

Nebraskan Editorials: Towards A Stronger System

Smiling faces have shifted back into the typical college gaze of indifference, handshaking has become a thing of the past and pledges are beginning to see that there is more to the fraternity picture than meets the eye.

Rush Week is over. Fraternity Rush Week was one of the most successful in the last decade, both in numbers and in organization. The perennial problem of violations was held to a minimum. More specifically, spiking and undo pressuring during the actual Rush Week were combated.

The IFC realized the fact that there is actually no way to prove the existence of spiking. In the past years it has shown up in the rapid pledging. Therefore, three compulsory periods were set up allowing a man to see at least three houses regardless of his status. Also, it was highly emphasized that a pledge pin did not obligate a man in any way.

The new program, requiring all rushees to attend not only six houses during open house but three compulsory parties with different houses before pledging worked out very favorably, for both the fraternity involved and the rushee.

At the end of the third of these compulsory parties all men were required to return to the Union ballroom for one hour before they could return to the houses and file pledge assumption cards. During this hour no man officially affiliated with any fraternity could make contact with the rushees.

A total of 383 men went through Rush Week

with only 47 not pledging. Many of this remaining group are now participating in open rush, although they are prohibited from pledging for 30 days after Rush Week. Participation in Rush Week increased nearly 100 men over last year's total.

However, figures also point out a sore spot in the present program. One of the contributing factors for the compulsory periods was the fact that it would supposedly keep all houses open at least for the first two days, regardless of whether they already had their pledge class. Of the total men pledged, 375 had filed their assumption cards by early Saturday afternoon. Thus resulting in the tendency for some houses to "shut down" on rushing at that time. This attitude not only hurts the particular house employing it, but reflects back on the entire fraternity system.

A more complete understanding between the fraternity and the pledge should take place due to the new program. For the first time, quartile ratings for high school scholarship and questionnaires were available to the fraternity. And making conditions reciprocal, the rushee was better informed about the system, due to better individual house rush programs during the summer and the IFC Rush Book.

The fraternity system has taken the first step in strengthening, but the ever important phases of pledge training and scholarship remain to be conquered. Full membership or active status can not be reached without fulfilling these attainments.



You know the rules about no pets in the frat, Irving!

Neophyte Considers Rush Week Humerous

By DAVE MERRICK

This was my first year on the active side of the Greek fence during the hectic rush week period. A senior friend-of mine once told me that the only way he avoided apoplexy (it definitely is in season during the first week of September) was to keep at least one eye and one ear alerted for humor. Now, this was a perfectly logical suggestion, because after one thinks about it, what time of the year could possibly be prone to more "bloopers" than the tense, "let's make an impression," rush week? Keeping an eye and ear open for humor was exactly what I did during the week's activities and it proved very profitable, indeed. To be perfectly trite, I had a ball!

For instance, try to visualize the expression on the face of an unsuspecting laundry man who had walked into a house to make a delivery when, all of a sudden, out of the chattering crowd, came

a smiling fraternity man who shook the bewildered fellow's hand and finally asked him to come back that evening for a party.

Rumor has it that one confused rushee apparently forgot his own name when an overly-enthusiastic introduced himself. The rushee's explanation was the active attacked him with an almost breath-taking flourish, and that it was awfully early in the morning, and... well... uh...

One story illustrates the old adage, "When in Rome (or the Gamma Phi house), do as the Romans (or the Gamma Phis) do." A non-smoking rushee who evidently carried the adage in mind, was offered a cigarette. Possibly thinking that the socially proper thing to do would be to accept, she took the cigarette. Imagine trying to hold back your snickers when the rushee, not wanting to make the active reach across the table with a light, held the cigarette at arms length to be lit!

One house had just finished talking a rushee into pledging and had turned him loose in the living room to receive his congratulations. Several actives who had not known that he had already pledged had just come upstairs to "hot-box". When they spotted the fellow wandering around alone they decided they had better take him upstairs. Being rather meek, the newly-pledged man decided that he better not interrupt, so he sat through the fraternity's history, national standing, and social position for the second time that afternoon and... needless to say, pledged all over again!

My last anecdote concerns none other than your own insignificant columnist. Insignificant, indeed, for when I walked up to one rushee and smilingly said, "How do you do, I'm Dave Merrick!", he looked blankly at me and replied, "Oh?"



vice and versa



Now that you have been snagged by the peculiar heading above this column, allow yourself to become intent until the final period. Yes, your eye must become trained to this spot once a week for the remainder of the semester.

And let us explain why it must be this way. For in this lightheaded (and lightheaded) literature, without fear or favor toward the righteous and the wicked, the mighty and the damned, campus issues that burst from asunder and quicken the pulse of true Cornhuskers must be delved with. For it is here one may find a staunch defender of home, motherhood and the flag.

The author of this is the first to realize his limitations (along with his instructors); but along with these he is also prodded by a purpose. Without this column there would be either a blank space or an ad; and you may be the sole judge to make the decision of which makes better reading material at a college level.

Possibly you can relate to you the reasons why there is no place like Nebraska or how to survive on dorm food or how to convince your parents that life is a bitter mockery without a new convertible.

However, you will never be faced with such paragraphs as:

"Just what is dada? 'sorry maam, your son w a s killed.' Mustn't be smudged (edit. censor, cut, kill, you do it, string him up, he's crazy, the majority rules. AVERAGE. AVERAGE. AVERAGE. AVERAGE-Did you hear? send in your dollar and you're average, don't live too long, strawberry preserves."

Now will there be: "Shackled to the leg of life I pass, Moving with a motion not my own, Up and down and around I go With nauseating life."

But this still leaves more worldly matters such as cutting and cramming, average raisers and favors, blind dates and reasons to get blind on dates, jocks and jargon and even specifics like: How to make a proposal in the

it happened at nu After so much registration, it seems the just don't car ny more. One conscientious freshman, after being reminded to fill out his ID card after it had been stamped, went to a table and did so. The registration worker was a little surprised, though, when he went through the same long line, just to show her that he had done it.

stacks of Love Library at 9:30 p.m. on the night before your Anatomy 96 final.

Yes, all this and more! And should you desire any particular issue to be grappled with this 15 pica, just enclose three Red Dot pins, 23 cents in Egyptian stamps, an I like Nasser button and yourself—and you will be given the utmost of consideration.

Vic Vet says

WORLD WAR II VETS WITH GI TERM INSURANCE SHOULD CONSIDER CONVERTING TO PERMANENT PLANS OF GI INSURANCE BEFORE THEIR TERM POLICIES BECOME TOO COSTLY THROUGH HIGHER PREMIUMS AND LOWER DIVIDENDS.

STUDENTS

"How can you look neat if your shoes are beat?"

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When We Are 21

Twenty-one is a magic year for most young people. It means that they are old enough to drink, legally and old enough to vote. Which of the two they consider more important is strikingly revealed in the results of a recent survey.

Only two out of five college students eligible to vote for the first time this year in the presidential election plan to do so, the survey says. A total of 1300 students from 24 colleges were interviewed for these statistics.

College students for years have led a fight for lowering the voting age. In the past they have often been attacked as too liberal or too radical; but rarely of being too uninterested.

Yet this letter would seem to be the case. For example 34 per cent of the test group indicated zero interest in who should be or would be the next vice president. This in a year which has brought two vivid reminders that the vice president is only heart beats away from the presidency of our country.

Answers to most of the questions indicated an overwhelming lack of either knowledge or interest in the political parties. This, in a generation which has vastly greater opportunities for informing itself than any other in history. It must be remembered also that this survey was devoted to college students, the presumably more enlightened leaders of tomorrow.

This is also the generation which is being given infinitely more opportunity for political leadership. Those who watched the conventions could not but be impressed with the youthfulness of many of the leading figures. Gov. G. Menen Williams, Sen. Jack Kennedy, Gov. Meyer and Sen. John Clements are a few of the younger men who are recognized leaders in their party; holders of positions of great responsibilities.

It would be interesting to know if the figures given by the survey hold true for the University. Certainly there has been no dramatic evidence of political awareness by University students.

College students should assume two duties in regard to the national political scene. One is to be informed and concerned about the issues of the day. These are not nebulous things to be written into a convention platform and forgotten. These political issues can and do affect young people as well as their elders. College students

today make more money, hold more jobs, pay more taxes, and are called upon for more military service to their country than at any previous time in our nation's history. These things are all political issues.

As leaders in whom a great deal has been invested, college students also have a responsibility of political service. This does not necessarily mean running for political office. This does, however, mean intelligent voting, encouraging others to vote, informing others on political issues and helping the party of their choice.

Political opportunity and political duty go hand in hand. The mature, intelligent college student will accept both willingly, realizing that the future of this country involves in a very real way his own personal future.

Afterthoughts No Answer . . .

Radar controlled brakes apparently aren't the answer to the highway safety problem, congressmen investigating automotive safety were told by automobile corporation officials.

Automotive engineers revealed during a recent tour of project engineering laboratories that the corporation has been experimenting with radar brakes.

"Our preliminary finding is that they are not the great safety device we thought they might be," he said.

The corporation has equipped a car with two sets of brakes, one operated by the driver and the other by a passenger who simulates the actions of a radar set.

Platzer said the brakes tend to create emergencies because radar cannot think or anticipate braking needs.

"Drivers actually are required to be more alert than with normal brakes," he said.

"Radar will apply the brakes when a car approaches another car stopped for a through street, but, if that car moves, the brakes are released and the driver finds he has an emergency situation."

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From the editor's desk: ...with malice towards none

A new staff doesn't change the appearance of a college newspaper in any sizeable manner. The front page and the editorial columns look about the same as they did last semester — and for all practical purposes they are the same.

Whatever improvement is made will not be mechanical, it will be in the general tone and spirit of the paper.

During the current semester, The Nebraskan staff will attempt to produce as professional a paper as possible. We will plagiarize or steal anything and we will copy or invent any idea that will enable us to advance from one of the better college newspapers to the best college newspaper.

The Mitchell issue is safely in the hands of a faculty senate committee. Let it remain there and let professors clean and wring out their own dirty linen — assuming that it is soiled in the first place. Pete Elliott is our football coach and seems to be doing a magnificent job. Bill Glassford may be selling used cars for all we know—or care.

The Nebraskan will not create issues. This does not mean that controversy will be avoided. Dr. Peter Marshall once said before the United States Senate, "Lord, help us to stand for something, lest we fall for anything."

The Nebraskan will stand for whatever it believes is right and whatever will benefit the University, its faculty and its students. This does not mean that we will accept any phrase, "for the good of the University," as final dictum on any matter: No one of the three groups which compose our corporate University body, administration, faculty or students, are possessed of any great amount of divine wisdom enabling them to always know what is best for the other groups.

The Nebraskan's facilities will be available to any official University organization for any legitimate news—and probably available for some news that is not so legitimate in the eye of journalistic ethics, the kind of news that the Kosmet Klub show or the

All University Fund drive might covet in order to fulfill their purposes.

This college newspaper will do the best job it can to objectively serve the University community. The legitimate purpose of any newspaper is to promote and report the activities of its community. Often things occur which some people would say are best not said, especially in print, but sometimes these things will be said, in print, in The Nebraskan. What things will be printed and what things will not is a matter of policy, a policy that will be consistent no matter who is involved.

The Nebraskan offices will always be open to those with questions and those with something of interest for the paper's news or editorial columns.

The Nebraskan will report those things which happen at the University of Nebraska which is as it should be and will be.

Sam Jensen

The Nebraskan

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor Sam Jensen
Editorial Page Editor Bob Cook
Managing Editor Fred Daly
News Editor Luel Switzer
Sports Editor Walt Blore
Copy Editors Nancy Coover, Sara Jones, Bob Ireland, Dick Shurman

BUSINESS STAFF

Ag Editor Don Herman
Night News Editor Nancy Coover
Assistant Business Managers Don Beck, Larry Epstein, Tom Neff, Jerry Sullentine
Staff Writers Walt Switzer, Cynthia Zachan, Nancy Helms, Marianne Torgeson

Business Manager George Madsen
Circulation Manager Richard Hendrix

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