

The Daily Nebraskan

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Are the Greeks Overdoing It?

It is probably safe to assume that the average freshman matriculating at the university enters with one primary purpose in mind—that of securing an education thru study. Earlier training at home and in high school has no doubt emphasized the need for continued scholarship and preparation in order that greater success might be attained in later life.

A good number of these incoming students pledge fraternities and sororities, many solely on the argument that a person can't be educated just thru the use of books alone. The Greeks attempt to convince the newcomer that development of personality, the ability to meet people and make social contacts, is also essential in one's college career. This part of one's education, it is related, can best be received thru associations and contacts that fraternity life affords.

True enough, the Greeks have a good, convincing argument. A good personality is a necessity in our society; knowledge gained from books and classes in most instances can be put to a practical purpose only thru an individual's own initiative, his ability to make friends and convince others of his capabilities and earnestness.

But, are the Greeks overdoing a good thing? Are they overemphasizing the social angle and subordinating the primary purpose in attending a university? Such criticism has been directed at them for many years, probably ever since their existence. It's an old story—that of the freshman who found college too much fun and shoved his books into the background. Too often college beginners are hurriedly started off on an activities career without regard for the student's ability to handle the extra-curricular assignments; too often the freshman is led to discover that dating and fraternity "bull sessions" are more fun than study.

Student Pulse

TO THE EDITOR:

As a Lincoln resident I have periodically attended the University Players for a number of years, even before I enrolled here. Of late, it has seemed that non-student players are assuming a growing importance in the production's casts. With the casting of the current "First Lady," the time appears ripe for a campaign to "Give the University Players Back to the Students," and I'm glad to see the Nebraskan initiating it.

In a cast of 25, all the really big roles have gone to either faculty members or graduates. Student actors have been relegated to parts of comparative unimportance. There have been many other similar instances in the past few years, and there is no reason to believe that there will not be as many more in the future.

Surely this is contrary to the real intent of the Players. As a group designed to give practical experience to students interested in the stage, it is a worthy part of the university and deserving of support. But this trend to crowd out student talent is something else again, and takes in more than just the Players. Last spring the Kosmet Klub saw fit to present a musical show written not by students but by a faculty member, and this despite the fact that the show had been given by them only a few years before and well within the memory of much of the audience.

Surely this condition has not been forced on the school. A university the size of Nebraska must be teaming with student talent. Perhaps some of it is yet to be unearthed, but present efforts will never do it. And if the trouble lies not in a dearth of talent, but in roles beyond student ability (which I doubt), then plays should be selected that do contain suitable roles.

If occasionally it seems a good idea to recall an interested graduate for a part in a play, no one could object, but it need not be a practice. Graduates have had their day in the Players, and it's only fair to give the undergraduates a chance at theirs. Obviously faculty members should restrict their time and energy to instructing their proteges actors, giving them the benefit of their greater experience. And when the play goes on view, they should retire to the background to watch that they may next day better tell the student actors of their faults.

All this is, of course, merely my own personal opinion, but I cannot but believe that many others share it; just as I believe that a proper change would be not only more in accord with the benefits policy of the university, but would result in even better entertainment for the ONLOOKER.

Add new ways of gate-crashing: Sophomores at Purdue rode down the Union dumbwaiter in order to gain admittance to the freshman mixer in the Union ballroom. And then were ejected!

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Perhaps most fraternities and sororities, the national organizations of each at least, are aware of this diverting tendency and have made attempts to remedy the situation. At present the Greeks strive to keep their freshmen on the path to scholarship thru the use of a three hour supervised study period in the evening. The shortcoming is that in too many instances the three hours is considered adequate for study and the time which otherwise might have profitably been spent with the books is directed toward social activities. The fraternities and sororities, too, are found guilty of stressing grades just for the sake of grades, in order that pledges can be eligible for initiation.

If the Greek houses took time out to reflect on the matter, chances are each would find itself guilty, to a small extent at least, of giving too much emphasis to activities other than scholarship. And if the fraternities do find themselves trespassing on time which belongs to the university, the question is: What is to be done about the matter? It is difficult to break old habits and would be no small task to induce students, especially upperclassmen, to sacrifice some of their social pleasures for additional study.

Creating a more scholarly atmosphere among fraternity and sorority members can't be accomplished over night. It's far from being an impossibility, however, and the change in the proper direction can be brought about. Solution for the difficulty is one for the Greeks themselves to discover. It is their problem, and will remain theirs unless matters should take a sudden change for the worse.

If fraternities and sororities are ever banned from the campus, it is probable that such action will have been brought about by the Greeks themselves, because too much time was spent on the personality and a good time.

For the present at least, the Greeks appear to be in no danger of removal from the Nebraska campus. They are still serving a definite purpose and have a place in the university. Like most individuals and organizations, however, they have their faults; and improvements and changes in the right direction are occasionally in order.

ELIAS ANNOUNCES KOSMET NUMBERS ON DAD'S PROGRAM

(Continued from Page 1.)

Numbers have been chosen for the luncheon will be notified definitely today, stated Elias. Tentative selection includes some part of the Alpha Chi Omega skit, "University of Nebraska, 1941." In the skit one finds a forecast of university courses as they will be when this year's fresh population dons the heavy role of senior classmen. Trucking courses, courses in dating makeup and on how to rate a pin are all in the Alpha Chi's proposed schedule for the coed of 1941.

One number, probably a trio number, from "The Queens of N. U.," Theta skit, a tap dancing number from the Delta Gamma skit, and a dance or impersonation from the Delta Delta Delta's "Rhythm U" were named as outstanding numbers which might be included in the Dad's day program.

Fraternity tryouts found the Pi Kappa Alpha-Zeta Beta Tau combination coming thru with a night club scene which won the plaudits of the judges, and an accordion number from the Beta Sigma Xi curtain act was rated highly.

"On the whole," Elias states, "the skits were better than last year's. Sorority numbers seemed a little further along in preparation than fraternity numbers."

Final selections for the show will be made Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week. Senior members of the Klub will compose the group which casts the final vote on skits to be used. Those included in the senior group

are Winfield Elias, Webb Mills, Bob Marz, Don Boehm, Bob Wadhams and Thurston Phelps. Announcement of the final selection will be made on Friday.

Schooner Recalls Famous Writers Found in Its Pages

(Continued from Page 1.)

doz, author of the famous "Old Jules." Helene Magaret, nationally known for her "The Trumpeting Crane," gave evidence of her ability with "Legs," published in the Schooner. Other authors already well known, such as John Neihardt, Louise Pound and Samuel Emmet Cowen, have contributed to the magazine.

The Schooner early secured recognition. After the second year, Edward J. O'Brien wrote from Switzerland, "The quality of its stories, articles, and poems is such that the Prairie Schooner ranks with the Midland, the Frontier and not more than one or two other American periodicals, as the most significant expression of American life which we possess. As an experienced reader of American short stories, I find it more vital as an interpretation of American life than the Atlantic Monthly, the Forum or Harper's magazine."

Articles Reprinted.

Outstanding articles in the Schooner have been reprinted in a volume of the O. Henry Memorial Awards, in E. J. O'Brien's Best Stories of 1934, Story magazine, Fiction Parade, Current Digest, Digest and Review, Modern Story Selection and Poets Digest. In 1928 O'Brien ranked the Schooner with Harper's magazine, Bookman and Dial in the 100 percent class on the basis of distinguished stories published, and in 1930 he again included the

Schooner in that ranking along with the Atlantic Monthly, Forum and This Quarter. The Schooner is a quarterly selling for \$1 a year and for 30 cents a copy. Out of town subscriptions are received from Alaska, Canada, Uruguay and China.

DANCE TO CLIMAX TRADITIONAL DAY DEVOTED TO DADS

(Continued from Page 1.)

world's largest southwestern ballroom in Bell Vista, Ark. Featured with the orchestra is Luwana Marshall, torch singer, formerly of Lincoln, who is reputed to be both good looking and a good soloist. "There is no reason why this shouldn't be the best dance of the

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year," said Worcester. "It is not necessary to have a date to come to the party, and all students should urge their parents and all visiting alumni to attend." The admission price is 75 cents a couple. Sponsors of the party are Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Spurr, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Schmidt and Professor and Mrs. D. A. Worcester.

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