

EDITORIAL

COMMENT

The Daily Nebraskan

FORTY-FIFTH YEAR

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A Sound Basis?

Of the 2,000 veterans attending the University of Nebraska, some have indicated that they desire a Veterans' club, some have shown opposition to such a group, and a great many are indifferent to the idea. The number of persons attending the meeting called for this evening will give an indication as to which of the three groups represent the opinion of the majority of the veterans.

About 130 of those who favored formation of a club met a week ago and ratified the constitution which appeared in full in last Friday's Daily. Said constitution fails to put forth convincing reasons for the organization of a veterans' club, and prospective members of the group differ in their conception of the aims of the club.

Members of the present steering committee who have expressed their opinion to the press appear sincere in their opposition to making the group political in nature. Other interested veterans have publicly expressed themselves as favoring what would amount to a political party. The majority of the club backers have failed to say what they really want.

The purposes of the Veterans' club, as stated in the constitution, are indefinite, and in several cases overlap the functions of existing campus agencies and groups.

Section 5 of article II gives the promotion of social activities of veterans and an athletic program as aims of the club. There is already in existence a fine energetic intramural athletic program open to all university men. The Student Union offers a full program of variety shows, dances, movies, etc., every weekend in addition to their other excellent recreational facilities. The USA holds frequent parties for students, and there have been several all-university parties this year, in addition to the many house and group affairs.

In Article V, section 6, the social and athletic committees are again mentioned with the addition of a housing committee. The office of the Dean of Student Affairs has worked for many weeks to unearth adequate housing. At present the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce is conducting a survey to discover additional housing space in the city. The hospital units at the Lincoln air base which will eventually house 200 families are being readied as quickly as possible. The government says there are no prefabricated or other movable type housing units available. The call for bids on the new men's dorms is to be made in the near future. What could a Veterans' club do to improve the housing situation? In any case, the housing problem is an all-student problem, not just a concern of the veterans.

Section 6 of Article II says that the club will sponsor all groups that serve all student and university interests and "stand with any group that is right but part with those that are wrong." Who is going to decide between right and wrong?

Several sections of the same article are superfluous. One says that the group will insure in the membership a sense of loyalty, spirit and responsibility to the university. Doesn't their presence as students on the campus mean that they automatically take upon themselves these three things?

The most questionable sections are those setting up the Veterans' club as a liaison agent between administration and the veterans and between veterans and other campus organizations, and another which reads, "to insure the orderly return of veterans to university life." On one hand they declare themselves more mature than the average student and on the other hand they ask for someone to act as a buffer in their contacts and adjustments to college life. No one is present to herd along the regular students when they first come to college, and many of the veterans are men who have been enrolled in this or other universities before. No other group has asked to be set apart in this way.

As for counseling veterans, the campus and city veterans' offices, the YMCA, and the office of the Dean of Men maintain such services. Admittedly the campus veterans' bureau has been swamped with work, mainly government red tape and paper work. According to officials in charge, however, a veterans' club could or could not be helpful to that office, depending upon the club itself.

To date the Veterans' club has not enlisted enough members to be representative of the 2,000 veterans on the campus. Unless they can interest more than 130 out of 2,000 servicemen and women, and until they can agree upon some reasonable objectives of such a group, the Veterans' club will just remain another unnecessary proposed campus activity.

Letterip

To the Editor:

The announcement of the beginning of the Red Cross drive immediately conjured up the remembrance of the many fine establishments that the Red Cross set up and maintained overseas.

One in particular that I recall was the club in Naples, Italy. This club was quartered in one of the more modern buildings of the Naples business district.

They made every effort possible under the circumstances to provide a home-like atmosphere and a variety of amusements. On the street floor was a barbershop, shower, manicurists and a clothes pressing facility. This was a much needed asset for many of the soldiers came to Naples on passes directly from the front. They arrived in the same condition that they were forced to maintain while in the lines.

The lounge was on the second floor. As the furniture and equipment had been requisitioned along with the building, it was of the best obtainable. An American or Italian orchestra would be play-

ing or a group of performers would be giving an exhibition.

Along one side of the lounge, across a hall were reading rooms, supplied with books that had been donated by people in the States.

Most soldiers will agree that while the Red Cross girls were not competitors for honors as pin up girls, they were always friendly, willing to give a word of advice or sit and talk with the soldiers. Most of the Red Cross girls realized that many of the soldiers had been away from home a long time, that they had few opportunities to converse with English speaking women.

Our division had a clubmobile assigned to it. The three to four girls that staffed the car, traveled from unit to unit serving coffee and doughnuts. Many men will remember these girls because of their willingness to smile, making the men remember that there was something else other than war, even for a short time.

When the clubmobile appeared, it was a time for relaxation, a time to sit or lay on the ground and talk. To many of the men, this was just a break from the steady monotony of war, while others crowded about the girls, eager to talk.

The Red Cross had much influence in maintaining a state of moral among the men that could have been created in no other way.

Sincerely,

Don Dory.

AWGWAN DEADLINE.

Deadline for cartoons, articles and poems intended for the March issue of "Awwgan," campus humor magazine, has been set at 1 o'clock Wednesday, March 6, by Ruth Korb, editor.

Material should be turned in at the Awwgan office in the Union basement before that time.

Voters . . .

(Continued from page 1.)

Nebraskan. Polls are located in Ellen Smith hall on city campus and in the Home Ec building on ag campus, and will be open from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m.

BABW, the Barb Activity Board for Women, is a representative board council for unaffiliated women. Coed Counselors sponsors

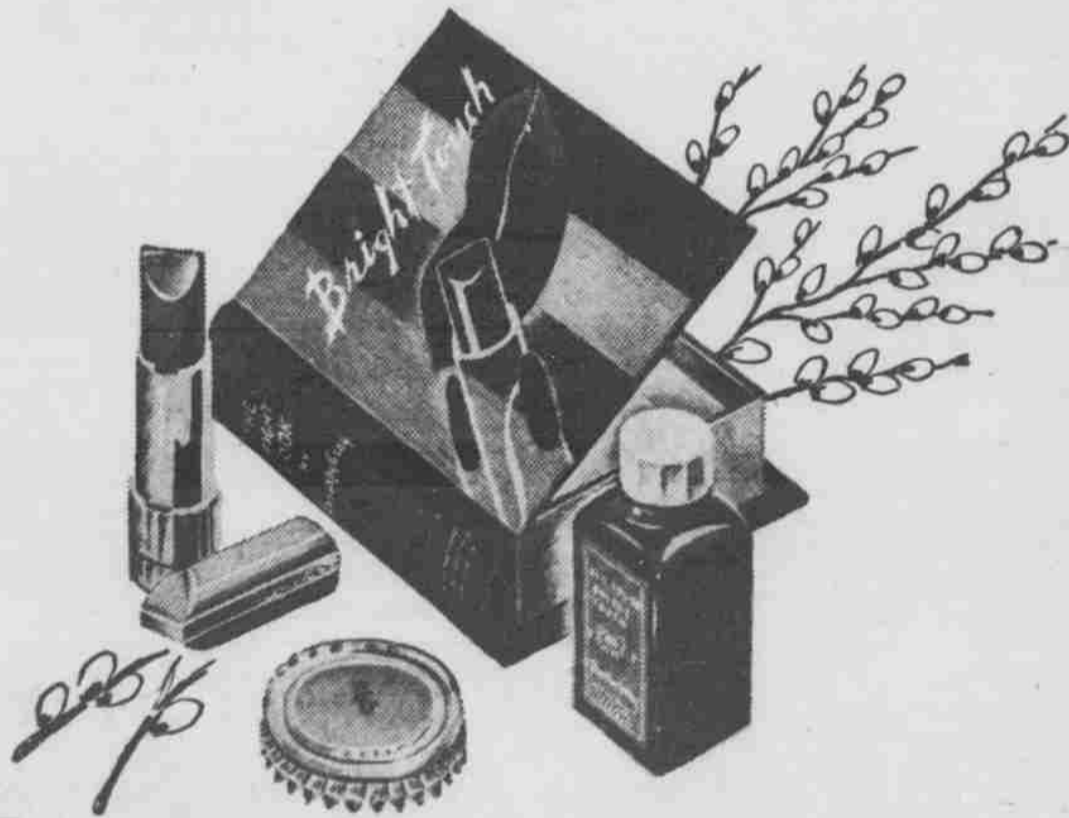
a big sister relationship between upperclass women and freshmen, and AWS' regulates coed hours, activities and rules.

USA Council

USA council meeting will be held Thursday at 7 p. m. in the BABW office of the Union, according to Don Huffman, USA president.

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