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NIGHT NEWS EDITOR.....GENE BERG

Here's Our Answer . . .

In Friday's editorial we raised the question of "why is there such a predominance of Greeks in University activities?" which can be answered by any student, whether affiliated or not, who has taken a second look at the system of organized houses.

The answer is quite simple. The key to the matter is what some call "push," others, a better sounding word, "encouragement." Because fraternities and sororities see the values of participation in extra curricular activities and feel that having their members in these activities gives a desired prestige to the group, Greek houses actively promote their members to participate in extra-curricular work, whether it be in athletics, pep groups, governing bodies, promotional organizations, or activities in the field of fine arts. Upperclassmen in the Greek houses who have gained experience in these activities are in a position to encourage and advise freshmen and sophomores to participate in extra curriculars. And thus Greek participation is perpetuated from year to year.

The unaffiliated student often does not have this advantage of being brought in contact with those who will encourage him and assist him in getting a start. Many of those who do make a start get discouraged and are not in touch with those who would urge him to keep going.

Perhaps the situation could be partially corrected by emphasizing the point that all major activities are open to all students. Any requirements for participation in activities, as set by the administration or the activity itself, apply only to hours carried successfully and academic eligibility. Once the student has met these, he may choose from a wide range of activities one or more in which he is interested.

The problem of unaffiliated students in activities goes beyond representation on the Student Council. While the Council may take steps to see that the unaffiliated students get representation on the Council, there still is a need for seeing that the barbs enter other University activities. It seems only natural that this responsibility should go to those barb groups already in existence.

Such organizations as the Independent Students' Association, BABW, Amikita, Kernels, Ag Men's Social Club, Hesperia, Palladians and Towne Club are groups in the best position to consider the matter of barb participation in activities.

As we understand it, BABW exists for that very purpose. Undoubtedly, other groups have done much along this line already. If concerted effort means anything, we suggest that the independents in these organizations set up a barb council to consider seriously the problem of getting more unaffiliates into activities and take action in their own groups.

From the Front Page

BY BRUCE KENNEDY.

THE HOOVER commission again made the news as it continued to wage war against the executive department organization. The subject of its latest report was the new unified national military establishment. This department was branded as the weakest one yet investigated.

The commission urged that the present Secretary of Defense (Forrestal) be made a super boss over the armed forces. It is hoped that this measure would end the feud of the Army and Navy which constantly hinders smooth operation.

INTERESTING highlights developed around the North American Security Alliance over the weekend. Denmark and Sweden have hinted that they would like to follow Norway's example. Denmark has already stated her intentions and Sweden is expected to do the same.

IN WASHINGTON, Senator Taft ripped into the proposed plans with all the vigor of a Florida hurricane. Arguing against the plan to rearm European countries, Taft stated that Russia might get the idea the western powers were preparing for war. And if this did happen Russia would no doubt start it now, rather than wait until full armament was possible.

THERE MIGHT be a change in the United States Military Governor in Germany soon. The present governor, Gen. Lucius Clay, has been reported as being more than ready to resign. He applied for resignation a year ago, but because his name represented resistance to Russian aggressiveness in Germany, his request was denied.

DREW PEARSON, who was, as most of the country knew, the target for Truman's outburst last week, answered calmly the charges made against him. Said Pearson, "I'm sure that the president will agree that the term used last week should be "Servants of Brotherhood."

Union Calendar

Tuesday, March 1, Siesta Film in main lounge, 4 p.m. 4:30 p.m., Coke Dance in ballroom. 7 p.m., Craft Shop-instruction.

Wednesday, March 2, 7:30 p.m., Square Dancing in ballroom.

Friday, March 4, Junior-Senior Prom at Coliseum, 9 p.m. Tex Beneke and his Orchestra.

Letterip

Dear Editor:

Wednesday afternoon we attended a stormy session of our campus Student Council. Amid the tossing back and forth of such comments as "... no Barb representation ..." "... faction must go ..." "Student Council may be disbanded..." we made two observations:

- 1) That some of the members of the council were characterized by bland faces and seemed amazingly disinterested in any council business—their contributions to discussions were nil. We couldn't help speculating as to whether these students might not have obtained their council seats to fill a house faction quota rather than because of their real interest in student government.
- 2) That there is only one independent student on the council.

Granted, there is a big problem here—for it certainly would be a tragedy for Nebraska students to be denied any voice in their affairs—but, we doubt that it is right to lump the whole big mess together and label it the familiar Greek-Barb problem. We find it difficult to imagine either that guaranteeing Barb representation on the council would automatically get rid of the faction, or that getting rid of the faction would guarantee Barb interest and representation. It would seem that there are two distinct issues here: the problem of minority group control (regardless of whether the minority is Barb or Greek), and the apparent lack of interest on the part of independent students.

There have been three solutions suggested for this problem.

- (1) That Student Council members be apportioned according to a regional plan.
- (2) That political parties be revived on the campus.
- (3) That a definite ratio of Barbs be guaranteed seats on the Council, perhaps under a system that would allow a membership of 1/4 Greeks, 1/4 Independents, and 1/2 to be elected at large.

The first plan seems to be utterly fantastic in view of our campus housing set-up.

The second might have merit, but it would seem that it would ultimately lead to stronger Greek-Barb rivalry, force the Greeks into a stronger faction, and conceivably lead to the formation of a type of Barb faction. This would bless us with two factions instead of one, and divide our campus into an armed camp.

The third plan seems the most feasible of those suggested to date. With Greeks voting for Greek members and Barbs for independent members, there could be no opportunity for Greek faction members to sponsor weak independents. There are certain council members who contend that Barbs do not deserve seats on the council because of their previous lack of interest. But general campus opinion seems to be that their lack of interest is due more to lack of encouragement than to lethargy. The guaranteed representation should provide incentive and encouragement for Barb interest in student government. Finally, the provision for 1/2 of the students to be elected at large would give the group most actively interested a chance for further representation.

Mary Louise Horstman (Greek)
Sue Allen (Unaffiliated)

(Editor's note—The following letter is addressed to an alum who sent \$200 to the Student Foundation to be used for foreign students. The donor remains anonymous as no name accompanied the contribution.)

Dear Alum:

Thank you so much for your contribution of \$200 to be used for financial assistance for foreign students. I think you will be interested in knowing that our scholarship committee conferred immediately with Chancellor Gustavson and Dr. G. W. Rosenlof about the best procedure to follow.

We wish to assure you that with their enthusiastic support in helping us select worthy candidates, your contribution will be wisely used either in scholarships or grants-in-aid to foreign students.

We should like to thank you in person, but, of course, since we do not know your name, that is impossible. Your generosity is indeed a clear indication of your loyalty to our University. We shall announce through **The Daily Nebraskan** from time to time how your money is being spent. We do hope that you will know about it in this way.

Thank you again in behalf of the Nebraska Student Foundation and the University.

Sincerely yours,
Gene Mitchell, president

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