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Notes

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STUDENTS CAMPAIGN FOR BUILDING FUND.

The student council, after a month's work, has completed plans for an extensive campaign for the building fund of the Chicago Kent College of Law. The goal is $25,000.00, and the contest will continue from March 17 to May 15th. The campaign will be in the nature of a contest between the various classes as to which will pledge the greatest amount, the Board of Trustees having offered to provide a large framed parchment for the winning class, the names alone of all those who contribute to be engrossed thereon, to be placed in the hall of the new college building as the first of a series of framed parchments, the other classes to follow in the order of the amounts of their pledges.

The campaign is to be carried on during the next two months by the members of the council, assisted by certain of the alumni, who will speak to the various classes, and by lieutenants to be appointed in the various sections. Each man who makes a pledge will be given a button to show that he is a contributor, and in determining the standing of the various classes the votes will be prorated so as to represent the relative numerical strength of each class. Results will be posted each Monday night on the bulletin board, and a digest of the rules of the campaign is printed below, so that all students may know in just what manner the contest is being conducted.

The pledges are payable over a period of five years, but unless one-fifth of the total pledge is paid during the time of this campaign, such pledge will not be credited to the pledgor's class in the final count of the pledges. This drive for funds is similar to that being carried on by the alumni, and with the driving force of the present Kent students to aid it should prove equally successful. A digest of the rules follows:

Digest of Rules.

1. Each of the six classes shall be eligible.

2. The amount subscribed by each class shall be pro-rated according to the numerical strength of the class, so as to provide an equal basis for determining the class standing.

3. The members of the student council and such assistants as may be appointed shall be in charge of the drive.

4. No money pledged shall be credited to pledgor's class unless 1/5 of the amount has been paid in during the campaign, i.e., by May 15, 1924.

5. A button shall be given to each pledgor to indicate his contribution.

6. Payments may be made as pledgor desires, the last payment to be made not later than April 1, 1928.

7. Class standings shall be indicated on bulletin board each week.

8. All students matriculated in the college are eligible.

Rules as to Fraternities and Sororities.

9. The Board of Trustees will purchase a large banner for the fraternity or sorority whose members pledge the largest amount during the campaign.

10. Pledges made by members of fraternities or sororities shall be credited to both the pledgor's fraternity and class.

11. The amount subscribed by each fraternity or sorority shall be prorated according to its numerical strength.

12. Each fraternity or sorority may outline its own campaign.
Crane Junior College vs. Chicago Kent

The first of a series of three inter-collegiate debates was held Friday evening, March 7th, when Chicago Kent met Crane Junior College in a dual debate on the question, "Resolved, that the United States should grant the Philippine Islands their immediate independence." The Kent affirmative team, composed of Messrs. Langert, Rice and Dennen, met the Crane Junior team, Messrs. Schwartz, Kough and Bloch, in Room 310, and after a spirited debate, punctuated by the eloquence of both teams, it was decided that the affirmative team had set forth better arguments in advancing their cause than had the negative, and accordingly they were pronounced the victors in a two to one decision. The debate was very well handled from start to finish, and the chairman and members of the student council who aided, rendered very appreciable service.

The Crane Junior affirmative speakers, Messrs. Cajigal, Saddam and Maller, were so successful in their oratory that they vanquished the visiting Kent team, Messrs. Huber, Rothman and Hansen, by a decision of two to one in their favor. Messrs. Cajigal and Saddam, native Filipinos, were especially forceful in advancing their arguments, and contended that their present situation was similar to that of the American Colonies in 1776. This debate was held in Marshall Auditorium, and the Crane Junior officials had arranged for all of the details in a very efficient manner. Only the presence of a few Kent rooters was necessary to complete an otherwise well-balanced evening.

Two other inter-collegiate debates have been arranged for this spring, the question for each being, "Resolved, that the United States should become a member of the League of Nations." These two debates, with Lake Forest University on April 11th, and later with the Detroit College of Law, will also be dual debates, and the Chicago Kent teams will take both sides of the question. William James, manager of the debating teams, has been instrumental in arranging for this series of debates, and much credit is due him for his efforts in this behalf.

STUDENT CONTESTS.

About thirty juniors participated in the contest announced in the December number of the Review for the best paper on the evidence subject dealing with the admissibility of a verdict of a coroner's jury to prove suicide in a civil suit against an insurance company by a policy holder. It was with considerable difficulty that the relative merits of the papers were decided, many of them being unusually good. First place was awarded to Robert K. Hill and second place to L. H. Hansen, and their papers appear elsewhere in this issue. Of the other papers submitted, those of Messrs. Wagner, Kaplan, and Cook are considered, respectively, third, fourth, and fifth best.

Phi Alpha Delta won a nip-and-tuck race with Phi Delta Phi for the possession of the loving cup donated by Phi Delta Phi last fall, to be awarded for a semester to that student organization having the highest average of scholarship. The scores were as follows:

Phi Alpha Delta, 1.6341.
Phi Delta Phi, 1.6276.
Delta Chi, 1.5435.
Nu Beta Epsilon, 1.5541.
Phi Delta Sigma, 1.1563.
Class Notes

SENIORS.

The Transcript is now well under way and everything tends to show that it will be a real book. The members of the Staff have given unselfishly of their time and energy to put out a book.

It has been suggested before in these columns of giving a "Scramble", similar to the one of last year. We hope that the classes will combine and put over an affair of this kind, before the Spring activities commence.

The entertainment committee of the class is planning on a dinner dance to be given in the near future, if it meets with the approval of the class. This and other important questions will be discussed at the next meeting of the class, which is to be held this month. All Seniors are urged to be present at this meeting. The date will be announced later.

The committee in charge of the Senior Prom. which was held on January 5, has made their report. A profit of $34.25 was realized from this dance. It is the first time any social activity of the class of '24 has been a financial success. A great deal of credit is due to the committee for their efforts in making the Prom. the success it was.

Harold R. Langer.

MID-YEAR SENIORS.

With the phantom of examinations turned into a reality, us students were so studious that for a time all our social activities ceased. The habitual examination cramming had started and all our energies were turned to the task of re-imbibing legal principles and their application. However, now that we have safely passed the zero hour, part of our thoughts have commenced to return to their natural channels.

It is interesting to note that our transfer from the Lake View Building to the Church Building has relieved us of an embarrassing situation. Mr. Lewis Cohn, our former official window raiser in Room 807 had stated that he needed a new window pole. Our class was about to get together and appoint a committee to ask the faculty for an appropriation for a window pole. Being transferred to the Church Building eliminated the difficult undertaking, similar to that of tying the bell to the cat's neck.

Although we are sorry to have been separated from the main school and its activities, there is one redeeming feature which offsets all our disadvantages. Due to lack of space some of our classmates remained at 116 S. Michigan Ave. and were assimilated into the other classes. This leaves us a smaller class and therefore assures us of better results and more individual attention from our Professors. "It is an ill wind that blows no one good."

As we have only one more year at Chicago Kent, some of our members desired to have our picture to appear in this year's Transcript as the graduating class of February, 1925. However, the matter was not welcomed with great enthusiasm by the class. We have decided to either put out a paper of our own or else be included in the Transcript of June 1925. Only the future will show whether our desire for a separate paper will materialize.

When we first came together at Chicago Kent in the Church Build-
ing, we little realized that we would soon be transferred to the Lake View Building and that exactly two years later would be back again in our old camping grounds. We can take pardonable pride in the fact that in the last two years we have accomplished so much both socially and educationally. Nothing can stop us now and our last year at the "SCHOOL WITHOUT A CAMPUS" augurs to be the greatest and best of our school careers.

Max Hirsch.

Juniors stage FROLIC.

The juniors staged a delightful ram's gambol last month as the first gala event of the season. The entertainment committee had gone to great lengths in providing the best of entertainment, and the evening was wiled away in whimsical song and dance, featured by a whirlwind ending when a box of preserved sweets was given to the holder of the lucky number.

The committee men are to be congratulated on their zeal in ferreting out such delightful local talent, and the large attendance was perhaps the best evidence of a thorough appreciation of their efforts. The next event socially will be the Junior prom, our treasury now being in a shape to finance such an affair.

MIDYEAR JUNIOR NOTES.

That aspiring group of embryo legal scholars who entered Kent in the cold month of January, 1923, have now blossomed forth into the academic status of Midyear Juniors. They endured and conquered the usual trials of the first year's work very creditably, and the twenty-five, who constitute ninety-five per cent of the class, sojourning at present, within the portals of 807 in co-tenancy with the seniors, are tackling those third year subjects with the same winning earnestness. To be absolutely frank, you can't tell a junior from a senior by the recitations, that is, of course, excluding reference to assumed coyness and affected superiority, the symptoms which all seniors invariably manifest in the presence of lower classmen. We are thoroughly enjoying the instruction of Professors Meyer, Campbell, and Tyler, and slumber quite snorelessly in the jury box during Practice Court, while the seniors try cases.

The latest class organization of this group is to be royally commended. Thanks to the courtesy of Mr. Tyler, on Monday, March 10, we utilized a few moments of our time in Civil Procedure, and sacrificed the ensuing class intermission to elect officers. There was quite a deadlock between Mr. Rosenblum and Mr. Bidderman for the presidential honors, but "Rosie" emerged victor by the minimum margin of one vote. Mr. Bidderman was then unanimously elected Vice-President, and our one capable, attractive, and popular member of the fair sex, Miss Kotin, succeeded herself, by the consent of the whole, to the office of secretary. To Messrs. Crowley and McGrew fell the respective offices of Treasurer and Sergeant-at-Arms.

With officers such as these steering the ship, the Mid-year Junior crew are assured of an interesting, pleasant, and active semester, and the rest of the school can expect to hear a few
of the bombs, which we are going to set off, bursting in the very near future.

Sidney Kaden.

FRESHMAN NOTES

The Review Reviews The Legal Forensics Party.

It was unusually cold that night, January 26th. So was the potato salad and the coffee served but not so the reception tendered Judge Welch upon his arrival by his class in Legal Forensics. The evening was made memorable by the presence and speeches of no lesser lights than Pathrick O'Donnel, silver-tongued spell binder friend of Judge Welch, Mr. Guernesy, Mr. Wood and Mr. Tyler. Due to the presence of the latter two gentlemen rumors spread that all attending the banquet (?) had successfully passed the exams. This made it possible to enjoy the evening that much more. Several have valid evidence since that such rumor was entirely without basis. We had good music. But not good food. Judge Welch kindly and considerately called it (the food) a "Heidelberg Student Fest." No wonder they lost the war. Despite this lack of nourishment, we had a very enjoyable time, and really went away with Food for Thought which is always more scarce and harder to obtain. We end the paragraph with the sacred: "A good time was had by all"—and we really did!

At a recent meeting Harold J. Ross, of Section 4, was nominated by his section to fill the existing vice-presidential vacancy.

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Fraternity Notes

DELTA THETA PHI.

We welcome to our present group of student organizations a new fraternity, Delta Theta Phi. Prior to the war, senates of this well-known organization existed both at Chicago-Kent and at Webster, and Webster Senate, still having its charter has been reorganized through the efforts of the district officers of the fraternity.

This fraternity was founded in 1900, and has approximately 7,500 members, organized into 20 Alumni Senates and 56 Student Senates. Besides our own school, student senates exist at Northwestern, De Paul, and John Marshall Law Schools.

The charter members are: Casbon, O'Brien, and Strom, all juniors, and Cleaver, Gillespie, Stephan, S. A. Wallace, C. H. Wallace, and Waller, all freshmen. The officers elected are as follows: Dean, Carlton B. Waller; Vice-Dean, J. Benjamin Cleaver; Clerk of the Rolls, Lynet M. Casbon; Clerk of the Exchequer, Frank J. Gillespie; Master of Ritual, Oscar C. Strom; Bailiff, John B. Stephan; Tribune, Samuel A. Wallace.

The organizers are to be congratulated on the personnel of the charter members. We hope to see Delta Theta Phi taking a prominent part in student life and student activities.

PHI DELTA PHI.


Immediately after the ceremonies, the initiation banquet was given at the Hotel Brevoort. Professor William J. Pringle's exuberance as toastmaster and Judge Pickett's speech were the high lights of the evening. Wit and humor seemed to flow in ever increasing volume.

"Chicago Kent takes no law school's dust. We are raising our scholarship standards. When we get into our new building we will be without peer in the city of Chicago or anywhere else for that matter."

Fuller Inn had the honor and pleasure of entertaining several guests, members of other Inns, at the banquet. Each spoke a few words, and carried to us a word of cheer. It is always with pleasure that we come in contact with members of the other Inns, for we thereby seal the bonds of friendship and the common understandings that arise from the study of law.

Brother Jim Jennings and Ev. Walker, together with the newly initiated brothers did much to entertain the group during the course of the dinner.

Wag Gorman welcomed the frosh into the fraternity. Bob Preble won the prize for the best frosh stunt.

It is with deep regret that we learned that Cross was shot in the arm by a thug while on his way home that evening. Cross was unwilling to give up his valuables, and a scuffle ensued, in the course of which the thug had a chance to shoot just once, the bullet passing through Cross's right arm.

The Inn plans to hold a dance March 29th at 1811 Prairie Ave. Alumni are invited.
PHI ALPHA DELTA.

At the beginning of last semester, the legal fraternity of Phi Delta Phi, wishing to stimulate interest in scholastic attainments between the fraternal chapters of Chicago Kent College of Law, offered the school a silver trophy and attached the following as conditions to the offer: That the trophy be for perpetual competition and that the fraternity having the highest scholastic average for the semester be given custody of the trophy the following semester with the privilege of suitably engraving its name thereon.

The school accepted the offer in its entirety and the trophy was placed in competition. At the end of the semester the records showed Phi Alpha Delta in the lead with 1,634 points.

We believe that it will be gratifying to our brothers in Phi Alpha Delta to know that Blackstone Chapter has upheld the scholastic traditions of our fraternity.

The Fraternity Room of the Great Northern Hotel was the scene of an unusually congenial gathering of Kent men Friday evening, March 14th.

Phi Alpha Delta entertained faculty members and students at a smoker. The guests left their Friday night classes and after a social hour at the hotel sat down to a banquet in the Fraternity Room. Four entertainers provided the song and jest part of the evening. Professional talent was eclipsed by the wit of our professors who displayed for us their "out of the class room" nature. Professor Pickett responded to Toastmaster Hackett with a talk which made the boys feel that the judge had kept us unaware of some of his talent altogether too long. In behalf of the faculty he presented Phi Alpha Delta with the scholarship trophy. He then reminisced upon Kent and incidentally brought out a few characteristics of the faculty. This was so cleverly done that for a time we felt our faculty guests would be nonplussed.

This speculation vanished when Professor Higgins returned his colleagues compliments in a manner all his own. We began to think twenty-nine years of faithful service at Kent had done justice in sharpening our instructor's wit. Professor Higgins has a way of inspiring students not easy to describe. It was interesting to watch the play of emotions on that familiar face radiating a school boy's mirth over the friendly tirades of the faculty members and then portraying somber reflection when the entertainers rendered "That Old Gang of Mine."

Professors Wood and Monahan were not to be outdone by the senior members of the faculty. They both held their own at repartee and their good-fellowship contributed much to the success of the evening.

A Kent meeting would hardly be complete without that smile we encounter in the office, so our secretary and instructor, Guy Guernsey brought it to the smoker. It is useless to tell you how Professor Guernsey responded. After being a "pinch-hitter" so long on the faculty he sensed the occasion readily and made us all feel at home with Kent, the faculty, and the boys.

Phi Alpha Delta feels complimented by the caliber of its guests and the responsiveness of faculty and students to the aim of our fraternity.
Prize-Winning Junior Articles

THE QUESTION.

Can the record of the proceedings and the finding of the coroner's jury returning a verdict of death of suicide be admitted in an action on an insurance policy which includes a provision voiding it if the insured commits suicide?

First Prize, Robert K. Hill

During the ascendency of Lord Coke (1552-1634) on the English bench coroner's verdicts were conclusive and unrebuttable evidence of the facts therein contained. Lord Hale (1609-1676) so far modified the rule as to permit evidence in traverse thereof. Greenleaf follows the English rule and Section 556 of his text on Evidence admits coroner's verdicts as an exception to the general hearsay rule on the ground that they are of public concern and that their accuracy and fidelity are guaranteed by their official character.

In United States Life Insurance Co. v. Vocke, 129 Ill. 557, (1889) the issue was directly presented and the decision laid down follows the text of Greenleaf. This case was the forerunner of a line of Illinois cases involving similar issues; namely, Pyle v. Pyle, 158 Ill. 289; Templar etc., v. Crayton, 110 App. 648; Chicago v. Cohen, 139 App. 244; and Foster v. Sheppard, 258 Ill. 164, and many others.

Not until the decision in Morris J Co. v. Industrial Board, 284 Ill. 67, (1918) does there appear any dissatisfaction with the long established rule but the majority opinion in this case held that altho the verdict was admissible to show the cause of death and to maintain a prima facie case, it is inadmissible to fix a civil liability.
Statute on Coroners unequivalently disposes of the question as follows: "In any suit or proceeding hereafter commenced for the recovery of damages arising from or growing out of injuries caused by the negligence of any person, firm, or corporation resulting in the death of any person, or for the collection of a policy of insurance, neither the coroner's verdict returned upon the inquisition, nor a copy thereof, shall be admissible as evidence to prove or establish any of the facts in said civil suit or proceeding."

The distinction between the English rule and the modern Illinois rule is well founded in reason because of the difference between the functions of the coroner's office in the respective jurisdictions. In England, the coroner's authority was not ministerial alone, it was judicial also; whereas the section of the Illinois Constitution conferring judicial powers does not name coroners. The value and scope of the office of the English coroner is considerably in excess of that of the Illinois' official and this dissimilarity is the strongest argument against the application of the English rule in this state. Furthermore, as Justice Duncan declares in Spiegel's House Furnishing Co. v. Industrial Board, supra, experience has demonstrated that the coroner's verdicts of this country are generally untrustworthy, secured through questionable methods and legally unsound. Justice Cartwright in the dissenting opinion in Morris & Co. v. Industrial Board, supra, forcibly argues that they are an unjustifiable exception to the hearsay rule: "To hold that the verdict of a coroner's jury is admissible in evidence to fix a civil liability, either at common law or under a statute, upon one who is not a party to the proceeding before the coroner, is not present, has no choice in the selection of a jury, no right to cross-examine the witnesses, or contravert evidence tending to prove liability is to condemn him unheard, and to violate the most elementary rules for the administration of justice." In conclusion, as additional proof of the correctness of the present Illinois rule may be cited the fact that the weight of authority in this country is practically unanimous in its favor.

Second Prize, L. H. Hansen.

The rule at common law was that the verdict of a coroner's jury was admissible in civil actions, because the inquest was regarded as being judicial in its nature, the dignity of the office of coroner, giving it such a character. The acts of the coroner in arriving at the cause of a death were held to the judicial rather than ministerial, and the proceedings at the inquest of such general public importance that they were admissible in evidence as an exception to the hearsay rule, for a coroner's inquest is an ex parte hearing with no opportunity for cross-examination. Subsequent English statutes were declaratory of the common law in making the coroner's functions of a judicial nature.

In the United States there are two lines of authorities on this question. In a number of states such verdicts are held inadmissible, in that they are extra judicial and in violation of the hearsay rule. Illinois from the start followed the common law rule, and in a long line of cases such verdicts were held admissible, the leading case being United States Life Insurance Company v. Vocke, 129 Ill. 557, an action on a life insurance policy containing a clause withholding benefits where death of the insured by suicide occurred, where a
coroner's verdict was held admissible to prove prima facie suicide of the insured. From the time of that opinion until 1918 such verdicts were held admissible in civil cases, but in Peoria Cordage Company v. Industrial Board, 284 Ill. 90, a coroner's verdict fixing civil liability was held inadmissible, and in the latter case of Spiegel's House Furnishing Co. v. Industrial Board, 288 Ill. 422, the court expressly overruled the Vocke case, supra, and all those subsequent, in an opinion which affirmed the doctrine of stare decisis but held that the admissibility of such verdicts was wrong in principle in that they represented ex parte hearings, with no opportunity for cross-examination of the witnesses and no part in the selection of the jury. In the year following this last opinion coroner's verdicts were made inadmissible in Illinois in actions on insurance policies by legislative enactment, Cahills Statutes 1923, page 857.

The reasoning in the Spiegel case is not only in accord with the weight of authority in England and in the other states, but is sound in principle and logic. To admit a verdict which may fix or avoid the civil liability of a party, when he has had no opportunity to be present and no voice in the hearing, is manifestly unfair and unjust, and tends to establish a rule of evidence which is not in harmony with any of the rules of that branch of the law. Coroner's inquests as they are now held are not by any means judicial in their character, and the office of coroner has lost most if not all of its ancient dignity. There is ample room in the present day proceedings for fraud and perjury, and the average coroner would hardly qualify as a judicial officer. The proceedings are informal and irregular, and the jury is usually influenced by reason of its residence in the vicinity of the death. The rule in the Spiegel case is well founded, and the subsequent act legislation in the proper direction.

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