

Nebraskan Editorials:

A Scrap Of Tin

The Interfraternity Council will consider two rushing recommendations in their Wednesday meeting which, if accepted, will inevitably weaken the fraternity system and its governing body, the IFC.

The first recommendation, which admittedly is an experiment, would, in effect, legalize spiking. The proposed rule would stipulate that accepting a pledge pin before Rush Week (spiking) in no way obligates the rushee to the fraternity.

Furthermore, the committee said in their report that this fact would be plainly stated in the Rush Pamphlet distributed by the IFC during the summer. It would be publicized, publicly and privately, that, until Rush Week, the pledge pin would be meaningless.

The IFC has recognized a dangerous and all too prevalent problem—illegal spiking. They are honestly trying to do something about it.

However, the recognition and the solution of a problem are two different things.

First of all, the IFC reasons, "there is no possible way to enforce spiking regulations."

This is obviously fallacious, and, by its very contention, clearly points up the innate weakness of the IFC. The guts of the fraternity system is the disposition of rushing and Rush Week; if the IFC can't control rushing and spiking within itself, something is seriously, organically wrong.

Instead of waiting for a formal protest, as was done this year, the IFC Executive Committee should step in each fall where any obvious or even suspected evidence of spiking is detected.

The entire pledge class could be brought before a judiciary board, composed of IFC and faculty members, sworn in and asked to testify whether or not they had accepted pledge pins before Rush Week. It would be doubtful if pledges would directly perjure themselves under such conditions.

But this is one method, and there are undoubtedly many more, which the IFC could utilize to effectively control spiking. Instead,

because they do not find or do not seek to find any other alternative, they propose to recognize this weakness and legalize the whole business.

This admitted weakness would not be so bad were it not for the fact that, in advertising officially and unofficially that the pledge pin is meaningless before Rush Week, the value of the pin itself will be lost.

Why should a pin suddenly assume, almost overnight, an importance and a value when it was advertised, among other places in the Rush Book, as non-obligatory and meaningless? The answer is it can't.

Because the integrity of the pledge pin is impaired, each individual fraternity, and inevitably the entire fraternity system, will be likewise impaired.

The second dangerous proposed change concerns the first suggestion of the report, which, in effect, would transfer all Rush Week rules from the Constitution to the by-laws.

This transfer, under normal parliamentary procedure, would enable the IFC to suspend the rules of the by-laws by a two-thirds majority vote. A portion of the Constitution cannot be suspended, thus making it almost impossible to suspend the present rushing regulations.

This change would make it easy, too easy, to get around certain rules, make exceptions and concessions and circumvent important specific rushing rules to facilitate special interests and circumstances.

Thus far, the IFC has made an admirable record of defending the integrity of its constitution, many times denying boys with 4-plus averages the privilege of initiation and this fall prohibiting two boys who deplored during Rush Week the opportunity of repledging until the prescribed lapse of time.

This should not be changed.

For these reasons, The Nebraskan urges the Interfraternity Council to discard the suggestions of legalized spiking and transferring rushing regulations from the Constitution to the by-laws.—B. B.

Pitfalls And Sidesteps

The newly-established Student Council ruling setting a 5.7 grade average as the minimum for holding an executive position was by-passed by the Council in their last meeting.

It was the first time the ruling had been put to test since its conception last spring in the now-defunct activities limitation ruling and its re-establishment three weeks ago.

It didn't stand up to the force of logical argument.

The principles behind the 5.7 grade minimum are sound enough in theory. The idea is that a person, to be a leader in a campus activity, must also be expected to hold such an average. Thus, our leaders in activities would also hold high the torch of scholarship.

However, the Student Council seems to have changed its mind. It is now apparent that any organization with a good reason can run a person for office, even if he or she does not carry the required accumulative average of 5.7, as long as the person promises to bring his average up by the end of the semester.

A precedent has been established that will not be easily broken, unless the Council continues to be as inconsistent as it has been recently.

This inconsistency in the Council is a puzzling thing. Council members who one week argued for the establishment of the minimum grade requirement voted a few weeks later to allow two AUF board members with insufficient averages to file for an executive office.

A ruling passed by the Council last spring lasted only until this fall's edition got rolling. It was then discarded in a flurry of speeches. The only thing that survived was the grade average, which is seemingly on the way out, too.

The last vote by the Council on the 5.7 limit was 14 to 12 in favor of dropping the ruling. It failed to get a required two-thirds majority to pass, however. Two weeks ago, the Council ruled to by-pass the measure. What is next

on the agenda of inconsistency, no one knows.

It would be a most sensible thing if the Council could sit down in an orderly fashion and figure out just what their present opinion is on this issue, and what student opinion is. Then, after careful deliberation and by referring to what the students want, the Council might very possibly reach a final, definite decision that they would abide by. This seems quite unlikely at the present.

What the Council seems to be doing now is by-passing a ruling they no longer stand by, but one they don't seem to be able to strike from their books. It is like putting a plank over a hole in the street that you dug to keep people from passing. The plank isn't as sturdy as the original pavement, but it serves its purpose.

The Nebraskan has consistently spoken against this scholarship minimum, because the general opinion of those of the student body who have bothered to form an opinion is against it.

A body which will vote 14 to 12 against a measure and which will find a way to go around a measure is very likely opposed to it, or thinks it is not doing its job.

It is therefore logical to think that the Council should stop chasing its tail and sit down to think things over.

Its course of action is limited. It can either repudiate the ruling, which the students apparently would like them to do, or it can enforce the ruling with no exceptions.

More than the enactment of a scholarship ruling rests on further action of the Council; the self-respect and campus standing of the body is also at stake. All The Nebraskan can do is to hope the Council will be able to wrest itself from an embarrassing and rather foolish situation.

This can best be done by following the will of the students, and repudiating this confusing ruling.—F. T. D.

A Slight Request

Everyone hates to see a vacation period come to an end, but end they must. The Christmas vacation scheduled by the University seems to end at a less convenient time than most. Monday the second is a legal holiday because New Year's Day falls on a Sunday. Nevertheless, the University is scheduling classes for that day. There is nothing precisely illegal about this, but it does not follow the best interests of the student community.

If classes began Tuesday this would enable most students to drive back on Monday, thus avoiding the worst of the holiday traffic and a possible addition to the "Fatalities" column. Students would have a day to rest up from the rigors of New Year's before driving back. It should be remembered that during the holidays many students are driving from longer distances than on a regular week-end. Many of these students from further away rarely have an opportunity to spend a Sunday at home, attend church with the family and participate in the usual Sunday afternoon activities because of the

necessity of starting early in order to get back for Monday classes.

The University administration probably does not consider it important whether students get to spend that last Sunday at home, watch or even attend the Bowl games and generally rest up from the more strenuous part of vacation. These things are important, however, to many students' enjoyment of the vacation. The extra day would help make Christmas vacation a real vacation in the best sense of the word.

Even if the University is not interested in such mundane considerations, one would think that a responsible administration would take into consideration the safety hazards involved. Traffic is always heavy the day after New Year's, people are tired and inclined to be less careful than usual. Many students will want to spend as much of Sunday at home as possible and then attempt to get back on time by speeding and taking unnecessary chances.

Christmas should be a happy holiday. The University could do a great deal to make it more so by allowing students that one extra day.—L. S.

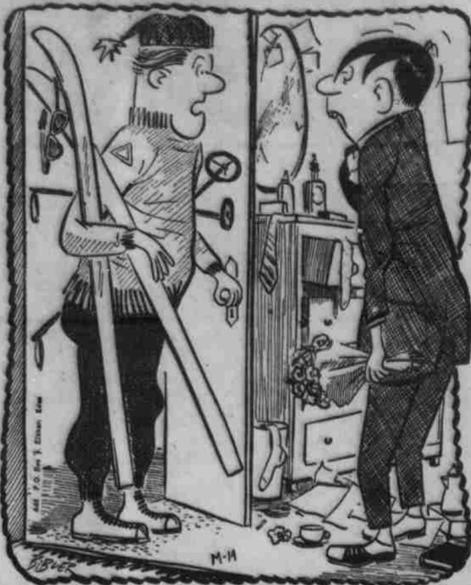
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"OF COURSE I SAID WE WERE GOING 'SNE-ING'—IT'S PRONOUNCED THAT WAY."



Roger Hahl 'We're Running Out Of Coaches'

Bad news. We're running out of coaches!

Yes, it's true. Every dirty bird on the streets has felt it coming for quite a while, but no one mentioned it. The coach-making machines have broken down all over, so it would be wise to save your football coach for the war effort. As Jack Benny says, "You can't hardly get them no more."

So Nebraska and Iowa and Missouri and Ohio State and every other football-minded school in the nation had better start considering a new policy for coach-saving. Of course, they can all keep on hiring and firing at every solstice like they have been doing, but I imagine some of these schools will reach a point of diminishing returns fairly soon.

Who in their right mind would want to subject himself to the abuse and vilification Glassford suffered from kindest humanity at Nebraska, or the impossible pressure Woody Hayes at Ohio State receives? About all one could get out of it (besides a high salary, and good phone manners) would be a few nostalgic pictures of oneself trudging about the field or out of fieldhouses, hanky to nose, head bowed to the wind, and whatever else trite news photos are made of.

Dick Becker says that a coach should expect abuse from "the faithful." Men, after all, live in packs, like wolves. And he's probably right. But those wolves shouldn't be so influential and powerful that they can make or break a university football coach. And that's the way it is around here.

Biff Jones wouldn't come back here. And if Glassford were to be-

Quick Quips

"Mommy, mommy," bawled the little girl, "Daddy just poisoned my kitty."

"Don't cry, dear," replied the mother, sympathetically. "Maybe he had to."

"No, he didn't," screamed the heartbroken child. "He promised me I could."

The mayor of Reno states that the new liquor laws must be enforced. He said that a city ordinance states that no saloon shall be located nearer than 300 feet from a church. He is giving violators three days in which to move the churches.

Vic Vet says

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Ellie Elliott

Education Not Bought Or Sold



While my fellow-columnists, whose sensitive fingers are ever tuned to the fluctuating pulse of the campus and the outside world, carry on their judicious considerations of timely and possibly momentous problems, I should like to consider the somewhat stale question of the purpose of a university education.

The objectives of a university education tend, I suppose, to vary with each student and instructor. Some instructors are here to teach, others to indoctrinate.

Some students consider the university as a grand-scale, scarlet-and-cream-decorated mating ground, others as a football field of the same dimensions and decorations. Some are here because there is nothing else they wanted to do, others because there is nothing else they were allowed to do.

Many, many students are in college in order to earn a degree, which will, in turn, assure them of a "better" job after graduation. To these students, most of the educational aspects of university life are simply details which must be endured, the penalties which one must pay for a degree. And there are a few who came to learn something vital.

We are continually running into the controversy of a practical education versus a true education. The controversy is nebulous, be-

cause the terms are seldom defined, and one is never sure just what he is arguing against.

But generally speaking, in my mind at least, a practical education has as its objective "to earn a living," while true education has as its objectives the realization of such elements as goodness, beauty and truth.

No one will deny that if one wishes to eat, he must earn a living. But the university is not the

Given 'em Ell

place to emphasize practical education. Our universities are some of the few places left in the country where one may pursue the study of something for its own sake, rather than for the sake of MONEY.

True education, then, is neither practical nor necessary, because one cannot sell it... or buy it. One cannot purchase an appreciation and understanding of a great work of art, or of the human brain, or of a molecule. Goodness, beauty, truth, wisdom... they won't feed us, clothe us, house us or afford us television and a Cadillac. They can't be bought, they can't be sold; they usually can't even be taught. You can forget about them, graduate and get rich. Go ahead. Have a good time.

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