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Friday, Feb. 11, 1966

## Is There a Need?

A temporary inter-dorm cooperative body was set up Wednesday night, with the purpose of investigating the possibilities of establishing a permanent inter-dorm council.

The question that naturally comes to mind regarding such a permanent inter-dorm council centers around the question of need: does dormitory government, to be effective, need a central coordinating executive?

The answer would seem elementary. "Naturally, every large organization requires a central executive," the proponents would reply.

The answer may be the correct one, but only with certain qualifications.

The first qualification is how the council goes about solving the problems of organization—arriving at an equitable way of nominating officers, deriving separation of powers between the council and Administration in areas such as finance, and deriving separation of powers between the council and the dormitories.

If the council could find compromise solutions to "make (almost) everybody happy", the council would have a good start.

We wonder how easy this will be. It seems there is already a great deal of disagreement among dormitory residents re-

garding the need of the council, before questions of organization are even brought up.

The second qualification involves the structure of the council—will it be weak or strong? The proponents of the inter-dorm council, if they are backed by a large majority of dormitory residents, can create a strong council executive.

If an inter-dorm council is created, it had better be with a strong executive. One thing this campus does not need is more weak governing bodies—the old student council is a good example of weak central government and what eventually happens to it.

The third qualification, and the most important, is the motive behind an inter-dorm council.

Is the council to be established to wield political power—a sort of duplicate of IFC?

If so, we consider the inter-dorm council doomed before it is born. Duplicates, you know, rarely come off.

But if the motive behind the inter-dorm council lies in a body to promote the welfare of the dormitories through cooperation with the Greeks, we see the council as a good thing.

If coordination, and not competition with the Greek system is the goal, we see the possibility of an effective and constructive organization.

## Undergraduate Instruction . . .

### Are Students Shortchanged?

**(Editor's Note: A faculty report at Cornell University reveals that "student dissatisfaction with undergraduate instruction . . . has basis in fact." The Cornell report bears a great deal of relevance to the University of Nebraska and its problems with quality undergraduate instruction.)**

Ithaca, N.Y. (UPI)—The recently released report by the Faculty Committee on

the Quality of Undergraduate Instruction at Cornell University states that students across the nation are being shortchanged in their education.

"There can be no doubt that student dissatisfaction with undergraduate instruction, at Cornell as elsewhere, has basis in fact," the report stated bluntly.

The 13,000-word report called for a "marked

change" in the attitude of teachers toward students and for increased emphasis on the importance of teaching. Teaching, it said, must be placed on the same level as research, publishing and public service.

However, the report stressed, "We are convinced that the increasing contact with external affairs on the part of professors does benefit undergraduate education. There is too little understanding of this point by students and people outside the University."

The committee noted that the past year "was marked by mounting criticisms of the education that the nation's universities were giving their undergraduates" and termed its report "an extensive self-examination." The committee held more than 25 meetings, talked with students, faculty members and administrative officers and studied numerous written reports.

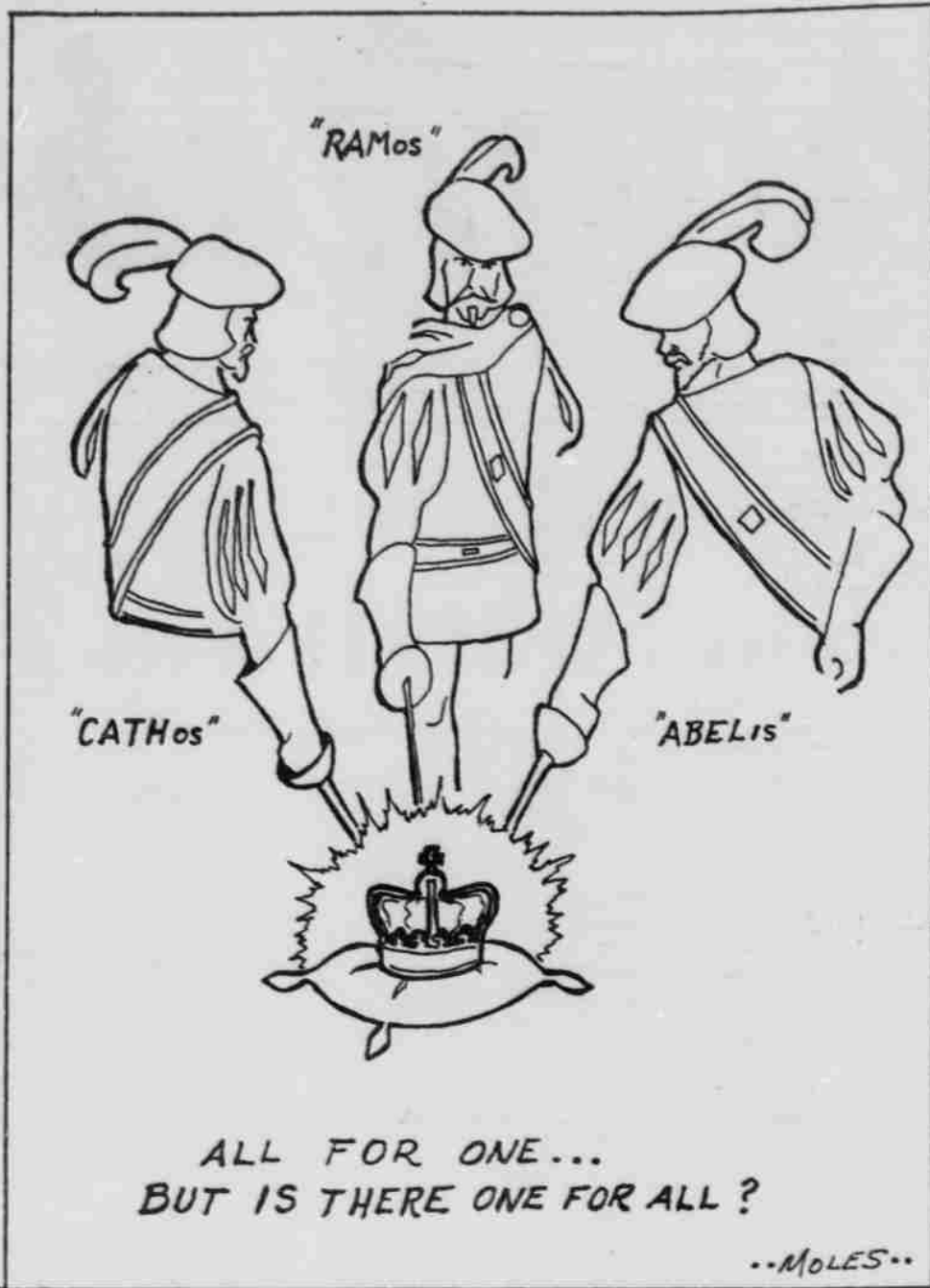
Undergraduate education at Cornell, the report said, "though generally conscientious, often very good and occasionally brilliant—commands neither the attention nor the status it deserves. If the quality of our teaching is not as high as it can and should be—and that is our finding—then the fundamental solution is that each one of us devote a considerably greater effort to making it better."

This requires "an academic atmosphere in which students feel that the university is truly interested in their educational and cultural development—in their ideas, problems, and aspirations, and in their desire and ability to help improve the educational process. This atmosphere has not yet been achieved," the report said, "at least for the great majority of our students."

At Cornell today there are few mechanisms where by students can get the faculty and administration to give real consideration to their reactions and proposals without running the risk of being viewed by many as violators of good taste, or worse.

But the fact that student discontent or indifference may derive in part from circumstances beyond the university's control does not mean that institutions of higher learning have no obligation to respond to the student's problems. On the contrary, in its teaching role the university is more than a dispenser of knowledge; as an educational institution it is charged with evoking and guiding the development of the young person's potential in judgment as well as intellect."

Ray



## Sorry About That!

Being a compendium of farce, absurdity and comment, selected arbitrarily by the Editor . . .

mean that literally. He didn't REALLY get run over. You see, the joke is . . .

Historical note of the day: In 1919, somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean, the first marriage to take place on the back of a whale. Considered by historians a possible motive in Ahab's later harpooning trips.

We hear that the faculty evaluation committee has re-written Patrick Henry's famous line, "Give me liberty or give me death." The committee's: "Publish or Perish!"

Perhaps the committee should ponder the odds Patrick took in offering his audience a choice.

An informer said a speaker at the Hyde Park Forum took a middle-of-the-road position. Naturally, he got run over.

(Note to campus police: I didn't

With this week's blousy, balmy weather replacing the sweater weather of a week before, we were pleased to note a branch chapter of the University People-to-People program springing up at the Columns.

It looked like an outdoor Hide Park for 'em.

A cartoon caption appearing in the Lincoln Journal spoke for maybe one or two campus officers—"Our recording secretary reports that she had a small glass of sherry for lunch and requests that you all talk slowly."

The Ag College is kicking some of its horniest residents off the campus. Have you heard?

Except for the pun, this time we're not Sorry About That!

## Another Viewpoint—

### Re: Alma Whatsername

**(Editor's Note: Bob Auler wrote the following which appeared in the Daily Illini.)**

Sister 1: Boy, it sure is crummy weather. Think they'll be able to find the House through all that fog? My hair is just a mess, with the humidity and all!

Sister 2: What do you think of the Rushees so far?

Sister 3: Not bad; not bad. Except for that Alma Whatsername.

Sister 1: I think it starts with an "M." It sounds kind of foreign. She's probably Catholic or Jewish or something.

Sister 3: And how about that hideous green dress she was wearing? It looked like drapery, with all those folds.

Sister 1: Somebody really should tell her about skirt length. It was hanging almost to the floor. Honestly! Anybody who'd wear clothes like that . . .

Sister 2: But she seemed kind of nice, and very dedicated to the University.

Sister 1: How many times do we have to tell you. We're pledging for grades next semester. Right now we need some really cool girls.

Sister 3: Yes. And old Alma was far from cool. I've seen her standing on one of the corners down in Campustown wearing that same green dress. Honestly, she was just standing there, in front of two big guys, with a dopey expression on her face.

Sister 1: Two big guys? Hey . . . maybe she knows some football players!

Sister 2: No, I don't think so. They weren't paying

much attention to her. She was giving them directions; seemed to be pointing to the Union Bookstore, and to some building on the engineering campus.

Sister 2: But looks aren't everything. She really had a nice . . .

Sister 1: . . . personality? Listen, what kind of a House would we have here if we did nothing but pledge nice homely girls. We've got certain standards, you know.

Sister 3: Right. Anybody who'd wear something like that green dress is definitely not our material. Why, when I looked at her, even her face seemed green. Absolutely no idea of how to wear makeup. And her hair! When's the last time you saw anybody wear a bun?

Sister 2: But maybe we could help her. Maybe we could teach her the social graces, so she could be like us.

Sister 1: Listen, what do you think this is, a Sorority or a reform school?

Sister 3: Right: We have standards here. Those who can't make them simply will have to find a lesser place to live. Alma simply has no conception of our standards. Did you see her at the First Stage party? She didn't even sit down. All the other Rushees sat down except for Alma.

Sister 1: I saw that. She stood through the whole party. I almost wasn't able to smile at her. I was so mad!

Sister 2: So she stood up? So what? Maybe she has a bad back? Maybe nobody's ever told her how nice girls act at a party?

Sister 1: Honestly, sometimes I wonder why we pledged you. It ought to be

simple enough for anybody to figure out: if everybody else sits down, you do, too.

Sister 3: Right. Alma must be really stupid if she doesn't know enough to do what everybody else does.

Sister 2: Maybe you're right about here. I've never seen her drinking beer on Wednesday nights or Friday afternoons, either.

Sister 3: Now you're sounding more like one of my sisters, and less like some social worker.

Sister 1: Yeah, we don't want any dateless pledges. Gotta get into as many Houses as possible.

Sister 2: Hey, wait a minute. How about her activities? She seemed to know so much about the University, maybe she's got important contacts, and can get some of the girls onto Union committees, and things.

Sister 3: She seems so frozen and metallic, she probably wouldn't be for The House enough to even try to help the other girls.

Sister 1: Besides, one of the girls who was talking to her said her ideas about school were really far out. All she wanted to talk about was a lot of abstract stuff about "Purpose of the University," and junk like that. She didn't even know who won the Greek Week bicycle race last year.

Sister 2: Okay, okay. I'm with you. Let's bong her now. After all, she didn't even eat any nuts and mints at the party.

Sister 3: Come to think of it, I didn't see her touch her ice water, either.

All: Drop! (snapping their fingers in unison).

## If I Were King . . .

By WAYNE KRUESCHER  
News Editor

The headlines at this school are getting more and more complex. More things are happening and the University, one way or another, is definitely in a period of big transition.

So far this semester the headlines have been about the faculty evaluation book, ASUN-ASUN, the growing Independents, the Greeks trying to challenge themselves and a large assortment of different small groups all trying to think outside of the classroom and the University.

First one has the evaluation book and all the things which it suggests:

(1) A growing student government in stature, work, ambition and demands.

(2) An administration not quite sure of itself. Faced on one side with unbelievable money and building problems and at the same time confronted with an almost cocky student population who insist on taking care of themselves.

(3) A faculty even more unsure of itself than the administration who seems to just want to be left alone—to do their job the same way they have always done it—and to teach their classes the best way they can.

Administration has withdrawn its approval of the book. While last week, we could describe the administration as being very intelligent—this week it looks more like a wishy-washy group that doesn't know what it's doing.

A lawyer was called in for one reason or another, likely as a front for someone's hesitance, and of all things a committee withdrew its support because it was afraid of being sued.

This is completely ridiculous. The students have worked all semester on this book. Rather than talk about it, it has actually been almost accomplished.

Many things still need to be worked out before this book will be as asset to the University—but no one is accomplishing anything by first approving the book and then withdrawing approval because of being afraid of a possible personal lawsuit.

Dean Ross's committee didn't know for sure that they were liable. The same as Student Senate didn't know Wednesday. But without investigating other possibilities or seeking more complete advise, they were happy to find a quick way out.

Other universities have faculty evaluation books and their student affairs committees aren't sued. If administration thinks the book would be bad then let them say so, but if a possible law suit is really what worries them—let's find out the facts for sure and then find another solution.

In the administration's confusion and hesitance over just what their role is in a University today, they showed extreme hastiness and badly planned thinking when they suddenly withdrew their approval without really knowing what they were doing.

Administration's role is to lead the University. The students are not supreme. A wishy-washy excuse from the administration is not enough. Today when student governments deserve and demand more, the administration has to show positive leadership more than ever.

This newspaper has long been ignoring the Independents on this campus. The fact is, as the headlines prove and everyone knows, we can ignore the dorm associations and the Independent organizations no longer.

Nebraska has a fine Greek system which has long provided the University with much leadership and will continue to. But it is outnumbered and out financed.

There are no editorial comments to make on this situation. Just the fact that it is inevitable that the Independents will continue to become more organized and while the Greeks have no where to go but down, the Independents are definitely on their way up.

When the dorm presidents met to form an inter-dorm council Wednesday night, some representatives could not understand why the council should be strong and have great organizational powers.

It is obvious that at least one group of dorm presidents do not want a strong council just to work out problems easier with Mr. Bryan's office.

But rather this council could move further than what has ever been accomplished before in organizing the Independents into an effective interest group.

For example, with such a council (which should evolve from the co-ordinating body) there would likely be more than some three Independents in Student Senate.

## Have Ya Noticed

All the animosity against us as college students?

I met this guy the other day that was in the much older generation. Now I don't have nothing against them but I get the feeling they have it out for me. This guy walks right up to me and asks me where I'm goin'.

Well now I don't know where I'm goin' so I says I don't know. He got a kick out of this and asked me where I was going in life. I never thought life had a direction so I told him I was goin' the same way he was.

He laughed again and said he was goin' towards prosperity: Heck, I thought he was goin' out of town and told him if he didn't mind I'd stay here. Mom never did want me to ride with strangers anyhow.

Then he called me a smart-aleck punk kid. The way he said it I got the idea he didn't like me. So I asks him if maybe I was standin' in his spot or something. He shouted some weird vocabulary about that spot bein' reserved for the youth with promise, the youth that would lead this nation.

Now I was standin' in front of the drinkin' fountain so I thought he was tryin' to tell me somebody else wanted a drink, so I stepped back to let some-

body else in, but nobody else came.

He looked at me kinda weird so I told him their weren't nobody else here to do it but me. He said he hoped not.

Then it struck me. He was an over ambitious water-cooler-guarder. I asked him about it and he really got mad; said something about him representing the people of this land and a lot of wild stuff.

I started to leave then, but he asked me if I was in the University. Well, I he wants my name so I give him my student identification number.

He gets awful mad and tells me never to come back to the State Capital again. I told him the Mosses were hard to skate on anyway; put my board down and took off.

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