

Neumeister Says . . .

Campus Deprived Of Dorm Leadership

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third in a series of articles by Jan Itkin concerning Independent government.

Dormitories house potential leaders who, for many reasons, do not become involved in campus activities.

"It really is a tragedy" Kent Neumeister, president of ASUN, said. "In fact, the whole campus activity system is being short-changed by not utilizing all these available resources."

Neumeister and Larry Anderson, vice president of the Residence Association for Men, cited many reasons and possible solutions to the problem of developing these potential leaders.

"There are several reasons why more leaders do not come from the dormitories,"

Anderson noted. "For instance, the dorms contain a wide spectrum of people — many of whom are not in the upper half of their classes. Also there is a great reliance on individual participation — people just aren't forced into things."

"Two other factors," he continued, "are that people often get interested in fields in which their leadership doesn't show up, and many people go into the student assistant program and then don't participate in dorm government."

Neumeister agreed that the student assistant program often creates a drain on the leaders.

"Leaders usually come into their own during their junior and senior years," he noted.

By then many become student assistants. They are considered an extension of Administration and so can't actively participate in dorm government. Also, being a student assistant is pretty much of a full-time job and so they often don't participate in campus activities either."

"In the past," he continued, "there was a lack of finding the people in their freshman year when they could really become active. In fraternities and sororities, the big brothers or big sisters could often point out opportunities for participation, but in the dorms this does not happen."

"In other words, there was a lack of leadership at the top," he added. "It takes more than an announcement to in-

terest people. Upperclassman must take the responsibility to go to the freshmen if the leaders are to be found."

He explained that this year an effort has been made to have freshmen fill out information forms in the dorms. Contact is then made with those whose high school records indicate they might be future leaders.

"The problem is complicated by the large number of students, but some progress is being made," he said.

Anderson said, "There's really no set process to finding and developing the leaders, but we are trying."

"We've started information centers to try to promote interest," he added. "Also sometimes if they take a house office, we can observe

their interest and participation and possibly encourage them to go on."

"The problem of a transitional population also complicates matters," he continued. "Every year we have to start reorganizing all over again and that means the selection and training of leaders does too."

"Then there's that great unknown factor—just who is going to be the student assistants?" he added. "A lot of good people are lost that way. It's partly a problem of money. Full board and room can be more attractive than the activities."

One problem mentioned by both was the lack of a drive stemming from the living unit to encourage potential leaders.

"None of us really have self-confidence," Anderson said. "Possibly because there's no strong tradition or strong house behind us. A person pretty much does it by himself and it can be rough going."

Neumeister noted that the individual succeeds "quite a bit by himself—he's not at all pushed."

"Sometimes friends outside the living unit provide some help," he added, "but it's hard to make generalizations — with so many things in dormitories there are no hard and fast rules."

An inter-dorm council could help develop leaders by concentrating energy and experience, they said.

"An even greater number

of people could contribute a wider range of experience," Anderson said. "Experienced leadership can usually help in developing leadership."

Neumeister added, "I don't exactly know how it would help, but lots more could be done with a concentration of energy and an inter-dorm council could be helpful in providing a means for this concentration."

He also added that he foresees a shift in campus leadership whereby the dorms will provide a larger share of the leaders than they have in the past."

The problems of student assistants in relationship to student government will be discussed in the next article in the series on independent student governments.

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Students Attend SDS Conference

Nine members of the University chapter of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) returned Sunday from the first regional meeting of SDS held this weekend in Lawrence, Kan.

Steve Abbott, who is not an SDS member but went as an interested observer, said that the meeting consisted of four workshops. The workshops concentrated on four different aspects of the SDS movement: community projects, university reform, regional association and African programs.

One of the primary motives for the regional meeting, according to Abbott, was to decide whether or not there should be a regional association of SDS.

'Paper Organization'
Abbot noted that Carl Davidson, president of the Nebraska chapter, seemed to feel that such an association would be merely a "paper organization," able to accomplish little. Others, Abbot said, felt that individual SDS groups should become stronger before a larger group is feasible.

However, he noted, the regional association workshop decided that a regional group should be established to act as a co-ordinating committee. The workshop decided to set up a regional publication to inform all area groups of upcoming projects and to sponsor travelers who will visit individual campuses for special projects, he said.

Abbot explained that because it was thought that National SDS was incapable of understanding regional problems, the Regional Organizing Committee (ROC) will attempt to set up regional pro-

grams at a meeting next month in Lincoln.

"To reinforce the idea that SDS is more than a movement concerned with the Viet Nam issue, the community projects workshop discussed individual campus programs of civil rights," he said.

Abbot noted that the Kansas and Missouri groups were actually one-purpose groups acting in the area of civil rights and had much to offer the other regional members in this area."

Deepen Values
He said that several Negro members of SDS spoke on their own community projects of flood control and schooling, all of which are for the purpose of deepening the Negro's own sense of values.

Also according to Abbot the reform workshop discussed the issue of hours for university students. "There was a general disenchantment with university procedures," he said.

The Kansas group told of free universities which had been set up in that state. These free schools are composed, Abbot indicated, of students and professors who meet outside regular university systems and study such programs as social action.

Abbot said that the African workshop was the area in which the Nebraska students contributed most. This workshop suggested possibilities for African programs such as the upcoming one in March here at the University.

"This program is meant to inform students of the governmental conditions in Africa and to emphasize African cultural achievements," he said.



MILESTONE . . . the University's first IFC conference to discuss problems facing Greek students today.

IFC Discusses Campus Issues

By Bruce Giles
Senior Staff Writer

Discrimination, ASUN faculty evaluation and greater involvement in world affairs by fraternity members were among the number of topics looked at Saturday and Sunday at the Interfraternity Council (IFC) conference.

Norman Krivosha, Lancaster County Democratic chairman, and a regional governor of Sigma Alpha Mu, told the fraternity delegates that "the question today that must be answered is whether or not the Civil Rights Act of 1964 has heralded the doom of the Greek system and whether civil rights legislation has precluded the selectivity of the fraternity system."

"And yet perhaps even more important is the question of whether or not a system which shivers at the

sight of civil rights as a vampire would at the sight of a silver bullet, can justify its existence," he said.

Krivosha said he could not see how a system that has lasted so many years and produced thousands of leaders in every walk of life "must be nurtured in bigotry."

"This I cannot readily accept," he said.

Krivosha said that an examination of the 1964 Civil Rights Act shows that the prohibition is not against the voluntary association based upon merit of the individual, but rather upon discrimination which predetermines and preconceives that only an individual conceived in a certain blood line can measure up to the standards of brotherhood."

In addition, Krivosha asked how a fraternity system which requires exclusion based

upon race, color or national origin on the one hand can maintain their singular independence while using state-owned, publicly-financed facilities.

"However," he said, "I would fight to the end for the

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Friends of SNCC Push Campus Clothing Drive

A campus-wide drive to collect used clothing and send it to impoverished, unemployed Negroes in Mississippi's Delta region is underway.

The drive is being sponsored by the Friends of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). The group will be collecting clothing in all residence halls and organized houses and will have a box for contributions in the Nebraska Union. The drive is scheduled to last two weeks, according to Gene Pokorny, Friends of SNCC president.

Pokorny said the clothing will be sent to the National Council of Churches Delta Ministry with headquarters in Greenville, Miss., along the Mississippi River in the northwest area of the state.

The clothing, Pokorny said, will be distributed by the Delta Ministry to unemployed Negroes living in a "tent city" at Tribbett, Miss.

The Negroes, largely farmhands who worked on a share-crop basis raising cotton, lost their jobs for one of two reasons, Pokorny explained. He said some of the men formed a Freedom Labor Union last year and struck for higher wages this fall. They were fired for striking, he said.

Others, Pokorny said, lost

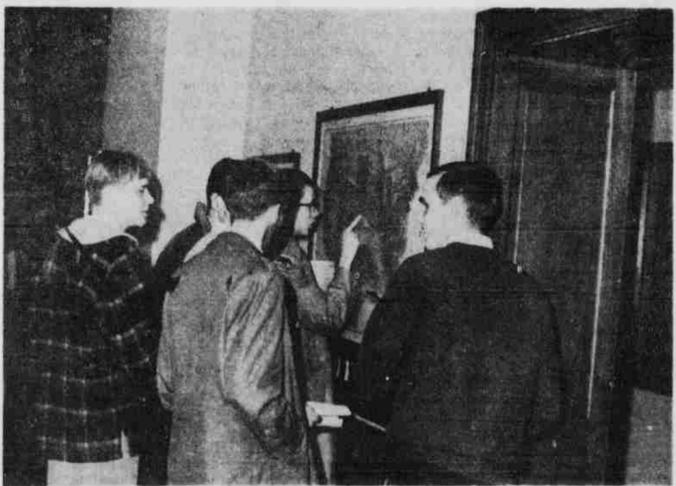
their jobs because they registered to vote.

Before they were fired, the Negroes were making approximately 30 cents an hour, Pokorny said. He added that most of the men worked only on a seasonal basis and were not employed in the winter. According to Pokorny, the average income of these Delta region sharecroppers is about \$300 a year, far below President Johnson's designation of a \$3,000 a year family as a "poverty family."

Last week, Pokorny said, some of the Negroes living in the tent city attempted to move into an abandoned Air Force base near the town, where 200 buildings stand unused and not presently designated for future occupancy. The people were removed by troops, he said.

"By collecting old and used clothes, we can in some small way help alleviate one of the cruelest situations existent in our society today," Pokorny said.

He said it is important for the Negroes to be able to stay in the tent city and continue to petition for better wages and working conditions because "they can't keep running away from their problem."



OMAHA SENIORS . . . explore the Union as a part of the University's Information Day. Story on page 5.

Contemporary Revolutionist Defies Religious Traditions

By Julie Morris
Senior Staff Writer

People don't fling the term revolutionist around without due cause. In the case of the Rev. Bruce McSpadden, of the Wesley Foundation, there is due cause.

McSpadden, associate pastor at the Foundation, is nearly the personification of the contemporary revolution in religious thought and attitudes.

His basic philosophy doesn't even come close to fitting into the traditional ministerial mold and, as such, he is typical of many young clergymen today.

"Our job as Christians today is to be involved in the world of today and to forget what is going to happen in the future; our concern is to serve man," McSpadden contends.

Young, slim, almost boyish, McSpadden looks more like a graduate student than a minister. He is vitally concerned with the college gen-

eration and with involving students in the revolutions of today's world.

"The college generation of today is having its effect on the church and the church is being challenged by this generation," he said. "One of my major concerns is to try to wake students up."

Many Activities
In only a short semester on this campus, McSpadden has become involved in many activities.

He was the behind-the-scenes man in the birth of the ASUN European Flight plan. He is giving indirect assistance to the campus-wide clothing drive for Negroes in Mississippi. McSpadden also works as advisor to the University Council of Churches.

In addition, McSpadden directs a number of study groups, counsels individual students, and is taking a course in European history.

This is McSpadden's first experience as a minister on campus. He graduated with

a major in political science from the University of Redlands, Redlands, Calif., and spent the past two years serving as a minister in Nepal and Tibet.

McSpadden said he was "impressed in many ways," with the intellectual atmosphere on the campus, "particularly impressed with groups like SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) and Friends of SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee), he feels SDS has done more to live up to this campus."

"As far as I'm concerned, SDS is more Christian than conservative fundamentalist Christians," McSpadden asserted. "The basis of the Christian faith is love and I feel SDS and Friends of SNCC and so forth are much more effective in expression of basic love and concern for man," he said.

McSpadden added, "As far as SDS is concerned the

Church is quite irrelevant and I think I agree with them."

Younger Church
"There is a growing involvement on the part of the younger church in the problems of our day," McSpadden said, adding that he expects the church to become more involved with social issues as time goes on.

McSpadden pointed to the National Council of Churches Delta Ministry in northwest Mississippi as an example of church involvement in real revolutionary issues. "I feel the Delta ministry is one of the most creative things in the today's church," he said.

McSpadden grew up in Tempe, Arizona and took a Master of Sacred Theology at Boston University, specializing in pastoral psychology and counseling.

He would like to return to Tibet and Nepal, but plans to make campus ministry or the academic field his permanent career.

Morrison Candidate For Senate Seat, Observers See 'Spectacular Contest'

Gov. Frank Morrison declared himself a candidate for the Senate seat held by Rep. Carl T. Curtis, Friday afternoon.

In the announcement of his Senate candidacy, Morrison said, "President Johnson never at any time suggested I run for the United States Senate . . . and he never offered a position as district judge or any other political office in the event of defeat."

Politicians, mostly Republicans, have suggested that Morrison decided to run for the Senate because the President had promised him a federal court position if he lost.

Observers had been guessing for many months if Mor-

rison, who will be finishing his third term as governor of the state, would seek the governorship for a fourth term or would run for Senate.

Most political observers agree that with Morrison and Curtis, both outstanding vote-getters in the past, running against each other, the Senatorial election should be one of the most spectacular contests in at least a generation.

Asked at a press conference if he would support the introduction of more U.S. troops in Viet Nam, the governor said he doesn't "know enough about the tactical situation there to form an opinion."

Morrison said the Bobby Baker case cannot be made a

morality issue in the Nebraska race since "Curtis is an honest and very moral man."

He defended the Johnson Administration domestic programs which the governor characterized as making people "less dependent upon government," more willing to work, more skilled and more self-reliant.

Morrison noted that Nebraska has experienced "one party control of its representatives in the United States Senate since 1940."

This fact, he said, has denied Nebraska a voice in the majority leadership and "has cost this state millions of dollars in federal contracts."