

Charge to Greeks . . .

Must Defeat Critics, Defenders

IT IS TIME the fraternities that want a legitimate place in the academic community do something about the hogwash that is being fed the public by both the tradition-bound defenders of the Greek system and its uninformed critics.

The two—the extreme critics and defenders—have formed an unconscious and unholy alliance not unlike that of the uninformed churchman and the uninhibited bootlegger in a dry state. Each dislikes the other almost to the point of hate. Each has almost opposite motives. Yet, between them they paint a mottled picture that hides the real facts from the public.

AND ON the campus, just as well as off, there is a third viewpoint—intelligent, thoughtful and really constructive.

Proof of all three viewpoints can be found within the next few weeks on the University of Nebraska campus. Look in on the following scene in one Nebraska chapter house:

"OK, KIDDIES, let's hear you rev up these engines . . . do you smell smoke? Now's your big chance to be a fireman . . . strip down and head for the basement; come on, move . . . OK, pansy, stick your mug in that pan and get a mouthful of goodies . . . now, slide across the floor and spit it on that fire . . . come on . . . don't be playing the role of the gagging baby . . . spit it out . . ."

Now, move across the campus to another scene:

"DURING THE semester, gentlemen, you have been exposed to the history, and the traditions of our fraternity. You have been told about the things stressed—scholarship, character, culture, manners, comradeship, cooperation, citizenship, integrity—to name only a few. Tonight, as we begin our 'Fraternity Week,' let's think together about the role that each of you freshmen will play in this chapter within the next few years. Evaluate the programs which you have seen this year; make the best plans that you can for this spring, next year . . ."

The first scene, the fire drill, represents the bootlegger and the uninformed churchman, better defined as the uninformed critic and the traditionalism-advocating Greek.

THE SECOND scene, however, represents the side of fraternity which few people have seen. It represents those who are striving to keep the fraternity on a high plane based upon its ideals and keeping in step with the requirements of the academic community. It represents a concept of fraternity which is new when compared with that of recent years.

The traditionalist, through his attitude of, "I had to do it and so should you," has supplied the uninformed critic with many news reports about the near-death of pledges, the lack of responsibility in social affairs, the incompetence

and failures of scholarship programs. THIS ALLIANCE of know nothing and do nothing has lead many others to ask if the Greek system deserves to stay on campuses across the United States.

The unfortunate situation is, however, that their criticism is just, but incomplete.

IN MANY chapters there has been an honest attempt to change pledge training programs from the old fun-and-games-disintegration-of-integrity approach to one of a constructive nature.

These programs met severe opposition from individual traditionalists within the chapter, and the programs reverted back to push-ups, all-night work sessions, fire drills, and other "character-building" activities.

BUT WHAT about the chapters that have changed? Instead of requiring a 5.0 for initiation they have raised their individual standards to a 5.2 or even as high as a 5.5. Effective speaker programs have been implemented to give the chapter "extraclass" education. Study halls and tutor programs have been made more effective and more men will be initiated as a result.

Pledge training has centered around ideals. Pledges have been treated like human beings. An attitude of respect has replaced the need for strict discipline.

THE TREND is established. The men who are holding on to what they call valuable tradition will soon be faced with the alternative of adjusting to the rapidly changing picture and role of the fraternity or becoming extinct—like the dinosaur.

Fraternities have a vital place on the campus. They are turning out top leadership and men of strong character. It is time that those chapters with good programs take the offensive and batter down the know-nothing critic.

AND IT would do Nebraska's do-nothing traditionalists good to look at the Syracuse plan mentioned in the story on page one. Students should realize there is nothing wrong in an interest in culture, supplementary speakers and seminars in the chapter house and turning the bull-session into more than a discussion about this weekend's date.

We would have a thinking Interfraternity Board of Control, a helpful Administration, and a strong IFC. All that is lacking now is a system which has a strong, thinking, progressive individual for each link.

SOME OF the fraternities at Nebraska ARE what they say they are—others are what the uninformed critics say they are. The former will survive to become contributing members to the academic community. The sooner the latter join the dinosaurs, the better.

—don ferguson

Semester Policy . . .

Nebraskan Shows New Look

A new staff usually 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 the previous semester—and for all practical purposes, they are the same.

However, this semester's staff has chosen to make a major mechanical change, in that they have chosen a new family of headline type faces. We have not done this merely to show that a new staff has taken over the Daily Nebraskan, but we have done so with the idea that the headline change might lend a more professional appearance to the paper.

MORE IMPORTANT, we hope that our major improvements will be in the general tone and spirit of the paper.

During the current semester we will be looking for new ideas which will enable us to advance from one of the better college newspapers to the best college newspaper.

THE NEBRASKAN will not create is-

sues, as such. This does not mean, however, that controversy will be avoided. Rather, we will report what we feel is important to the campus community, and if, because of some finding, we feel that a further investigation needs to be made, we will, in a sense, be creating an issue.

The Nebraskan will stand for whatever it believes 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, as not one of the three groups which composes our University body is always able to know what is best for the other groups.

THE NEBRASKAN'S facilities will be available to any official University organization for any legitimate news. Our main goal is that of complete coverage of the University community. Any concentration on national and world events will be secondary to our purpose of being a college newspaper which serves as the printed voice of the campus.

CAMPUS FORUM



Students Are Saluted For Courtesies

To the Editor:

About a week ago on a bitter cold day as I was walking along Morrill Hall to Andrews, I met a blond young man who was hurrying along. Before I even knew he saw me, he started to take off his gloves saying, "Here, your hands must be cold. Won't you take my gloves?"

Though I declined his offer, this bit of gallantry warmed my heart the rest of the day.

Then, this week at Burnett, a philosophy student insisted on taking time at his exam break to escort me over the ice to my cab.

In the three years that I have been attending the University, as an older student, I have been the recipient of innumerable courtesies. It is a great pleasure to know that one need not go to the Old World universities of Oxford and Eton to find courtesy, kindness, and charming manners.

So, I would like to salute the young men at the University of Nebraska (and the many nice girls, as well) and say thank you.

Sincerely,
Bess Eileen Day

Safe to Say . . .

Not Just Casual Interest

For the first time, since Hector was a pup, which I believe stems back to the days of Diana Maxwell, the Daily Nebraskan will be steered by the Iron Hand of the fairer sex. Needless to say, the old cynics on campus are praying for something other than "of more than casual interest to campus circles . . ." to dot the page.

Well, speaking from the standpoint of a long-time reader of the Rag, it would probably be safe to say that the paper will be of "more than casual interest" to the student, primarily because the staff has promised to feed on chaos during the semester.

We trust that the general reader will have a certain degree of patience over the first few efforts, because, to put it frankly, patience is one of the cardinal virtues, and, in these times of the seven deadly sins, all would do well to try to be a little virtuous once in a while.

The production of a paper is one of the little understood phenomena of our time. What a phenomena! Would you like to run down a story about why Pound Hall has the elevators stop on every other floor, or why the

Student Council is going to put an escape hatch on the roof of Burnett for those people who can't decide which stairs are up?

The Daily Nebraskan does this for you . . . think how many hours we save you each day. No longer will you have to beat the campus in order to satisfy your curiosities.

Some rash promises are being made for editorializing on campus issues . . . Now, if someone would only create some campus issues!

All joking aside, as they always say when the biggest joke is about to

come, the Rag will make no campaign promises except to print all the news, providing that our staff survives their first 'big day at the office' and the Cornhusker staff finally realizes that the Daily Nebraskan staff is a working staff and not one that is able to take coffee breaks every fifteen minutes.

Now that the editor has at least succeeded in writing her first sophisticated article reflecting deep intellectual thought, we can move forward with "vigha!"

Orange Blossom
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About Letters

The Daily Nebraskan invites readers to use it for expressions of opinion on current topics regardless of viewpoint. Letters must be signed, contain a verifiable address, and be free of libelous material. Pen names may be included and will be released upon written request.

Brevity and legibility increase the chance of publication. Lengthy letters may be edited or omitted. Unusable ones will be returned.

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