

No Excuses Valid

Dormant on this campus since the incident in which a pledge was delivered to a sorority house in a laundry bag, once again fraternity "pranks" have emerged from house basements to the downtown newsprint.

What one house does to amuse its elder members has again brought censure to not only that house and the fraternity system, but to the University as a whole. To the great mass of students whether or not AGR pledges eat sandwiches concocted from vinegar and grapes is of little interest. If an individual is so dominated by a group that he acquiesces to this sort of degrading nonsense, this too, is of little interest to any but the eater.

What is of vital interest, however, is the light which such actions puts the University into. What the public thinks of the University largely decides to what extent it will support it and bolster its growth and expansion. If the public conception is one of students dominated by childish desires to see another individual embarrassed and abused, small wonder administrators face a monumental task when they face the legislators of the state with their requests for funds and support.

Those who inhabit the University know

that such actions as forcing pledges to eat food which caused one to be rushed to Student Health is not typical of either the University or fraternities in general. But as long as any one house tolerates or encourages any such forms of hazing, the possibilities of personal injury and harm exist. This is far more important than even the poor publicity which results to the school itself.

Fraternities should be able to "build better men" without making attempts to knock them down first. The idea that by forcing an individual to subjugate himself to the group in order that he might later feel more at one with that group seems a sick theory when one remembers the West Coast pledge who choked on liver, or the dozens of other stories over the years of young fraternity men who didn't quite make initiation ceremonies because of some fatal prank.

In an age when conformity runs rampant, when instead of developing leaders, we are churning out excellent followers, little sympathy can be found for a program which encourages an individual to shove his human dignity aside and grovel for the group. The fact that he may make others grovel two years hence is little compensation.

The AGR's are unfortunate. Their sandwich made headlines.

It would be more than naive to assume that theirs was the only group which participated in some form of hazing.

It would appear that members of the IFC acted in good faith in drafting their resolution banning any form of hazing and hell weeks. No fraternity man was willing to stand up in this group and say that he felt that there was anything beneficial or morally uplifting in requiring pledges to undergo some form of embarrassment.

But does this mean that there is a consensus among fraternity leaders that the spirit as well as the letter of the recently passed resolution is to be followed? The AGR incident is a relatively harmless one. Probably 99 times out of 100, the person eating such a sandwich would not find themselves in such condition that others felt the need to call an ambulance.

But—there is always the possibility of an individual who undergoes some kind of physical punishment merely for the sake of becoming a member of a social group.

And so we would say to the IFC, good luck in enforcing your resolution. It is a good resolution. There is no need to degrade a boy before he may become a member of a group. He can learn to love his fraternity, to live up to its ideals without first having to suffer humiliation for it.

The IFC, which passed the resolution banning any form of hazing, is composed of the president or representative of every fraternity on campus. Hence the very members who passed the fine sounding dictum are the ones who have the power and the position to see that it is observed.

Season's Opener

Those who are new to the campus, whether freshmen or transfers face a pleasant surprise somewhere between the dates of Oct. 28-31.

Wednesday marks the opening of Howell's doors for the first of the 1959-60 University Theatre presentations. The first play is no small task for a group of amateurs—a Shakespearean masterpiece, "Henry IV, Part 1."

But if performances in University Theatre productions in the past have any bearing on those yet to come—as they certainly must, since the same directors, many of the same actors and the same enthusiasm sparks these as sparked those of yesteryears—another highly successful season opens Wednesday.

The amount of work which goes into the production of one good Theatre production is staggering to the imagination of those who have not worked in Theatre. Rehearsals take place nearly every night for at least a month leading up to the production.

Even before that much of the technical presentation of the production must be worked out. Lighting, costuming, casting, make-up, scene design—these are only a few of the off-stage efforts which, when combined in the proper proportions produce—almost magically it seems sometimes—a performance which captures, delights or intrigues the audience.

The cast for "Henry IV" is an experienced one. Among its members are several who have appeared on the Howell stage many times before. To them and the crews and directors, we wish a successful performance.

Staff Views:

On the Other Hand

By Sondra Whalen

At last! A solution to end all Homecoming Queen controversies!

With all campus arguing over whether the Queen should have a 7.5 average, 23 beauty titles, an equal number of activities, love of country, mother and dogs, a suggestion has emerged to put a stop to elections for all time.

Come Home To "A Homecoming Queen should be someone you want to come home to," a thinking male student suggested in the Crib.

Elections will be eliminated. Instead we'll have a contest. Several contests.

Judges? The persons suggesting the idea seemed to have coming home to a man-type in mind, but this suggestion wouldn't apply to this year's list as none of the candidates are married.

Instead, they come home to various types of mothers and parents, friends, etc.

Must Be Happy

Those who live at home many times come home to animals, too. Dog, cat, monkey or birds, one of these must be included in the judging. Makes little difference which, just must be happy to see our Queen.

Ought to have sisters and brothers in here too, uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces, sons, daughters, grandmothers, great grandfathers, guardians, step-great

aunts, nephews-in-law, better include everyone.

Maybe the contests should be classified into several categories too. These could include Mother Wanting Queen to Come Home, Dog Wanting Queen to Come Home, Everybody wanting Queen to Come Home. The various events would then be listed under these headings.

Judging would be on a broad base. Candidates would be judged on how well they baked Apple Brown Betty, prepared Dry Meal Dog Food, darned socks and dried dishes.

Points would also be gained for the speed through which these tasks were accomplished.

Points Lost

Points would be lost for those who burned the Brown Betty, broke dishes and fixed the dog food too mushy. The girl collecting the most points in the various contests would then be named queen.

Good grief. A more thoughtful thought.

One suggestion of the Tassel committee that revamped Homecoming Queen elections and presentation was to have two elections. Students would vote for three candidates the first time; a rally would be held announcing the three winners, and voting would then be held on the three to determine the queen.

The Queen would be presented at the Thursday rally before Homecoming, as planned now.

Two election still sounds like a rather good idea which might be investigated.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



TRANSLATION: LINCOLN STUDIED LATE AT NIGHT AND HIS EYES BECAME BLOODSHOT.

Errant Thoughts

by caesar

DEAR DI WHAT IS WITH THIS MACHINE

FOR SIX LONG WEEKS I HAVE STRUGGLED NOBLY ALONG WITH A TYPE WRITER THAT HAD LOST THE ABILITY TO CAPITALIZE SO I CHANGE MACHINES AND THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS OBVIOUSLY THIS IS A SCREWED UP OUTFIT IF I WERE YOU I'D HAVE NEBRASKA TYPE WRITER OVER TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE EARLIEST

I NOTE THAT THE GREEKS ARE OUT POUNDING NAILS ETC IN AN ALL OUT EFFORT TO COP THE DECORATIONS TROPHY THIS WEEKEND A RUMOR HAS FILTERED DOWN TO ME THAT IF ALL THE GREEKS ON CAMPUS SPEND TEN HOURS WORKING ON THIS DUBIOUSLY WORTHWHILE PROJECT THE MAN OR WOMAN HOURS WOULD EQUAL THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED BY TEN MEN ON A FORTY HOUR WEEK FOR ONE YEAR WITH TWO WEEK PAID VACATIONS

IT ALL SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF TROUBLE TO GO TO JUST TO TEAR SAID DISPLAYS DOWN WITHIN FORTY EIGHT HOURS BUT THEN TRADITION IS TRADITION PERHAPS UNFORTUNATELY DOT DOT DOT A L L SERIOUSNESS ASIDE KID IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE THE IFC IS GOING TO HAVE TO THROW THE BOOK AT THE CLUB THAT PULLED THAT BONE HEAD MOVE LAST WEEK AND NOT JUST BECAUSE IT WILL HAVE TO BECAUSE OF ADMINISTRATIVE PRESSURE EITHER

THE IDEA THAT THE PRESIDENT OF SAID ORGANIZATION HAS TRIED TO LEAVE IS THAT IT WAS JUST GOOD CLEAN FUN FELLAS BUT



IF THE IFC CONDONES SUCH ACTION BY ONE OF ITS MEMBERS WITH THE USUAL IFC SOFT PAT ON THE CHEEK AND A SOFT SPOKEN DONT LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN BOYS I FOR ONE THINK THAT THE SYSTEM HAS LITTLE TO OFFER ANYONE I THINK MOST HOUSES WILL RECOGNIZE THE ACT FOR JUST WHAT IT WAS THAT IS ONE OF UTTER STUPIDITY AND WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS ACCORDINGLY

IF YOU ASK ME THAT IS ONE QUOTE TRADITION UNQUOTE THAT WOULD BE BETTER DONE AWAY WITH BUT ON THE OTHER HAND I DONT KNOW WHAT EVERYONE IS SO UPSET ABOUT THIS INCIDENT FOR AFTER ALL HUNDREDS OF NU STUDENTS HAVE BEEN EATING THE SAME SORT OF STUFF IN THE UNION FOR YEARS AND THE MUCH BALLYHOOD NEW FACILITIES HAVE DONE LITTLE TO TAKE THE GREASE OUT OF THE FOOD OR MAKE TOLERABLE COFFEE

THIS IS AGAIN SOMETHING THAT NOTHING WILL BE DONE ABOUT BECAUSE THE UNION STAFF REALIZES THAT AS LONG AS THE STUDENT SUCKERS CONTINUE TO SLOP UP THE MUD FOR A DIME PER FIRST CUP THEY WOULD BE FOOLISH TO SPEND AN EXTRA NICKEL PER HUNDRED CUPS TO MAKE IT NEARLY TOLERABLE

AND THAT BIT ABOUT ONLY charging a nickel for the second cup is just a clever publicity move most people cant stand a second cup

i see my machine is back to normal so i will remain affectionately yours caesar

A Few Words Of a Kind

by e. e. Hines

Leonard Bernstein added another triumph Sunday with the television showing of the New York Philharmonic's Moscow concert.

The triumph was more than music a l. Bernstein said he hoped that the Philharmonic's tour would help to emphasize the close similarity of the Russian and American peoples, and this it did—triumphantly.

Though I am not one to indulge in low-voiced patriotic cheerleading, I am glad that I am what I am—an American. When the New York Philharmonic moved from the playing of the Russian national anthem to "Star Spangled Banner" I felt—and believe thousands of others must have had the same feeling—a stir of pride; this was my anthem and it stood for the courage and strength of all Americans.

Russians Smiled The Russian audience recognized our anthem as quickly as I did, and the camera showed an audience of warmly smiling Russians. Their attentiveness and warmth must have equaled that of any American audience before which Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic have performed.

At the time of the actual performance, our papers carried stories of the ovation that had been given the orchestra and conductor. They told how Shostakovich, whose seventh Symphony—the first movement—was part of the television performance, had embraced Bernstein after the concert and praised the American orchestra. The stories also told how Boris Pasternak had chatted with Bernstein.

Leonard Bernstein and the Philharmonic will be seen on television in another month. This telecast will show their concert in Vienna. I suggest you take time to see it.

The best laid plans of mice and men . . . and IFC's . . .

We must give the Inter-Fraternity Council a 9 for effort. They attempted to gain favorable publicity for the Greek system by adopting a code of conduct for fraternity pledgehip.

They got the favorable publicity, but one game-

happy group managed to upset the reform wagon. The illness of one pledge, resulting from the probably less than voluntary eating of an abominable mixture of vinegar, raw egg and breakfast food, has set many people to wondering how many other fraternities are continuing childish pledge practices.

If the only reasons for pledgehip are to provide amusement for actives and servants for house cleaning, perhaps it would be best that pledgehip be forgotten. If pledgehip is rather a period in which fraternity members may instruct the neophytes in lore, custom and adult conduct, it might be beneficial to all concerned that the Nebraska fraternities forget the lip service they have long been famed for and strive actively to produce mature fraternity members.

Engaging in children's stunts—and not even a child would eat the AGR's "nourishing" sandwich—probably does not contribute to the education of a young adult. As to the confession that the "sandwich" eating is an annual affair, I submit the observation that only fools do not learn from their mistakes. Perhaps the purchase of a good cookbook will provide AGR with some more palatable recipes for "nourishing" sandwiches.

Not Confined By all means, let me emphasize that I do not feel that childish practices are confined solely to this house that "happened to get caught." And I do not feel that they should be made to suffer individually for conducting themselves in what might well be nothing more than typical University of Nebraska fraternity fashion.

I am a strong believer in the good that mature fraternities can do. I believe as strongly that immature fraternities can do a great deal of harm to their members, the fraternity system, the University and the state.

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