

Nebraskan Editorials Leaders Among Leaders

This weekend, one of the University's cherished traditions will once again be observed—**Ivy Day**.

Symbolically, Ivy Day represents those persons who have been outstanding during their college careers and might be regarded as an appraisal of the University's student accomplishments. Actual recognition, however, comes from the students themselves through Mortar Boards and Innocents, not directly from the University Administration. This recognition, those in the student ranks honoring others in the same ranks, has a kind of humbleness and humaneness which far surpasses that recognition which comes from above. Originating in the student ranks, this recognition can then be accepted by the Administration as indication that those honored students were chosen by their peers as representatives of the best which they have within their ranks. And from year to year, the best chooses the best, thus perpetuating the high standards and ideals which composed the criteria of the first group of "bests."

From this analysis of the dynamics of student recognition, an obvious conclusion may be drawn. Students who were chosen by fellow students are first, responsible to those who selected them and second, representatives of the student body as a whole. The validity of this conclusion depends on the depth of responsibility and the humbleness which an honored student feels toward the student body as a mere student himself.

These students have traditionally been called leaders because of their outstanding abilities in human relations, scholarship and unselfishness resulting in service. But too often the fact that these leaders are only among leaders is forgotten. Those who are leaders primarily because they hold an office in some campus organization are not actually leaders of the student body but only of that small percentage of the student body which are members of an organization. Those students who participate in campus activities are as much leaders as those who obtain offices because the responsibility which they must fulfill in an activity makes them leaders over those who are not in activities. This does not mean that the only leaders exist in activities or that students are leaders only if they participate in activities but it does mean that those students who do participate in activities are traditionally thought of as the campus leaders and are recognized as such. Leadership therefore takes on an ambiguity which is difficult to avoid. This is the reason for basing the selection of outstanding students on more than just activities.

Vote On Monday!

Wednesday afternoon the Student Council sat down for their last regular meeting preceding the election of officers and holdover members, passed on the routine matters coming before them and then adjourned to a much deserved, gay and seemingly successful picnic. In addition to the regular Council members and officers, faculty advisers, their husbands and wives, and members of the subcommittee on student activities attended the year end rendezvous.

But there was also one special guest worth mentioning. All year, The Nebraskan keeps close tab on the actions of the Council. Every move the Council makes, that is of any interest outside their own chambers, is diligently and usually systematically considered. As is all too well known, relations between the Council and The Nebraskan have often become somewhat less than cordial.

Yet, this was all forgotten when the Council went-a-picnicin' Wednesday evening. By almost unanimous acclamation, the dissenters being part of the loyal opposition, the Council voted to invite The Nebraskan reporter who has covered Council meetings this semester to the affair. The motion, as adopted, read to the effect that this paper's reporter was invited because of his "devoted coverage of Council meetings in the Nebraskan."

Just An Ideal

A southern university recently held an All-Campus Conference and reached the conclusion that students don't study enough, faculty members don't teach enough, and administrators administer too much.

A university expects of students, it was decided, the following things:

1. The acceptance by the student of the status of learner with a reasonable amount of that most difficult of virtues, humility;
2. A recognition that education concerns itself with a body of material and is more than a methodology;
3. A disciplined behavior appropriate to the dignity and purpose of the University and indicative of a true respect for it;
4. A willingness to respect in others and to cultivate in ourselves a love of learning;
5. A vigorous and defiant assertion of youth and enthusiasm and unreasoning idealism and hope.

On the other hand, the conference decided that the student wants the University

1. To present him with a reasoned and unreasonable programs of study, define it for him and consistently work to keep him informed of it and its objectives;
2. To maintain for him a rigorous, consistent and logical standard for the performance of his academic responsibilities;
3. To give him a faculty dedicated to the purposes of education and committed to the

ities. Scholarship is another criteria for selection. Leadership in this field does not connote a PBK standing but it does imply a comparative scholarship standard. Students excelling in the minds more than leaders of men. However, where one type of leadership begins and the other leaves off is uncertain. But scholarship is based entirely on the face value of grades—numbers which are actually opinions of instructors based on the degree of student conformity to the instructor's standards. The grading system has been constantly under fire for its supposed meaninglessness.

Service is ambiguous in that it relies on opinion for a definition. It can only be measured by general standards which embody an accepted opinion of the majority much the same as society's moral standards are determined. Therefore, leadership itself becomes obscured by the fact that it cannot be measured by concrete criteria. There is no form which one can fill out to determine if he is a leader. Leadership is merely, then, an opinion—a major opinion or a minority opinion, the former being more difficult to establish and the latter a common pitfall.

The University's leaders are not counted so easily as by an Ivy Day ceremony. Those students chosen for recognition this Saturday will be merely one small group of leaders selected from out the vast number of student leaders on the campus. It should not be forgotten that these are merely campus leaders as determined by a set of criteria in which activities participation plays a major part. The far greater majority of campus leaders are in those phases of campus life which have no connection to activities.

It is traditional that there are Mortar Boards and Innocents and that their selection depends on the criteria discussed above. This tradition is not bad but is a necessary half-evil. The unfortunate part of tradition is that those who deserve to be counted among the honored few who give to tradition its spiritual meaning, are sacrificed for the mechanical, expedient meaning of the word.

Those chosen as leaders among their fellow students must regard their honor with relative importance. There is not an honor clearly defined, theirs is not recognition based on perfection. But their selection is an honor based on relativity to the degrees of accomplishments of all students. They are leaders—among leaders. —J. H. B.

Well, The Nebraskan is not eligible for a Pulitzer prize, but this will certainly suffice.

There are more serious Student Council matters to be considered, however, over the coming weekend. This past year the Council has been active, it has been aggressive, and it has worked with what it considered the best general University interests at heart.

In past years, the Council has been criticized for "doing nothing." This year much was done, and the Council has been criticized for "grabbing power." The significant point is that this year something was done, and all over the University people became interested in student government and student life. This will remain to the eternal credit of the 1954-55 Council.

Monday general elections will determine who shall constitute next year's Council, and Wednesday elections within the Council will determine who will lead next year's Student Council. Both of these elections are of paramount importance to everyone in the University community and they should be closely watched.

Even more important than observation is voting. Every student must vote in Monday's election. Every student who next fall will utter, "the Council's this, or that," had better vote! —D. F.

idea of the student as both the basic raw material and the crucial produce of the educational process;

4. Deal with him always with equity, with justice and with firmness but never to surrender to him the central functions of the faculty;
5. To bring to bear upon him and his problems a general interest and warm human sympathy.

At this University the other day, two students were somewhat shocked when they were asked if they had prepared for the day's lecture in a history class. They read the assignments whenever they got around to it, but the idea that a lecture should be prepared for surprised them. The one who had asked the question confided that it had taken him many long years—even after he had received his degree—to realize how short he had fallen of his responsibilities as a student.

The average University student is a paradoxical thing. He pays money to a professor to teach him, and then complains when the professor attempts to teach him too much. The "snap" courses are popular; the difficult ones dreaded or avoided. Class preparations are done as a favor to the professor in order that the student might be "favored" by a high grade.

The principles laid down by the conference are high-sounding and constitute an ideal. An ideal very seldom practiced. —K. N.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS by Dick Bibler



Hortence 'n Gertrude Botanical Escapades Curbed By 1st Ivy Day

By MARY SHELLEDY and JANET GORDON

"So here we are under the bleachers again. This is no place to watch Ivy Day from."
"Just scream and clap when the crowd does and you'll see as much as anyone."
"But why Ivy Day anyway?"
"A long time ago, when Nebraska was even more The Province than it is now, there wasn't a single tree around. Imagine, no trees for professors to hold classes under, no trees to climb on picnics. There was naturally no Penn Woods. So an undercover student organization sprang up. The Sneaky Tree Subversives, they called themselves. In the middle of the night, they would hide fast horses into what hills there were and plant trees. By the next spring, a fine start towards a woods had been made."
"How did the administration feel about this?"

"There they were, with more oaks than they knew how to patrol. The coeds were being led astray. Some had contracted poison ivy in embarrassing places."
"The Board of Regents didn't complain?"

"Naturally the Board held closed meetings. But nothing could be done. It had gotten to the place where students were having all-night tree parties. Whole hillsides were becoming forests. The local field-scratchers petitioned the Territorial Government. Things had clearly gotten out of hand."
"But it was much more beautiful than fields of stubble, wasn't it?"

"That's not the point. The organization was clearly unauthorized Nebraska was beginning to get some shade, yes, but it was thought pretty sneaky."
"No Student counter-activity?"

"That's what happened next. The administration got together a group of faculty and students to plan how to avert the next rash of tree-planting."

Quick Quips

Two drunks were looking up at the sky. Finally they stopped a third drunk.
First — "Hey, pal, do me a favor. Is that the sun going down or the moon coming up?"
Third — "Shory, pal can't tell you. I'm a stranger in town myself."

An Irish soldier on duty in Egypt during World War II received a letter from his wife saying that because of the war she would have to dig the garden herself. "Bridget, please don't dig the garden," wrote Pat. "That's where the guns are."

The letter was duly censored and in a short time soldiers came and dug up the garden from end to end. Bridget, worried over the incident, wrote to Pat, asking what she should do. Pat's reply was short and to the point: "Put in the spuds."

A knight of olden days, called away to the wars, locked his beautiful wife in a suit of armor. Then he gave the keys to his best friend with the admonition, "If I don't return in six months use this key to set my wife free."

He then galloped off to the wars. About 10 miles from the house he saw a huge cloud of dust approaching him from the direction of home. His trusted friend galloped up and said: "You gave me the wrong key."

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Independent Candidates Submit Council Platform

(Editor's Note: The following platform of independent candidates for Student Council is the first received by The Nebraskan. The Nebraskan offers space on the editorial page to any student running for the Council who wishes to make his platform known to the student body.)

For the first time in many years, there are independent candidates from every college running for Student Council positions. We, the undersigned candidates, present the following statement of policy:

- A. In regard to past Council action:
 1. We endorse the recent Student Council policy for limiting leadership responsibility in activities. This will give independent students without organized backing a greater opportunity to reach leadership positions.
 2. We are in favor of open balloting in Student Council meetings. We stand unafraid to have our vote known to the whole student body.
 - B. We are not in office and we cannot make promises. BUT, We stand "ready, willing and

able" to represent the views of the real majority of students on campus, the 4,000 independents. More independent students on Student Council will mean more representative student government.

The fraternity system has controlled the Student Council for many years, yet this same system has consistently led criticism against the Council. We represent a fresh point of view. Given the change, we will act, not apologize. An independent vote is an honest vote for representative government.

Signed:
Arts and Science: Janice Krause, Dick Lynch, Ed Kemble.
Engineering: Roy Boyd, John Kinnier.
Business Administration: John N. Nelson, Sara Gaughan.
Agriculture: Kay Reeves, Stan Jensen.
Teachers: Bill Goodwin, Anebele Blincow, Delores Fangmeier.

Nebraskan Letterip

NU Artists Praised
Dear Editor:

I wish to call your attention to the current exhibit of paintings by three students of the art department. The exhibit is being held in the Student Union and the names of the painters are Jean Sandstedt, Bruce Connor and Corbin LePell. The works reveal such technical proficiency, such a fine sense of color and design and such power of expression that the art department and the University as a whole should regard this show with great pride. These young artists possess the gift of creativeness to a remarkable degree, and this gift and their manifest willingness to work long hours make one anticipate for them a successful career. I hope that both students and faculty will enjoy their richness of beauty and of thought that has gone into the making of each one.

The Student Union should be thanked for enabling us to see so many examples of these students' creative work since opportunities of this kind are all too rare we should encourage the Student Union to use this show as a precedent for many more to come.
EUGENE N. ANDERSON

Schneid Remarks Homeless Wombats Founders Of Ivy Day

By STAN SCHNEIDER

Before we dive headlong into Ivy Day, let's stop for a little deep reflection and consultation on the meaning of Ivy Day.

The first thing you will hear will be the ringing of the bells in Ralph Mueller tower. Every since I came to the University of Nebraska I have wondered who feeds the little man who is inside that tower. Some guys will do anything for a Masters degree in music.

Ivy day dates back to 1885 when Professor Bessy Bessy, in whose memory the University dedicated Morrill Hall, was advancing his theory of the refertilization of the wounded Wombat. He reasoned that if enough Hen-bit or Bladder Ketmia were planted in the region of the Administration Hall then, in a few short weeks, surely there would be weeds. Other theories are being advanced that he was just window peaking.

The wombats fed on the plants for the entire winter and, with the arrival of spring, other Professors discovered that they were correct. He was window-peaking.

Wombats, Wombats. Everywhere you looked there were Wombats. Upon seeing this, the then Chancellor of the University commented on the new theory. He said, "Boy have we got a bunch of Wombats."

Well, I don't have to tell you that the reaction to this phenomenon was zowie. Students ran the campus shouting and dancing and singing and making ivy chains and breaking ivy chains. Memorials were erected like the Bide-A-Wee Home for Homeless Wombats. You can rest assured that they didn't have panty raids in those days. This is explained by the fact that none of the coeds wore underwear. But, back to the story.

As is the case in every great discovery there are a few who are against progress. It seems that a small faction of from five to 25 members of the women's society of the foundation for the founding of women's foundation garments tried to push the idea of all women to wear underwear so that the male students could have a panty raid. It seems that this society had a spring event committee who had no reason to organize a spring event. To hide their identity they all wore masks.

In the spring of '86 two thousand women raided the men's dorm and resident halls. This is known in history as The Haymarket Affair.



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