

COMBINED KKK, TAMMANY

Campus Politics Reach Lull Following TNE Expulsion

By Dorothy Iler

Emerald Feature Editor

Student politics on the Oregon campus just aren't what they used to be. Political campaigns no longer result in exposes, charges, counter-charges and near-riots, as they have several times in past years. This calmness in the realm of student government at Oregon came just four years ago with the abolishment of a mysterious organization known as Theta Nu Epsilon—TNE.

TNE was a secret and illegal fraternity acting as a political pressure group on many campuses. According to a Time magazine article in May 28, 1945, on a TNE chapter at the University of Southern California, the group was "an outlaw inter-fraternity society whose members often work in secret to control student government, campus newspapers and fraternity membership in flagrant defiance of faculty edicts." The writer called TNE "an approximate equivalent of a combined Ku Klux Klan and Tammany hall."

Theta Nu Epsilon was organized Dec. 5, 1870, as a legal fraternity, an organization of student leaders. Gradually, however, it became an undercover political group. When the national TNE was reorganized as a legal group in 1925, the small secret political groups remained on many campuses.

Disbanded in 1936

TNE's presence on the Oregon campus was first recognized in 1936 when the illegal group was disbanded by the administration and its members placed on probation. In 1939, however, a TNE chapter was in operation again at Oregon.

The secret society's membership supposedly was composed of one or two members of each of the most powerful fraternities on campus. TNE held secret meetings in hotel rooms and operated with funds provided by interested alumni. Promising student leaders were approached as prospective members and, if interested in joining TNE, they underwent a training period of activity in campus politics before they were initiated.

Operated Until 1950

The group evidently operated in student government circles at Oregon from 1939 until it was abolished in 1950. An attack against TNE was made by student leaders in 1942 at an ASUO nominating assembly. However, the attack was ineffective and TNE continued to function here.

Meanwhile, many persons, both faculty and student leaders were seeking actual proof of TNE's existence on the Oregon campus. In November 1946, a blank TNE membership card was discovered and other bits of evidence led to the belief that TNE members and their activities might be exposed. However, the existence of a TNE chapter here couldn't be proved conclusively then, and student leaders had to continue seeking evidence until May 1950.

Charges against the outlawed secret society were made by student leaders during the ASUO election campaign that year and the University officially recognized the existence of the illegal group. The board of deans and office of student affairs began an investigation.

Students Mock Idea

Many student, however, mocked the idea that TNE, a

secret and illegal political group, could exist on the Oregon campus. These students staged a political parade and rally mocking the TNE investigation. The rally developed into a near-riot which was broken up by Eugene city police and firemen.

A few days later, the administration's investigation turned up the names of 25 men students who admitted either past or present membership in a TNE chapter here. The 25 were placed on probation for the remainder of their college days at the University. And thus ended the era of TNE on the Oregon campus.

Tri Delts, DG Pix Planned

Pictures of Delta Delta Delta and Delta Gamma are scheduled to be taken today for the Oregon.

Women's houses will wear white blouses and dark blue blazers. Blazers will be provided by the photographers.

The following organizations are scheduled for this week: Tuesday, Carson 3 and Sigma Kappa; Wednesday, Kappa Alpha Theta and Orides; Thursday, Carson 4 and Pi Beta Phi; Friday, Carson 5.

Oregana representatives will continue to contact houses the evening before pictures are to be taken to remind students of their appointments, according to Claudia Fairweather, contact chairman.

Today's Staff

Make-up Editor: Sam Vahey. Copy desk: Sally Ryan, Kathleen Morrison, Jackie Wardell. Night staff: Pete Taussig. News Desk editor: Mary Alice Allen.

CLASSIFIEDS

Lost: In or near Gerlinger Hall, Oct. 5th, Green Parker 51 fountain pen. Call ext. 482, Carson Hall. 10-7-tf

Typewriter in good condition priced to sell. Come to Apt. 7, 260 W. 6th at 4 p.m. or after. 10-18

For Rent: Modern 2 bedroom house near University, grade school. Modern heat. Lease. Ph. 5-1297. tf

Tutoring in English — Phone 3-3509. 11-9

Cartoon of a man studying. Text: TED REALLY STUDIED ALL NIGHT LONG, AND KNEW HIS LESSON WELL...

Cartoon of a man sleeping in class. Text: BUT THEN HE FELL ASLEEP IN CLASS AND FAILED TO RING THE BELL!

Advertisement for NODÖZ Awakeners. Text: BUT NOW HE'S LEARNED TO KEEP ALERT THE EASY NÖDÖZ WAY. THIS HANDY, SAFE AWAKENER HAS REALLY SAVED THE DAY. 15 TABLETS 35c SAFE AS COFFEE

Large advertisement for Chesterfield cigarettes featuring Jack Webb and Ben Alexander. Text: JACK WEBB AND BEN ALEXANDER. You know them best as Sgt. Joe Friday and Officer Frank Smith... WHAT A BUY! Chesterfield regular and king-size. (Both at the same price in most places). CHESTERFIELD BEST FOR YOU

Advertisement for Governor Paul L. Patterson. Text: Meet GOVERNOR PAUL L. PATTERSON And MRS. PATTERSON At a Reception In The Veterans' Memorial Building 1626 Willamette Street Tonight 8:00 - 10:00 Sponsored by The Lane County Women's Republican Club, Assisted By The U. of O. Young Republicans