

2.0 for Initiation?

The statistics speak for themselves. After a little research, the Daily Nebraskan discovered the following: In 1965, 80% of the sorority pledges made the 5.0 average and were initiated. This year, 86.95% made the 2.0 average to be initiated.

Fraternalities—same story. Last year, 61.87% of the fraternity pledges made their average, and this year, 78.56% did. With more calculation we reach the total that 6.95% more sorority pledges were initiated this year, as compared with 16.59% more fraternity pledges—making a grand total of 23.64% more Greeks initiated this year under the 2.0 initiation average.

To some, this increase (almost a fourth as many) in the number of pledges being activated would seem a good thing. But we question the advisability of keeping the initiation average a 2.0.

We question the 2.0 initiation average on two grounds—first, that it does not benefit the Greek houses, and second, that it is the same average as scholastic probation.

Most Greek houses stress scholar-

ship and pride themselves on having a house average above the all-University, all-male, or all-women's average. If Greek houses really desire excellence in scholarship among their members, we doubt if the 2.0 will maintain the excellence they strive for. It seems a bit too obvious that a 2.25 or higher for initiation would improve the scholastic standing of Greek houses.

The second reason we criticize the 2.0 is because it is the same average as scholastic probation. In other words, if a student is in good standing, he is good enough, scholastically, to be initiated.

We do not feel that the answer lies in lowering the average for scholastic probation. On the nine-point system, the scholastic probation average was 4.0, and it is presently a 2.0. It certainly should not be lowered as the initiation average was (from a 5.0 to a 2.0).

We would hope that IFC and Panhellenic will seriously reconsider the merits of a 2.0 initiation average. It is not benefitting houses who desire scholastic excellence. A bare minimum ("good standing") is not good enough.



Sorry About That!

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

"In the recent run-off election in France, 45% voted for a Communist; the other 55% got one." (American Opinion.)

Guess you can't tell the players without a scorecard.

Historical Note of the Day: In 1786, Mulch, Finland, invention of synthetic tartans, causes a revolution in the plastic industry.

I called one of our fraternity houses yesterday. And who should answer but one of the "driveling, sniveling, putridest, puniest pledges." I asked for one of the actives, and the pledge kindly informed me that "the Honorable Sir Mr. —" was not in. I vote to change the misnomer "fraternity men" to the "driveling, sniveling" idiots they are.

President Johnson said a week or two back: "I think the country overwhelmingly supports the position we have taken (in Viet Nam). I believe the members of the House and Senate do likewise." Wonder if he's had coffee with Senators Morse or Fulbright lately?

Recent Comments: "The century would have been good if man had not been tracked down by his relentless, immemorial enemy, by the carnivorous species that had set out to slay him, by that hairless, sly beast, man himself." (From the play "The Condemned of Altona" by Jean-Paul Sartre.)

Failed again! After writing about how pleased I was with the recent diversification of the Crib menu (the addition of the Reuben sandwich), I must now relate that the sandwich has been summarily dismissed.

The reason? Not enough being sold, a Union attendant said. Wonder if that would be the same excuse if hamburgers were exiled from the Union.

Another Viewpoint— University's Parenthood

(Editor's Note: The following Viewpoint was written by Mike Miller and Jim Girard for the Daily Nebraskan. What they have to say about "in loco parentis" applies just as much to the University of Nebraska as it does to the University of Kansas.)

A recent court case in Iowa may shed some light on the notorious politico-legal question of in loco parentis. When his mother died in a car crash several years ago, Mark Painter was taken in by his maternal grandparents. Mark's father, Harold, a newsman (Christian Science Monitor, Oakland Tribune), who recently remarried and settled in California as a Job Corps photographer, wants Mark back. When the grandparents refused, Painter sued.

Two weeks ago, the Iowa Supreme Court unanimously ruled that Mark must stay put. Their reasons were enlightening. It seems that Painter is "either an agnostic or atheist... has read a lot of Zen Buddhism," and is a "political liberal." ...

Also (and we're not making this up), the Court accused Painter of offering the child "more freedom of conduct and thought" and "more intellectual stimulation."

On the other hand, the grandparents could provide a "stable, dependable, middle-class, Middle West background." This is all interesting in itself, of course, but it seems to us that there is a broader application to be made, regarding university policies. According to the doctrine of in loco parentis, the university assumes the position of foster parent to the student. As most students are aware, many legal questions have lately been raised regarding the functioning of this doctrine.

Most questions that have been raised thus far in regard to in loco parentis have been concerned with whether the doctrine conflicts with the individual rights of the students and their former parents, and whether the university can insure a necessary degree of freedom. Obviously, now, this is not the question.

Rather, we must ask, is the university providing its foster children a stable, dependable, middle-class, Middle West background? Rather, is there not too great a degree of personal freedom, too much intellectual stimulation? And as for political leanings, what about all those Democrats in the political science and economics departments?

The question, then, is, does the University sufficiently restrict personal and intellectual freedom? In order to meet the requirement of parenthood, the university must enact even more stringent policies, forbid enrollment in classes that might present non-Middle-Western ideas, require Bible readings and chapel attendance, and make sure that there is no more liberal than a Goldwater Republican on the university staff.

CAMPUS OPINION

Editorial Page Criticized

Dear Editor, Congratulations on getting so many letters of congratulations. Your paper has been much better than ever before, with one exception: Your page two is the bleakest, the blaishest—positively the rag since I became a student. The kids of the fairest sex, that have lasted three years and are willing to try their fourth, will get to check out keys when they go out at night and check them in (to somebody taking her turn at "key duty") when they return. Somebody will probably be there to help take off their mittens and booties, too. Boy aren't we liberal. This will prepare them for the big step into the cold, cruel world the following year.

They will have attended orientations on how to unlock the door, and will have read brochures on their responsibilities to the nurture and protection of the keys. After all, isn't the biggest issue facing college girls nowadays how to avoid the marriage trap while wading through red tape in their Batman T-shirts? Wouldn't the administration welcome the increased profit of a faster turnover of females?

After a year at the finest party school in the Midwest, a girl should have had her eyes opened as to the location of the world, and her place to mess around in it, etc., etc.

George Prentice

Mittens, Booties and Keys

Dear Editor, Your front page, being a collection of farce and absurdity, selected arbitrarily to pacify us or to draw occasional comment, has prompted me to express some views hanging in the air currently.

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AWS Representation

Dear Editor, We would like to congratulate the AWS Board on the HUGE step it made in approving a senior key system.

It is interesting to note how the feelings of 350 out of 501 who favored keys for women 21 and seniors were considered. As a representative body, the Board is certainly doing a fine job.

We realize there are hundreds of women who turn 21 every day here at the University and we would not like to have the members of the board overburdened. Taking care of all the applications for keys which would come in each day would certainly be a monumental task.

A highly qualified junior mentioned the "psychological change" which takes place between one's junior and senior years. Has she passed through this experience prematurely, or is she merely anticipating?

We are expected to believe that women who reach senior status early are more responsible. We think that everyone knows women who took extra hours or went to summer school because they wanted to graduate early and get married, or because they changed their major and had to make up hours. Are these women more responsible than women who don't go to summer school and live under AWS regulations but instead live by themselves, successfully, in apartments?

We would like to sympathize with the AWS Board when they express concern over the "administrative problems." However, most of the women on campus have never been told what these problems are.

The red tape that women will have to go through to get keys may just cut down on these problems.

We Know Better

On 'Construction' Week

Dear Editor, Who are we to judge who has the most worthy personality, whose character is most outstanding, or whose moral code is just?

Construction week should have in parentheses CONSTRUCTIVE CONSTRUCTION. It's one thing to tear a freshman down mentally, in fact some freshman have to be shown that they are no longer in high school and they aren't the big wheels they were in high school.

However, to tear one down physically is another story altogether. Something should definitely be done about fraternity construction week, because those poor souls shouldn't be expected to go through constructive hell.

Newly Activated

'Apathetic' Tag Resented

Dear Editor, I resent being tagged "apathetic" simply because I didn't rally in support of the ASUN gunners and their Cause.

I don't want a Faculty Evaluation Booklet. If the project-peddling Activity Men of the Senate who were so eager to evaluate the faculty had bothered to make a quick evaluation of student sentiment, they would have known a month ago that I'm not alone.

And, while this might not have stopped the Crusade (after all, it's a long walk from ground floor to Innocents on foot), it would at least have afforded sufficient time to find a more suitable scapegoat than Apathy.

(I thought Apathy was reserved for the use of high school editors in scathing editorials about cafeteria litter and meager pep rally attendance.) Does the Senate work for me or am I supposed to work for the Senate? If it serves me, it had better find out what I want (if, indeed, I want anything). If not, fine. Let the gunners gun if they like, but don't call me names when their projects fail to spark my interest and support.

Leonard

Closest Case

By FRANK PARTSCH Admini and me, we get along well. I walk the line and they hold the line, both of us all the while suffering from grandiose delusions of adequacy.

I have been suspicious about these delusions for some time now, but my apprehensions were never wordified until I accidentally stumbled upon a sweet little book entitled "Up the Down Stair Case," by Bel Kaufman.

This book, although it was written about the introduction of an idealistic young teachers college graduate to the blackboard jungles of New York City, could have been written about the idealistic old administrators at the University of Nebraska.

I don't want to be so presumptuous as to link Miss Kaufman's characters to specific administrators here, as I would like to have everyone in the world

If I Were King...

By WAYNE KREUSCHER News Editor

Often the best story is never written—the story about how the reporter feels and thinks himself.

This last week's headlines provide many examples of stories that mean more than just inches of copy and finished assignments to the reporter.

The Daily Nebraskan this year has devoted hundreds of inches to the ASUN's faculty evaluation questionnaire project. Every reporter has attended a meeting, quoted an official or described an event in the book's progress.

It is a little hard for a reporter who has written about the book for a year—to suddenly learn students aren't interested.

The reporter can't help but wonder if his stories were ever read. He can't understand why the thousands of students who couldn't give the project just a few minutes—didn't say something sooner.

The reporter wonders if it was his fault. If he was too objective, if his enthusiasm for the book wasn't apparent in his stories or if the lead wasn't clever enough to encourage his readers to read on through the story.

The reporter knows he isn't responsible for the book, that it wasn't his project, but yet writing about it so often—the book can't help but become a part of the reporter and the reporter a part of the book.

Right now no matter how many excuses, future promises and planned rationalizations the leading ASUN executives give, they look foolish to the administration and faculty.

The book these people caused so much trouble about, the book which was to symbolize ASUN's success, the book which was to show that Nebraska students also "think" and represent a liberal, reforming generation isn't even wanted by the students.

A reporter who feels this after endless stories on the subject can make himself feel better only by knowing that his paper isn't going to let the book become a dead issue for long.

read the book to draw his own parallels. I merely want to use her mood to dwell upon the mood at this enlightened institution.

"Please disregard the following," begins a message to all faculty members from JJ McH, administrative assistant to the principal of Coolidge High School. That line kills me, and it shouldn't, because we hear similar goodies every day emanating from the Teachers College annex.

"Please send to my office all students who are absent today without a verified excuse." Oh, JJ, you aren't even funny.

Miss Kaufman's plot, dialogue and characterization are developed in a series of inter-school memos, reports, and minutes of faculty meetings. The University of Nebraska wouldn't be half as big as it is without a million such statements, papers and reports.

For instance: rumors

(mostly inadequate) circulate about every year at this time as to the complexities involved in the selections of next year's Innocents. And justly so, because a great deal of something goes into this process.

But the selection process for new student assistants in the dorms is twice as involved. A candidate must fill out an application, write an essay, submit three references, take a personality test, be evaluated by a student assistant, a panel of student assistants, five people in his living unit selected at random and a residence director. (If I've left anything out, Al, I'm sorry.)

The University's annual fiscal fiasco is another example of what I'm trying to point out. That didn't ignite a riot or even (if I remember correctly) a letter to the editor. And yet it is probably one of the more atrocious examples of bumbling that I have yet been subjected to.

Just read through the Daily Nebraskan reports of discussions on the evaluation book, the Cather-Pound snack bar or the senior key system. Miss Kaufman is selling the same kind of stuff for bunches of money.

Walk through the lunch line at Cather Hall (Although God is dead, the daily bread still comes through loud and clear, if your room and board is paid up.) Your choice: hamburger and potato chips or tuna salad sandwiches and tomato soup.

"Can I have tuna salad sandwiches and potato chips?" "No, we're not allowed to do that."

Up the down stair case.

Now I'm sorry, I'm not trying to breathe out my last years as a student as a perennial critic, and possibly I wouldn't be any better as an administrator. I'm possibly even being unjust, but I can't figure out the reasoning behind the ever-increasing bureaucracy over there.

I would be interested in hearing some unpressified, undiluted verbiage come out of that place some time.

Let me here parenthetically add that I see the student assistant's (that's dorm counselor for those of you who don't recognize the new jargon) role as nothing more than humanizing the mechanical processes coming down upon his students from above.

QUOTE FOR THE DAY: "I thought this was supposed to be a veal cutlet, but I can't even cut it."



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