

Editorial Comment:

New Average Ranking Draws House Comment

The announcement by the administration that a new system of computing residence grades is being utilized has already caused somewhat of a furor in many campus houses.

Comments have been that the new system is good; that it's bad; that it's basically good but could use a few changes.

On the credit side of the ledger are these facts: Such a system gives a better picture of house standings since there usually is a difference of only half a grade point between the top and bottom house rating in the grade grouping.

But if listed numerically, as in the past, instead of as in a group as now, a house might be listed 11th or 12th overall, and actually be very close to the top mark.

A slight rise or decline in grades under the new system probably will keep the residence in the same grouping, while under the former rankings a fraternity, for example, might drop only a tenth of a grade point mathematically, but three, four or five notches in the ranking system.

In other words, the new system is hoped to provide grade recognition according to approximate averages.

Individual fraternity and sorority houses will be able to ascertain their exact position in their respective groups for national scholastic reports, if needed, by sending a representative to Student Affairs for the information.

In addition, supporters of the change say this might destroy the curiosity of "immature" students who take a delight in harassing the students of a residence a notch or two below them. And it might increase incentive to be recognized as the top scholastic house on campus.

But protests have been voiced, too. A writer to the Letterip column who failed to sign his name makes his point thusly:

"The nasty old administration isn't mak-

ing it (ranking of residence grades) public this semester.

"However, do not let this keep you from being good little boys and girls and studying hard. Just because there's no competition any more, just because the big brother says it's not important to get the top grades any more, just because we're all equal under the point system, that doesn't mean that you must stop studying."

The letter ends with the point that "scholarship is the most important thing."

The third group seems to say the change is OK, but . . . And one of the suggestions from this group is to provide a better breaking point for the groups.

They say the groups have been set up on too broad a basis, simply by taking the simple half point and full point breaking points.

That argument does bear considerable merit. For instance, 13 fraternities were in Group III and four were in Group IV, a total of 17 of 23. A fraternity in group III might not be happy to admit that it was in what looked like the bottom half of the residence gradewise, which may or may not be true, but at least appears that way.

In general, however, the plan should be praised, perhaps not because that it is the best possible, but that it shows an indication that the administration is concerned with the various problems and events facing residences, especially fraternities and sororities, and is out to help rather than "get" organized houses.

Residences do not have a vested right to expect the administration to go through the troublesome and time-consuming task of making up residence rankings and averages.

In other words, the administration is doing much more than it has to do, and efforts to correct or better these voluntary functions it performs can only be praised.

From the Editor's Desk:

It Seems to Me . . .

By Carroll Kraus

Pessimists have been saying that if it doesn't stop snowing soon, there will be no Spring Day this year.

But maybe more important than Spring Day is the fact that the weather's been so bad lately that the Wednesday social column has been rather void of pinnings and engagements. Just not the weather that turns young men's minds lightly, apparently.

However, this writer has just done his most to provide some impetus to alter the situation which must be causing great concern among salesmen of candy, cigars, diamonds, etc. Purveyors of the social column may check this reference.

It should dispel any mention I have made in the past as to hating women.

Actually, getting engaged is so much simpler than becoming pinned, at least on my side it was.

Just a couple simple things to do—decide to become engaged and secondly, and not quite as easily, purchase a ring.

The initial decision was blurted out on a Sunday morning after church, which may or may not be appropriate, but not in the line of thinking which considers a moonlight evening as the only proper proposal time.

The second step, of ring-buying, came last week in a local jewelry store.

Conversation went something like this: "Can I help you, sir?" Answer—a worried stare at the counter and silence.

"Oh, you'd like to see some diamonds. Well, we have a very nice selection . . . etc."

The young lady of my choice was along by her choice.

The salesman parried queries at her for a while. "This is a very popular item. Would you like to try it on?"

A pleased yes, a closer squint, a frown, and a, "No . . . I don't exactly believe that's what I had in mind."



Kraus

Words like solitaire, prongs, carats, dollars were tossed around indiscriminately. Then, aha, salesman says, "We'll get our diamond expert."

Enter diamond expert, complete with onyx and diamond centered ring.

A few clandestine words with my fiancée, a rush to the display window, a hurried return, a smile of satisfaction on the young lady's lips.

"How do you like it?" the diamond expert says.

"Isn't it pretty?" she says.

"Yeah, fine," I says.

Having never purchased a diamond before and trying to maintain a manly attitude toward the whole thing, my reply must have seemed rather disinterested, although it really wasn't.

How can you be disinterested in something that expensive?

I mustered up courage. "We'll take it."

Transaction completed, girl smiling, we left.

That completed most of my preparation, but the fiancée still had a round to go.

She calmly went to sorority Monday night dinner, snuffed out the passing candle; screaming ensued; romantic sweetheart song was sung, interrupted by hasher spilling sippy piece of pumpkin pie on one of the sisters.

As a sequel fiancée passed out candy—not the usual chocolate goodies, but suckers, which must be indicative of something.

For myself, I made no hints or announcements over at 519 No. 16th. The brothers were hurling epithets at me since the "A" basketball team's Thursday night win over the Sellenke champs wasn't in the Monday Rag.

I contained myself to the kitchen. Besides, they'd have harassed me.

I've also noticed that people are quite presumptuous, mentioning things like, "When's the date?" or "When'll she get the other ring?"

Maybe I'd better read a book on social mores.



For the Heck of It

By John Heeckt

That the conduct of American foreign policy in all its aspects has left much to be argued in the post-war era is scarcely an arguable point today. The primary reason for our failures in this area arises from the fact that America was pushed into a position of world leadership during and following World War II which she had previously refused to accept.

Prior to World War II, the United States was content to let other countries dominate the field on international relations, interfering only when her own narrow interests were endangered. We were prone to take a rather isolated view of the world.

The results of this attitude were that we came out of World War II with little of the experience that our position demanded and had to learn in a rather short space of time the lessons that other major countries had learned over centuries.

The field where expertness is critically lacking is in cultural and area knowledge of countries formerly of little interest to this country, but now of critical

importance. Because of a lack of knowledge of foreign cultures and languages, many of the programs of economic aid which the United States has sponsored have been mainly failures.

The agents which have had the responsibility for these programs, and the personnel working under them, have had too little knowledge of the essentials for cooperation in the countries where they were stationed. In many countries the political and economic representatives of our country have succeeded in arousing more hatred than admiration for the American people simply because they do not understand the people that they are represented to.

That the United States is becoming more and more sensitive to this shortcoming is well-illustrated by the success that such books as the "Ugly American" have had in this country. The book mentioned has become a best-seller as a highly critical and too factual exposure of the shortcomings of America's representatives abroad, particularly in the Far East.

American universities, perhaps the first group to become generally aware of this problem, have inaugurated programs at many institutions to help correct it. Schools such as the University of Washington, University of Michigan, Cornell, Harvard, Stanford, Columbia and others have set up area study programs on the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and the Slavic countries including Russia in an attempt to train special-

ists in these areas for teaching positions and government service.

Some high schools, e. g., Omaha Westside, are beginning to offer limited programs in these areas. The University of Nebraska has shown an increased interest in these areas by expanding the offerings in political science and history to include the Far East.

The history department offers rather extensive study in the history of the

Continued on Page 4



I feel that the purchase of a diamond ring is one of the most important investments that you will make in your lifetime.

You should know everything about the product you are purchasing, no matter how large or small your investment.

This is the reason I am inviting you to stop in at SARTOR'S where I will explain all of the important areas in your selection of a diamond ring. There is absolutely no obligation involved. The most important thing to me is to make sure that you make the right selection and know all there is to know about it.

—DON HAMANN



A Few Words Of a Kind

E. E. HINES

My future generations shall be well-informed of the fact that Jack London was not a Nebraskan, and did not live through the snow-
weary winter of 1959-60.

No one, I shall tell them, who had m u s h e d through u g h the never-ending slush and snow of such a land in such an outlandish year, could have written romantic tales of a north land where wolves circled ever-nearer the dying campfire of the injured trapper.

The grim realities of Nebraska winter would have buried any such romantic fancies under a white, chill avalanche that daily expanded, bursting far beyond forecast limits like a carelessly o v e r-yeasted loaf of bread.

What Arctic hunter ever heard a wolf's wail half as terrible as the whining groan of a battery shuddering in the icy grip of a ravaging Nebraska wind?" I shall ask.

"How could a snow-blinded traveler stumbling behind his howling team of Huskies begin to experience the misery that attends thousands of anonymous pilot-navigators of slipping, sliding ice-windowed shells?" will be another question.

Posterity then will be challenged to tell me how anyone—even the injured trapper jabbing blazing sticks into the eyes of starved wolves, still hungry after eating all the dogs and their leather harnesses—could feel more alone than the ill-clad motorist carrying an empty gas can as he tramps down a darkened highway to a service station which may not exist.

If only Jack London had experienced what I have experienced . . .

Until the other day when I noticed a sign in the book department of a Lincoln store, I hadn't had a strong desire to possess an FM radio.

The desire-awakening element in the sign was the name Gilbert Highet, whose radio talks now are being aired by KFMQ once a week.

Highet is an instructor in classical languages at an Eastern university—Columbia, I believe. Some of his radio talks have been printed in book form, two or three of them being available in Love Library.



E. E.

Daily Nebraskan

SIXTY-NINE YEARS OLD
Member: Associated Collegiate Press, Intercollegiate Press
Representative: National Advertising Service, Incorporated
Published at: Room 50, Student Union
Lincoln, Nebraska
14th & E

Telephone NE 2-7651, ext. 4225, 4226, 4227
The Daily Nebraskan is published Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday during the school year, except during vacations and exam periods, by students of the University of Nebraska under the authorization of the Committee on Student Affairs as an expression of student opinion. Publication under the jurisdiction of the University of Nebraska Publications shall be free from editorial censorship as the part of the University, or on the part of any member of the faculty of the University, or on the part of any person outside the University. The members of the Daily Nebraskan

staff are personally responsible for what they say, so do, or cause to be printed, February 3, 1960.
Subscription rates are \$5 per semester or \$8 for the academic year.
Entered as second class matter at the post office in Lincoln, Nebraska, under the act of August 4, 1912.
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