

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

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MINOR OFFICES AGAIN

WITH the elections embroiled in politics, minor class officers were chosen by freshmen, sophomores and seniors Tuesday afternoon. There is nothing irreparable about politics played on the level, but there was a demonstration of an unwholesome spirit in the conduct of the elections yesterday.

Copying a maneuver used a year ago by the opposing fraternity political faction, bosses of balloting in these three classes, announced the meetings the day of the election. The paragraph mention of the meetings was unfortunately pigeon-holed into an insignificant corner of The Nebraskan Tuesday morning. This was the sole notice to the student body of the elections.

The faction which swept the field is not to be blamed. Its opponents would have delighted at the chance to pull a similar coup d'etat, if such terminology could be applied to this affair. The elections merely typify the intense factional spirit that exists above any idea of class loyalty or class organization for the purpose of uniting all classmates.

The Student Council rightfully recognized the unfair tactics shown in such a pretty matter and is considering ways of voiding the election. Any attempt to throw it out on grounds of insufficient notice, however, will lend some weight to the present insignificance now apparent in elections of minor class officers.

But if the council wants these offices abolished, it should attach no importance to the elections, which are meaningless and carry no honor.

GLANCE at the elections Tuesday shows the futility of building up a class spirit in as large a university as Nebraska. Members of one political faction were urged to attend this trio of elections with the sole idea of sweeping the slate. Politics reigned supreme.

It is disheartening but interesting to note that within the last fortnight lengthy dissertations on university consciousness, the need of class organization and unified action among the classes, have been rendered by representatives of all political factions. They spoke ideologically of sacred sentiments that should be closely allied with this institution.

It is regrettable that factional spirit is that manifest Tuesday should frustrate an opportunity for constructive service. The idea of various classes leaving memorials to their alma mater on graduation, recently offered, is a noble one. Would that there were some practical means of carrying it out. There are other worthwhile movements besides this that classes could back effectively if completely organized.

To achieve this, however, means a complete subordination of factions to class spirit and class loyalty. Until that comes about, beautiful sentiments about university consciousness will be hypocritical palaver of politicians and sincere beliefs only of those who can see beyond the edge of factionalism and meaningless politics.

THE STUDENT INQUISITION

THAT is a sizzler that is popped at the editor in "An Editorial Rebuke" by "Questioner" in the Student Pulse column today. Since the very liberal criticism that has been voiced by the ardent inquisitor in the adjoining column has also been mentioned by several indignant pedagogs, it would be well to clear up any misapprehension regarding the attitude of this paper.

Clearly stated in Sunday's Nebraskan was the remark that if students have sincere and reasonable questions, they should feel free to raise them in the classroom. It is against students whose questions are not justified that The Nebraskan's sentiments are directed.

"Questioner" finds it so easy to misconstrue the position taken by The Nebraskan. He implies that in the Sunday editorial, entitled "Student Hecklers," this paper advocated that every student sit tight and never utter a peep in any classrooms.

There is a certain category of students, though the dividing line cannot be too closely drawn, which disagrees with professors just to be disagreeing with them, which asks questions either to display their knowledge of the subject matter or to cover up points they have not learned, and which waste class time haggling over relatively unimportant bits of information.

These individuals who make lecture periods dialogues and who monopolize quiz sections, imagine themselves the new spirit of radiant youth. Torch in hand, eyes on the summit of a lofty goal, these interrogators and probes of the new truth, will forge upward and on. Now this idea has a lot of good points in it and should be encouraged in a rational way. But it must be tempered with judgment and unselfishness in an institution as large as the University of Nebraska.

When ten or twelve are in a classroom, or when the class is meeting in quiz section, let the questions, their brains overloaded with pregnant ideas and their tongues rattling every time a new point occurs to them, prattle among themselves and with their professor. But in larger classes, especially lecture courses, these intellectual inquisitors must defer their interrogation until class is over so that some of the general factual information will reach the majority of the students enrolled in the course.

Most students ask reasonable questions. Such are to be recommended. Often they will clear up a puzzling matter for others as well as themselves. But much of the hypocritical intellectual "curiosity" which should be emphasized in the university, however, might well be applied to textbooks instead of to the professors in the classroom.

The Student Pulse

Signed contributions pertinent to matters of student life and the university are welcomed by this department. Opinions submitted should be brief and concise.

AN EDITORIAL REBUKE

To the editor: In the Sunday issue, following an editorial on the bumps among the Twelfth street cinders, another literary gem appeared that must have been written following a trip down the aforementioned street at high speed. Your mental wanderings on the subject of students who ask questions in class weren't even funny.

In order to arrive at your conclusion that students have no right to question their instructors, you must have been aware that you were implying an infallible quality in the university instruction. With all due respect to Nebraska's faculty, I sincerely doubt that all of their lectures are so clear that only a simpleton needs further enlightenment.

Then, much of the work comes out of texts. You will do your readers a great favor if you will give them the key to perfect understanding of all the contents of their books. Were your premise on both of these matters correct, it is obvious that there would be no reason why everyone shouldn't rank up in the 90's. As things are, we are all lucky to get somewhere in the 80's after the grades have been scaled from 5 to 10 percent.

I will admit that there may be students who seek an opportunity to make themselves stand out. But does the existence of this minority give cause to indict the many men and women who have sufficient interest in their work to want to have it clear in their minds?

I ask you to say with frankness whether it is your honest opinion that there is even one lone student who hasn't at one time or another felt the honest necessity of asking a question? Or what is more important for the type of intellect that the university stands for, do you think that a student can go through the school without honestly doubting or differing on some subject sometime? If students do have honest doubts, the greatest contribution to society they can make is to air them.

Take the professor. I set out at the beginning that I did not wish to criticize the merit of our faculty. If the professor... is of the quality that we hope our instructors are, he will have a knowledge so comprehensive that it is highly impossible to present elementary details in such fashion that they will be clear to the students as they are to him. If this is true, isn't the time taken answering questions well spent?

I challenge you to take a referendum among the professors. Find out whether it is not often helpful to them to have the class tell them what they do not understand... I believe that you will find that they generally agree with me. If they do not, I submit, do they possess the breadth and fairness to serve on the faculty? QUESTIONER.

WHEN HUMOR ISN'T FUNNY

To the editor: A letter to The Daily Nebraskan yesterday asserted categorically, "Nebraska wants its Awgwan back." We don't know by what license this L. C. D. speaks for the student body of this large university of ours, nor by what process of observation he determined that Nebraska does, in fact, want her Awgwan back. But it doesn't really matter. He can judge as he wants to.

His argument is two-fold. First of all, he says, "This offspring of collegiate wit and humor (sic) is as much a part of our great institution as anything that we might now mention as being representative." The first half of this sentence defeats itself, and the second is manifestly an exaggeration. The trouble with the Awgwan has been just this, that it has never ceased being an offspring. It never did grow up. Its humor was rarely adult.

That it is an intrinsic part of our institution, an indispensable student enterprise, is a notion which really shouldn't be taken very seriously. To take the last issue of the Awgwan as a case in point, I would say that if that smut is representative of Nebraska's institutions and ideals, then woe to the institutions and ideals!

The second part of this argument was that Nebraska needs the Awgwan because the journalism department teaches both newspaper and magazine, and so the journalists and neo-journalists need something wherein they can get practical experience. This contention confuses the needs of the university with the supposed needs of one of its departments. A common logical difficulty, this is. I suppose that since we have a military department, we ought to start war to give the cadets some practical experience in the arts of battle.

I believe that the experience of this university has been that there is not enough real talent, willing to work, to put out a humorous magazine which contains genuine humor. Smut and cheap "art" and fraternal pleasantries and borrowed trash won't make a humor magazine humorous. D. F.

WHY BRING THAT UP

To the editor: We would suggest that the advocates of a revival of the Awgwan let well enough alone. Within the limits of our memory the Awgwan has failed twice and has been abolished. It is not a sure thing that history will repeat again, but the factors leading to the demise of the humor magazine have in no wise been altered.

One writer says we have a need for a magazine on the campus. This argument is answered in three ways. First, we have a number of literary publications, such as Prairie Schooner. The contributors are not limited, and the standards are high, both literarily and morally. Then, the Awgwan at the best could serve as a magazine laboratory for only a few students, perhaps one-half of one percent.

There are various courses offered in the English department calculated to accommodate those students who feel called upon to write articles of the magazine type. Finally, if the student merely wants to read a magazine, he can go to any of the downtown bookstores and purchase a publication that is really good instead of reading what has never been more than a mediocre humor magazine.

The advocates of the revival of smut and obscenity suggest further that various courses in literature and drama offer much more immoral reading in one week than did the Awgwan in an entire semester. This is probably true if a student looks at such courses from that point of view. Such is surely not the intention of the faculty, however.

In the case of the Awgwan we are very much inclined to believe, from perusing several copies and observing other students in the throes of joy whilst doing so, that fifth has typified the magazine for the sake of rife, and not for the sake of humor.

A STUDENT LOOKS AT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BY DAVE FELLMAN.

The special session of the legislature met to consider the governor's banking proposals, passed them with meteoric swiftness, and adjourned. The little legislative flurry, which came to an end last Saturday, lasted for eleven days. Out of the welter of oratory and debate there emerged a bill which the chief executive of our state wanted enacted into law. The bill dealt with the difficult banking situation which exists in the state, in connection with the old defunct state bank guaranty law.

The new bill is a compromise measure. A small out vociferous minority was in favor of an out-and-out repeal of the old law, with nothing left in its place. They wanted to wipe the slate clean, so far as the responsibility of the state government to the depositors is concerned. With the whole present mess swept overboard, they would leave each individual depositor fight out his claims with his own bank, and salvage what he could from the wreckage.

Another small minority went to the other extreme, and favored a retention of the present guaranty fund law. Their contention was that the state has a strong moral obligation to fulfill its promises to the people of the state, and that the present law may be strengthened by better administration. Of course, the difficulties with the courts obviated this point of view. The prevailing opinion was that the present system should be changed, but not altogether abolished. To steer a midway course between the Scylla of an enraged public opinion, and the Charybdis of a disgusted banking fraternity, the legislature enacted the governor's proposal into law.

To say that the London naval conference is making progress, or to assert that it is not, is to speculate on thin air. The statements emanating from the statesmen of the five great world powers who are attending the conference are splendid examples of the art of saying nothing. Their words are innocuous, almost entirely devoid of meaning. All they tell us is that they are still trying to reach some agreement. Just how close they are to an agreement, and just what the nature of the agreement, no one knows. This process is illustrative of the general rule that the people as a whole have no share in the process of negotiating international agreements, as they are best made in secret. Public opinion must wait patiently until the final plan is completed. In the meantime, it is very curious.

France seems to be holding up the works right at this time. Tardieu and Briand are obstreperous on two important points: First of all, they refuse to accede to the principle of parity with Italy, or with any other arrangement which will threaten their superiority in the Mediterranean. Secondly, they refuse to limit in any category unless they are given security. France seems to be adamant on the proposition that she will not reduce any of her war armaments unless she is assured, by treaty arrangements, that she is running no risk. So she blusters and flourishes huge paper fleets, for which she hasn't the money, in the faces of the exasperated and tiring delegates.

The security which France demands, it seems, may take one of two courses. One form of pact would bind all the signatories to go to war against any aggressor nation who violates the general treaty arrangements. This would be clearly repugnant to American policy, and American public opinion. We have refused to enter the League of Nations, which aims to attain this state of organization, and so far we have remained aloof from the comparatively harmless World Court. Our senatorial stand points represent a powerful section of American opinion which demands that we remain aloof, as far as possible, from European political entanglements. But aside from this objection, such a pact would be obviously unsatisfactory because it contains within itself a fundamental weakness. Who is to determine when a nation is the aggressor? By what rules? By what methods? Any international treaty of pacification which seeks to invoke punitive sanctions veers resistably to the establishment of such an organization as the present League of Nations. Why make a new one?

The other possible form, wherein France may get her security, is a pact wherein the powers agree that in no case will they go to war, where a violation of the treaty is involved, without first meeting in international conference. This suggestion would not encounter an overwhelming opposition in the United States, it seems to have some promise of satisfying the French claims. Whether it will do any good is another question. In the heat of nationalistic rivalry, in the absence of established machinery,

ery, such promises are easily forgotten.

The French point of view is difficult to understand. If all nations agree to reduce their war fleets, according to a certain ratio, she will be just as secure then as now. Granting that a security pact is essential to the maintenance of her integrity, then what is the secret of her anxiety so far? Two rival countries, each having a hundred thousand troops, would be just as secure, in relation to each other, if each would cut its force in two.

The prohibition hearings before the Graham committee are still filling the newspapers of the country with columns of statements, assertions, charges and counter-charges, threats, pleas, demands, and what not. Mrs. So-and-So of the Boston Bostonese says that since 1918, college students don't drink any more. Mr. This-and-That of the Society for the Abolition of Bootlegging says that just as much as being drunk, the difference being that the stuff they're drinking now is rotten. This noted manufacturer asserts that prohibition is a fine thing and another manufacturer of equal note says it's terrible. Who are you going to believe? The situation is further complicated by the fact that almost every person in the country has his own definite opinion. Prohibition is ten times as popular, as an issue of public debate, as the tariff.

MILESTONES AT NEBRASKA

March 19, 1925.

H. P. Van Dusen, internationally known Y. M. C. A. worker, spoke at the World Forum.

The editor exhorted the students to attend intercollegiate debates more loyally.

A twelve hour test was given to all engineering upperclassmen.

1920.

The University Players presented "The Witching Hour."

Sixteen fraternities entered the bowling tournament.

Prof. C. Beutel of Wesleyan gave a piano recital at convocation.

1915.

The museum received an unusual granite mortar, formerly used by the Indians.

S. Riese of the Westinghouse Electric company spoke to the Engineering society.

The editor invited all students to contribute to the Forum, the student opinion column.

1910.

Eleven events were on the program at the sixth annual gymnastic exhibition, given at the Armory.

A few law students attempted a sneak, but were arrested by the Havelock police.

Due to campus rumors of foul play, the athletic board published all the facts regarding the track coach election.

1905.

Slonecker Opens Law Offices in California

Lester R. Slonecker, graduate of the University of Nebraska Law school in 1902 has announced the opening of offices for general practice of law at Long Beach, Calif. He is located in the Farmers and Merchants Bank building. Mr. Slonecker was formerly in Omaha before going to California.

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Werkmeister Will Edit Paper During Summer

Dr. W. H. Werkmeister of the department of philosophy, will do editorial work on an Omaha German language daily newspaper during this coming summer. Dr. Werkmeister is an associate editor of the paper at the present time and has been engaged to direct the editorial policies of the paper during a

southern of the regular editor in Europe.

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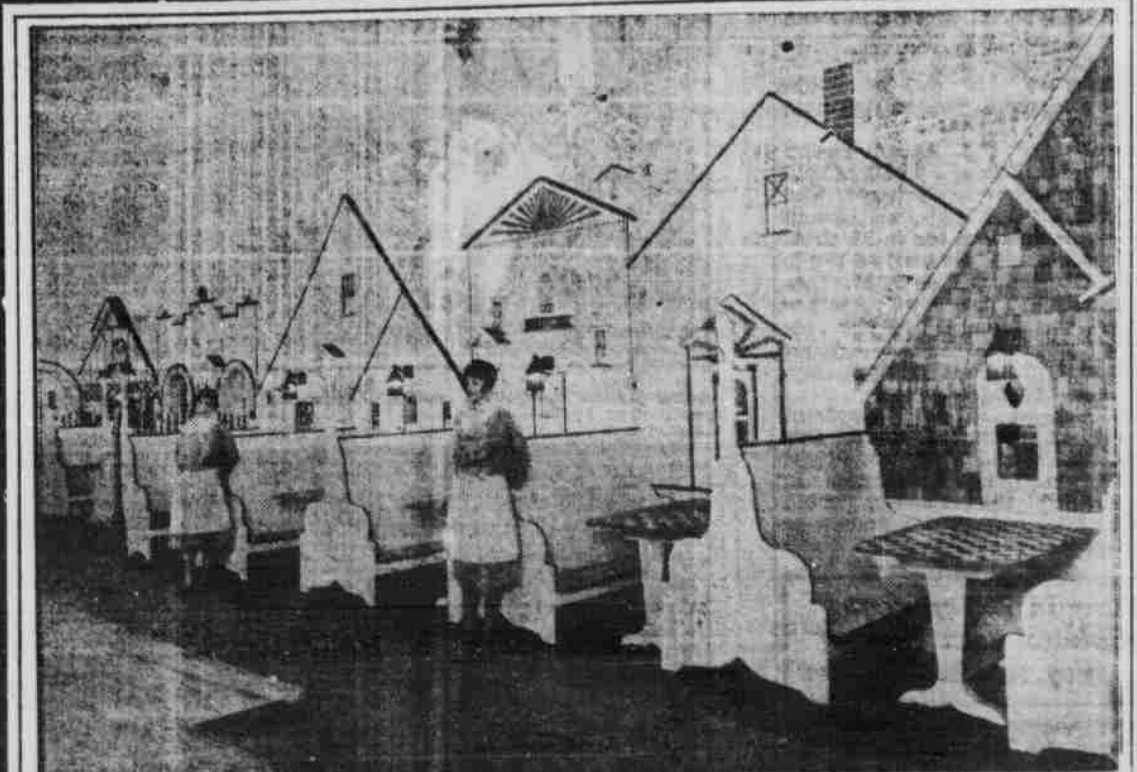
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