

Nebraskan Editorials:

Three Rushees And The IFC

Two rather hurried and ambiguous amendments will be considered by the Interfraternity Council Wednesday.

Three rushees made hasty and unwise decisions concerning their choice of fraternities and after conferring with members of other houses decided to break their pledges.

The retroactive amendments would make it possible for the rushees involved in last Rush Week's mixup to pledge, but it would set a dangerous precedent and could very easily cause more serious and more confusing incidents in Rush Weeks to come.

The proposed amendments would make it possible for pledges who break their pledge during Rush Week to affiliate with another fraternity after a period of 30 days.

Official pledging would then hold little or no significance until the pledge and the fraternity had weathered a period of thirty days.

The proposed amendments seem to be directed at specific occurrence with little thought for the future.

If this case warrants special attention, the logical thing for the IFC to do is to suspend the rules in this specific case which could be done through parliamentary channels.

Let's Start Now

Last Saturday afternoon, despite chilly and rainy weather, competition from an exciting football game and a minimum of advanced publicity, the Sigma Chi fraternity staged an unusually successful, first annual, "Derby Day."

Everybody on the mall during the "Derby" kept talking about the weather, but this is normal. And even more normal, nothing happened. It just continued to rain and become colder.

Sigma Chi, as a fraternity, is to be congratulated. There was more work, behind the scenes, before the actual competition and then afterward in cleaning up, than most people realized.

It seemed from observation that all who attended and watched the affair enjoyed it. Granted, it had traces of the gladiator ring in old Rome, some silliness (even for a college fraternity), maybe a little mockery of University rules and possibly a little too much sex for the more staid element; but it was to most of us, a lot of fun.

And judging from the attendance, it was as successful as conditions would allow.

It was so successful, in fact, that we must look a little bit beyond the Sigma Chi's "Derby Day" to what someday might be an all-University "Derby Day," with a change of name, of course.

What about the Spring Event?

Last winter intricate plans were begun for an all-day affair, actually very similar to what the Sig Chi's staged. It was to be held near the mall, it was to consist of games and team races, the campus was to be divided in logical competitive teams, there were to be prizes,

difficulty in replying by the three rushees involved. But, after all, what can a fraternity do once a man has decided to depledge. It would be quite humiliating to again try to change the rushee's mind.

The IFC is currently looking into the recent Rush Week with a critical eye. The IFC's Rushing Committee will soon become activated.

Enforce rules which do not allow contact by fraternities of rushees during Rush Week at times other than during formal Rush parties.

Control summer rushing, at least to the extent that rushees would not be contacted personally before the first of August.

Investigate fraternities that have large pledge classes immediately following the opening minutes of the first party. This sort of action would mean that the IFC would not wait for formal charges by a fraternity, but would take autonomous and immediate action.

There is a decided difference between a Rush Week that is watched and one that is supervised just as there is a note of futility in opening the door too late after the kitten, or the pledge, wants to get out.—S. J.

There was to be a large dance afterward, there was to be a lot of publicity and, to top it off—and this Sigma Chi just couldn't arrange—there was to be part of a day off of classes.

But we all know what happened. Came a warm night and a little bit of foolishness and the best laid plans were for naught. There was no desire on the part of anybody to go ahead with the Spring Event.

Right now is the time to begin thinking. We have just witnessed what one group of fraternity men can do. Is it really possible that an entire University cannot equal their performance?

Last year the Council began work. A large committee was appointed by the Council which actually made the preparations, those that were made. The committee found complete co-operation from the entire faculty and administration.

Right now is the time to begin. There is no reason why a committee cannot be set up and plans begun. This is not too early, and certainly there is not a soul who lived on this campus last spring who could honestly oppose the project.

Let's take a lesson from Sigma Chi. They were successful in their field day. Here is something positive the Council can do: Here is something the entire campus can support. Here is something that just might be able to fill that certain "void" with which this university seems to be plagued every year on many of those warm Monday evenings. But let's get started on this project and do something while we still have time.—D. F.

The Repercussions

As the entire world knows, the President has suffered what the nation's leading heart specialists have called "a moderate, not mild and not serious" heart attack.

Mr. Eisenhower has become a victim of one of this country's greatest current medical problems, a sickness that strikes, just as it has in the case of the President, the most active men in all fields.

Newspaper reports have carried the well-wishes of leading men and women throughout the world. All of us, large or small, famous or unknown, Republican or Democrat wish, in a most fervent way, that Mr. Eisenhower's recovery may be as speedy and complete as possible.

Right now the most important wish any of us could make is for the health of the President. But, politics being as they are in this country, pundits are already looking ahead; for even though physicians say the President might well be able to serve his present term and then be healthy enough to survive the strains of another four years of office, there still remain the two jobs of, first, getting the voters to agree with the doctors and second, living through the rigors of another presidential campaign, undoubtedly the longest, at times most useless, and always the most trying extravaganza of the entire political world.

For a good many months now pollsters and predictors have wondered what Mr. Eisenhower will decide about 1956. Mamie's ideas have crept out. The new farm in Gettysburg seems very nice. But the President has kept his silence, as he should. Now, things are really confused.

For the first time in many months the Democratic nomination seems inviting. And the Republican nomination, well, who can possibly say what it seems to be.

It is unusual that the nation knows as much as it does about the condition of Mr. Eisenhower. In times past, the government has attempted to keep the declining state of various Presidents' health unknown. With the political overtones being what they are, this could have been reason for the men around Ike to repeat past secrecy. But since they did not, we are all speculating.

To the Democrats, there are new possibilities. Already in the presidential field are such names as Stevenson, Harriman, Williams and even Kefauver. Each of these men has his standing and his following. Each of them has been considered by all "in the know" as "possibles."

But in the Republican camp, there has come a mighty and a swift change. Ike, unlike few presidents before him, has remained throughout over two years in office, amazingly free from personal criticism.

Ike was considered a "sure thing" for re-nomination and re-election if he just gave the go ahead sign. There has been no other candidate who could even begin to compete with the President for next year's race.

Now, the GOP is faced with a rather large question mark.

"Just who," GOP leaders are saying to themselves, "are we going to run?"

There's Nixon, Warren, Humphrey, Dewey, Stassen and others, all of whom are usually dismissed (with the exception of Nixon) for one reason or another.

So here we go. First, we all want and wish the best of health for Mr. Eisenhower. And then, sadly enough, we now seem to be beginning, over one year in advance, the political spectacle we call our presidential campaign.—D. F.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS by Dick Bibler



"NOW I KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN BY HIGHER EDUCATION."

College Deludes Young Idealist

Gay, reckless scapegrace that I am, another week has passed without my discovering anything pertinent or important to relate. Thus, I have been driven to exploring the dark and morbid recesses of my mind, where are found thoughts not usually brought before the public.

This charming story is about an idealistic young man who came to college while suffering from the

Jess Jesting

delusion known as education. That is, he firmly believed in education as a great and good power in the world.

Even worse, he believed that college was the proper place to get one. My experienced readers can well imagine the dire consequences in store for such a fellow.

Before I go on, I had better tell you more about my hero. He was a pleasant lad who paid his debts, was reasonably loyal to his friends and did not go about striking others without provocation, even when drunk.

In short, had it not been for the delusion which I have mentioned, he would have presented no problem for the college. However, plans had been laid long in advance for students of his type. He possessed certain superfluous qualities which were not long in being removed.

The first thing he lost was his soul. It was taken from him during registration, given a number, placed on an IBM card, punched full of holes and fed to a machine.

The first step taken while the victim was too confused to protest, the rest became progressively easier. His enthusiasm was quickly sapped by a series of dull and contradictory teachers; his respect for his fellows was removed by the simple strategy of placing him among too many of them; and his love for simple and somewhat bawdy pleasures, while not destroyed, was made to seem a sort of perverted desire which was hardly discussed, and never fulfilled, by really nice people.

All these things having been accomplished, he was considered ready for the diploma mill, and set to work.

And here is where the surprise ending of my story begins. For while appearing to be a well-functioning member of the system, this clever and sturdy fellow was actually learning. He discovered the meaning and value of education, and learned that its acquisition was a life-long process.

He saw the ways of the world, and most important, he learned that if the things he loved were often despised by many, this did not lessen their value for him.

But his crowning achievement was, that upon graduation, he remained a pleasant lad who paid his debts, was reasonably loyal to his friends and did not go about striking others without provocation, even when drunk.

Roger Henkle Defines Column Position

Since my first—and almost last—column a week ago, people have been after me with brickbats and clever comments, advising me to strangle myself with typewriter ribbon.

I only go out at night any more, and then with a pack of dogs, and as soon as I get fat enough and sleek enough and grow a good enough coat of fur, I'm going into

My Bootless Cries

hibernation for the rest of the winter. But before I do, I'd better pull up and explain my attitude towards column-writing and what I'm planning to do in this space.

I'm not trying to be another Walter Winchell—Drew Pearson is good enough—for this intended to be an Ivy League version of the Zebra Derby, or of Jess Brownell.

This is intended to be a serious, furrowed-brow sort of thing about petty campus affairs (that is, petty affairs, not petty campus—I'll get in trouble on that one, too), and what I say had probably better not be taken too seriously. Remember the Roman Cato who said, "Believe nothing rashly." He's dead now.

A columnist, it seems to me, has certain rights and freedoms which are denied editorial writers and reporters. I feel I can say things under this by-line that I wouldn't dare or care to say as an editorial writer.

For one thing, I don't have the responsibility of the paper to uphold. I speak now only for myself, and sometimes I will undoubtedly speak in opposition to the views of Dick Fellman, the editor of the Nebraskan, or Bruce Brugmann or The Nebraskan as an entity. I am free to be inconsistent with the paper.

Secondly, I am not bound to stand by so-called journalistic ethics—a nebulous thing at best, but definitely influential in any newspaper's reasoning. These ethics require that a newspaper writer who cares not to be guilty of "yellow journalism," makes sure to back up each statement he makes in news columns with enough facts to defend himself in court, if necessary.

I should have facts before I say outrightly that so-and-so drinks beer with Dean Hallgren, or shoots craps with Dean Marjorie, but I don't have to have such facts if I prelude such a comment with "it seems to me," or "I believe" or "I think."

As long as I make clear what comments are the results of personal observations or opinions, I am not violating any ethics, journalistically or otherwise.

This column is frankly intended to give my personal views and convictions on campus questions. I'm not out to run a crusade, but I'm out to point out any evils or wrongs which I see.

I'm not out to slander people or carry out personal grudges, but sometimes I will undoubtedly be a little incontinent. I'm also not pretending to be an expression of

Letterip History Staff

Dear Editor:

Your headline "History Staff Cut-Ten Staff Members Leave the University" would imply that the History Department has no personnel remaining, since it had a staff of only nine and one-half members.

Perhaps the public should be assured that the staff is in no way reduced from its previous stature. The department has two members on leave, and the two members who resigned have been replaced.

The changes leave us with a net increase in staff. Professor E. N. Johnson who was on leave last year without a replacement to handle his advanced courses during the second semester, has returned. Professor A. T. Anderson has been replaced by Professor Samuel Baran.

Professor E. N. Anderson is replaced by Professor Robert Koehl. Professor Pinceti, a temporary appointment, has been replaced by Professor Burdette Poland. Professor John Alden has been replaced by Professor Aubrey Land, from Vanderbilt University.

In addition, instruction in the field of Ancient History has been resumed through the appointment of Samuel Eddy, who has taken his advanced work at the University of Michigan. Professor Robert Sakai who has a Fulbright leave will return next year.

The Department feels that its offering of courses is more complete than at any time within recent years.

J. L. Sellers, Chairman of History Department.

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