

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

TWENTY-NINTH YEAR

Official Publication of the University of Nebraska and under the direction of the Student Publication Board.

Entered as second class matter at the postoffice in Lincoln, Neb., under act of congress, March 3, 1879, and at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, act of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized Jan. 20, 1922.

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The Last Shot at the Innocents.

Secret societies at the University of Nebraska, one would suppose, are no more. Perhaps there are two senior honoraries that profess to be secret, but whether they are in actuality is another matter.

The publication of a portion of the constitution dealing with the mode of selection of new members to the Innocents society, men's senior "honorary," on May 26, 1926, and the republication of the same in last Tuesday's Nebraska would seem to refute the pretension of that organization to work in secret.

As to the other senior honorary society, the women's organization, Mortar Boards, our contention is that it would quite easily qualify as a secret society, since nothing has been disclosed about it which would lead one to believe otherwise. This group seems to be able to continue its secrecy without having to make known any of its secrets in order to "cover up" shady impressions.

After all, what's the difference if the organizations are secret or nonsecret? The important thing is: Are they serving any useful purpose? Is there any justification for their continuance on this campus?

The editorial columns of The Daily Nebraska, under the present tutelage, have shown how the one, the women's organization has been proving its worth if for no other reason than consisting of outstanding undergraduate women. These columns have also shown how the other group, composed of "representative" men, has been failing miserably in fulfilling what it is supposed to do on this campus.

Which naturally brings up the question: What are the duties of the Innocents? What are they really supposed to do? What is their mission here?

For a moment we were stumped for an answer, until, fortunately, we ran across some more public "announcements" of the society in former issues of The Nebraska. Among these "announcements" we found the following to be a direct answer to our interrogation, said to be taken directly from the society's documents:

"At a regular meeting held Oct. 2, 1923, the Innocents gave due consideration to their traditional activities which were initiated and perpetuated by the Innocents society, and with the advice and help of Brothers ———, the society went on record in their minutes as definitely intending to take charge both now and in the future of the following university activities, as they have heretofore done:

"1. The freshman initiation (which, by the way, was inaugurated by the student council, but taken away from it by the Innocents, when it proved to be successful.)

"2. . . (to 11 are omitted—they are uninteresting).

"12. AND ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT MAY REGULARLY COME BEFORE THE INNOCENTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN EXECUTIVE CAPACITY.

"The Innocents unanimously adopted the above activities and will regard any interference with the same by any other organizations as opposed to the best interests of the university."

At first glance, the substance of the above account may seem rather uninteresting, but a more careful scrutiny of the last sentence will serve to explain why the Innocents are allowed to exist on the University of Nebraska campus in spite of their reputation for dirty politics and wrongdoings. They "will regard any interference . . . as opposed to the best interests of the university."

Wise boys they were—those who drew up this resolution. They are to be congratulated for their foresight and vision, for surely no one can try to take anything away from them now. They are secure as they exist and as they ever have existed, and will always have the "protection" of the "inside."

No wonder the Innocents can keep on fleecing the freshmen with the green cap profits to sponsor such "expensive" and "worthwhile" activities as no-expense rallies, self-supporting banquets, and the like. No wonder they can keep on selecting members the way they do from year to year. No wonder they can enjoy all the privileges they so desire in the way of conduct, etc. All because everything they do is in harmony with the "best interests of the university!"

But, pray tell us, what are these so-called "best interests?" Judging from what the Innocents society has done so far this school year, these interests are purely of an athletic, or, to be more specific, football nature.

If the society serves no other useful purpose on the campus, it at least comprises a competent group of "yes" boys, chore boys, errand boys, ever willing to carry out the dictations of over enthusiastic football promoters among certain officials, among a large percentage of the alumni, and among less than 10 percent (according to official estimation) of the student body.

If these are the real things which universities deem most important, then we have been on the wrong track. It would seem, from a logical standpoint, that something higher and better than commercialized athletics would be the "best interests" of state universities. And it would likewise seem that foremost student societies would be the groups elected to carry out these nobler ideals.

But such is apparently not so. Reverting to the original subject of this editorial—the appearance of the Innocents constitution pertaining to the elections of new members—we can see very sharply why the

qualified students rarely get in the society. As a former Daily Nebraska editor, one of the few fortunate to be on the outside, put it:

"The elaborate system of constitutional regulations for the election of new members . . . was rather convincing evidence that even the members of the society are suspicious of themselves.

"It is truly astounding that the highest of honorary societies should be composed of men who must be surrounded by an elaborate detective machine if the selection of reasonably good errand boys is to be assured."

Of course, if the society were something besides a fake honorary, then we might expect it to be unsurpassed service to the university. Then we might expect some honest-to-goodness campus leaders to be on the "inside." But since there's not even a thread of hope of anything other than the existing order, as we have just shown above, Nebraska must needs be satisfied with what she has.

It may be a trifle early to post a list of the juniors to be tapped on May 2, 1930, although the new group has been virtually decided upon by the machine even at this early date. Anyway, the society is supposed to be secret and no one is supposed to know who is going to be tapped until the flaming robed gods prance along the fair lawn of mid-campus.

Despite the fact the society is shrouded with so much "secrecy," the favored list is usually common knowledge long before the public rites are held. Therefore it would not be amiss to give a lineup as to how things are slated to go, considering the fraternities that are represented now and the representation they are to maintain forever and forever.

Before we do that, however, allow us to give the present balance of power. Much weight is attached to this matter in the selection of new members. In the olden days there were always six members of one fraternity faction and seven members of another fraternity faction elected each spring. In recent years this has been "modified" somewhat so that now there are four representing the minority faction and nine representing the majority.

On the minority side the following fraternities have Innocents this year: Phi Kappa Psi (two members); Sigma Alpha Epsilon; Sigma Phi Epsilon. The other nine or ten fraternities making up this faction never have and never will have Innocents, not because of lack of outstanding men, but because of lack of "pull."

On the majority side the following fraternities have Innocents this year: Delta Tau Delta, Alpha Sigma Phi, Alpha Tau Omega (two members), Aecacia, Delta Upsilon, Lambda Chi Alpha, Beta Theta Pi, Farm House. The other fifteen or twenty fraternities (no one seems to know how many there are) making up this faction are also left out in the cold. They, too, will never have Innocents, for the same reason stated above.

Three of the officers, president, vice president and treasurer, are always chosen from the Big Six of the majority faction: Delt. D. U., A. T. O., Aecacia, Alpha Sig and Beta. It might be well to remark that this clique usually "gets all the grapes" in all campus affairs. The only other office of the Innocents of any importance—the secretary—is picked from the lesser group.

Working on this premise, and following the precedent so firmly established by the society, we are able to get glimpse of what the outcome might be on next Ivy day. From present indications and "whisperings," four of the Big Six are to be blessed with two members each: A. T. O., D. U., Delt, and Beta.

The A. T. O.'s have the president's job just about sewed up with Stanley Day coming to the front more and more. Day is certain to be a member regardless of whether he becomes president, as is the case with George Kennedy, present business manager of the Cornhusker.

D. U. candidates are Kenneth Gammill and Edwin Edmunds, both on the Cornhusker staff. Since the change of the date of Ivy day—so far ahead of the spring publication board meeting—the chances for both of these boys getting in are not assured.

Delta Tau Delta's two contributions are Cyril Winkler, popular ag college man, and Chick Lawlor, prominent in interfraternity council chambers and Daily Nebraska business offices. As their choice for Innocents, the Betas are depending upon Bill McCleery, sure-fire, because of his superb newspaper ability, and Dutch Lohmeyer, because of his dealings on various publications and other activities.

The vice presidency will probably have to be fought out between the Aecacias and the Betas, the former having Fred Grau, prominent in numerous activities, and the latter having Bill McCleery, whose qualifications are unquestioned. The man to fill the secretary's shoes will have to come from the other faction. Carl Hahn, Sigma Nu, ought to have that hands down. And the treasurer's job—well, the Big Six will get a man in there.

To finish out the likely candidates, we have the Alpha Sigs furnishing Don Carlson and Lowell Davis; Farm House, Don Faeka; Phi Psi's, Robert Young; Phi Deltas, Alfred Wahl and another man who has done as much, if not more, than any other student on this campus, but who seems to be doomed.

Of course, it might so happen that one who hasn't a fraternity brother in the Innocents society at present can get in, but it looks pretty dark. Bob Kelly, Pi Kappa Alpha, would be the only possible fellow to break through the crust.

And who are to be the barb members? Surely, Percival, you are beside yourself. You might know barbs don't amount to anything on the Nebraska campus. Every time they've tried to get ahead, the fraternities, with substantial backing, have squelched them. About the best reason the fraternities have to offer for this is that they're afraid the barbs, with their independent spirit, might throw a monkey wrench into the well oiled and sweet running machinery, which is so eternally founded on this campus.

Therefore, why nourish the idea that barbs will ever make the Innocents society? If such a thing were humanly possible, however, there is one man who should be honored as the honor goes: Alan Williams. This junior has done more for the barbs than any other nonfraternity student in quite a few years. He has

shown unusual ability to lead and direct and if he were given a chance to do something, the old guard would certainly have to be on their guard.

Possibly this space has been wasted. It could have been used for something more in line with the "best interests of the university," no doubt, but after we got started, there wasn't any stopping.

However, this much can be said in the interests of the University of Nebraska: The editorial columns of The Daily Nebraska will say nothing more against the Innocents society.

The Highway of Life.

In the university millrush, most students have as their immediate goal to graduate and enter the bread-and-butter field. They dream of fat pay envelopes, of a home that is theirs, of a life free from all parental inhibitions which they come to regard as bothersome and annoying to their independent line of action. The old folks, they muse, mean all right but they don't see life from the youthful and adventurous point of view.

After the four year dash through college, life's highway which has not yet been graveled with comfort or paved with cash to make it easy going, is the route all will take. In the preliminary unimproved stretch many stick in the mire, never to be dislodged. Others hit a rough and bumpy rut which they cannot surmount. Others, with better driving experience, adaptable to strange conditions and with their vehicles charged with ambition, hit the gravel and later the pavement.

But while the end and goal of each may be different, all are traveling in the same model of car, whether it be a hard-shelled sedan or an open roadster filled with sunshine. Barring accident, these vehicles are going into the antediluvian period about the same time.

When that time comes, when tires that have spun through years of progress blow out, when the battery of ambition runs down, when the gasoline which has carried physical necessities becomes hopelessly clogged, then the driver finds himself facing old age. And whether he be on easy street or sopped in the muck of obstacles from which he could not extricate himself, the question arises, what is he going to do?

Some people fear old age. They see themselves as potential burdens, as erabbed old fogies, as lonely mortals with few friends. They would be the first to disparage any attention to a thing so remote from the present hustle and bustle of the lives they are living today. In the first place, such ideas about old age are wrong, and the young man or woman who hopes for an early demise will miss much of the fruits that a rich life will bring.

To be sure, if one is going to count on living until he is seventy or eighty he must prepare for it. When days of hard work are over he must have something to which he may turn. Few college students realize that in their undergraduate days they have this opportunity. Consequently most of them muff it completely.

Expecting to be business men or teachers they take philosophy because it is required, skimming through the ideas of leaders of the ages, pushing pell-mell through their college life. They see no use in taking history, little sense in browsing over English literature, and regard it foolish to devote their attention to other purely theoretical subjects.

They are little better than hedonists. Their hopes and efforts may be extended over a few years, but it does not encompass their

entire lives. They neglect to educate themselves for an idle period which is almost sure to follow a life of strenuous activity which they contemplate entering. Called to their attention now, they seiff at its possibilities. They would rather live and laugh today and spend their declining years in the narrow confines of shallow memories.

How much better for them and for the world at large if they would seek to enrich their minds with a desire for the best, for the deeper things of life. How much more enjoyment they will find at the end of the trail if they widen their horizon to include that final period when recollection will bring them noble thoughts and find their minds yet fertile to cogitate fully and freely over rich fields introduced a half century before they were in college.

Echoes of the Campus.

To Be or Not to Be?

To the Editor of The Nebraska: That is the question, however, descending to the level of the campus. It is: Should or should not an editor serve two semesters? This perhaps, tells only one side, but it is in itself a principle well worth considering—FAIR PLAY.

To begin, in political science circles there is advocated longer terms for our governors and representatives, in order that they may have time to carry out a policy; a fair chance. To counteract despotism we can use the recall. An editor likewise has a policy, and it too requires time to come into being. The charge, however, is we have here no power of recall, true, but the publication board assumes the place of such a power. So on this score it seems there can be no real question or objection to an editor serving two semesters. The claim advanced that this honor or opportunity should be available to as many students as possible, seems to be inconsistent with the reason offered for the being of the paper. It is not, we are told, run by the school of journalism, rather for the students. This being the case when the students are served in an impartial, nonpartisan way, let it continue.

Coming to the point, this semester has been conspicuous by its lack of those special little mistakes, so common last year, all of which were directed against the barb group. Of course mistakes happen but the strange coincidence is that they always favored one group and also at opportune times (for the opposition.) The editorial policy also received a great change, being now no longer the mouth-piece of a particular party or individual. It might be called scornful but at least equally so to all sides. Bringing to the surface as it has many glaring faults (most annoying to some organizations, we agree) the cleaning up of which will tend to a better school and campus. It is indeed a relief to see an impartial editor in charge working for the school, and not his party who, regardless of group affiliations, goes forward for the good of the school. We realize the old saying the truth hurts, but having tasted fair play in such matters, after such a long time, we are inclined to be radical and say why limit it to one semester? Allow him four if necessary.

Congratulations, Cliff Sandahl, on the most impartial paper appearing on the campus for years! ALAN G. WILLIAMS.

Between the Lines.

By LABELLE GILMAN.

Anthology of Campus Poetry; Dedicated to the Arts, Sciences, Venues, Professors, Alumni, Students, Republicans and pre-laws.

THE DRILL field was covered with ice And the undergrads crossed it like laces, Said the coed: "I'll freeze Up my beautiful knees—I wish that the ice were more heiss."

A prof in a chemistry class, Gave a quiz to the ignorant mass, Said he with a leer— As he wiped off a sneer— "Ha! I've got 'em! They shall not pass!" —Baron Land.

A STUDENT who came from Wahoo Said, "I'm finished! There's nothing to do. I've just kissed a wench On a stone campus bench. And I'm done for. There's nothing left now."

A coed was all in a flutter, Of a sudden she started to mutter, "I sure must reduce. But then, what's the use, I do like my bread with my butter." —H. Bennello.

THERE once was a wary prof, Who captured a youthful trans, Said he with a grin, "Son, have you been in sin?" But the youth said, "You're not my conf."

A coed who came up from Fin, Said, "There really is nothing more here. Than date on a cold Winter night and be bold; I think I would try to be tra." Coward Ripling.

THERE was a young student named Brewer, Saw a coed and thought that he knew her. He lifted his hat And she gave him a bat And he lit on his ear in the sewer.

A professor went out on a spree, Sez he: "Young folks have nothing on me!" He took two drinks of pop And he went to a hop And they found him asleep in a tree.

An engineer thought he would chance it By taking a squint through a transit, The wind blew the door Of the gym open more, And he moved up the glass to enhance it. —Duke D'Umbre.

A student had sweat on his brow The exam was a-gly a wow, He started to bleat, He'd get by on his drag, He's up on the dean's carpet now. —H. Bennello.

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DEMOLAY CHAPTER INSTALLS OFFICERS

Bridges, Groth, Dobson, All University Men, Take Highest Posts.

Three University of Nebraska students, Burton Bridges, Wendell Groth, and Robert Dobson, were installed as the chief officers of the Lincoln chapter of DeMolay at a public ceremony held in the Scottish Rite temple Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

Bridges was installed master counselor; Groth, senior counselor; and Dobson, junior counselor. George Gant was installed scribe and treasurer. Robert Venner is the retiring master counselor.

Appointments Listed. The following appointive officers were also installed: Harley Urbach, chaplain; Donald Almqvist, senior deacon; Fred Eliche, junior deacon; Richard Furgason, senior steward; John Hall, junior steward; Donald Sarbach, marshal; Mervin Worrel, standard bearer; Meredith Nelson, orator; Milton Owens, sentinel; and Woodrow Magee, almoner. All these men are university students with the exception of the last two.

The newly installed preceptors of the order are Arbor Thorne, Hugh Schmidt, John Bliss, Edward Nelson, Clair Bishop, Alfred Adams, and Robert Tebs. DeMolay will hold an initiation in February. The new officers will make a trip to Omaha in the future to confer the DeMolay degree. A party and the presentation of the majority degree are also planned.

"QUEEN'S HUSBAND" ENDS RUN TONIGHT (Continued From Page 1.) his love making ability. W. Zolney Lerner adds another success to his record by his splendid portrayal of the role of the pompous, military-minded prime minister, Lord Northrup. An unusually well selected supporting cast does much to increase

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the total excellence of the play. It consists of: Edwin Quinn as Phipps; Richard Page as Lord Birken; Paul Thompson as Peley; Art Siggley as Major Blent; Arthur Gifford as a soldier; Harlan G. Easton as Dr. Fellman; Jare Mickle as Prince William; Al Tiffany as Laker; and Eleanor Foley and Gertrude Sullivan as ladies in waiting.

Large crowds have braved freezing weather to witness the play, which has proved to be quite a hit over the entire country. An abundance of laughter and applause have proved that Mr. Sherwood's comedy-satire was also appreciated in Lincoln. The curtain rises at 7:30 p. m. for the evening performances. Single admission tickets may be obtained at Ross P. Curtrice for seventy-five cents.

Visitor Is Studying At Historical Museum

Sister M. Aquinata, O. P. of the St. Anthony school, Cedar Rapids, Neb. is studying and collecting material for her master's thesis at the University of Nebraska. She is interested in the settlement of Irish Catholics in Holt county, since 1884. This material is in the files of Nebraska Historical society's headquarters in the library.

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