

Friday, February 14, 1964

LACKADAISICAL?

Poor Attendance

"... a government of the people, by the people and for the people." But it seems that University people, some of whom are to be future leaders of the country, do not care.

The poor attendance at the speech of Roman Hruska yesterday (the crowd did not even fill the Union Small Auditorium) is only one indication of this. Speakers on campus generally are faced with a small crowd.

Students complain that the speakers speak down to them. That may be true, but one thing is certain: if there were an active interest on the part of the students, speakers would feel that they could speak to them on a more "intellectual" level.

This is the second university Senator Hruska has visited this week. The other was Purdue University, where the turnout was over 900 people.

This democracy is set up so that people have no master and no slave. There is no overlord prodding people to meetings. This breeds responsibility. People must become their own masters. It is up to people themselves to stand over themselves and see that each becomes informed about the state of our union.

Many will be exercising the right to vote this year and seemingly do not care to be informed about whom they are considering.

Senator Paul Douglas (Dem.-Ill.) will visit the campus Monday. He will speak at 10:30 in the Union Ballroom.

Senator Hruska said yesterday, "Let us practice the dignity of the individual."

FIRETRUCK:

'Fraternity' Week Needs Examination

By Arnie Garson  
Before he left town and after he had visited all the fraternity houses on campus, Ted Robinson, director of fraternities at Iowa State University, told me that he felt NU fraternity leaders were sincerely and almost uniformly interested in abolishing their Hell Weeks.

At the same time he acknowledged that most of these leaders encounter an element of resistance from their active chapters.

It seems to me that if these leaders really wanted to abolish the Hell Weeks, they could do so with the majority of their chapter's support. If the majority of the chapter does not share the leaders' views, how in the world did they get elected in the first place? And also, what is the justification for adhering to the will of the minority.

Chances are—and Robinson admitted it—that he got the red carpet treatment at Nebraska. It is only natural that he would, but Robinson was quick to add that many houses showed real sparks of hope in not only their attitude but their actions.

The major shortcoming of fraternities, according to the Iowa State dean, is that they contradict their own high ideals by espousing brotherly love, community service and educationally productive programs out of the left side of their mouths while they continue to badger and beat the pledges with their right hands.

He readily admitted that neither Iowa State nor Nebraska have pledge training standards which are satisfactory to his own ideals. Fraternities are conservative by nature, he added. And most of the changes which have been made have come about within recent years.

Hell Week, however, never served a truly legitimate purpose. In this writer's opinion Robinson concurred that he can't imagine how it ever could have served any other purpose than entertainment for the actives. Speaking from within his own experience both as a college administrator and a fraternity member, Robinson noted that he could never advocate a Hell Week for the above purpose.

In a brief 15 minutes with me, Robinson hit the nail on the head—or I should say the fraternity in its solarplexis! How can any logical thinking, college educated, rational person justify sadistic pleasure at the expense of human dignity? And sadly enough, no mat-

ter what the house members told Robinson and contrary to their own national by-laws and rituals, many NU fraternities still engage in the despicable sport of extreme human degradation through physical and psychological atrocities. Yes, it's secret and sacred and no pledge or active is allowed to utter a word about it, but the fact remains that they do it and they even talk about it!

A few NU fraternities have tried modernized pledge programs consistent with their espoused ideals and some of them admit that the attempts were unsatisfactory. Perhaps they expected too much too soon—but more likely they didn't comprehend the true benefits of what they were doing. Also it is possible that the program they tried was not quite realistic and required slight adjustments.

But at least some of the houses are—to an extent—trying—and even that is a step in the right direction. Robinson has drawn up his own pledge program for achieving the desired goals noted in yesterday's DAILY NEBRASKAN. He has promised to send it to the Nebraska IFC.

But far too many houses—in fact I think the majority—are not even trying. At any rate, if they aren't content with their existing programs of repugnance, they pretend that they are. As Robinson stressed repeatedly in one way or another, fraternities must, without a doubt, rebuild and modernize their pledge programs making them realistic in the light of today's educational goals, changing university and even society.

And now, brother fraternity man, before you come yelling at my throat, examine your own house. In fact, go one step further, invite me to witness your Hell Week program and authorize me to print what I see. I sincerely believe that there is not a fraternity on this entire campus that could pass the test. If I am wrong, I will be ecstatically pleased to have you prove it to me—but I fear I am not.

About Letters

The DAILY NEBRASKAN invites readers to use it for expression of opinion on current topics regarding campus life. Letters must be signed, contain a verifiable address, and be free of libelous material. Pen names in a box are included and will be released upon writer request. Brevity and legibility increase the chance of publication. Lengthy letters may be edited or omitted. Absolutely none will be returned.



The Bad Seed II

There really isn't much to write a column about yet, since nothing has happened. I wish someone besides supporters of Barry Goldwater would write some letters, or before long, people will stop accusing the DAILY NEBRASKAN of being red-sided, and start calling it a golden yellow. Why doesn't the Block and Bridle get into the feud with the Mortar Boards, or something?

We could set up a contest between the Young Democrats and the Young Republicans and call it the Fizz Bowl or maybe just limit it to the Young Republicans.

Just by way of mention, aren't there an awfully lot of students trying to get into the Soc. Building in the morning this semester? If you're at the back of the line, its easier just to walk over to Wesleyan's student union for a cup of coffee, and a lot closer. They have a goodly sum of interesting students, and they're not as violent as the ones at Union College.

I'd mention something about all these campus buildings being torn down, but it's a little difficult since they're not razing the right ones... or even raising the right ones...

Until something happens, I'll have to content myself with the fact that today is Valentine's Day, and offer a few romantic suggestions on what to say to various loves...

To a sociology teacher:

I must confess your norms attract. So don't be shy, lets interact.

To a Fraternity's cook:

Your soup's not bad—your cake is fair. I'll overlook this strand of hair.

To a Housemother:

Dear Guardian Angel by the door, Don't I have a minute more? Before you lock the door at nine, Will you be my Valentine?

To a Psychology Teacher:

Freud made us conscious of our sex. And turned us into mental wrecks. Addler, Jung, and Watson too... I don't know what I'm going to do. Just who will my true love be... My mother, brother, you, or me?

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CAMPUS OPINION

Good For Paine, But Some Still Around

Dear Editor:  
Hurray for Doug Paine. It was high time someone had the courage to point out that there is no room—either on campus or in national politics—for the Goldwaterites, Conservatives, the Individualists, and the other extremists groups.

Unfortunately, there is yet remaining on campus a small band of dedicated individuals (including one or two faculty members) who have the audacity to place the freedom and dignity of the individual over the consensus of the group, and who are naive to the point where they feel the United States Constitution is more important and more effective than the United Nations Charter.

These people—unsophisticated as they are about the Liberal ideal and the One World philosophy—would return us to the time when the federal government had no control whatsoever over farm prices, education, welfare programs and when society was not economically equalized through a progressive (they call it confiscatory income tax.)

Thankfully, these problems have all been solved by the New Deal, Fair Deal and New Frontier. Let us all band together behind Doug Paine, the Daily Nebraskan, and the other Liberals, and put an end to the influence these radicals now have on campus.

A Stone-Age Statesman  
Editors Note: Last year

the Daily Nebraskan was attacked as a liberal newspaper by a prominent state Republican. Then, as now, the paper was able to prove itself as neither liberal nor conservative. This is the fourth paper of the new semester and the obvious has occurred: the paper has again been branded liberal. It may be because a news-

paper is so vulnerable to a political liberal. That is doubtful. It may be because the "conservatives" are on the defensive and are extremely sensitive to criticism. At any rate, the editorial which has probably touched off the latest labeling (Jan. 12) was, and should have been accepted as, constructive criticism.

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