

Not Quite Hopeless Situation

The Daily Nebraskan has written very little about the Interfraternity Council or Panhellenic this semester for the obvious reason that there has been nothing to write about.

Even more important the Nebraskan has ignored both groups because they represent a system which contributes little to the University, which has become outdated in its thinking and values and which as a whole plays a very unimportant role on today's campus.

The paper has felt that so many other groups are more beneficial to the campus and to the idea of education that it wasn't even worth the waste of words to criticize the outdated idea of a Greek System.

But perhaps after hearing Dick Scott's speech Wednesday night to IFC, the paper has been wrong.

Perhaps instead of ignoring what could be a great asset, but has become useless and limiting most of our comments to private discussion—the Nebraskan should have long ago preceded Mr. Scott in his criticism.

The Nebraskan completely agrees with Mr. Scott in his criticisms of the Greek System and we feel he was possibly even more critical.

The Greek System is a group—which because of its individual atmosphere and individual identities—could fit more effectively in the idea of "total education" than any other segment of the University. The individual Greek houses now provide members with a type of personal identity and if the system tried, it could go on to provide these members with a very personal sort of education. In no other type of living atmosphere could the fostering of educational curiosity be done easier than in a small living unit where the members know each other well.

No group could take better advantage of the many important processes of self education such as discussions, arguments and personal experiences than a small living unit such is now provided by the individual fraternities and sororities.

Furthermore because of this small and personal group in no place could individuals receive a better understanding of all kinds of people—representing different religions, races, economic environments and ideas.

The idea of a personal living atmosphere—as pointed out by Mr. Scott—could definitely do all the things it is supposed to do: develop character, intellectual awareness, social responsibility, spiritual welfare, fellowship, integrity and brotherhood.

However fraternities and sororities on the University campus today do almost none of these things. In fact if they do anything, they work against many of the ideas which they are supposed to support.

In the last few years while students have been asking for a more serious and meaningful education all over the nation and at this school—the Greek System like-

wise all over the country and at Nebraska has provided nothing but the most conservative influence.

Student government at Nebraska has become more meaningful in the last two years and has begun to question some ideas of education which seem outdated and has suggested other new ideas to help the students. IFC has taken no stand on any of the issues and has limited itself to the old questions of ten years ago concerning sub-rosas, drinking, rushing and other "important" Greek issues.

Some groups at Nebraska and other schools around the nation have tried to enlarge their perspectives by becoming informed and having opinions on world problems. These groups have shown a real concern for the "love of all men" and the welfare of society. Fraternities and sororities, have taken almost no part in these steps to enlarge student perspective. In fact most Greeks are encouraged not to take part in such groups or their projects such as teach-ins and free speech discussions.

The few Greek leaders who rise above the "mickey mouse" Greek activities are immediately marked as "radical individuals" who have to be put up with in their individual fraternities. Ten years from now if the Greek System does not change—these people will not have to worry about being "radical individuals" because they simply won't be Greeks.

Not only can the fraternities be harshly criticized for what they don't do, but also for what they continue doing, as pointed out by Mr. Scott.

Students today are concerned with the dignity of all men not the degrading of individuals. While some students on campus are crusading for a more intellectual and meaningful University, the fraternities continue trying to "beat" a Greek image into their pledges.

(Any Greek who speaks about constructive pledge programs and Help Weeks is either dreaming or has a very fortunate situation in his own living unit).

Furthermore while students today are coming to have a better understanding of all kinds of people and a desire to live with these people on equal terms—the Greek System realistically still represents everything that is bad about discrimination for reasons that an individual cannot help.

Fraternities and sororities as they now exist do not have a role or even a place in an educational institution. They could have a great role and they could as they did fifty years ago contribute much to University students especially as most segments of the University become larger and more impersonal.

Mr. Scott's speech to IFC Wednesday night made the Daily Nebraskan realize that the uselessness of the Greek System cannot be ignored. We hope that other Mr. Scott's speech seriously and use it in students at the University will also take constructive manner to improve a not quite hopeless situation.

Wayne Kreuscher



Our Man Hoppe

Drab Practices Thrift



Arthur Hoppe

"Okay, Drab," said Captain Buck Ace, peering through his binoculars at the distant village. "Fire five rounds for effect."

Private Oliver Drab looked up from the 105-millimeter howitzer and sadly shook his head. "I just can't bring myself to do it, sir," he said regretfully.

"Damn it, Drab," said the Captain, scowling. "What is it this time? Have you turned pacifist?"

"Oh, no, sir. Much as I try, I can't seem to develop any overwhelming feelings against taking human life. Unless, of course, it's mine. No, sir, actually it's the expense."

"The expense?"

"Yes, sir," said Private Drab eagerly. "Now you take these big 105 shells. I'll bet they cost a hundred dollars a piece. Five shells, \$500. That's a lot of hot lunches."

"Hot lunches? Stop mumblyng, Drab, and fire. Don't you know there's a war on?"

"Oh, yes, sir. That's exactly what I'm talking about: the War on Poverty."

The Captain gave Private Drab a look that mixed disbelief with resignation. "Now you want to fight the war on Poverty, Drab?"

"Well, I guess anyone would want to do his bit, sir," said Private Drab modestly. "But ever since I read where the Government's got to cut back spending on the poor folks at home in order to take care of us over here, I've felt kind of uneasy. I just can't seem to take any pleasure out of firing off a lot of expensive ammunition."

"Listen, son," said the Captain, pulling himself together. "You can't stop in the middle of a war to count the cost."

"Exactly what I say, sir. And if we're going to have to pinch pennies at home, we're never going to lick poverty. Gosh, sir, \$500!

Why, that's enough to buy hot lunches for a couple thousand scrawny little school kids. Hungry, scrawny, little . . ."

"Shut up, Drab," snapped the Captain. "Now fire five rounds for effect."

"Yes, sir," said Private Drab with a sigh. Then he brightened. "Say, sir, how about firing two rounds? That'd only be—let's see—well, several hundred hot lunches. And maybe if we economized over here, the Government could afford to fight both wars at once. It sure would be nice for those hungry, scrawny, little . . ."

"Drab," said the Captain quietly, "five rounds or five years in Leavenworth."

Private Drab nodded, shrugged and yanked the lanyard. "Sorry, kids," he said. "It was either you or me."

Later, as he and his friend, Corporal Partz, crouched under a poncho in a half-filled shell hole in a blinding rain, Private Drab said thoughtfully: "It still doesn't seem right somehow, us using up money that could help some poor folks back home."

Corporal Partz shook his head. "The Government's right, Oliver. You got to look at the overall picture."

"You mean the Government ought to help us more than them?"

"Just ask yourself," said Corporal Partz, pulling the poncho tighter. "who's in a worse fix."

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Campus Opinion

The Real Issue

Dear Editor:
In reply to Mr. Russell H. Brown's letter in Monday's paper, I should like to point out that, while what he says has some truth, he neglects to mention that which is actually important.

He wrote that "Although the University may have more power over its students, it does not necessarily follow that the University must operate in an authoritarian manner." I should like to note that he says, "must operate." This is not the issue.

The issue is whether the University does operate in this manner—a fact which many students recognize. The University is not obligated to keep the student's rights and responsibilities a mystery upon his entrance at the University. But the University does.

The University is not obligated to require all unmarried, undergraduate students to pay exorbitant prices for living in the subhuman housing of the dorms. But the University does.

The University is not obligated to deny the student his right to privacy by having his entire transcript made public. But the University does.

The University is not even obligated to duplicate the punishment given by local law officials. But the University does.

I freely admit that the University is not obligated to do what the University in fact does. But I am uninterested in this. I am interested only in the action, not in the metaphysical possibility of other conditions. The University does these things to students.

The administration, it would seem, should begin to admit it and perhaps consider the possibility of change in the direction of a more human situation. Mr. Brown might start by admitting that the authoritarian power which the University possesses in relation to the students can not be dismissed by his assertion that the University is not doing everything to the students that it could do.

Claudia Jones

Is University For Students Or Not?

Dear Editor:
I was going to address this letter to Whom it May Concern, but it becomes increasingly apparent that no one is concerned.

As students who find their week nights taken with the supreme purpose of studying, we are curious why the University is against us relieving our tensions in clean, wholesome activities such as weekend athletics. For reason or reasons unknown, the men's PE Building is locked after noon on Saturdays on which there is a home football game.

It would seem apparent by now that we are presently immersed in basketball season. Are we to assume that a 7:35 p.m. basketball game is going to affect the PE Building's functioning in any way, shape, or form? And if so, how?

It is becoming increasingly obvious that the recreational facilities are totally inadequate on this campus. We can hardly wait to play football on the Mall, now that the University is installing lights on the playing fields. For night games, no doubt. Downfield blocking should be improved, however.

Is this University for the students or not? And another thing, are they really going to install lights at the columns?

Tune in next week for absolutely no answer at all to these and other critical problems.

Ron Olds, Craig Chapman, Gary Hubbard, Don Riebe

Rules Mean Use Of Force

Dear Editor:
There is no human more deserving of total condemnation than the one who believes he is morally justified in initiating the use of physical force against another person.

On a national level, this applies to such evils as the draft—the explicit statement that a man's life is the property of "society"—and taxation—the explicit statement that a man's property is indeed, the property of "society." The connection between the two should be apparent.

On a local level, the problems still exist, but instead of being monstrously evil, they tend toward becoming fantastically stupid.

Consider for example, our own administration. By what right does administration (Dean Snyder) assume responsibility for the acts of (women) students. For one person to be responsible for another, one must control the other, i.e., physical force.

On an even lower level, even more petty and stupid than administration, are the inter-dorm organizations. When I first heard of compulsory floor meetings, I couldn't believe it.

To Jan Lander, I would like to point out that the last sentence of her letter is the justification of the immorality being perpetrated. To agree that one should be governed is to accept that others should have the right of force.

Needless to say, I live off campus. My reasons should be apparent—the survival of a national being.

D. J. Hood

University Does Act As Parent

Dear Editor:
In reference to the Dec. 5 article in the Daily Nebraskan concerning housing regulations, Mr. Russell Brown states that the "disparity between regulations for men and for women . . . is due to a shortage of housing for men." And, "due to a limited staff, we are only able to approve the housing for freshman and sophomore men." Mr. Brown is being self-contradictory and is definitely evading the question.

The first area that is being overlooked is that there are about two thousand living units in residence halls for men and about the same number for women. But the ratio of men to women at this University is about two to one.

This means that logically, there should be about twice as many residence units for men as for women. If the housing shortage for men is so acute, why then the preference of women over men? And why has some of the Selleck Quadrangle area been given as space for women?

The point is that the University is indeed acting in the place of parents and that there is preference on the campus for women's housing over men's. Mr. Brown has evaded this argument by telling us that the disparity in regulations has come about because of the housing shortage for men.

Why not, then, enlarge the checking staff, as Mr. Brown suggests, and use the existent abundant housing in Lincoln instead of building multi-million dollar dorms?

I cannot have fallacious arguments such as these continually forced down my throat.

Reinhart Schelert

GALE POKORNY'S Fox's Facts

Often times when I endeavor to write this column (?), I need a quiet place to escape to where I can allow my mind to wander over the local campus issues without being disturbed by such sights as a mountain of dirty dishes to attend to or floors to be mopped, (at least once a semester) etc.

More times than not I amble into the library of Love, and find myself a nice peaceful, stuffy carrel where I can sit down, catch up on who's who (or more commonly, who's what) neatly lettered on the walls, listen to whispered words of amor drifting in from the couple "situated" in an adjoining carrel and proceed with the job at hand, namely this piece of literature.

I find that I can work relatively undisturbed there. Oh sure, once in a while, something shatters my concentration, like the guy in the carrel behind me snoring or mumbling in his sleep, (something about the high cost of No Doz no doubt) or the warning words of Thisbe to Pyramus when he apparently proceeds beyond the whispering stage in the carrel ahead of me.

There are too, other migratory types who also tend to shake me out of a working state of mind. A good example is that guy all dressed up in his best suit who just wanders past the carrels all evening long with his hands clasped behind his back and just stares! You can look up from your book and there he is slowly walking by and staring. He is usually encountered later in the evening toward closing time. Some night I'll look up and see him and he'll flash a big toothy grin at me and I'll go right through that little window.

Then there's the big campus police man who walks through slowly thumping his oversized nightstick into the palm of his hand just looking for somebody to arrest.

But like I said, in general the at-

mosphere (if you can hack the smell of dying books) is conducive to the sacred art of "booking it".

Most unfortunately, however, the other night when I attempted to find an empty carrel, I was fresh out of luck. Semi-extensive research revealed a full house. After all, vacation is a little less than a week away and every instructor true to form (and probably University regulation) has scheduled that last hour exam before finals for this week. This was most unfortunate since I therefore had to venture out of the stacks and find a seat on the second floor, directly in front of the check out desk.

All of a sudden I was overwhelmed with a sense of tremendous guilt and pity. Pity for those poor people working there behind the desk dressed in rags, undernourished, holding those pathetic tin cups in their hands and guilt because deep down inside, the ugly truth exists constantly reminding me that when I was a freshman I kept a book out too long once, and I never did pay the seven cents due for the crime.

Perhaps I needn't feel too sorry for them however, I know the University is helping them get more money for their work, (after all it was the University that issued them the tin cups). And I feel secure in the knowledge that one of the many competent committees that did all sorts of research work and compiled all sorts of neat data via questionnaires will not find that its efforts were in vain.

Surely this bit about asking the workers in the library to labor gratis for two nights a week is a jest isn't it? Some sort of a game, (the University is forever playing games, you know). Do we really need to install an elaborate lighting system when there isn't anyone to go? I think it's time to re-examine the findings of the committee that looked into the library problem and come up with something more substantial than dreams.

CAMPUS OPINION

Courts Rule For Students

Dear Editor:
Where do you suppose Mr. Russell H. Brown (Campus Opinion, Dec. 12) has been these last few months? While this question may, of course, be answered only by Mr. Brown, I can tell you where he hasn't been: namely, anywhere which would allow him to find out about the surprising turn of events involving students vs. university court cases.

For instance, a recent Indiana court decision found for the plaintiff, a student, in a case involving "double jeopardy," perpetrated by his university.

The Indiana decision is merely one of many decisions in which courts are beginning to limit university "mistreatment" of students.

Don Sutton

Admini Should Donate Time

Dear Editor:
Last week the Daily Nebraskan carried an article which said that the library would be open during finals only if the staff donated their time free.

It would seem much better, instead, to ask the members of the administration to donate their time during this period and to give the much more poorly paid librarians their salaries.

Doyle Neimann

A Real Eye Sore

Dear Editor:
I wish to ask a very simple question. Who incorporated the policy, which if it stands, will have a thirteen story high rise complex sandwiched between three story teadstools, Bessey and Burnes' Hall.

This will be an eye sore, it might well become the height of ridicule. One might liken it to Wilt Chamberlain standing between the Singers' midgets.

I say if we've got a job to do, let's do it right. I believe that a thirteen story building should have room enough to be seen from ground up on all sides.

Perhaps though there are other plans for these existing buildings, if there is I would like to hear them.

Fred J. Otto