

Evanston Reelects Bro. Jourdain

By WILLIAM C. PYANT, Alpha Mu

THERE was much rejoicing in Evanston, Illinois, on April 5, 1932, when the returns from the city election indicated that Brother Edwin B. Jourdain, Jr., had been re-elected alderman of Evanston's fifth ward. The Chicago Defender adequately summed up the results in an article on the election and stated, "smashing all Evanston's political records and piling up a new figure for city council elections, former alderman Edwin B. Jourdain, Jr., Harvard graduate and Republican of the fifth ward, was re-elected to the Evanston City Council by a victory of 2,358 votes against his rival, Peter Jans (white)."

In returning Brother Jourdain to the city council, residents of the fifth ward vindicated the unfair treatment which was forced upon Brother Jourdain early this year when he was unseated by the city council because of alleged irregularities in the aldermanic election of 1931, when Brother Jourdain defeated two white opponents and took his seat in the city council.

The defeated candidate immediately began an "investigation" which purported to show that there had been fraud in last year's election. Acting on the findings of this "committee" the council declared Brother Jourdain's seat vacant last February. This committee emphasized that Brother Jourdain had had nothing to do with the alleged irregularities and absolved him from any personal blame.

When the Council had voted to declare his seat vacant, Brother Jourdain immediately announced that he would be a candidate in the April election because he said, "the people of the Fifth Ward are clean and honest—there has been no fraud—you can not indict a whole people—therefore, I shall vindicate these people at the coming election by showing my opponents that I am rightfully entitled to represent them."

Aggressive Campaign

From that time on Brother Jourdain conducted an aggressive campaign which surpassed the record which he established last year. When the time came for the candidates to file their petitions, a group of professors and white students from Northwestern University, stood in line in front of the city hall all night, in alternate shifts, in order that Brother Jourdain's name might appear first on the ballot.

Brother Jourdain did not run to fill his unexpired term but, instead, filed for the long term (2 years), and entered the race against Peter N. Jans—who had held office for eight consecutive years

and was chairman of the most important committees.

At the same time Brother Jourdain placed Miss Daisy Sandidge (white), president of the League of Women Voters, in the campaign to run for his unexpired term. Miss Sandidge scored an easy victory against four opponents who were seeking the short term (1 year).

Beginning in February and continuing until April 4, Brother Jourdain conducted one of the most sensational campaigns in the history of Evanston politics. Among the outstanding persons who spoke to large mass meetings in the interest of Brother Jourdain's candidacy are: Professors A. R. Hatton and Dean James A. James, of the departments of political science and history, respectively, at

Northwestern University; Dean William Pickens, William (Bill) Dawson, Clarence Darrow, internationally known criminal lawyer; and Congressman Oscar DePriest.

Vote Sets Record

Evanstonians waited breathlessly on April 5 when early returns gave Brother Jourdain's opponents a temporary lead of 900 votes. The Evanston News-Index graphically described the situation and stated, "the biggest upset in the election was the victory sweep of Edwin B. Jourdain, Jr., and Miss Daisy Sandidge in the fifth ward.

"Political observers had been predicting the results for several weeks, but even the most ardent Jourdain followers had not expected anything like the 510 vote margin by which the unseated Negro alderman was returned to the council.

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EDWIN B. JOURDAIN, JR.

... his re-election and vindication the finest and cleanest thing I have ever seen in American politics.

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Success in Politics

William Pickens, in an Associated Negro Press article written before the notable victory of Brother Jourdain, said: "On April 5, 1932, Evanston, Ill., will again vote on the election of members of the city council, and it looks as if they mean to send the young colored man, Jourdain, back to that body. The people, white and colored, elected Jourdain a year ago, giving him the biggest vote of the three candidates running from his ward,—the other two being white. Only two could be elected, and therefore Jourdain and the white man next to him were successful.

Then immediately plans were started to get Jourdain out of the office; it was discovered that some ballots were wrongly marked, as is true in all elections, and although, on the re-examination, only 37 ballots were found bad, and although Jourdain had led his nearest rival by a plurality of 400 and had led the one who was defeated by 1,000 votes, the city council proceeded to unseat Jourdain on the unheard-of-reasoning: That since 37 votes were found bad, if the examiners had taken more time, the MIGHT HAVE found many more bad ones!

"That is like trying a man for murder, and after finding that he had only killed a chicken, maybe, if they had kept hunting, they may have discovered that at some time somewhere he had also killed a man,—ergo, guilty!

Action Called Rotten

"This rotten action of the city council served one good purpose: it so aroused Evanston's decent citizens that they are now making the finest fight I have ever seen white and colored people make TOGETHER in politics. The Northwestern University students and professors are standing in solid phalanx behind the young colored man.

"Students and professors kept a 24 hour vigil, on one of the most bitterly cold nights, standing in line before the court house door, for the privilege of filing Jourdain's name first, so that he would top the list of the candidates to be voted on in April. They say that to have your name at the top of the list is worth at least 250 votes in that ward, for many voters begin at the top and simply mark for two of the candidates as their choice.

"But the 'ring' tried to cheat Jourdain out of this advantage, and only a stern protest from university professors and a threat on their part to publish the scandal in the papers prevented the clerk from putting the name of one of the white candidates ahead of Jourdain's anyway. The university students worked

in relays on that bitterly cold night, standing until other relieved them, some standing until their feet were numb and felt like heavy weights when they endeavored to stamp them,—fighting for decency, regardless of color.

Some Conclusions

"It looks as if Jourdain will be elected to the long-term and a Texas white woman, who is cooperating with Jourdain, will receive the shorter term, thus ousting both of Jourdain's former rivals who were responsible for the crooked action of the city council. A southern white woman and a young Negro man cooperating in politics against crookedness and against two cheap white male politicians, and being supported by all the blacks and all the most intelligent and influential whites of their ward! Ye gods! what is this country coming to?

"It is clear that white Americans have shown this instance the capacity to rise above race and color and to accord honor and reward according to merit. This is one of the most encouraging signs I have ever seen, and the support and enthusiasm for Jourdain's re-election and vindication is simply the finest and cleanest thing I have ever seen in American politics."

**National Pan-Hellenic
Holds Meeting**

The National Pan-Hellenic Council held its 1932 meeting on May 5th at the Phyllis Wheatley Y. W. C. A., 528 S. Sixth Street, Louisville, Kentucky. The advance program outlined a wide field of activity for the delegates of the various fraternities and sororities of the country, most important of which, perhaps, was the study of the action on the

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By EARL P. TAYLOR, Theta Lambda



DR. J. E. BUSH

His bite can be opened and closed without destroying the relation of the jaws anteriorly-posteriorly. . . .

Linden Center Clinic, Dayton. He is president of the Dayton Branch N. A. A. C. P. and secretary of the Super-Building and Loan Association of that city. He is a member of the Dayton Dental Society, Ohio State Dental Society, and the American Dental Association.

He was one of the seven persons representing Ohio at the funeral of Col. Chas. Young at Arlington Cemetery, Washington, D. C. in 1922.

Brother Bush has served Theta Lambda in the capacity of president and secretary—secretary for four consecutive years. And, as he has served this chapter, he has likewise served the community; and in turn is admired and respected by all Daytonians. His name is deserving of a place in Theta Lambda's Hall of Fame.

Yes, Brother Bush is very happily married

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cil. With the heavy Jourdain vote rolling in from the third, fourth, and fifth precincts in the fifth ward last night the victory of Miss Sandidge was practically assured, as the campaign of the two was openly waged on the same ticket."

Brother Jourdain's total number of votes was the largest ever piled up for an alderman in the history of Evanston because his total number of votes was larger than the combined number of votes received by any two candidates running from any of the other wards. Congratulations, Brother Jourdain! Alpha Phi Alpha is proud of you!

"Charges of a serious nature against incumbent aldermen and the administration of Evanston's affairs have been made since their election last Tuesday by the alderman-elect of the fifth ward—Miss Daisy Sandidge and Edwin B. Jourdain, Jr.," the Chicago Herald-Examiner reports.

"In published utterances they have reiterated their desire to 'clean up' the city council and to rescue it from the alleged ills that have beset it for so long, in their opinion.

Wars On Speakeasies

"Miss Sandidge asserted to her well-wishers that she had no further political aspirations than to carry out her campaign platform. In brief:

"I want to break down the political machine that has ramifications in county and state affairs. Kitchen speakeasies in my neighborhood are pauperizing the Negro population of Evanston. I will demand an immediate police investigation to learn why they are allowed to remain open.

"Besides that, I hope to force the council to discontinue its practice of holding secret sessions and voting on a proposal after a debate in which the public is left in the dark. I intend to see that housing conditions in my ward are improved and a large playground is added to the district."

Jourdain Hits Graft

"Jourdain was equally vehement, being a little more bitter as he remembered his promise of several weeks ago, on being ousted from the council, to seek 'vindication' at the polls.

He asserted:

"The idea Evanston is a well-governed city is a joke. Chicago's river wards wouldn't allow the petty attempts at corruption that are being practiced here at election time, as well as in the administration of the city government generally.

"I won't ballyhoo the council with a lot of reforms, but I'm going to insist on a tightening of the loose strings and an elimination of the smug complacency of our old residents that has allowed such conditions to prevail."

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