

EDITORIAL OPINION

Will 'It's Spring' Become Scapegoat?

"It's Spring."

This blythe comment from a member of the University administration was his reaction to the current sub-rosa situation. It appeared in the Omaha World Herald and The Lincoln Journal Saturday.

The Daily Nebraskan is happy to see the administration be able to laugh at the situation. But we doubt very strongly if they will be able to laugh at the TNE's, The Pi Xi's and Red Dot's off the campus.

We are now wondering if the "It's Spring" comment will become standard operating procedure for the administration. We guess we'll just have to wait until there is a panty raid or some fraternity gets caught having a blast.

What ever happens, we hope the Administration can still keep those smiles "of reminiscence" on their faces. For while they are smiling, the Student Council, the Interfraternity Council, the Big Eight Interfraternity Council, the Mortar Boards, the Alumni Advisers Council and other groups are calling for action.

Inside View

By Phil Boroff

DAMN YANKEES, a Musical Comedy in two acts presented by the University of Nebraska Kosmet Klub in Pershing Municipal Auditorium on Saturday evening, April 15.

YES, BUT... "Whatever Lola Wants, Lola Gets," and the audience at Kosmet Klub's production of "Damn Yankees" got an evening of entertainment and music. Although hindered by technical fouts, the production did not strike out. In fact, it almost made a home run—at least to third base.

"Damn Yankees" was a good fun performed by a highly spirited and enthusiastic cast. Hindered mainly by technical problems, the cast still fulfilled expectations. And I cannot attribute the technical faults to the technical director or crews, but to Pershing Municipal Auditorium.

The barn-like Auditorium is not an appropriate building in which to house a theatrical production. With performers trying vainly to be heard by the audience, the largeness of the building works against them. Long pauses for shifting scenery and properties are unnecessary. Lighting was extremely poor. The spotlight 'clanks,' yellow-skinned singers, ghosted dancers, and unlit actors were all distracting. It seems light balance is impossible in the Auditorium. Perhaps Kosmet Klub could revert to a three or four night run in an auditorium the size of the Nebraska Theater.

Against this huge disadvantage—also a deterrent to last year's "The Pajama Game"—this active musical presents the story of baseball and one of its players—heroes, "Shoeless Joe From Hannibal Mo."

Joe Boyd, large fan of the Washington Senators, would do anything to see the Senators win. Here's the idea, and who appears but Mr. Applegate, a rather pleasant spirit from Below. He secures the old man's soul by assuring Joe youth and amazing powers as a baseball player.

However, insurance salesman Joe talks Applegate into an escape clause. If he desires so at the end of the season, Joe can return to his normal self.

Labeled Joe Hardy, the revitalized, youthed man becomes a sensation, but still longs for Meg, his faithful wife. So Applegate calls in special help from Chicago (?). That help is Lola, Seductress Class AA. She tantalizes, serenades and loves the young baseball hero.

Trouble starts when a reporter starts investigating a rumor from Applegate about Joe. Joe Hardy has to appear before the Commissioner on charges of taking a bribe while under another name in the Mexican League. Charges are dropped, Lola dopes Applegate, and Joe plays in the

last game of the season against the New York Yankees. Applegate wakes, and returns to the baseball field, finding Joe out in center field waiting for a ball that could win the game for the Senators. Applegate returns Joe to his old self, but old Joe manages to catch the ball and win the game.

Baseball hero Joe Hardy has disappeared, and Joe Boyd returns to his wife. As Applegate tries to persuade Joe to return his soul and to play in the World Series, Joe refuses and stays with his "Old Girl."

Steve Ellenburg is a likeable Joe Hardy. He needs more direction and stage presence, but gains audience empathy easily—as should all 'All-American' musical heroes.

Kent Broadhurst's Applegate is a prize, showing much improvement over previous appearances. The only question: Are those exaggerated gestures and facial expressions and bodily movements for the benefit of viewers at the back of the auditorium or of an amount of that 'protein pig' disease of overconfident actors.

Marian Brayton as Lola is not as strong or vivid as 'his character demands. Marian looks well, moves well, and belts out songs—particularly "A Little Brains, A Little Talent"—with freedom and fun.

Bob Gambis is effective as Van Buren, the manager of the baseball club. He succeeds in suggesting an age difference and definite character relationships, difficulties when playing with actors of same or similar real ages. Cal Carlson has developed as a performer and turned in an appropriate part. Although not completely convincing as an actress, Gail Galloway as Meg looks the role on stage and has a strong, well trained voice. Bev Ruck, Gloria, is businesslike, but mugs an otherwise excellent run-around of "Shoeless Joe."

Standouts in supporting roles were: George Spelvin, alias Zeff Bernstein, as Welch, owner of the baseball club; Sharon Binfield and Bonnie Brown, alias Joan Baker, as old maid friends of Meg; and a particular comedy standout—Al Epstein as Rocky, the rally, fun loving baseball player. All other actors, dancers and singers deliver in fine style.

Director Bill Baker—also a surprise actor in the show—keeps the production lively. Coreographer Sally Wengert Hove is to be congratulated on fine dance direction. She obtains results from generally inexperienced dancers. Terry Boyes is a somber musical director—complete with tie and tails.

Kosmet Klub has furnished an entertaining musical in "Damn Yankees." The one night performance was not a short-lived failure, but a well received success.



AN EYE FOR AN EYE AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH?

Pi Xi Politicians No Longer Around; TNE Marches On

Shortly after Theta Nu Epsilon had "dissolved" itself from the Nebraska campus in 1951, another sub-rosa group, Pi Xi, was formed.

One of the reasons for their existence, as expressed in their charter, is to meet more Greeks in other houses. This is done primarily through weekly meetings and annual social events.

Pi Xi today is not the strong political faction that its counterpart, TNE, is. At one time, however, in the mid-1950's Pi Xi did have a tight control on the University political scene, with representatives in the Interfraternity Council, the Student Council, Kosmet Klub, and other groups.

In the last three years, however, the Pi Xi's have lost most of the political prominence and have concentrated more on the social aspects of sub-rosa activities.

The password of the Pi Xi's is in two parts. The challenger says, "What is it?" The person being challenged responds, "Strikes me funny."

The selection of new members is done much the same way as in a social fraternity. A prospective member's name is mentioned, he is discussed and the members vote on him. Each active Pi Xi member has the power to "black ball" or cast a negative vote. One black ball will keep a prospective member out of the group, at least for that meeting.

The initiation ceremony was held for many years in the basement of a Lincoln restaurant. Last year's ceremony was held in the apartment of one of the members.

At the ceremony, the new initiates are required to wear a suit or sports jacket, and a dirty white shirt and tie. After a cocktail hour, the new initiates are blindfolded and taken into a room. Following a few minutes of seclusion, an active member enters the room and gives the new initiates a short speech on Pi Xi.

Then, each new initiate is individually ushered into an adjoining room. The president of the Pi Xi's stands at the front of the room. Beside him stands a three-foot high trophy, reportedly stolen from another Big Eight school. The active members are seated in the back of the room. During the ceremony all of the members make a hissing sound (this represents the sound of the snake, the Pi Xi symbol).

The rituals are then administered to the

initiate. Among these include pledges to the sub-rosa and a pledge of secrecy.

After the rituals are given, the new initiate is required to lift the trophy and drink from it. A hole has been punched in the side of the trophy and as the new initiate drinks the wine from the rim of the trophy, a steady stream pours onto him from the side hole.

The Pi Xi pin is worn on the shirt only during the initiation ceremony. Any other time the pin is worn on the inside of the lapel pocket on a sports jacket.

The grip of the Pi Xi is exchanged by inter-locking the little fingers during the handshake.

When two Pi Xi's greet each other on the street, each forms a snake head with his hand. This done by joining the fingers together and placing the thumb on the middle knuckle of the index finger.

Social events play a major role in the activities of a Pi Xi. Highlights of their social season are the annual formal and the Orange Blossom Party.

The Orange Blossom Party, held each spring, usually starts early in the morning, around 6 a.m. In the past the party has been held at the pits. Last year the members and their dates drank the Orange Blossom, a mixture of vodka, grain alcohol and orange juice, from a scoured out toilet. The toilet has been painted yellow, the basic color of the Pi Xi's.

Besides regular painting sessions, the only outward display by the Pi Xi members to the rest of the campus is the annual Pixie Press.

Each year the members get together and make up stories for their paper. Members contribute finances for the production of paper. Members are assigned places for delivery. Often, two Pi Xi's will team up and deliver their papers together.

The Press is delivered to all sorority houses and fraternity houses and other places on campus. All deliveries are coordinated, and at the given minute the Press is delivered completely throughout the campus.

The Pi Xi's in their early years of existence lived in fairly close harmony with the TNE's. Last year, this changed and the TNE paper displayed several sour notes against their fellow sub-rosas.

It is not uncommon to have a member of TNE also be a member of Pi Xi, although this practice is usually kept to one man for spying purposes.

The Bite's Worse

By Barbara Barker

Hate to do it, but really feel I ought to take a few whacks at the current down-down with sub-rosas and all who think, act, and indulge in any of the really rotten activities of the secret so-called honoraries. Surely the T's, the Pi Xi's, and Rho Delta often deserve, and receive, cuts and cynical sneers from those who feel they are marauding to an extreme; but, are they so awfully important, so deep-rooted, so all-encompassing, that they need take up all the thoughts of the student from dawn to dusk, seven days a week, no break from the constant, silly, hammering?

Tell me one thing. Who are these organizations hurting? Mind you, this treatise is not a defense of these organizations, for even I have failed to see their basic worth. However, beings as there seems to be, outwardly anyhow, no basic worth to any of them, why should the ordinary student be dragged into forming an opinion, based on facts which are thrown at him about something which, if nobody would really care less about, would probably remain in the anonymous, non-status-bearing, symbol of nothing-much, that it is. Isn't a student allowed to be indifferent and not really care about something as trivial as this?

Of course, you may say, TNE is entering into and taking over all the campus activities, and has gained top political positions in many campus organiza-

tions. So what? Campus politics being as they are, petty, trivial, and a step-on-the-next-guy's-toes type of status-seeking, what does it matter who's controlling them? And don't give me this baloney about people joining activities "to serve." The only people who really serve are those who remain on the bottom rung of the ladder to do the dirty work, and that's not a very rewarding job, when there's someone really-big sitting on the top of the heap dishing out orders.

Another sort of interesting, but farcical thing about the current stamp-out-sub-rosa campaign is the fact that each fraternity has publicly stated that it is not in favor of sub-rosas. And hypocrisy has had its heyday. People don't even have the fortitude to stand up and say what really goes on. Probably 9 out of 10 houses claim members in these organizations; yet not one will deviate from the righteousness of proclaiming a clean slate.

Of course there's always the threat of Administration granting mass expulsion to those found to be members of such organizations. Supposedly the 14th & R armory has a valid list of all

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