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Without A Quorum.

NO more striking example of student lethargy could be found than the lack of interest that found the Student council without a quorum present at the time of its Wednesday evening meeting. The men and women elected by the student body last spring were chosen for the purpose of directing the affairs of campus activities. But was the council representing the student body Wednesday night? It was not; there were not enough members present for the council to represent anything. There would be some excuse for lack of interest in the council, perhaps, if it were a body without power or without work to do. Members might very well be excused for not taking proper interest in the council if it was aimless or without value. But the council is not aimless. It has power, if the members will but stir themselves from their intellectual coma, and there is work for the council to do. Broad purposes are set forth in its constitution. For the enlightenment of the deadhead members we quote: "The purposes of this organization shall be

to act as the supreme student governing body in the regulation and co-ordination of all phases of student self-government and extra-curricular activities and to serve as an agency through which faculty relationships with student activities may be maintained." The council's constitution is set forth in detail in the university catalog, and if the members of the body will read it they will discover that under its provisions the powers they may exercise are of a broad and general nature. But the council can do nothing if its individual members do not take sufficient interest in their duties to attend meetings and take an active part in the body's work.

Already this year there have been enough possible projects to make council membership a position of responsibility. The questions that have been raised, however, will remain in the realm of mere possibilities as long as the legislators continue to manifest their disinterest in everything but their own comfort. A short time ago, for example, a proposal to establish a permanent university booking agency was broached. Nothing has been accomplished. At the beginning of the year the institution of what was to have been a "clean-up" policy called for a comprehensive examination of the constitutions of campus organizations. The survey got as far as the Corn Cobs, who were reorganized, but no further.

Attempts to institute a series of "varsity parties" were made. No definite council action has ever been taken. So it goes. There is work for the student legislature to do, but as long as the present situation persists, everything falls on the heads of perhaps half a dozen representatives. Other council members, when they come to meetings, do nothing more vital than sit in passive stupidity. Only one conclusion can be drawn from the facts as they have revealed themselves throughout the semester; council members, chosen in the present way do not fulfill their obligations to the student body in any satisfactory manner. Absence from meetings that fall at 5 o'clock indicates that the alleged legislators represent only their own animal desires for food. The situation is disgraceful.

To Clarify Any Doubts.

LEVELLING a barrage of statements against the activity tax plan, "Timothy," whose letter appeared in yesterday's Nebraskan, labels the project

a "farce." Criticizing the student council for not "leaving well enough alone" he continues his objection to the plan by assuring us that he, for one, is against the plan which he characterizes as "a scheme to force student support of publications and athletic tickets."

We admit that "Timothy's" criticisms of the tax plan are timely. We assume, also, that the attack he makes upon the project is typical of a small percentage of the student body. We believe, nevertheless, that the present council has acted wisely in furthering its efforts to revive interest in the project.

Outlining its procedure in a more comprehensive manner than the method used last year, the student council has set about to insure a representative and accurate picture of student opinion on the question. Setting up a special committee composed of student organization heads, the council has collaborated with this group since the middle of the semester. As a result of their efforts, the tentative tax plan, which in itself required an infinite amount of work to complete, has been drafted.

During the payment of fees for the second semester, students will be given an opportunity to vote upon the tentative plan. Using the results of this poll as an indication of student sentiment, the remainder of the semester will be spent by council members drafting a blanket tax to be presented to the board of regents. That group will decide the fate of the project. This, in brief, is the proposed line of action which the council has outlined for its major project of the year.

SOME justification, perhaps, may be found to uphold Timothy's objection to the compulsory feature of the tax plan. He indicates that compulsion attached to the plan may work hardship upon no small percentage of the student population. It must be admitted, therefore, that Timothy's point is well taken. But exemptions to students whose budgets could not stand the additional strain created by such a tax, have been considered at length by council members. Realizing, at the outset, that the activity tax would be little more than useless if put upon a voluntary basis, the council has spent much time in perfecting a workable scheme, thru which students actually in dire straits would be granted exemption from paying the tax.

Items included in the present plan, Timothy charges, have not enough value to justify the claim that they are of all student interest. It must be realized, however, that a necessary discrimination between activities must be made if the plan was to

be at all feasible. Confronted with a maze of student activities and enterprises, sponsors, of necessity, have made an arbitrary discrimination, based primarily upon two arguments: First, that those activities which were most representative of the student body be included in the plan; and second, those activities which have the greatest possibility of campus-wide participation. It must be admitted, however, that whatever standard is used will be open to criticism. The ballot to be used in voting, however, has space for students to write in whatever activities they feel should deserve campus wide support.

Timothy very bluntly—albeit foolishly, admits that he doesn't care, regardless of the outcome. Unfortunately the utter complacency which finds its voice in Timothy's letter, only too truly characterizes the attitude of many Nebraska students. Such a complacent run of mind is, in a measure, the cause that lies behind the exceeding dullness of the campus extra-curricular life.

While it must be admitted that the tax plan will guarantee publications financial support, it cannot be said that such a design was prompted by selfish motives. It has as its purpose, on the other hand, a financial guarantee upon which publications and other student enterprises may lay definite plans, thus insuring a consistent and better quality of service to the students.

The tax plan goes further than that, however, by making far more probable a unified spirit on the campus, since all instead of just part of the students will be taking part in various student enterprises.

BRIEFLY, arguments in favor of the proposed activity tax plan, may be summed up as follows: Under the plan, every student pays the tax, thus making the cost of the various enterprises to each individual greatly reduced.

All enterprises and publications which are a part of the activity tax plan, are guaranteed a certain financial support and can lay their plans definitely to insure a uniform quality of their services to the students.

The tax plan provides a means for financing such contemplated campus improvements as a student union building, which is, it appears, clearly the best way of financing the projects.

The tax plan eliminates the necessity for so many subscription sales and campaigns. The tax takes care of these items in semesterly payments.

For those who are unable to pay, exemption will be made.

Editorial Staff to Have Photos Taken Thursday

Workers on the editorial side of the Daily Nebraskan will meet at 4:30 Thursday afternoon at the studio to have a group picture taken. All reporters and staff members are urged to be present.

The Student Pulse

Brief, concise contributions pertinent to matters of student life and the university are welcomed by this department, under the usual restrictions of sound newspaper practice, which excludes all libelous matter and personal attacks. Letters must be signed, but names will be withheld from publication if so desired.

Rebuke for Tax Opposition TO THE EDITOR:

Will someone please tell me—was "Timothy" trying to be sarcastic or funny? In any case thought was not a part of his decision. Neither the student control nor anyone else is trying to force an activity tax upon students. Exemptions are a part of the plan.

As to the merits of the tax, there are many, I suspect that "Timothy" has a queer and peculiar sense of value after reading his appraisal of campus publications. I suspect, further, that he has little regard for any publications. In truth his attitude is comparable with that of a man who commented on my decision to enter journalism by saying, "We need blacksmiths but we do not need newspapers." Of course, he was a blacksmith.

The value of campus publications exceeds by far the few dollars of cost. "Timothy" forgets that the seniors who are working hard for a tax will never receive its direct benefits. "Timothy" evidently does nothing that is not directly beneficial to himself. Obviously he cannot profit from the tax with such an uncompromising and narrow attitude. He alone is the loser and he should be.

J. H. B.

+ Contemporary Comment +

The Liberal Youths.

For sheer poverty of thought and complete lack of intellectual courage no recent occurrence on an American campus is more strikingly representative than the refusal of the American Student Federation to approve a resolution condemning censorship of the college press. To the resolution offered by a delegate from Columbia university the reactionary representatives of 175 colleges and universities turned a cold shoulder and indifferently voted to table it. The shoddy thinking of the convention was accurately expressed in one delegate's dismissal of the resolution with the assertion that he for one "did not want his college's dirty linen hanging on the line for public gaze."

In coldly turning their smug backs on the proposal for a free and uncensored college press the National Student Federation is definitely committed to the continuance of worthless campus house organs which persistently close their eyes to the real issues of the present day American university, and, instead, confine their Pollyanna efforts to continuous glorification of the picaresque affairs of the campus. That such a condition of journalistic poverty exists among American universities and colleges is amply demonstrated by careful reading of the scores of dailies and weeklies which clutter up our desk every day.

It seems almost incredible that the moss-covered minds of the delegates who voted for a "kept" press were not in some small measure, at least, exhilarated by the wholesome atmosphere of the new, liberal spirit in the nation's capital. That they have refused to accept the challenge for a free press and free exchange of conflicting ideas is striking evidence that a great mass of American students trod far behind their elders in the march toward social and intellectual progress.—Wisconsin Cardinal.

Starting to Work Sooner.

Willie is a student in the school. Thru a period of years he has struggled for an education. During his high school days he worked after school, giving up the chance he had for athletic prominence so that he could help at home; where what little help he could give was needed. With graduation from high school, Willie thought of college... but only thought. Circumstances did permit his starting to school, with a job on the side, selling eggs. With the debacle of 1929 and the resultant drop in egg values, Willie found himself with all his eggs in one basket and they a dime a dozen.

So Willie sought other outlets for his energy, and his desire for an education. He found a job that kept him up until 1 o'clock in the morning and paid \$30 a month, on which he was able to continue in college. The next year, Willie advanced a bit. He got \$40 a month and twenty hours more work per week. When Willie arrived at the estate of senior in college he was worn out, but game. He landed a

Interviews With Ghosts

by Maurice Johnson

This is one of a series of imaginary dialogues concerning the ideal university life. The dialogues will appear at regular bi-weekly intervals.

CONFUCIUS
"I was a teacher who went among the people and talked," said Confucius. In his exotic robes this ghost inspired awe, and yet he was humble as he spoke. "Then you approve of the Socratic, rather than the mass method of university education?" I asked.

He nodded sagely. "Words of wisdom should not be flung into the winds. I personally answered my pupils' queries and discussed matters of life with them." "You found no difficulties in your method?" I asked. "No," he told me. "Only girls and servants are hard to train."

The State That Was.

The people of California do not deserve the ill fortune that the gods of weather and earthquake have showered upon them. But the ballyboo artists of those coastal regions had it coming, and we are pardoned a bit of midwestern gloating when we point to the several acts of an irate providence that have done much to nullify the more attractive features of the ho-boes' paradise.

Los Angeles has admitted that it had a slight quake last year, and its schoolmen have intimated that many of its school buildings are now unsafe. During the holidays a slight "clearing-up" shower burst the parched banks of the Los Angeles river and carried scores of cottages toward the sea. While coroners worked overtime, Gov. James Rolph lent his vocal aid to the relief workers. He declined to state that the flood was California's warning to kidnapers.

To cap California's tragedy, a well-fed Stanford team was thrown to a lean pack of Columbia lions in a wet Pasadena gold-fish bowl. Along with Columbia and possibly some few other unfeeling misanthropes, we contemplate with satisfaction the complete debunking of California—the state that was!

—Minnesota Daily.

Two Commercial Clubs Will Hold Joint Party

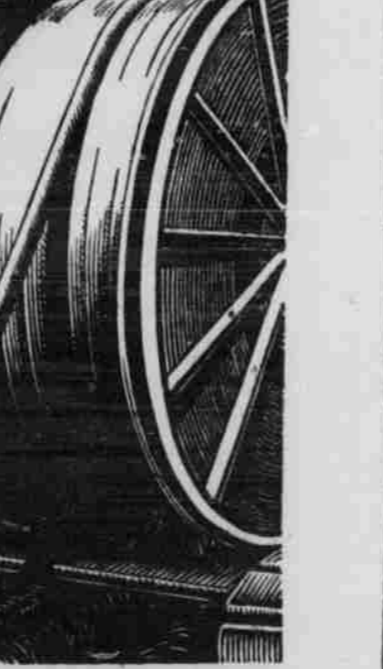
A joint party of the men's and women's commercial club will be given Saturday, Jan. 16 at the Lindell hotel. Music for the occasion will be furnished by Julius Ludlam and his band. The party is for members of the two clubs only.

and servants are hard to train." "In what should university students be instructed?" I asked. "The wise professor," said Confucius' ghost "will keep old knowledge alive in his students' minds and add new knowledge as well. He should subject their minds to poetry. Poetry would ripen them, teach them insight, fellow-feeling, and forbearance."

"What is the purpose of learning under a professor?" I asked. "Wisdom, rather than prowess," he told me. "Wisdom is to know mankind, just as love is to love mankind." "Would you advise meditation, Chinese-fashion?" I asked. "Study without thought," said Confucius, "is vain."

"But vice-versa," I began. He nodded. "Yes, it is also true that thought without study is a dangerous thing." "If you could choose an ideal pupil," I said, "what sort would he be?" "Such a scholar, to be taken into my heart," said Confucius, "should be in quest of truth. It would not matter whether he had wealth or nothing. A student who is ashamed of poor clothes and poor food it is idle talking to."

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BELL SYSTEM

WHY NOT TAKE A TRIP HOME BY TELEPHONE? - TONIGHT AT HALF-PAST EIGHT

you do not know, when you do not know!" One of the traditions at Purdue university in Lafayette, Indiana is that there is no smoking in any building on the campus. There are certain areas on the campus in which students are allowed to smoke, but there is a traditional aversion for even that much.

GOING TO CALIFORNIA?

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