

The Daily Nebraskan
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"HELL WEEK"

With a successful semester's work completed and the second half of their first year barely begun, several hundred freshmen who have been wearing pledge buttons of more than fifty local and national Greek-letter fraternities are awaiting with eager anticipation what to them is the most eventful period of their college life experienced thus far.

With the exception of one or two fraternities that have already completed their initiation exercises, nearly every fraternity is about to embark on that traditional and cherished pre-initiation period commonly termed "hell week" during which time the lowly freshmen are subjugated and forced to "ride the goat" and participate in the other mystical and dreaded events that furnish much amusement for their big brothers, the upperclassmen.

While vague rumors of torturous suffering and strange errands to gruesome places where even "a galea fear to tread" have undoubtedly reached the ears of every freshman, there is not so much to be feared after all; and those who have survived the rough-house periods of past years frankly admit that they would not have missed it for any consideration and delight in recalling the thrilling experiences through which they passed.

Women's fraternities as a rule do not subject their initiates to strenuous physical hardships. It is the men's fraternities that must be cautioned against the excessive use of the paddle and other weapons or mediums of punishment that, under the excitement of the occasion, are inflicted unthinkingly upon the freshman who sometimes suffers greatly thereby to the belated sorrow of the inflictors.

Nearly every fraternity of high national standing has long ago started agitation for the gradual abolishment of the paddle and the reduction of the rough-house period. Another tendency in Greek fraternity initiations in recent years is the confinement of "hell week" activities to the chapter house as much as possible without losing the important significance of the occasion and without detracting from the success of this period of mental and physical tribulation for the freshman.

"Hell week," or the days of rough-house is a traditional part of fraternity life and, in institutions such as Syracuse, practically the only time of the year during which freshmen and upperclassmen may participate in that harmless activity known as hazing. We believe that rough-house should continue as a pre-initiation ceremony; freshmen would be disappointed were they to be deprived of it. But in planning and executing their "hell week" programs, fraternities should bear in mind that physical torture no longer is included in the exercises of the better governed fraternities and that the period will be all the more successful through abstinence from methods that are recognized as cruel and fast becoming obsolete.—Syracuse Daily Orange.

THE SOAP BOX
Daily Nebraskan readers are cordially invited to contribute articles to this column. This paper, however, assumes no responsibility for the sentiment expressed herein, and reserves the right to exclude any libelous or undesirable matter. A limit of six hundred words has been placed on all contributions.

To the Editor:
I notice in your editorials concerning the present controversy over probation that you have made little attempts to state the advantages of such a period. Instead you seem to indicate that fraternities ought to come forth with their own conclusions.

I believe that some features of probation could well be altered, but I certainly do not believe that it should be abolished. Does the fact that one or two fraternities violate the present rules justify abolishing the worthwhile practices of the remaining groups?

I have been through probation week and aided in conducting it for three years. From this experience I have summed the advantages of probation as follows:

(1) It binds the freshman class of the fraternity closer together and establishes ties in that class which will exist during the remaining years of college life and even longer.

(2) It is essential in determining the character of the pledges in so far as seeing how they act under fire. Certain innate characteristics which are not easily discovered in any other way are brought to the surface during this period of trial.

(3) It comes as a climax to the period of freshman pledgeship and is the finishing touch in training for the obligations as given in the formal initiation. It teaches the pledges perseverance, to take orders without grumbling or hesitation, respect for those in authority and for experience, poise and how to control the emotions under trying circumstances. The prime purpose of the whole period is one of education and testing and is merely a modern survival of all the tests which have been imposed upon man since primitive times before he might take his place with those who have gone before.

It seems to me that the present rules, if enforced would accomplish the desired result. The time of probation is, if anything, too short to accomplish very much. The rule about outside activities in the daytime should be rigidly enforced as should any activities outside the houses at night which are likely to be seen and to cause any disturbance of any kind. It is possible to conduct the probation according to the rules as they now stand so that all objectionable features are done away with, if the rules were only enforced as they read. I believe that any more stringent regulation of probation week would deprive the fraternities, in general, of a tradition which would seriously impede the freshman instruction, but the rules as they now are would not do this if they were enforced.

In a fraternity exam given recently the freshmen were asked to discuss probation week, its objects and purposes as they saw them and how the week was carried out. The opinion of eighteen pledges was that probation week was essential, that it was educational and impressive, and that its purpose was well accomplished as it was conducted. The consensus of opinion was that the activities, being carried on in the house harmed no one and that even the horseplay was not objectionable for this reason. Several even expressed the opinion that the period of time was not long enough, and that more interest might be taken in making the period still longer and in adding more features to the week.—A Fraternity Man.

Notices

Wednesday, February 29

There will be a joint dinner of Alpha Kappa Psi and Delta Sigma Pi at the Grand Hotel, Wednesday, February 29, at 6:15 o'clock.

Phi Tau Theta
There will be a business meeting of Phi Tau Theta on Wednesday evening, Feb. 29 at 8 o'clock. Only initiated members will be present. Phi Tau Theta members are urged to attend the Vocational Guidance Lecture given at 7 o'clock Wednesday evening in the Social Sciences Auditorium.

Junior-Senior Prom Tickets
Important meeting for election of new members at Nebraska Hall, 7 o'clock.

All students selling tickets to the Junior-Senior Prom are asked to check in the money they have collected at the Cornhusker office Tuesday afternoon between 3 and 5:30 o'clock. The final checking-in will be Saturday morning.

Xi Delta
Xi Delta meeting at 7 o'clock Wednesday evening at Ellen Smith Hall.

University Square and Compass Club
The University Square and Compass Club will hold its monthly meeting Wednesday evening, February 29, at 7 o'clock in the Faculty room of the Temple building. Professor N. A. Bengtson will talk on "Central America." All student and faculty members of any degree are urged to attend.

There will be no meeting of the Student Council today.

Thursday, March 1
Lutheran Students
Lutheran students are invited to a luncheon at the Grand Hotel, Thursday noon. Tickets will be available at Temple 101, Wednesday afternoon at five o'clock.

Kappa Phi
Kappa Phi will have a program meeting at the Emmanuel Methodist Church, 10th and U Streets, at 7 o'clock, March 1.

Friday, March 2
University Rifle Team
Group pictures of the University rifle team will be taken Friday, March 2, at 12:20 o'clock in the Campus studio.

Weekly Discussion Talks Are Popular

(Continued from Page 1)
Recent faculty member meet with the group each time.

Variety of Topics
"The purpose of these groups," declared Mr. Hayes, "is to provoke serious thought and discussion among the fraternity men on social, moral and religious questions as related to campus life."

Among the topics already brought up for discussion at the group meetings are "How Do We Determine Our Moral Standards?", "Is Petting Justifiable?", and "The Value of the Church to the College Man." Each week each group together with its leader decides on the topic for discussion.

This is the second year that discussion groups have been held among the fraternities on the campus. The movement was started at the beginning of the second semester last year and has been making rapid strides. Several other fraternities have expressed their desire to join in this semester, according to the secretary.

Plan Offered To Help Funds

(Continued from Page 1)
It is that the next session of the legislature shall be asked to increase the state inheritance tax rates to equal 80 per cent of the present federal estate tax rates and that the proceeds from this tax shall constitute an endowment fund for the University and common schools of the state.

"The result of such legislation would be that the estate of a deceased person would not in fact pay

any more estate and inheritance taxes than at present but Nebraska would collect and retain 80 per cent of the inheritance taxes which are now paid to the federal government. Section 301 (B) of the 1926 Federal Revenue Act provides that inheritance taxes paid to any state or territory shall be credited on the federal estate (inheritance) tax up to 80 per cent thereof.

More Money for State

"In short, Nebraska, by taking advantage of this provision would keep in the state for state purposes hundreds of thousands of dollars which now go to the federal government. Other states have taken advantage of this provision and Nebraska during the years to come will lose millions of dollars if it does not follow suit.

"But my further suggestion is that all money raised from these suggested increased inheritance tax rates should be placed in a perpetual endowment fund for the benefit of the University of Nebraska and the common schools of the state. How it should be divided is not material at this time. Some day this fund would be so large that the interest on the money therein would pay most of the expenses of the University and substantially reduce school taxes in general.

Plan Meets Approval

"Not only would such a provision work incalculable benefit to the University and public schools, but I believe that wealthy men who gnash their teeth at the thought of the federal government taking a large part of their estate for battleships, and what not, would feel more kindly about the matter if 80 per cent of the inheritance and estate taxes on their property was spent for education of the boys and girls of the state."

The proposed plan has brought several expressions of approval by prominent members of the legislature, and University administration. An editorial in one of the Omaha papers yesterday morning gave favorable comment on the scheme.

Wiles Secured For Party Act

(Continued from Page 1)
Nebraska's formal season. After being discarded during the war, the Prom was reinstated last season and was welcomed by all university students. The selection of the Prom

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is the essence of the proper attitude toward scholarship," Dean Thompson declared. "Read outside your own line. Know at least one opera well. Develop an appreciation of art—go to Morrill Hall to see the pictures. Read current magazines and be able to discuss current issues and theories intelligently. And girls, especially know something about making an attractive home," he urged.

Democracy Is Fundamental

Above all, the democratic spirit was pressed as the most fundamental and important ideal for the university student or graduate.

"Don't be snobs. Stretch the helping hand of a friendly word of encouragement or a smile to the lowest of your acquaintances. They need your friendship more than your more fortunate friends.

"It is up to you as representatives of this university to carry away a university consciousness to your homes and communities which will give to others some benefit from your superior advantages as a student among other students," he concluded.

Katherine Douglas led the meeting. A special violin solo was presented by Dorothy Luxford.

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girl by the attendants of the ball, which takes place that evening, is one of the important occasions of the social season. Six candidates were chosen at the second semester elections early in February, from which one will be selected that evening. Each ticket carries with it a vote for the Prom Girl.

Tickets can still be secured from representatives and from Charles Bruce at the Cornhusker office. Announcement from the committee states that the ticket sale is nearly complete and the quota would probably be reached by Wednesday.

Four of the freshmen at the University of Oklahoma could not tell who Charles Lindbergh was, in a quiz given them recently.

Advertisements for Rudge & Gvenzel Co. Man News, Cheney Bros. Silk and Wool Neckwear, Sun Dial Gun, and Fenton B. Fleming.

Advertisements for Gold & Co. Spring Dresses, Silk-to-Top Hosiery, and French Kid Gloves.

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