

Nebraskan Editorials:

Challenge To Fraternities

Fraternities at the University of Nebraska may be experiencing their first challenge from that numerous and nebulous group called the independents.

Recent scholarship reports might herald the beginning of worry and a new era. While the combined average of fraternities dropped, the grade average of men's co-ops and Selleck Quadrangle raised. If Cornhusker Co-op and Gustavson House II, the leaders of the two divisions, had been placed within the fraternity ratings, they would have rated sixth and eighth respectively. The average of the leading house in Selleck Quad was boosted by .115 and the leading house average of the Men's Co-ops was increased by the respectable percentage .379.

The combined fraternity average of 24 groups dropped .080 as compared with last semester's average. The lowest average on record this semester was recorded by a fraternity.

Looking on the brighter side, fraternity men may still fall back on the actual averages of fraternities and independents. The All Fraternity average is 5.409 and the combined average of Selleck Quad and the co-ops is approximately 5.260—a difference of .149. If fraternities had had accurate scholarship rolls in all cases the difference might have been less, however. Independent houses don't have repledges or inactive members.

Few fraternities can equal the actual physical facilities of Selleck Quadrangle, but most can better the food. Not many fraternities can match the housebill for the dorm, but they all possess such things as fellowship and prestige which are intangible and inestimable as to worth.

All the things which fraternities extol as common only to their Greek organizations, however, are meaningless if the purpose of University life is defeated. No matter how green an incoming freshman might be, it is very doubtful that he would join a mystic group which has a mediocre record in scholarship and the promise of fun and games—which hardly can be termed as academic exercise.

The hour comes, and it is very likely that it is here now, when fraternities should re-examine their position on scholarship. At a university, scholarship is decidedly a virtue and if fraternities are to remain a part of University life at Nebraska, it is imperative that scholarship becomes a year around concern—starting now.—S.J.

A Successful Week

Religious Emphasis Week for 1956 has come to an end. Nine speakers from across the nation have spoken to an undetermined number of students in seminars, addresses and "bull sessions" in the organized houses.

All this was accomplished in five days, from Sunday to Thursday, after months of planning by various committees, all under the auspices of the City Campus Religious Council.

And from a number of angles, it was a success. First, REW almost reached its goal of reaching every student on the campus. True, there were probably a large number of students who did not actually attend a seminar or a lecture, or who missed out on the informal discussions.

But there scarcely could be any students who did not realize that Religious Emphasis Week was taking place on the campus, and that his fellow students were taking part in it and talking about it.

Even if an individual student did not take part, he very likely found himself in the middle of a private discussion prompted by what someone else picked up in REW.

The most effective way of contacting the students was through the informal discussions held in the organized houses. Here students could sit down with the speakers and hash out their questions in an informal, unembarrassing manner. Students who would never think of attending an organized lecture or seminar found themselves drawn into these informal sessions.

The sort of contact with religion afforded by Religious Emphasis Week does not produce converts. There is no attempt to win the individual over to the ways of one creed or faith. It does produce cognizance of the concern of religious men for the university student.

By talking with these men, and listening to their beliefs and the beliefs of their particular faiths, students could perhaps find something that explained their own beliefs, or lack of them. By realizing that men of good faith have interest in the religious life of the student, a new interest in spiritual matters might be roused in this student.

Religious Emphasis Week has ended, for this year. Enough student interest in it was aroused to warrant it being continued. This, however, is not important.

The important thing is that University students, by realizing that religion can hold something for them, and that others are interested in their problems, might find a way leading out of the maze in which modern man so often finds himself.—F.T.D.

Indications Of Success

With a flurry of banners and back-room caucuses, the Mock Political Convention will invade the campus next week. All indications seem to point to a hugely successful meeting of genuinely interested students.

NUCWA, sponsoring organization with the Student Council, should be congratulated for bringing the opportunity to University students. NUCWA leaders and the group's adviser, James Harrison, received only discouraging comments when they began work on the idea some months ago.

Harrison said he had been told he would get only twenty students at such a meeting, if that many. At present, over 400 students are on delegation lists, and not all delegations have been taken.

The convention itself is a healthy sign of political activity on the campus for students who will soon compose the country's electorate. It is an opportunity for students to learn the ins and outs of the complicated American political system and how it functions to formulate some of the policies which will result in law.

The Nebraska also urges that as many students as possible attend the sessions. They will be more colorful, exciting and different than the daily coffee hour. They might be more profitable too.—J.B.

Bewhiskered Tradition

All colleges have traditions. This is an established fact. No self-respecting school would dare open its doors to prospective students without a few traditions and legends hanging around.

The University of Nebraska, although sometimes a little sun-bleached from the prairie sun, has managed to build up a few traditions itself, and displays these with the proper amount of pride and enthusiasm.

One of these is the annual Whisker King contest, which opens next Monday, and closes May 12 during the Farmers Fair. To qualify, a male student must present his clean-shaven face when he turns in his application. Contestants are judged for fullness, texture and originality.

All in all it is a fine tradition, well suited for our agricultural state, and to the Farmers Fair. Although modern Nebraska farmers are seldom seen with whisker-fested chins, their sons seem to have a fine old time growing beards every spring.

The reasons for a healthy young male growing a beard in the springtime are a little obscure, however. Aside from the personal prestige gained from having the most whiskers on the campus and in pushing the Farmers Fair, there doesn't seem to be much else in favor of the idea.

Some habitual woman-haters might like the idea, or those who have just broken up with a "true love" and wish to hide their broken hearts behind three inches of bristle.

There also may be certain advantages in growing a beard if one was hiding from the Federal authorities, or trying to keep from paying a housebill.

The main disadvantage is in the thwarting of most amorous endeavors during the period in which the beard is flowering into full maturity.

As one time-honored young maiden said, long ago: "It tickles!"—F.T.D.

Afterthoughts
Amazing Medium

Advertising is an amazing medium. Even at the University, hard-hitting, bright-eyed publicity chairmen have learned to hold their fingers to the student pulse.

A new poster in the Union begins:

"MARTINI are not what we are interested in, but now that we have your attention . . ."

It was accompanied by a picture of the biggest and driest martini to hit this campus in years.

The Nebraskan

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LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS by Dick Bibler



By CORBAN LePELL

Intellectual 'Type'
Bluffs Criticism

Much of the painting that is being done today is unintelligible for the lay gallery goer who travels the gallery halls infrequently. cannot expect to be familiar with all the many specialized fields which surround him in his society.

Art is specialized as are many other fields of today, but the lay gallery goer tries to afford himself the luxury of being an able art critic.

The man who affords himself this false luxury must feel he understands the problems, motives, desires and needs of the contemporary artist. The man who boasts of possession such a luxury is a fool.

The product of a modern artist is of a personal nature. Modern painting has certainly reduced its audience from the days of the Barbizon School of pretty landscape painting. Today painting has an extremely esoteric range.

It is rarely conceivable that the University intellectual would think of himself as being excluded from that esoteric group. He can bluff his way through art history and then with all profoundness say, "I've discovered Velasquez." This intellectual Type is always lacking superficialities on to contemporary painting.

He talks of art as philosophy, sociology and grass cutting, but never art as art. The University Intellectual is always explaining art to the people he is trying to impress. This God-Act makes him feel superior. There are no words which can replace vision, but this Type tries to do just that.

The Type also tries to explicate music in terms of social enigma, giving intellectual meaning, or a message, importance greater than that of aural expression. From him expression built upon relationships

The Image

in pitch and time does not have the value of expression built upon his own preconceived allegorical relationships.

He has placed media above expression. He prefers opera with its literary value to the more abstract chamber works, thus judging music by literary criteria. This is certainly a narrow approach of the printed word.

When Shakespeare comes to town in the form of a movie the Type really goes to work. He may be familiar with the play through the printed work or, and this is less likely, the stage.

This Type who creates no art of his own, but is trapped in the shallow ground between the sensitive critic and the artist serves no purpose but that of annoying and boring both artist and critic.

Nebraskan Letterip

Union Chapel Not Constitutional

To the Editor:

The City Campus Religious Council petition proposing the inclusion of a chapel or meditation room in the new Union, and The Nebraskan editorial ("A Logical Follow Through") supporting it, are examples of some of the least logical thinking I have ever seen in the Nebraskan.

The writer of the editorial tries to differentiate between "church" and "religion" in a manner not very acceptable to either the religious man or the adherent of our national and state constitutions.

The concept of the separation of church and state is more than "traditional," and it cannot be circumvented by omission of the word "church."

The United States Constitution prohibits "an establishment of religion." Where does that leave the proposed chapel which is to be "identified with religion itself?"

The language of the petition is just vague enough to make it enticing to prospective signers. "The Student Union is to serve the needs of all students." Well, we students have a lot of different needs; and most of us do not expect the Union to supply them all.

"A chapel or meditation room would serve as an opportunity to strengthen spiritual growth." This not susceptible of proof. How has the spirituality of UN debates been augmented by that organization's meditation room.

"No specific place on the University campus (emphasis mine) is provided for all students and faculty to worship and meditate." Is this a criticism of the University for abiding by the spirit of the national and state constitutions?

And "Most major universities in the Midwest have a chapel or meditation for room for general campus use." This is frank "bandwagon" technique. Should NU students feel hopelessly underprivileged spiritually if theirs is the only school in the Big Seven without a chapel on state property?

If I seem harsh, it is because observation and experience have taught me that any weakening of the barrier between church and state (the released-time system in public schools as a notorious example) results in no advantage for either side, but rather in a loss of both power and function for each.

"God does not need our lies"—St. Gregory. Much less, I believe, does He need our illegalities and our logical absurdities.

G. Thomas Fairclough.

Presumptuous Headline

Whatever the functions of a student newspaper may be, padding its limitations before the public is not one of them. I refer, specifically, to the story on the front page of Wednesday's Nebraskan headed, "Speakers Clarify Basis of Existence in Session."

Now there are those who believe the basis (or bases) of existence has not yet been discovered, let alone clarified. Have these men isolated, in one week, what the greatest minds of every age have sought to locate?

I cannot believe the speakers themselves are as presumptuous as the individual who wrote this headline.

And the story itself! Space is limited, I realize; but there is no excuse for tossing quotations from each speech (apparently picked at random) into this pseudo-electric stew which is offered as a clarification.

Is this the intelligent summation of significant discussions students have a right to demand from their newspaper? I leave it up to you to decide.

And let me say to those men who put considerable time and effort into preparing a lecture, that there are students who appreciate that time and effort.

Barbara Farquar

Wake Up, University

To The Editor:

An open letter to the Committee on Students for Johnson, and to others appearing to be robots:

The following is a quote from a letter sent to the fraternity and sorority system at Nebraska by the Students for Johnson Committee.

"In our minds it matters not whether you are Democrat or Republican or whether you are an advocate of Dick Johnson's policies or not—the problem is this—do you want a representative of your University who is also a member of the Greek system, who is now crying for financial aid from that system, do you wish that call to go unanswered?"

The committee implies here that the only important thing is that we support this member of the University and Greek system.

What, might I ask, ever possessed the members of this committee to put such trivial things before their own beliefs and convictions? Are we of the University or Greek system such thin-skulled individuals as to put these two things above all else?

Might I say, wake up committee, University, Greeks, independents or whoever you may be—lest you lose confidence in yourself and become mere robots with some crackpot pushing the buttons.

Paul Zucker

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