

The Varsity Whirl

January 7, 1890. Tuesday. Collegiate work was resumed to-day after the Christmas vacation. A general consciousness of the beginning of a new decade in the life of the University seems to pervade the campus. Both students and faculty exhibit a spirit of enthusiasm that promises a splendid future. Socially the season is to be opened with a magnificent banquet by the Zetagathian Literary Society. The fraternity crowd is rather skeptical of the ability of the "sockless Zets" to entertain in style, but the quiet confidence of the literary society men is quite disconcerting to their critics. Of course the Zets really do wear stockings, but because fraternity men are ineligible to membership in that society the notion seems to be prevalent that the Zets are devoid of social standing.

January 10, 1890. Friday. Rumor persists that preparations for the Zet banquet to-night are very elaborate. The society room on the top floor of South Hall has been beautifully refurnished for the occasion. They say that the banquet itself will surpass in elegance anything of its kind ever undertaken by a University organization. No wonder it will cost every Zet five dollars!

January 11, 1890. Saturday. Hurrah for the Zets! For genuine grandeur a standard of excel-

lence has been established which is not likely to be equalled for years to come. The Irving Society hall was used as a reception room where the Zets regaled their guests with a preliminary program of music and elocution in which Benj. F. Shambaugh's "Argument of a Senior Law in Moot Court" and A. E. Chaffee's impersonations in a humorous recitation were received with great favor. Stepping to the measured rhythm of a majestic air, "the company marched in stately procession" to the Zeta-gathian hall where the sumptuous banquet was spread. What a magic transformation art and skill had wrought! It was hard for the Zets themselves to realize that they were in Old South Hall instead of the banquet chamber of some princely mansion. When the appetite of the hungriest had been more than satisfied, Vice-Chancellor McClain arose and introduced President Schaeffer who toasted "The Faculty". H. W. Craven followed with a toast to "The Ladies". He admitted that he had given the subject much attention but confessed his inability to embrace the whole of it. In response to "The Zets of the Present", William Duffield spoke feelingly of the close brotherhood existing between members of the Society, due to the anti-fraternity clause in their constitution, and announced that this banquet was the beginning of a more social régime. The cultural purposes of the organization were then emphasized by W. B. LaForce, and M. L. Sears concluded the formal program with some witty remarks

about "The trophies and who got 'em: the soup and who fell in". The remainder of the evening was spent in singing college songs and various amusements, until at last Jimmie Barry, self-styled "President of the university in the night-time", appeared with the emphatic announcement, "It's time ye was goin' home, boys!" Thus ended the Zet banquet. It was a *swell* party.

April 25, 1891. The Betas, Phi Psis, Tau Delts, and Phi Delts have been planning a pan-hellenic dance. Some trouble has developed, however, and the Betas have withdrawn from the group. The whole difficulty seems to have arisen because the Betas invited five or six girls whom the Tau Delts wanted. As every one knows, each fraternity keeps a "slate" of favorite girls who are regularly invited to their parties. Evidently these girls were listed on both fraternities' slates and each felt it had a prior claim. The Tau Delts proposed that all the girls' names be put in a hat and every man draw one. But the Betas considered this scheme too absurd and so have dropped out of the party. According to the Betas' explanation in the *Vidette Reporter*, they beg to announce "right here and now that they are entirely satisfied with their conduct in the matter and always will be." They will "have their own parties in their own way."

May 5, 1891. Tuesday. Despite the absence of the Betas, the pan-hellenic party last night was "one of the most brilliant social events" of the sea-

son. Phi Delta Theta and Delta Tau Delta graciously threw open their halls. Phi Kappa Psi was generous also, and did not hesitate to rip its canvas to fit the Delt parlor, and to move its elegant furniture into the halls across the street. The Phi Delt parlor hung with frat banners and pictures, decorated with flowers and ribbons, especially of Phi Psi pink and lavender, was indeed a pretty sight. The "blue-room" and Delt library were made into card rooms, while refreshments were served in Fred's best style in the Phi Delt chapter room. "Programmes, party, halls, band, people — all, all were grand."

October 15, 1891. Thursday. This morning there was great excitement at the University. By ten o'clock nearly two hundred students had congregated around the pump and at the foot of the north steps of South Hall. President Schaeffer, aware of the purpose of the gathering, came out of his office in the Old Capitol and joined the throng. Most of the boys were upperclassmen, though groups of Freshmen mingled with the rest. An air of expectancy pervaded the situation. Almost any untoward incident might precipitate the annual "class scrap". At last Oscar C. Anderson, the Freshman class president, came out, probably thinking that the Sophomores would not dare to molest him while the president of the University was present. Apparently the upperclassmen were not to be overawed, however, for a number of men rushed forward and

bore Anderson away to a hack. Just as they were about to put him in the vehicle, President Schaeffer stepped into the other side of it and commanded them to stop. Thereupon they started hustling Anderson down to the South Gate, impeded somewhat by the desperate resistance of the Freshmen. President Schaeffer started to take down the names of some of the students but that did not seem to have any effect. There were no serious casualties although Will Chester had a rib broken. The "scrap" ended only when the contestants were exhausted and President Schaeffer had led Anderson away. There is much difference of opinion as to whether the President was justified in intervening. The faculty insist that the time-honored custom of the Sophs carrying off Freshmen must stop. But what will happen tomorrow night at the Freshman banquet?

October 17, 1891. Saturday. The Sophs did not succeed in keeping a single Freshman away from the class banquet last night. This is the first time in the history of S. U. I. that no committeeman, officer, or speaker was absent involuntarily. Last year the Sophs succeeded in corralling two or three men.

The dining room of the St. James Hotel looked ever so pretty with the long white tables arranged in an F shape and adorned with beautiful bouquets. When the merry company had assembled, the Reverend M. A. Bullock invoked the divine blessing

upon the sumptuous dinner that was served. A "flow of wit, reason and eloquence" from various speakers followed the feast, and then the Freshmen "answered the strains of the music and devoted themselves to the giddy whirl" until after one o'clock!

November 3, 1891. Tuesday. Thirty-five of the girls gave a banquet at the St. James Hotel for the Minnesota and Iowa football teams. Even if Iowa did lose the game 42 to 4, we want the Minnesota team to know that we are good sports and don't begrudge them their precious victory. Of course there was dancing after the speeches.

November 24, 1891. Tuesday. There have been several "social gatherings" in the past few days. Last Friday night the Kappa Kappa Gammas had an oyster supper at the home of Professor Charles Bundy Wilson, and on Monday evening they entertained a few friends at the home of Miss Lizzie Reese. "Taffy was the order of the evening, and great fun is reported." Last Friday night also, the Tau Deltas "threw open their halls" in the Johnson County Bank building to "a gathering of their lady friends", and they say "the gaily dressed damsels tripping to and fro from the dance hall with their beaming consorts or whirling round and round the canvassed hall" made a very pleasing picture. One o'clock came all too soon.

January 16, 1892. Saturday. The Phi Kappa Psi gave the prettiest snow party last night in

their halls over Whetstone's. "Snow banks and snow balls met the eye in every direction." The flickering light of the candle chandeliers accentuated the wintry atmosphere of the setting.

February 25, 1892. Thursday. Progressive cinch is becoming very popular. Last month one of the fraternities had a progressive cinch party for eleven couples, and last Tuesday evening the Tau Delts gave a very enjoyable entertainment of the same kind in their hall. Miss Tennie Easton received a beautiful souvenir orange spoon for her "matchless playing" while Miss Gertrude Getchell carried off the "booby" prize, a bottle of catsup labeled "catch-up". After eleven every one "repaired to Fred's, where the banquet boards had been prepared."

March 10, 1892. About thirty students attended the progressive tiddledy winks party given by the prim ladies of T. W. V. Miss Clementine Ashley, of the class of '95, won the first prize, while Miss Kate Bostedo, also a Freshman, carried off the booby prize. After the exciting games were over, the contestants found themselves so imbued with the spirit of the game that they turned to dancing in emulation of the hopping tiddledy winks.

May 21, 1892. Saturday. Everybody had the best time last night at the Senior Party which was held in Irving hall, even though some irresponsible underclassmen did steal the ice cream. As there are so many more Senior boys than girls, some of the more popular younger girls were invited. The

assembled company was absorbed in playing games when suddenly, about ten o'clock, a group of underclassmen came swarming up the stairs. The Seniors were outnumbered two to one and although some of the boys lost their tempers and wanted to fight they were persuaded by the cooler-headed members of the class to let the intruders make away with the ice cream, since they couldn't be prevented anyway, and, besides, the rascals had taken the dishes early in the afternoon. This did not break up the party: the gayety waxed even livelier than it had been before the interruption, if that were possible.

October 1, 1892. Some of the girls are talking of having a picnic as a seasonable social event. Foster and Leuz advertise as "the wide-awake liverymen" whose horses are "speedy and stylish", so perhaps their new band-wagon would be the most suitable for this occasion. The outing will probably take the form of a nutting party "with all the added attractions which tennis, target shooting, rowing, and amateur photography can lend."

February 21, 1893. As there have been no Sophomore-Freshmen class "scraps" this year, it has been an open question whether the traditional Sophomore-Freshman peace banquet would be given. However, the Sophs have set the date for March 9th, so it seems that even if there is no hatchet to bury or pipe of peace to smoke this fitting custom is to be continued.

February 28, 1893. It looks now as though the

Sophomore-Freshman banquet would be postponed to March 14th. One wonders what has happened to the oft-boasted "spirit" of the class of '95. Last year nearly every member attended the reception tendered by the class of '94, but evidently some members of the class greatly prefer the position of guest to that of host. The way some of the Sophomores are hanging back and letting a few pay the bills is disgraceful. They ought to be ashamed of themselves. If this sort of thing keeps up the Sophomore-Freshman banquet will not be much of a success.

March 10, 1893. Friday. Well, the Sophomore-Freshman banquet did take place last night, as scheduled, after all. In spite of the hostility of the weather, nearly a hundred were gathered in the society rooms of Old South Hall. Following the refreshments, toasts were given, after which wish-bones were distributed and broken. Games and dancing held full sway until after one o'clock. Then it was discovered that some smart-alec had hidden several of the ladies' wraps, "but the banquet was declared a success for a' that."

June 14, 1894. Thursday. They say the Commencement Ball given in Smith's Armory last night was a brilliant affair. The costumes of the ladies were particularly "tasty and elegant". Mrs. Charles A. Schaeffer graced the reception committee, and even Governor and Mrs. Jackson honored the graduating class with their presence during the

earlier part of the evening. This is the last big party until next season.

February 12, 1895. Tuesday. It seems at last we are to have a Military Ball. Major Vogdes has appointed a committee to plan for the ball and proposes to make this party "a brilliant social event". Tomorrow afternoon we shall know what the committee's conception of brilliancy is. Till then the college Beau Brummels must curb their eager hope.

February 14, 1895. Thursday. The Military Ball will be held on February 25th. If possible Schillinger's "elegant" orchestra of Davenport will be engaged for the occasion. Only present and past members of the battalion may attend. Every one who can get a uniform will wear it but as there are not enough uniforms to go around some will have to wear civilian clothes.

February 16, 1895. The committee wants a hundred and fifty cadets to subscribe for the Military Ball. They are planning to charge a dollar and "make the party as elaborate as the proceeds will allow". Special efforts are being made to encourage every battalion member to attend.

February 23, 1895. The Military Ball has been postponed to Tuesday, February 26th, because music can not be secured earlier.

February 27, 1895. The Military Ball was a great success. The Armory was "elegantly decorated with flags and sabers", while groups of stacked rifles were placed around the room and in one corner

stood a cannon. Many of the boys wore their uniforms and the girls were very tastily dressed. Mary certainly is to be envied — her waist doesn't measure quite eighteen inches! She had on the most elegant dress — a very tight bodice, full skirt, and balloon sleeves a yard in width. She is such a good dancer, too, and knows all of the different steps: the waltz, two step, schottische, polka, quadrille, and galop. She is particularly adept at the swift changes of the medley. There were twenty regular dances and three extras, including the Prairie Queen Quadrille, the Lanciers Quadrille, and Mulligan's Guard Polka. The music was perfectly delightful. Judging from the success of this party, surely the Military Ball will become a regular annual event.

December 3, 1895. Will the Freshmen have a banquet this year? Last year there wasn't any, but rumors are about that there will be a Freshman party very soon. The Faculty has ordained that there shall be no hazing. What optimists they are!

December 7, 1895. Saturday. The Freshmen held their banquet at the St. James Hotel last night and every one was there punctually except Mr. J. E. Shuerman, who did not arrive until the banquet had begun because his Sophomore "friends" could not bear to part company with him earlier. Many and varied were the tales of escape from the Sophs. Even some of the girls had their party dresses stolen. Promptly at ten-thirty President Schaeffer

and Dean and Mrs. Currier led the class into the dining room. The banquet was wonderful:

	BALTIMORE SELECTS	
QUEEN OLIVES		SWEET GHERKINS
	CELERY	
DEVILED HAM		SANDWICHES
	VIENNA ROLLS	
COLD TURKEY		BOILED HAM
	OX TONGUE	
	CHICKEN MAYONNAISE	
	COLD SLAW	
	SARATOGA POTATOES	
	NEW YORK ICE CREAM	
LADY FINGERS		FRENCH KISSES
	MACAROONS	
ANGEL FOOD		FRUIT CAKE
	NUTS	
RAISINS		FANCY FRUIT
	CONFECTIONS	
	COFFEE	

After the banquet, toasts were proposed, and the intellectual festivities ended with the Freshman yell. Thereupon the gay company adjourned to the parlors while the dining room was being cleared for dancing. The floor is not very good in the St. James: the boards are wide and rough. But the "strains of the enchanting waltz" made up for this defect, and the sound of rhythmic feet might have been heard from twelve till two.

February 15, 1896. Saturday. The second an-

nual Battalion Ball occurred last night. About eighty couples were there and as the music was excellent and the floor in good condition the cadets and their ladies reported a very enjoyable time. "Dainty refreshments" were served in tents placed at one end of the hall. Major C. B. Vogdes, Lieutenant-Colonel William Larrabee, Captain John A. Hull, Captain S. C. Smith, and First Sergeant C. W. Sears were floor managers — officers of the night, so to speak.

March 10, 1896. Invitations are out for the first "Annual" Junior Prom! It will be danced in the Armory on April 17th and "promises to be the social event of the season."

April 16, 1896. Just one more day until the Junior Prom. Most of the students will walk to the party, but a few have had a hack reserved and will ride to the party in fine style. That luxury costs fifty cents apiece. They say the Armory will be beautifully decorated — which is a tremendous achievement in itself. All the girls are having new dresses made — silk ones with silk petticoats that will swish when they waltz.

April 19, 1896. Sunday morning, after the busiest week — the Senior Sociable on Monday, two fraternity parties, the first baseball game of the season, an Hesperian program, and all climaxed by the Junior Prom. The Prom was "an unqualified success". Brilliantly bedecked with University and class colors, the hall was charming, and the Chicago

Italian Orchestra contributed to the "winged hours and light feet". The Armory floor is so much better than the one at the St. James. As the evening was warm, the lemonade and ices seemed particularly delicate and refreshing. Every one hopes the Junior Prom will be an annual affair.

March 13, 1897. The Senior Class had their third party of the year in Irving hall last night. As a special diversion several of the young men gave the "exceedingly funny farce 'Serious Situation in Burleigh's Room'." Photographer Werts took two flash-light pictures of the stage and players. After the farce, light refreshments were served and the remainder of the evening was spent in "social conversation".

April 29, 1897. Quite a number of the students are going to watch the second annual Junior Prom from the gallery. Seats cost twenty-five cents but that is really cheap for the fun of observing the peculiarities of various dancers, noting the trend of feminine popularity, and commenting on the girls' new gowns. The Chicago Italian Orchestra will play again this year.

May 1, 1897. Saturday. "The music was fine, the costumes were rich", and so every one had a delightful time at the Junior Prom last night.

November 6, 1897. Saturday. There were about "three-score lads and lassies" at the Sophomore Cotillion last night. This is the first time that the Cotillion has ever been held at S. U. I. Now each

class has a formal party to its credit. Many-colored bunting decorations as well as the Beloit Orchestra enlivened the occasion, which was universally conceded to be "a merry one".

April 14, 1898. The tide of social affairs has been at low ebb this year. It is with the greatest of expectations, therefore, that every one is looking forward to the Junior Prom, which is set for the twenty-ninth of this month. There is much talk of war, but that is not expected to mar the fun of this occasion.

April 30, 1898. Saturday. The music at the Junior Prom last night by Strausser's Orchestra of Davenport was beautiful. They played many waltzes — some of the prettiest pieces! "Annie Rooney" and "Yhen You and I were Young, Maggie" were liked so well that they were repeated several times. Mrs. McClain, Mrs. Ely, Mrs. Hosford, Mrs. Musser, and Mrs. Ridgway acted as patronesses. About fifty couples were on the floor and the galleries were filled.

It is surprising how unpopular the slender girls are. One can not help being sorry for some of them. Last night at the Prom, when all the boys were going around among the girls reserving dances, a few were almost completely ignored except by their escorts. Usually an escort claims only four or five dances with his own partner and she is dependent upon her own attractiveness for the rest. The ones who were left sitting alone must have felt terribly

chagrined. But it was all because the poor girls have no shape at all — neither bust nor hips — and padding seems to only emphasize the fault.

September 20, 1898. Tuesday. The Delta Gammas gave a reception last Saturday for their new girls at "Minnehaha" in Regan's Park. Minnehaha is becoming a very popular place for parties and picnics. After the girls had enjoyed a row on the river, they were quite in the mood for the "sumptuous" dinner. Later they "tripped the light fantastic and convinced the new girls, by this unique entertainment, that they would not want friends in S. U. I."

November 3, 1898. Thursday. What fun the Seniors had last night at their "Social"! After several rousing games of pillow-deck, conundrums were pinned up around the room. Elmer Hull took the first prize, "a dainty book", while the booby prize, a "beautiful button labeled 'Remember the Maine', was won by Jessie Robinson", who had little competition in that achievement.

After the refreshments, a big basket was brought out which provoked universal curiosity. The contents proved to be roller-skates. What hilarity followed, what giggling, what sudden squeals of surprise, what falling down, what clinging to partners, what fun! Charles C. Bradley did a waltz and Miss Agnes Safley some fancy movements on the skates. A Senior Social is certainly the jolliest kind of entertainment. Strange to relate, "Jimmie", with his

“Git right out o’ here now” did not appear at midnight as usual.

February 11, 1899. Saturday. The *Vidette Reporter* says “the piping strains of the two-step or the basking notes of the waltz, seemed to make the old armory floor a veritable garden of the gods, last night at the Junior Prom.” From all reports the decorations must have been beautiful. Whoever was responsible for attending to the ten or twelve stoves must have been conducting an experiment in thermostatics, or whatever it would be, because first it was too hot and then too cold. At times the guests had to dance to keep warm, and then they had to sit out a number to cool off.

February 18, 1899. Saturday. The Sigma Nus had a cake walk last night. Mr. E. H. Millen and Miss Ruth Hobby “captured the confection” for the best performance of the dance.

March 2, 1899. Thursday. “Chatting and playing cards” at the Junior Sociable last night was followed by “toasts, speeches and declamations”. After refreshments some of the members of the class performed a cake walk which was vigorously applauded. Many of the students at S. U. I. are learning to do the cake walk. It really is just an exhibition dance which can scarcely become common as a ballroom step. In response to the fad, “cake walk songs” are popular too.

April 13, 1899. According to the *Vidette Reporter* the “well-known decorator, Claude Holt, has been

given *carte blanche* by the committee for the Sophomore Cotillion. The decorations promise to eclipse anything yet seen in Iowa City." How even an expert can transform the Armory into a ballroom is a puzzle.

April 15, 1899. Saturday. The Armory last night was a maze of color, a veritable dreamland of ecstasy. Streamers of yellow, black, and apple green predominated "while the white and purple and pink of other departments and classes, mingled gracefully from roof to side of the Armory." Corners were transformed into alcoves; while frappé stands and seats, overhung by palms, were placed around the floor. Peterson's Orchestra of Davenport proved to be "a most satisfactory accompaniment to the light foot steps of the merry dancers". In fact, "the event was especially neat and tasteful in all particulars."

This is the last big University party of the nineties.

DOROTHY WAGNER