

EDITORIAL

COMMENT

The Daily Nebraskan

FORTY-FIFTH YEAR

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Big Six Hoax . . .

There's life in the Student Council yet! We are glad to see that the Council has enough backbone, for the first time this year, to really stand up for what they believe is right and pass on an important controversial issue. We're speaking of the resolution on Negro participation in Big Six conference athletics.

The Nebraska Council went a step further than did the Kansas U council, originators of the resolution, when they added the proposal that UN withdraw from the Big Six if the recommendation is not adopted. Obviously the students felt that the only way in which they could force university and conference officials to give the matter serious consideration was by the addition of this drastic clause. It remains for them to encourage similar action from the student bodies of the other schools in the conference.

The stumbling blocks in the problem are Missouri and Oklahoma, where state laws keep Negroes out of state universities. Iowa and Kansas State will probably have no objects to withdrawal of the "gentlemen's agreement" which now keeps Negroes out of Big Six athletics. It is illogical that two schools should determine the policy for all six member schools.

The majority of both Eastern and Western universities allow Negroes to compete in school athletic programs. The six midwestern universities are showing themselves to be behind the times in tolerating such outdated rulings. They are also hurting themselves by discouraging college attendance of Negro athletes from their own and other states. Nebraska high schools frequently graduate Negro track, basketball and football stars who would be valuable members of college teams.

One of the most important arguments against the continuation of this "gentlemen's agreement" to mass racial discrimination is the intolerance of the attitude behind it. Why should any boy, because of the color of his skin, be told that he is not good enough to play football or basketball with his fellow classmates? What could be more undemocratic and less Christian? Doesn't the constitution of the United States say something about freedom and equality?

The adoption of a resolution withdrawing racial discrimination in the Big Six does not mean that Missouri and Oklahoma would have to change their state laws. It would merely mean that any schools so desiring could use Negro boys when playing any of the others of the six schools.

The Student Council has initiated its most worthwhile project of the year. It is a project which can be accomplished if the council will be persistent.

Low Tide . . .

Student interest and participation in campus elections is at an alarmingly low ebb. The purpose of these elections has been to afford students a voice in the administration of the university, but statistics indicate that the student wishes no medium of expression.

During the war-time years members of this university took an active part in promoting Bond sales, United Nations discussions, War Surveys and innumerable other pertinent democratic functions, and at the same time completely disregarded one of the strongest rights reserved for democratic thinking peoples, the right to vote.

Now that the actual fighting has ceased, it will be interesting to see whether the coming elections will find more students at the polls than before or during the war. In the prewar elections of 1939-40 less than 40 percent of the students enrolled visited the campus polls on election day. Only 2,033 of 5,896 enrollees cast ballots. Yet during this time there was a great deal of lamenting by the students concerning the administration of the school.

1941-42 brought our first war-time elections. A higher percentage of students visited the polls, but still 2,629 voters out of 5,235 enrolled represented barely fifty percent of the student body. Ensuing war years, however, saw active voting participation drop even more than enrollment. In 1943-44 only 829 students went to the polls of the 2,774 enrolled in the university. Exactly 29.885 percent.

Figures for this year's voting are unavailable, but with slightly more than 1,200 students registered of the 5,500 enrolled in the university this semester, the trend of student interest doesn't appear to be on an upgrade.

If students don't want the privilege of maintaining a Student Council, electing class officers, and choosing publication members, then they should make this fact known and allow the present plan to be abolished; but, on the other hand, if they want to continue to exercise this prerogative, then they must accept its coordinate responsibility of participating in any and all elections and seeing to it that thru the candidates of their own choosing they maintain the standards of student government.

D. N.

The Ash Can

By Marthella Holcomb

It was bound to happen. Everyone's been expecting it for weeks, almost since the beginning of school. Well, since people could get gasoline, and students brought their cars back to school. As we walked out of the Union Wednesday, turned to the west, and waited for the light to change, there it was, an accomplished, horrible fact—the curb was stained an awful, loathsome, bloody red. Darn this street department, next thing we know they'll sweep our apartment out of the gutter.

That 'now you see it, now you don't' routine had the Crib cashier and waiters worried the other noon, until some bright soul discovered the sign hadn't disappeared into thin air, but had slid behind the marble counter. Thin air space it was, too, so there the sign will remain until the dim future years, when members of the wrecking crew will no doubt discover that the Mary Morning breakfast was set for May 5, 1946.

That embarrassed expression on the faces of most students in class the other morning when the professor mentioned prayer was a sad commentary, indeed. One of the factors which distinguishes man from the beast is belief in a divine being, and one of the distinguishing characteristics of the adult is an ability to apply that faith to everyday life. Why, then, should college students assume an apologetic attitude when church attendance is mentioned, or sit like warts on a pumpkin when prayer is the subject under discussion.

Latest constructive suggestion reaching our cranial flaps is that the Daily Nebraskan should run a crossword puzzle, to occupy people's time while waiting for their order to be filled, or when their date is late, as usual. Would cut down on the number of paper airplanes flying around.

Fascinating, that's the only apt description for those tricky matches engraved "U. S. Navy" they've been handing out with cigarettes of late. Swabbies have made more than one innovation on our campus this year, but we wouldn't have gone so far as to say they "set it on fire." That is, until now. Then we get the word from the navy that LFD had it under control within a matter of minutes and Navy hall, bless its sainted memory of gayer days, is still resting not so firmly on its foundation. Be that as it may, we appreciate the comment made about the love-seat by one observant lad, "that class of 1906 had the right idea, all right, but I'll bet they never expected the light to be on in the library all night."

Best news to come out of the university this year is the way most of us are describing the

Letterip

Dear Editor:

Some good clean-cut entertainment has been taking place under the name of politics, and today was the climax to the comedy.

Last week students were asked to signify their party preference in a registration. The Student party had a platform stating only that it was for democratic government. I spent 41 months confined in a caste system to preserve the right of democratic government. That is written (or should be) in the constitution of every organization except those that are trying to overthrow our government, or even undermine it. A party must have a principal other than that to exist.

The second party, the Union Independent, says: "We are against factionalism." The only definition I can find is that a faction is "a party, organization or clique, within a state or party." The Union Independent party is nothing but a faction.

Now the climax of the comedy. A party called the University party says "The purpose of this party is to promote the interests of those dissatisfied with other political party systems. That is a good start, but that is all. It can be summed up with one word, ambiguous.

Listen, kids, can't we elect a king and queen every week instead of trying to use the poor innocent word politics to disguise a popularity contest.

Sincerely,

Johnny Koloposchecky.

announcement in today's news columns of the piped music in the ballroom. Most popular item in the Union program has long been their Sunday schedule of free movies followed by the Coffee Hour. This winter, however, its appeal has been challenged by the noon-hour dances, when students can take a few minutes out from erudition for terpsichory. Now they can have dances each noon, and tea dances almost as often, without working Union supervisors to mere shadows. Who knows, we may not have to give up that dream of dancing with Schneider, Stroud and Seldon in quick succession. There are still twenty-two dancing days till finals.

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