

Nebraskan Editorials:

Haste Makes Chaste

In one fell swoop the Committee of Fifteen, with a few members absent, pulled an ace from the bottom of their deck and not-so-quietly banned the Kosmet Klub from presenting another Fall Show.

What this means is simple. The Kosmet Klub is out of business unless they can do one of two things. Either they must find a way to make enough money to offset the annual loss of the Spring Show, or they must use their right of appeal—appeal to the very same committee that sentenced and punished them.

What actually happened was this. A mistake was made during the Fall Show, a big mistake. Kosmet Klub made this mistake, via the master of ceremonies. Someone must be held responsible for this mistake, and Kosmet Klub is the natural group to carry the brunt of the burden. But there is a difference between being responsible and being at fault.

This difference has not been recognized by the Faculty Committee of Fifteen. Even though the Klub had been warned many times in the past, punishment was given which was far beyond anything that had been either intimated or stated. Rather than correcting the Klub's sickness, the Committee voted to permanently bury the Klub.

For Kosmet Klub cannot possibly exist, doing things as they now do, without the Fall Show. And no matter what individuals think of what might be the overall view of Kosmet Klub they do perform a good and a necessary function. There can be no honest criticism of the fact recognized by the Committee that something went awry.

There can be no honest criticism of the fact that someone must be held responsible.

And there can not even be honest criticism of the fact that Kosmet Klub, by definition, is this group.

Yet, why was action so hasty? Why was one irate letter, valid though it was, enough to light the spark which in turn ignited the whole flame?

And how is it going to be fair to the Kosmet Klub itself to say to it that it can appeal when the appeal must be directed to the very group that gave them a more than gentle slap on the wrist?

There are many alternative solutions that might have been reached. Probation could have been used. The master of ceremonies could have been eliminated from further shows. A script could have been required from future announcers of the show. Many other methods of correction might have been instituted. But none of them were.

Again, there can be no quail with the legitimacy of the complaint. But, like many other recent events on our campus and in our own community, there is a complaint with method.

And this is important to everybody—not just the member of the Klub, or the faculty, or the administration, or the local intelligentsia or any other group or faction.

And there are also bigger issues than the future of the Fall Show or the future of the Kosmet Klub.

The issue is old. Students have always been sensitive to it. The issue is: What's this place turning into? And the issue is really old, as we all admit; but the issue is just as keen as ever right now. What's happening here?—D.F.

The Breach Widens

The Kosmet Klub action of Wednesday afternoon pointed out sharply and clearly the ever-widening breach between the University administration and the students here at Nebraska.

A handful of students are merely aggravated . . . some are quite irritated . . . many are inflamed . . . and a lot more are just mad.

It wouldn't be so bad if these students were just plain mad. But they're mad at the administration, and particularly, at the Committee on Student Affairs who placed the ban on the KK Fall Show.

They're mad because some more of NU's dwindling traditions have been tossed by the wayside—Prince Kosmet, Nebraska Sweetheart and the annual Fall Revue.

They're mad because a stacked faculty group in a two hour meeting decided the fate of a cherished campus event.

They're mad because one of their own student organizations, composed of members from their own student body, supported and patronized by themselves, the student body, should be arbitrarily emasculated by a faculty group.

Undoubtedly, the faculty sub committee had good reason for this move. But no reasons, no

matter how convincing, could justify the haste with which the KK case was neatly hacked, sliced and dumped into the hamper.

No reasons could justify the precedent which has been set by the statement "of very questionable taste" which, in effect, can cut out University Theater productions (Stalag 17, Aristophanes) and, with only slight rationalization, many other campus activities.

The big point is, however, that the committee has made the students mad.

But this isn't the first time. Last year when the administration put teeth into the University liquor policy, it made a lot of people mad. Not because of the policy itself but because it was never laid forth to the students (reason 1, 2, 3), it was vague and secretive, and students found out two months later, policemen had been put on night duty specially to enforce the law.

The panty raid last spring angered a number of students, not because of the unfortunate raid itself, but because some students were kicked out of school; almost, it seemed to many, with the circumstantial evidence produced in many cases, as if to make "it look good" to people outside and the legislature then in session.

The exam resolution passed last spring by the Faculty Senate irritated many students, again not necessarily because of the resolution but because no one ever came to the students and said, "Here's exactly why we want the one week examination."

This is not a personal indictment of the Chancellor, the administration or any individual professor, instructor or faculty member. There has been disagreement, honest disagreement, between the Nebraskan and the administration on each of these issues.

Nevertheless the fact, bold and challenging, remains that on none of the previously mentioned important issues has anyone, Chancellor, dean, chairman, professor or anyone else come before the entire student body and, either verbally or in writing, said, "Look, here's why, 1, 2, 3, were are using policemen to enforce the liquor policy, we're kicking students out of school, we want the one week exam, we want the Kosmet Klub Fall Revue banned."

This makes students mad. Honest students want honest answers. They should know and they deserve to know just why the administration does what it does. And the longer they wait, the wider the gap between the students and the administration becomes.

The administration, however good its intentions, is losing sight of the needs of its students; the students, however good their intentions, are losing sight of the interests of the University.—B.B.

Sound The Alarm

Once again, the night news editor was rhythmically tapping her head against the steel forms . . . the editorial page editor was burrowing into a pile of cast-off type in the far corner . . . the news editor was summoned from his foggy room, where he had been singing misty songs with his roommate and doing a little humming . . . even the editor, busily dodging faculty ambushes along 14th Street, was called into action.

The lead story, the 7-72 headlined Kosmet Klub story, was missing. However, if you will look closely at the front page again, you will see it resting peacefully under the banner, in its comfortable position beneath a three column head.

It was found.—B.B.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS by Dick Bibler



"AND THE SECOND THING YOU SHOULD LEARN TO DO IS TO TAKE CRITICISM"

Board Of Wise Men Can't Understand

By FRED DALY News Editor

The banning of the Kosmet Klub Fall Revue by the Faculty Subcommittee on Student Affairs is, to say the least, a strange and wondrous thing. This type of action is foreign to the University campus, and brings blood rushing to the cheeks of students who had always thought they were mature enough to shrug off shady remarks by a sprightly master of ceremonies.

It is, indeed, odd. It starts the mind to whirling over possible consequences, and causes consternation as just what the future might bring. It causes one to sit back a bit, and dream . . .

Once upon a time, when college students were fun-loving, there was a beautiful little kingdom, ruled by a noble king. The king was loved by all, and respected. He was advised by a Board of Wise Men, who sat about in great robes, and thought of the where's and why-for's of the actions of the people. There was a custom in the coun-

try of holding a great pageant in the fall, where people sang and danced, and humorous readings and plays were given. It was a fine exhibition of local talent, and if the interlocker might have made a few raw comments, the people felt they were wise enough not to be offended.

But, one year, some one person was offended. He sent a notice to the king, who gave it to the Board of Wise Men. The Wise Men, who were so busy being Wise and All-Seeing that they hadn't got around much, acted immediately and rigorously on the notice.

The pageant was banned, for the good of the people, and the leaders were chopped to bits and thrown into the river. It was indeed a noble thing.

Then a little later, another notice came to the king. It seemed someone objected to another organization on the campus—one objected to the promotion of national spirit. They were making too much noise.

Then came another indignant gasp and the spirit-making group disappeared. Then came a letter objecting to a charitable group and all that was left was a puff of smoke. And even the journals of the kingdom, almost harmless most of the time, were objected to and The Wise Men threw a match into a pile of newsprint. The journals were gone.

They took off their black robes, and the wreathes from around their heads. They took the wise, all-seeing gazes from their eyes, and put them away, for they would need them no more.

They congratulated each other on the noble and sacrificing job they had done in ridding the kingdom of the stupid and unscholarly activities of the people.

Then, smiles of satisfaction still on their faces, they looked out of the window. The kingdom was clean, and neat and sterile. Nothing was out of place. No bad words were heard; no nasty grins were seen.

And all the people in the kingdom were gone.

It was indeed a strange and wondrous thing, and nobody in the Board of Wise Men really knew why.



Louella Vestal

Selleck Quadrangle Organization Explained

For the next few Fridays this column will explore the various independent organizations on the campus. We shall try to see how this great Silent Majority governs itself. Included will be such groups as the Barb Activities Board for Women, Towne Club, the Residence Falls for Women and the Inter-Coop Council.

At the head of the RAM is a

President who is elected at large each spring. In addition there is a Vice-president and treasurer, a Secretary, an Activities Director, an Intramural Director, a Scholastic Director and a Social Director also annually elected at large. These officers make up the Executive Council.

The 16 house presidents and the Exec Board comprise the Main Cabinet. It is the duty of this group to represent the 932 members of the RAM and to hold final legislative authority in the organization.

Each of the directors meets with the house chairmen in his department and that group carries out a part of the RAM program.

The Activities Director and his chairmen are charged with the administration of the RAM activities such as a glee club, photography club, radio club and instrumental music interest group. In addition, this council informs RAM members

of the purposes of campus activities and recruits workers for these organizations.

Athletics of all kinds is the responsibility of the Intramural Council. The house chairmen, supervised by the Intramural Director, prepare team registrations and act as team managers. They inform their houses of forthcoming events and encourage participation.

The RAM is one of the newest organizations on the campus and is still growing. Plans are constantly being made to offer more services to the members. New clubs are being formed whenever there is enough interest to justify them.

Last spring the RAM was instrumental in coordinating the major independent organizations in selecting and supporting an all-independent slate of candidates for Student Council positions.

As in most organizations, financial difficulties often slow important projects. This is especially true in the early years when equipment must be bought in addition to operating an expanding program.

In spite of a few troubles, the RAM is an optimistic group. Its future is unclouded by precedent and a dominant philosophy of service to its members seems to insure that its purposes will continue to be worthwhile.

Letterip MC Apologizes

To The Editor: When informed of the action taken by the Faculty Senate Committee to ban the Kosmet Klub Fall Revue, I was deeply disappointed and sincerely regretful. I make no excuses or share the blame with no one; I was the sole cause.

I, personally, do not wish to debate the point of whether my remarks added color or discolor to the Revue. I feel that there were innuendos that were far from crudeness—not as subtle as they could have been.

The fact remains that Kosmet Klub has been unjustly penalized for something which they had no control over and for which they bore no responsibility.

I was completely informed and instructed prior to the Revue that my master of ceremonies bit was to be cleaned up. These were my intentions when I stepped on the stage, and I felt that I had achieved this at the completion of the Revue.

Why didn't Kosmet Klub advisors or Klub members censor my script? Primarily because I did not submit a script to them, I had none! And why? Because I understood what the Klub and the advisors expected of me and it would have been a waste of time and energy to write out "good evening ladies and gentlemen . . ."

Several innocent ad libs came out wrong. Several came out right and were mistaken as sordid by the audience. But I'm no professional entertainer; my ad libbing was provoked by audience response and reaction. My "questionable taste" may not be questionable in the minds of some people.

I admit that I let down for a moment and yielded to what I felt the vast majority of the audience desired. But there appeal is no excuse and I do not intend to present it as such.

When I was in school, I worked hard for Kosmet Klub. It was the only activity on the campus that I was dedicated to, and still am. No one could feel worse about this situation than I do.

I recall stating to the audience when I was staked for fill-in-time, "if you are calm and collected while others are losing their heads, perhaps you don't understand the darn situation." How true that was and is.

So: To the members of Kosmet Klub and its fine advisors: You have taken the rap. My sincerest apologies. You were unjustly crucified.

To the Faculty Committee: Congratulations! Several of you accomplished what you've attempted to do for years — kill the Kosmet Klub.

To the Revue Audience: I apologize if I offended you. You put up with my remarks which more closely approached coarseness than lewdness.

To Myself: You're an idiot for lighting the fuse to the dynamite that several faculty members have gathered ammunition up for for years.

Apologetically and sincerely, Marshall B. Kushner

The Silent Majority

ment and that group carries out a part of the RAM program. For instance, the Social Director meets with the 16 social chairmen to form the Social Council. This group is responsible to the Main Cabinet for the carrying out of all social events.

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Afterthoughts

Real Challenges . . .

Raymond A. McConnell, Jr., editor of the Lincoln Journal, mentioned the "Challenge" series in his Thursday evening "More Or Less Personal" column. Quoting several of the short pieces reprinted in Wednesday's Nebraskan, he said the first attempt "gleaned some big names, but little light."

He was quite right. However, The Nebraskan has several (eight to be exact) articles written specially for the series.

There will be, soon, some real "challenges."

Liberal Education

A political science instructor interrupted his lecture in municipal government to tell about the Tennessee lad who was taking the Army Alpha test when drafted. After he had been working on it a short while, the sergeant proctoring the tests noticed the boy had the question sheet upside down.

"You must be illiterate," the sergeant said. Five minutes later, the sergeant picked himself off the floor. "That'll teach you to watch your language," the draftee said. "My maw and paw was too married."

The Light Of Day

The Rag office has gotten an uplift. Previously the office had been termed the dungeon, or the cave, where the light of day never shines. This was due partly to its location in the basement of the Union but mostly to the fact that it had a solid gray appearance. During the last couple of weeks things have changed. The walls have been painted a pleasing-to-the-eye green, fluorescent lights have been installed, and several pictures have now been hung to give even a brighter appearance. Now reporters can gaze at a painting of "Epsom Downs" while they wait for inspiration instead of staring at plaster cracked gray walls.

The Nebraskan

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