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NEW TEETH NEEDED

BECAUSE everything that has been said editorially about the Interfraternity council in the past two years has been in the nature of a criticism—no matter how justly deserved—it seems like dropping into a rut to continue assailing such a venerable body this semester. Nevertheless, the Interfraternity council has a long way to go before it can rightfully object to criticism leveled against it.

After a period of lethargy of more than a month, the Interfraternity council met last Tuesday night and showed some interest in actual problems involving Nebraska fraternities. But such bursts are few and far between. They amount to no more than a puff of wind. The fruit from this gathering will be similar to that reaped by Prof. E. F. Schramm, faculty adviser of the council, who asked its support on a plan to engender more class spirit. He got the council's support—which means just nothing so far as more class spirit was concerned.

There are four weaknesses apparent in the council that will have to be rectified before it can ever become an organization whose law is respected universally among fraternities on this campus. Here they are:

- 1. The Interfraternity council is primarily a political group, consisting mostly of juniors who need a few activities and who use the council as a stepping stone to something bigger and higher.
2. The membership of the council, for the most part, is not made up of the actual leaders in the individual fraternities. Or if they are leaders, they are not in a position to enforce council legislation, as the presidents of the various fraternities would be if they were the members.
3. Fraternities do not support the council or its legislation.
4. The council has never shown its potential strength, which will only be demonstrated when some fraternity is penalized for an infraction of a council rule. Violations have been numerous in times past, but the council has always excused the offenders on the grounds that there were many more who were not caught.

REMEDIES for the anemic council are as apparent as its ailments. Placing the presidents of fraternities as representatives on the council would eliminate the political factor to a considerable extent. It would get the men into the council who could carry out and administer council legislation in the individual fraternities. The fraternities' support would be forthcoming because the presidents would be in a position to demand it of each chapter. Under such an organization, the teeth of the council, dulled by inactivity, would be sharpened so that they could and would bite when necessary.

The student writer on the Interfraternity council in the Student Pulse today, however, must be set right on one point. The council does have means of enforcing its legislation—if it only will use it. It collects fines from fraternities whose delegates miss meetings. And its other rules will be obeyed if it wants to see them obeyed.

There is such a tremendous place the Interfraternity council can fill in the University of Nebraska that it seems most unfortunate that it is doing so little. Its meetings should be held regularly once every week, or at least every two weeks. If it only meets more often its discussions are bound to lead to some sort of action. But until the potential leadership, noted in the constituency of the Interfraternity council, makes itself manifest in some tangible way, it will continue as a wishy-washy organization.

As it did last year, the council is preparing to enforce rush week rules next fall. The rules, at least, are more definite and more plainly set forth than ever before. Regardless of personal opinion as to their merit or demerit, every fraternity must give its complete co-operation. If this is lacking the council will find itself just where it was last year—a titular organization with its possible authority further buried under precedents of exoneration for violation of its rules.

PUFF, PUFF, PUFF. UNDER the regulations of this university, women are not permitted to smoke in sorority houses

and dormitories. In fact, women smoking anywhere is frowned upon with deep, dark frowns by university authorities. The rules, however, are not obeyed and many sorority houses—in truth most of them—are redolent with an aroma of cigaret smoke most of the day and far into the night. The same situation exists to some degree in women's dormitories and rooming houses.

If girls want to smoke, they will smoke—and smoke where they please. They certainly have as much legitimate right to smoke as men, regardless of the good taste in so doing. The question of having regular smoking rooms for women at Nebraska has been raised to an issue. Setting aside a certain room in each sorority house and dormitory where coeds will be permitted to smoke would settle the situation in a sensible way.

There are, to be sure, some coeds and men students who object to girls smoking, who regard it as unladylike and blasé. Even these, however, would rather have a definite place in each house where women are allowed to smoke than having them sneak away into the corners and crannies, and invade lunch rooms.

Providing a smoking room for women in sorority houses would do four constructive things:

- 1. It would give the coeds one definite place where smoking is permitted.
2. It would frankly recognize women's smoking and would check rule breaking that exists today. Obviously this would create a higher regard for other university regulations.
3. It would free restaurants and drug stores, to a considerable extent, of the tribe of puffing coeds who now infest these places because they cannot smoke where they room.
4. It would remove the spirit of naughtiness that some girls enjoy in smoking when it is contrary to university rules, and probably lessen smoking.

Authorities argue that people out in the state would rise up in wrath if women's smoking rooms were instituted in Nebraska. Nevertheless, providing them would create a more wholesome atmosphere, an increased respect for university regulations, and a belief on the part of the students that the university was not ruled by a mock-puritanical spirit.

EDUCATION ELITE

"CULTURE has a core which must be guarded by an elite. Education must produce that elite."

That is what Sir Michael Ernest Sadler, eminent British educator, told a large audience at Columbia university at a recent lecture given during his present tour and survey of American educational institutions.

His statement appeared as a refutation to the democratic concept of an education—which is that everyone be given an equal opportunity to make the most of his innate ability.

"If the modern movement in secondary education means the decapitation of the eminent in the interests of the average, it will stand condemned at the bar of future history," Sir Michael declared.

It is apparent that Sir Michael, noteworthy though he may be, does not have the true conception of the American university. His criticism is merited only if this secondary education does stifle ability in its leveling process. In a measure, it is designed to do this. Its courses are mapped out so that an individual studies just what that subject involves and no more. But those who are capable of going on after the initial university degree may work unhampered by any restrictions.

The ideal of the American educational system undoubtedly is superior to the European plan, which is lauded by Sir Michael. Under the American plan, every individual, no matter what his rank in life, may attend university. If he shows special abilities, they are cultivated. In this way, the very best in every man who wants to learn is theoretically brought out.

And the elite which Sir Michael insists must be found in the educated classes to guard culture is formed from this self-selective process. The danger is found in the degree of standardized education apparent in this nation. A certain standardization through preliminary university work is necessary, but beyond that point, individualism and individual capacities should be permitted to develop unchecked.

It's about time other files than gadflies are buzzing around—house files and ball files and files.

The Student Pulse: Signed contributions pertinent to matters of student life and the university are welcomed by this department. Opinions submitted should be brief and concise.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY.

To the editor: I see that the Interfraternity council has been having trouble enforcing its rules on the use of a standard rush card for next fall. Some of the fraternities refuse to order the prescribed cards. Others have ordered just a few, as a pretext, intending to use their own cards for rush week.

It seems very, very evident that the Greek letter societies will go their own sweet ways, as usual, when rush week comes along, and pay not the slightest attention to the council regulations. Except for a few groups, who have always stood by the rules, only to be outrageously exploited by the lawbreakers.

Last year five fraternities were indicted for the breaking of rush week rules. Being five quite well known fraternities, nothing was done. Nothing can ever be done. The council has no real power over its members. They can disobey its rules with impunity, for it has no redress. It can do dire and dreadful things on paper, but actually it cannot accomplish anything. It cannot enforce penalties.

At present, therefore, the organization is little more than a Greek-problem debating league. And even for that purpose, the present body needs working over. The fraternity members of the council usually send some freshmen or other to meeting, so that the house will not be assessed a fine. A real step forward could be made if fraternity presidents were required to attend the meetings. Then the body could at least be of real value as a discussion group. E. W.

BETWEEN THE LINES By LASELLE GILMAN.

PURE BLOODED Kibitzers had their inning on Tuesday last. Fifty-two varieties were picked. Heins is getting competition. Take your choice: sweet, sour and pickled. The highest average was 93.96. The lowest average was 88.54. This is all just sour grapes, of course, because we thought that we would be wearing the Key also. Our own average of 70.1 justified our hopes.

Yes, that's the figure. We had to scale the grade a little, however. The way to find your average is to add the number of courses you've taken in university, divide by factions, subtract the overhead and multiply by people on the earth. The process is similar to figuring out your income tax.

THE ACCEPTED procedure for all P. B. K.'s is to drop out of school, throw the key into the nearest reservoir, get a job as night watchman in a soap works in Juarez, and after a few years you can come back home and most of your friends and relatives have forgotten you. Then if you wear a beard and colored glasses there's little chance of being detected. But don't give up hope; we've known several P. B. K.'s who've lived it down.

I want to be a Phi Beta and wear a handsome key. To have a nifty rate so all the world may see. My learning is astounding. The world is still reechoing To my absolute confounding intellectuality.

HOW TO BE A Phi Beta Kappa.

(By the noted authority, Ellis Namlig.) (Ed. note: Never before has such an all embracing and comprehensive series of lessons been written on this subject. Here we have it in a nut shell—Six Easy Lessons.)

- Lesson I: Choose wisely. Lesson II: Oil the machinery diligently. Lesson III: Grind. Lesson IV: Grind. Lesson V: Slave. Lesson VI: Emulate the parrot, practice Couesism, repeat "Excelsior" incessantly, and reap your just rewards. Lesson VII: Suck, suck, suck.

ORIENTALS, we understand, aren't supposed to display any emotion. Stolid. Expressionless. Well, in that case, the University Players are doing themselves proud this week, with their "Little Clay Cart." The hero and the heroine and practically the entire cast get about as wrought up over overhearings and intrigue as protozoa over prohibition. With the exception of Mr. Harlan Easton, Mr. Zolley Lerner, Mr. Paul Miller, and Miss Pauline Gellatly, that is. The aforementioned appeared to feel their lines; the rest acted like Punch and Judy.

IN THE noble effort appearing below, we have been consistent with the title of this column, and have hidden a name behind the lines. Yes, Sherlock, it's there. If you know your Edgar Allan Poe you'll track it down.

Many, many moons ago. Many ages past. Far against dark, cloud blown sky Winter fled at last; Whither, savage man knew not, Winds and snowfall he forgot.

Spring song came to savage lips, Poems to wide thrown heart, Moon and rain called down the Muse, Ushering in new Art; But th' Art was all in vain, Witness this earthy refrain. (Conceived in inconceivable pain.) —Ellis Namlig.

JOURNALISM seniors go out to work, as we laughingly put it, on small town Nebraska newspapers for the next two weeks. Here they will write locals concerning Minnie Hoofnagel's and Herman Spitzdorfer bug riding on Sunday afternoon, the birth of bouncing baby boys to happy parents, jolly weddings, sad funerals, et cetera. Again we repeat, some of our young newspaper people are going to be introduced to type lice and multi-colored ink.

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