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**SEMESTER PLEDGING.**

The first trial of semester pledging as a matter of experience at Nebraska came to a close with the recent delayed pledging among the local sororities. Since that time it has been a matter of wondering speculation in the Hellenic world as to whether the projectors of the new system are yet so satisfied not only with the theory but with what they have seen of the practical demonstration of the system that they intend to impose it further upon the sororities, as was done this year, and to institute it among the fraternities, as planned to start with the beginning of next year.

Whatever may have been the sentiment of the Greeks previous to the trial of semester pledging last semester, it is no exaggeration to say that that at the present time almost the entire active fraternity and sorority population is absolutely and positively opposed to semester pledging as it exists under the present rules and that a very large majority of them are similarly opposed to any system that requires a more extended rushing season than has been customary in previous years. That the sororities are sincere in their opposition to the new plan, both in its theory and practice, is apparent from the disgusted tones and emphatically antagonistic language with which the average sorority girl will express her disapproval of last semester's melee. Such individual expression took collective form in the withdrawal of one sorority, and the threatened withdrawal of several others, from the inter-sorority council as a result of the unbearable conditions produced by the new system.

That the fraternities are equally antagonistic is evident from the fact that a more or less extended and intense inside discussion has expressed itself in a premature rumored intention of several fraternities to evade the new rules by retiring from the inter-fraternity council. That the fraternities do not want the new system and intend to do all possible to discourage its institution in the present form, any casual discussion with a Greek will disclose.

That semester pledging may, to limited extent, fulfill the purposes intended by its advocates cannot be denied. The supporters of the plan contend that by keeping the freshman disentangled from fraternity interests during his first semester, he will not be idolized and lauded into such egotistical beliefs as the short rushing season inspire and will led to devote his time more thoroughly to scholastic pursuits. Refraining from

shaking the stability of such arguments by showing that the old system is equally efficacious in producing such conditions—that the fraternities are a very active factor in stimulating scholastic activity among their neophytes for the sake of the fraternity itself—that the egotism inspired by the short rushing season is soon eliminated by the well-known unpleasant realities that characterize the first year of fraternity life—that the long rushing season gives the rushee a longer time in which to dote upon his own importance and to make his exaggerated self respect become more deep-rooted—that the fraternities will no more seek the studious, rather than the affable, pleasant and well appearing men under the new system than under the old—that the freshman will be no more anxious to pass his required hours to be pledged than he is under the present system to be initiated and that, all things considered, a long period before pledging will produce no more benefits to either party than the old system—with a disregard of such facts, the fraternities oppose semester pledging on other grounds that it will be small improvement, if any at all, over entrance pledging.

Fraternities oppose the proposed system because the burdens and difficulties imposed upon the fraternities, both in their individual and corporate capacities are of such magnitude as compared with the slight ultimate benefits received as to warrant any measures that may be taken to evade them.

It cannot be disputed that present fraternity expense will be increased manifold by reason of the constant financial drain, imposed by the demand for extended and elaborate entertainment of the rushee and stimulated by the keen competition that is a necessary factor in rushing. The individual Greek, likewise, will be under constant obligations to spend time and money for incidental entertainment and aid to the new men. Time will not only be necessary in the actual rushing, but constant speculation as to the prospects on either side, the extra work required for the long rushing season, the more pretentious preparation for competitive rushing events and the constant worry and strain that necessarily attend rushing will be no insignificant factor in bringing down the scholarship standards of active members and making the first semester of each year a time for the devotion to fraternity demands rather than to study requirements.

Under the present systems, a week or two at the beginning settles affairs for the year and individuals may turn their attention to scholastic demands thereafter; under the new system, the latter will become for a great many a minor issue to be sacrificed for a semester to fraternal ambitions.

Such a picture, it may be said, is an exaggeration; the fraternities and rushees will simply go on as usual in their quiet manner, each, with the exception of mutual inspection and occasional entertainments, letting the other alone. But they won't! An insight into the present convictions of fraternities will disclose the fact that no fraternity is going to take the chance of "loosing out," so to speak, for the sake of playing fair. It is safe to say that even at so early a time as the present few fraternities have a sincere intention of keeping

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