welfare of the University.

The time for another Round-up week will soon be here. Such occasions as this, when the students meet the former students, should be both pleasant and profitable.

Much of the misunderstanding and distrust which exists between the older and the younger generation may be destroyed by friendly contact and association on occasions like Round-up week.

Students should prepare now to extend a hearty welcome to the returning alumni, plan to join with them in their entertainments, and tell them how wonderfully the old school has gotten along during the past few years.

There is much to be said in praise

of the University, and that praise which is accompanied by sincere and intelligent criticism is the sweetest praise of all. The students who are here now should not attempt to give the University a sugar-coated appearance in the eyes of alumni, but should gladly do everything possible to give them an accurate glimpse of the institution, and make their visit most enjoyable.