

Editorial—Comment—Bulletin

Democracy at Home?

It's time that the students of this university—supposedly a democratic institution—got the facts straight on the International house of this campus. We act vigorously and correctly only when the facts—long kept under cover by certain administrators with guilty consciences—are brought out in the open.

An editorial, appearing in the last summer issue of THE NEBRASKAN, made fun of the "I" house which was started last year, pointing out that all but a handful of the girls in this so-called International house were from Nebraska. The little-known fact that this house, with a name that implies tolerance and good will, segregates Nisei and negro girls from white girls, was brought to the attention of the summer readers. But what this editorial didn't make perfectly clear was this: WHY is International House managed in this summer and WHO is responsible? The facts should be known by all.

Conditions that existed last year were neither the fault of the girls or their very able housemother. Hazel Stern, last year's president of the house, fought desperately all year to eliminate segregation rules laid down by those of the administration in power. Every girl in the house wanted it to be genuinely liberal as is the famous "I" house at Columbia university. They were thwarted at every turn. The housemother, who arrived on the campus near the end of last year and who is one of the finest women in the university, was blocked at every move when she tried to carry out the wishes of the girls. In fact, she was so hamstrung in her job that she almost resigned to

take another job; and she finally stayed on because the power that directly controlled the house was removed, and authority was given to the Dean of Women.

So now we know who is in charge of the administration of the International House. And we are happy to report that things started off this year on a much better footing. But we must keep in mind that no person in the administration is completely free—from the Chancellor on down, they are under control of the Board of Regents, elected by the voters of Nebraska. It is common knowledge that the Board of Regents authorized and established the International House to escape the issue of tolerance and freedom in the girls dormitory. Negroes and Nisei are kept out of these dormitories—dormitories which are supported by the taxpayers of Nebraska. In short, the people and the state of Nebraska are unwittingly supporting undemocratic race prejudice in their state university.

The issues are clear. Let us strive for democracy in the girls dormitory. Let us put pressure on the administrators of this university, including the Board of Regents, to act as democratically as they sometimes talk. But NOW—IMMEDIATELY—let us demand that the International House, established to be inter-racial and democratic, be released from Jim Crowism. If there is segregation and discrimination in the International House, there can be no democracy on the campus.

We fought for four years to destroy fascist racism abroad. It is high time we got to work destroying it on our own university campus.
T. C. S.

The Nebraskan

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Snipe Huntin' with Judge Mason.

Slowly but surely politics at UN have been crawling toward their grave, to lie down quietly and die. Needless to say it started three years ago as the campus was drained of men. At first the women had fun dabbling in politics, as most of them had had no chance before, with the men dominating. The hue and cry was to "carry on 'til the men come back." But soon most of the feminine politicians were up to their neck in deep water and began to realize that even student politics takes a lot of experience. With confusion invariably comes reform—and so a great reform movement spread over the campus supported by the women's activity organization, Mortar Board. The movement was directed mainly at giving the barbs a better chance. The new hue and cry became, "keep politics clean"

and "give everyone a square deal." But in the world of politics, words such as the above are mere meaningless abstractions. One more often hears concrete phrases such as "proportional representation" and "minority protection." But the reformers had little understanding of these terms and were much more interested in making a showing to the campus that they weren't discriminating between Greeks and Barbs. So they organized parties which included both Greeks and Barbs and in one fell blow swept away the chances for minority protection which some outstanding barb leaders in 1941 fought so hard to bring about. And all was done "in the interests of the barb students." The irony of the whole situation is that the reformers really believed they were helping, which made their sincere misunderstanding even more difficult to cope with. Under the former system, if the barbs were in minority they could still elect one member for every 125 votes polled. Now they must depend upon the haphazard party conventions for support and most of the parties are made up of Greek members merely because

the Greeks have better contact with their members. Therefore it is only natural that Greek, instead of Barb, candidates would be put up at the party conventions.

The first test of this new "non-discriminatory" political system was the election of class officers last year. Two Greeks were elected. The second test was student council elections last spring. Out of 13 places only four went to unaffiliated students.

This year the Mortar Boards again have talked of building up the two parties. So far everyone they have approached as prospective leaders of one of the parties has groaned with boredom at the very mention of "Student" and "Progressive." We too have been approached in this regard and our answer is: We are sick of trying to take part in politics and we are also sick of seeing women in politics. Our suggestion to the interested people is to let men into politics and get the women out!

Scuttlebutt by "DUFF" BECK

Here it is folks, your Navy column. Dealing with the adventures and exploits of the Navy on and off the campus. Although I'm sorry to report we aren't getting off to a good start we do hope to do better in the future. There will be two of us writing the column, so if you see that someone else has the column next time, you'll know why. When the Navy arrived on the campus a fortnight ago we all had visions of a wonderful time at the university. We weren't disappointed in the least. I have never met a more hospitable group of people. You have really made us feel at home as much as anybody possibly could. As for the women! They are the answer to any sailor's dream.

Navy Line. True to custom a navy man always has a line of chatter that keeps the coed in question amused. Maybe some of the women can answer to that better than I. Sometimes though, a line backfires and the party or parties involved find themselves in an embarrassing situation. That is something this column and yours truly will try to bring to you. We will also give you the highlights on the events concerning the Navy.

With the Navy being invited to numerous open houses, and making friends about the campus, I have visions of some good stories in the future.

Friday night it was the First Company at Kappa Alpha Theta. "More beautiful women than you could realize" existed, seemed to be the reaction of all the fellows. Did everybody have fun? Just listen to a sailor and his stories of the evening, and you'll have the answer.

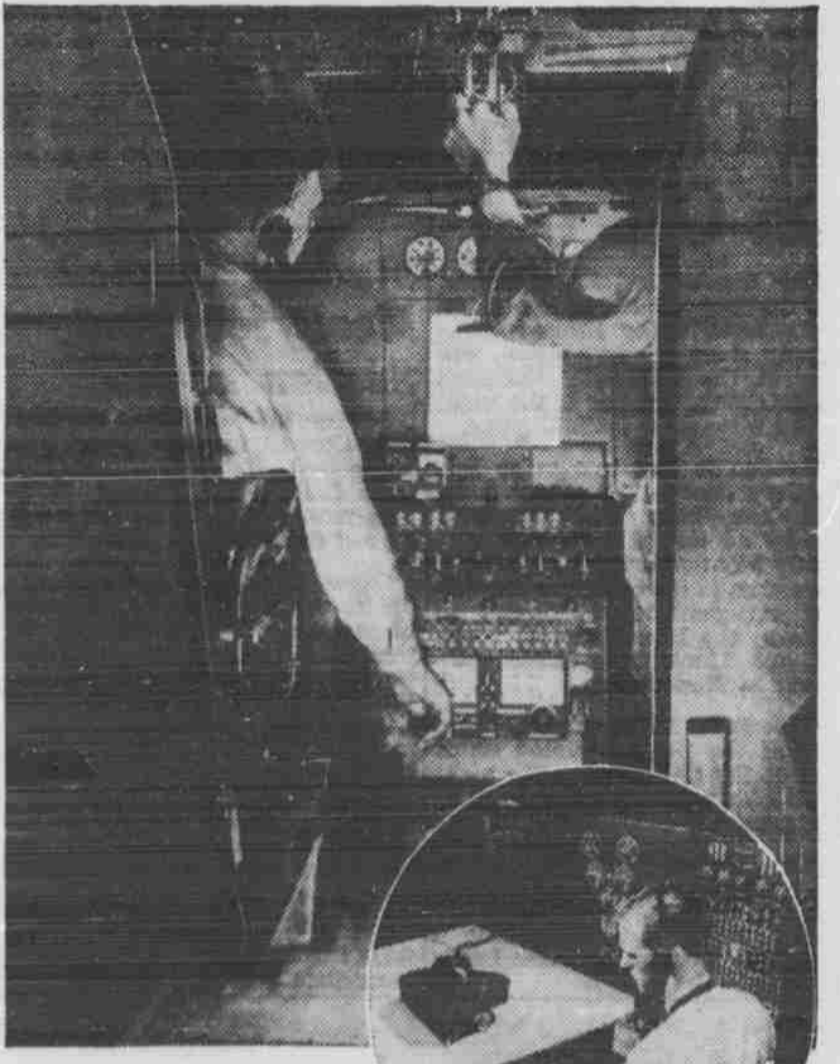
On Saturday evening the Second Company sailed down to Chi Omega. Some of the fellows had a little trouble finding out that they weren't seeing things. Doris and Dorothy really are twins. Speaking for the boys and myself,

everything worked out and as the song goes, we had "one real fine time."

We are looking forward to getting better acquainted. Then we will be able to refer to the "coeds"

by their names and not as the blond in the green skirt or the lady in RED.

So long for now and here's hoping for a longer and more interesting column next time.



A FLIGHT THAT NEVER LEAVES THE GROUND

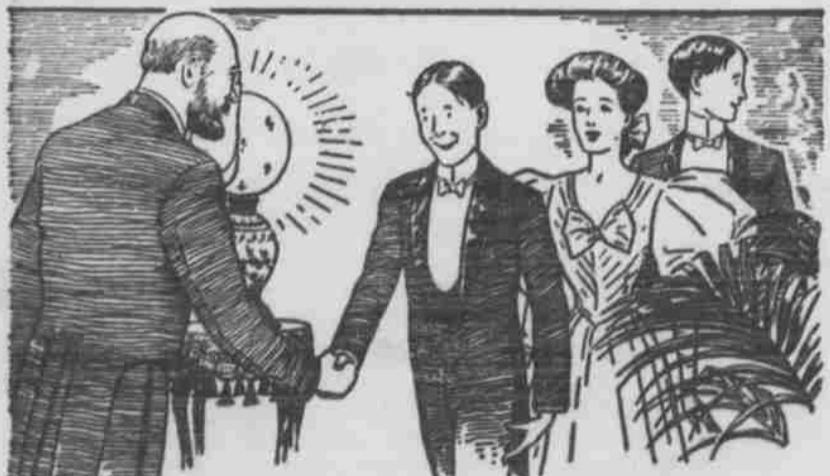
A bomber crew needs training as a team. And now those hazards which are too dangerous for air-borne drill can be duplicated on the ground. This is made possible by an electronic flight trainer perfected by Bell Telephone Laboratories' scientists for the Navy.

At remote controls the instructor follows the "flight," sets up various dangerous conditions, coordinates the crew's reactions.

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America, too, was stepping out in the 1890's. Her cities were growing, populations were spreading. Railway Express, then as now, provided her with a nation-wide shipping service, including the baggage and laundry needs of innumerable college students. Today, during the emergency, the country's shipping needs are heavily strained. So, please do this with your baggage and home-going bundles: Pack and wrap securely, address clearly, and get them started early.

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