

The Daily Nebraskan

TWENTY-NINTH YEAR

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Paving the Way.

The annual scramble for appointments has begun. With two of the major social events of the year looming up during the coming semester, the Interfraternity ball and the Junior-Senior prom, comes the task of selecting students to arrange for and carry out plans. Then, too there are the vacancies on The Daily Nebraskan staff to be filled—those vacancies caused by the departure or the advancement of those now holding official capacities.

Committee memberships have come to play an important role in the life of University of Nebraska undergraduates. Especially is this so with juniors, who are looking forward to Ivy day. Since the booting of the many underclass societies several years past, more emphasis than ever before is now being placed upon these party portfolios. The probable candidates for the only "honorary" that remain must have some sort of activity marks behind their names to warrant their election and so they have tended to get as many of these "responsible" positions as possible.

Committee members to make arrangements for the Interfraternity ball were appointed some time ago by the interfraternity council. It is easy to see, even after a hasty glance at the list, that the majority of appointees are those who are being "pushed" by their fraternities for the "highest honors that can be bestowed upon them."

Regardless of the danger of such positions becoming mere havens for successful politicians, who are not very much inclined toward industry, the Interfraternity ball committee thus far seems to have digressed from the path of least resistance and really justified its existence.

Very extensive plans are being made, if our judgment of the publicity that has appeared is not deceiving. The Nebraskan is satisfied with the preliminary ideas brought forth by the committee and sincerely hopes that those in charge may witness the fulfillment of their dreamy reveries. The Nebraskan congratulates the interfraternity council for having crawled out of its grave and displayed some virility.

Places on the Junior-Senior prom committee have yet to be filled. According to a leading news story in Sunday's Nebraskan, twenty-six students have filed for these posts. Twelve are to be chosen from the twenty-six, six men and six women, by the student council at its meeting on Wednesday of this week.

If we are to be governed by precedent, we can expect that those receiving the most support from their political fraternities, which are allowed to exist under the pretext of "social organizations," will be the lucky ones. Fitness, other than the requirements set down by the dean of student affairs, makes no particular difference. It is the "pull" that counts.

For the first time in years, the names of those seeking a seat with the committee have been published. Now the "powers behind" the council, and there are only a few, can get busy and centralize their efforts on their choices, for they know who will be the opponents. They can groom their henchmen to present the life's history of their "pets" in the most flamboyant manner and with the most cleverly phrased innuendo. They can get things "fixed" and thereby assure their organizations of representation in the holy cults.

An interesting sidelight in this connection is the fact that several students who are now serving on one committee are entertaining hopes of copping a berth on the group which is to manage the prom. Aside from having too many irons in the fire, they are displacing others who may be just as qualified as they are. The principle of that sort of thing is naturally ridiculous and opposed to the proper functioning of an administrative body. Anyone can see that a person holding two positions at the same time can do justice to neither.

Although it is like talking to a stone wall when one tries to warn the student council against such maneuvers, it is not entirely useless, we trust, to suggest that the governmental body exercise considerable care in this one matter: To avoid giving places on committees to persons who are already occupying similar offices. If the council does that alone, it will have raised its stock appreciably in the minds of those who are working for a better university.

The same, in a measure, is true with publications applicants as with those after committee appointments. Factionalists have stuck their fingers in this realm ever since the enterprises were taken over by the student publication board. Students have expected it, faculty members have expected it, so the outcome for each position has always been taken as a matter of course—with exception, of course, when some "dark horse" gains entrance.

The publication board, though bearing the insignia of "student," is not entirely composed of students. In fact, they are outnumbered by faculty members—there being five faculty to three student members. The board as a whole should not be blamed for the wild manner in which appointments have been made. The faculty, as a rule, strives to be fairminded, but can be easily hoodwinked by the politically minded students who are usually selected to such positions.

Who couldn't weaken to the flowery and gilded language of an individual? It is human nature to give heed to such glamour. And this is just what happens when the fraternity string pullers begin pulling their strings. The other

board members believe they are in earnest and therefore attempt to carry out their advice.

That the qualified aspirant always makes the grade in this manner is certainly hard to believe. Yet there have been cases to show that this is true. Numerous contrivings have been effected to get the "brothers" on the staffs en route to the limelight, which is so precious to the fraternities. Numerous "hush" methods have been employed and in the main have been successful.

Any alumnus, faculty member, or even present day student can recall instances of this sort—how, for example, nonfraternity men have been assured of high positions on the staffs if they would "pledge our bunch." The student member of the board—a full fledged member of the "bunch"—kicks up a lot of ballyhoo at the time of appointments and thus sees his promise a reality.

It is not the individuals who attain their "honors" in this manner who suffer the consequences. They usually enjoy it somehow. But it is the publication or publications which are made to feel the ill effects of "politieking," for it is obvious that the best grade of work cannot be done unless those who fill the positions are thoroughly versed with the kind of work expected.

As stated above, the board as a whole should not be held responsible for such acts. But it can scrutinize very closely the qualifications of those who aspire to the offices and let that be the groundwork upon which to make the final selections. In that way better results will be certain to be obtained both from a professional and a moral standpoint.

Echoes of the Campus.

Those Afternoon Classes.

To the Editor of the Nebraskan:
How many students during registration week saw carefully planned schedules completely destroyed because their advisors insisted upon two-fifths of their hours being in the afternoon! Of course, some of the wiser individuals gave outside work for their scholarly activities, but then not everyone is a wage earner.

After all, what is the good of this rule which is so halfheartedly adhered to? In the first place, almost everyone will admit that the morning hours are those in which the greatest amount of work of any kind is accomplished. Any business man will verify the statement that the largest part of his business is transacted in the forenoon. If that is the case, why shouldn't students get the most important part of their work completed during the most desirable part of the day?

Few moreover, will dispute the fact that uninterrupted study is the best. An entire afternoon cannot help but bring better results than an hour here or an hour there.

The rule seems to have as its basic purpose the idea of making class enrollments more uniform. A few more morning divisions of some of the courses now offered would soon eliminate this difficulty. It has been suggested that the regulation was made for the benefit of the freshmen students with the hope of formulating in them the habit of spending their time at school in place of wasting it in some frivolous pursuit. Surely men and women who come to the university are old enough to be placed on their own responsibility. If school means so little to them that they wish to otherwise employ their hours, they should not be kept by iron rules at such an unpleasant occupation.

Surely upperclassmen, at least, who have shown their fidelity by their previous work in the school, should be allowed to arrange their schedules according to their convenience regardless of whether they are engaged in any outside work. M. K.

Harpo Has His Say.

To the Editor of the Nebraskan:
In two recent issues of this publication appeared student opinions in regard to the policy of changing the personnel of The Daily Nebraskan staff twice a year.

One writer, M. N., claims that the school of journalism sponsors this paper and that one of the purposes of the The Nebraskan is to serve as an experimental laboratory for prospective journalists. Had M. N. been better informed he would have known that The Daily Nebraskan is not under the supervision of the school of journalism, but is governed largely by the student publication board.

The Nebraskan is not primarily a laboratory, but rather a newspaper by and for the students of the university. It seems to me that The Nebraskan should for this reason be conducted in a manner which will cause the paper to serve the student body in the most efficient way possible. And changing the staff of the paper twice a year makes for decreased efficiency for several reasons. One is that an editor cannot carry out his policies of construction in four months' time. Indeed often he cannot even inaugurate them, and one semester is not long enough for an editor to bring out the best work he can do.

Another reason is that by the time he is sufficiently familiar with the routine of the work to really accomplish anything of worth, he is replaced by a neophyte who must start the breaking in process all over again. This certainly does not make for consistent responsibility in office, nor for continuity of policy, both of which are highly desirable on a well conducted newspaper.

Now as for E. B.'s lament and his wail for a "change of climate." He alleges that students are anxious to hear from more than one man. Behold! We have found a sage who has his hand on the public pulse and can instantly detect its slightest fluctuation.

Honestly, E. B., man to man, have you actually heard a single member of the student body at large petitioning for a new Nebraskan editor every semester, or is the idea your own? And furthermore, do you sincerely believe as you intimated in your editorial, that a new editor is going to take to his breast all the causes championed by his predecessor, however worthy those causes may be?

And, finally, E. B., is The Daily Nebraskan so menaced that it needs a "safeguard against the... peevish whims... of one track minds"? Or are those one track minds possessed only by people whose arguments are based on such puerile appeal as a desire for a "change of climate?" HARPO.

On The Campus

BY MARY NICHOLS, CAMPUS EDITOR

Formal Season Is In Full Swing

That the formal season is well under way is evident from the parties scheduled for the past week. Delta Gamma and Sigma Kappa entertained with formal dinner dances at the chapter houses, while Gamma Phi Beta, Phi Omega Pi, Delta Sigma Lambda, and Pi Kappa Phi gave formal parties at the downtown ballrooms. Inclement weather did not prevent students from attending the parties of the past week, nor has it affected the number of social events planned for the coming week.

Methodists Students Will Be Guests.

Methodist students of the university will be guests of the Methodist Student council at an indoor winter sports party Friday evening, from 8 to 11 o'clock, at the Trinity Methodist church. Typical winter decorations will be arranged by Neva Beth Turner and her committee. Harold Brown has charge of the games and Dorothy Jackson of the stunts. Henrietta Becker is chairman of the refreshment committee, and Berneice Hoffman of the program committee. Chaperons at the party will be Rev. and Mrs. W. C. Fawell, Rev. and Mrs. J. Howard Brown, and Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Merrill.

Guests at D. S. L. Formal.

Out of town alumni were among the 250 couples who attended the formal at the Lincoln hotel Friday evening by members of Delta Sigma Lambda. Chaperoning the party were Mr. and Mrs. Roy E.

A Student Looks at Public Affairs.

By DAVID FELLMAN.

CHICAGO, it seems, can't stay off the front page if it tries to. This time the cause of the windy city's publicity is a serious financial condition. The municipalities of Cook county are in debt to the tune of about \$280,000,000, on which they are now paying \$1,400,000 a month in interest. Chicago's share of the interest amounts to \$4,000,000 a year. To save the city money, the city's patriotic mayor, William Hale Thompson, has summarily discharged 473 policemen and 220 firemen, with a threat of future restrictions on the city's various services.

The cause for this unprecedented financial slough in which Chicago finds itself lies in the tax assessment situation in Cook county. The 1927 quadrennial assessment was found to have so many striking inequalities, that a new reassessment was ordered. The great task of reappraising the property of the county is not yet complete. As a result, the income of the local government units has been temporarily reduced to almost a shadow.

People who were visiting in Chicago during the winter vacation tell us that the streets in the loop are piled high with snow, the city making no attempt to clear them. The curtailment of this service is unfortunate, but when the city officials begin to discharge firemen and policemen by the hundreds, they are treading on thin ice. Chicago may be able to muddle through with sloppy streets, but it is very doubtful, judging from her record, whether she can dispense with her law enforcing agencies.

The senate insurgents won out in their fight to put Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin on the important finance committee. At the same time, the so-called "young guard" republicans, who occupy a position somewhere between the hidebound conservatives and the radicals, got one of their men, Senator Thomas of Idaho, on the committee. These two elevations must have been a bitter pill for such men as Senators Moses and Bingham to swallow, but the alternative, a complete breakdown in whatever morale there is left in republican senatorial ranks would have been even less fortunate.

TWO members of the faculty of the University of Missouri were dismissed last April for their distribution of a sex questionnaire among students for the purpose of making a scientific inquiry into the problems of sexual life. A final and most influential re-echo of the protests which arose all over the country came last week from a special committee of the Association of University Professors. After conducting an investigation, the committee found that there was nothing offensive or immoral about the questionnaire, and that the officials of the University of Missouri acted in an unreasonable and arbitrary manner.

The committee's stand was sharply and directly put for the board of curators to decree the most severe punishment with its power, dismissal and suspension without pay, for their alleged offense (trivial, if any) is under the present circumstances a clear breach of the principles of freedom

of teaching and research and security of tenure in the university." One notes with gratification this vigorous position of a responsible group of teachers on the important matter of their intellectual freedom.

EDWARD W. BOK, author, journalist and advocate of peace, died last Thursday. The author of a number of successful books, his autobiography won the Pulitzer prize in 1920. In 1923, his \$100,000 prize offered and given for the plan which would best enable the United States help keep the world peace, attracted universal attention.

A penniless immigrant at the age of six, Mr. Bok achieved success in the journalistic field, social position, wealth and the respect of his fellow countrymen. He is another symbol of American opportunity.

SUGAR is the big bone of contention in the present state of the tariff struggle in the senate. The bill as drawn up by the committee and approved by the house raises the duty on sugar from the present rate of 1.76 to a new high rate of 2.20 cents a pound. This issue, cutting across all party and faction lines, constitutes the most bitterly contested schedule in the Smoot-Hawley bill.

CARDINAL O'CONNELL said a few things last Sunday at a service in the Holy Cross cathedral of Boston which are worth repeating: "When the churches are turned into political factories, when instead of saving souls by gentle patience and sincere example of moderation in the affairs of human life, all their energy and effort are turned violently and virulently into a frantic and equally futile attempt

to compel virtue and enforce it as if it were a divine command that which at best is a temporary human experiment, when they have even ennobled their friends by their fanaticism—then, of course, these churches will not only be empty, but deserted, and who is to blame?"

Between the Lines.

By LASELLE GILMAN.

RANDOM AND SLIGHTLY CONFUSED RUMINATIONS UPON THIS, THAT, AND SEVERAL OTHER THINGS, WITH ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO NEITHER AMOUNT TO A WHOLE LOT, BUT NEVERTHELESS, RANDOM AND SLIGHTLY CONFUSED RUMINATIONS . . .

A WEEK of registration is over . . . "Is this course in the muscular activity of digestion a snap?" asks the fine arts student . . . "It's a pipe," someone tells him . . . Pipe courses in plumbing . . . A home ec major has found a snap in dressmaking . . . College curriculums assume great importance during registration week . . .

No one knows . . . to take . . . And everyone as . . . y one else's advice . . . Dear . . . mean I can't find a thing to take next semester . . . I'm all agog . . . What's this course in history of the peloponnesian wars like? . . . What does E. O. mean? . . . (Don't you ever read the ads?) . . . And a fellow I know is going to take military science by extension . . .

Credit books are all the rage . . . But my credit isn't good at the registrar's office . . . Speaking of registrars, it was a great week for them . . . And the college deans report that they wore out eight dozen rubber stamps . . . And the advisers all have writer's cramp . . . The registrars are all snowed in for the rest of the semester . . . The finance office will get its inning about three weeks from now . . . But we all know what the assignment committee is doing . . . It's assigning prelaw frosh to graduate seminars in Spencer . . . The assignment committee always observes April fool's day as a great event . . .

PRESIDENT Lowell of Harvard says: "If only the dear mothers who are afraid of their boys' going to college so early would look over our figures at Harvard, they would see that the temptation to go to the devil increases with age . . . The younger the boys are the better scholars they are and the better behaved. My great grandfather sent my grandfather to college at the age of thirteen, too young to dissipate. It worked out exceptionally well."

A good idea. Let's put the grammar school scholars in the universities and remove the university men—and ladies—to the kindergarten. Then they could dissipate in the sandboxes and run around wild among the building blocks, cutting out paper flowers.

AND some fellow says that the reason American cities are so

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