

Whose Reality?

Another word has popped up in the storm over University housing policy.

To students, who in lieu of their youth are usually a bit too romantic about their beliefs, it is a very depressing word. To administrators, who are very clever in lieu of their years of experience in dealing with touchy situations, it is a helpful word indeed. The word is "reality."

Now, the reality of the housing situation, according to the Housing Office, is that freshmen men might very well be required to live in dormitories next fall when the new complex is completed.

Unfortunately, enrollment predictions were overestimated by the Administration, and, unfortunately, the 1500-capacity complex absolutely must be filled because the University has to pay its contractors.

Now, if enough men don't want to live in the dorms, and no other solution can be found to fill them by next fall, then the freshmen who don't want to are going to have to anyway.

This is reality. It is depressing be-

cause it has nothing to do with the lovely thoughts about "great advantages" or "total education" or "exploring new types of living," etc. No, it's money. Somebody goofed and the students have to face the reality that they have to pay.

But the Daily Nebraskan asks, is money the only reality?

Now, the Student Bill of Rights isn't a reality yet, in the legal sense, and maybe it won't be a legal reality in the eyes of the Administration even after it's passed.

But isn't the fact that some student just don't want to live in dormitories a reality? Isn't the fact that an overwhelming majority of the student body feels that students should be able to choose their own living environment a reality? Isn't the fact that some students can't afford to live in dorms a reality?

Well, maybe "reality" isn't so depressing a word to students or so helpful a word to administrators after all.

It all depends on which reality is the most convincing.

Letter From Dean Snyder

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Daily Nebraskan agrees with the following letter from Dean Helen Snyder. We feel that it is unfortunate when an important campus issue becomes merely a personal confrontation. We hope that all parties concerned will approach such problems in a sophisticated manner so that everyone is working for the same goals.)

It is unfortunate that concern over University housing policy has precipitated an emotional atmosphere in which proper judgments are seldom made. Evidence of this seems to occur in the way in which a single individual is held responsible for unpopular housing rules.

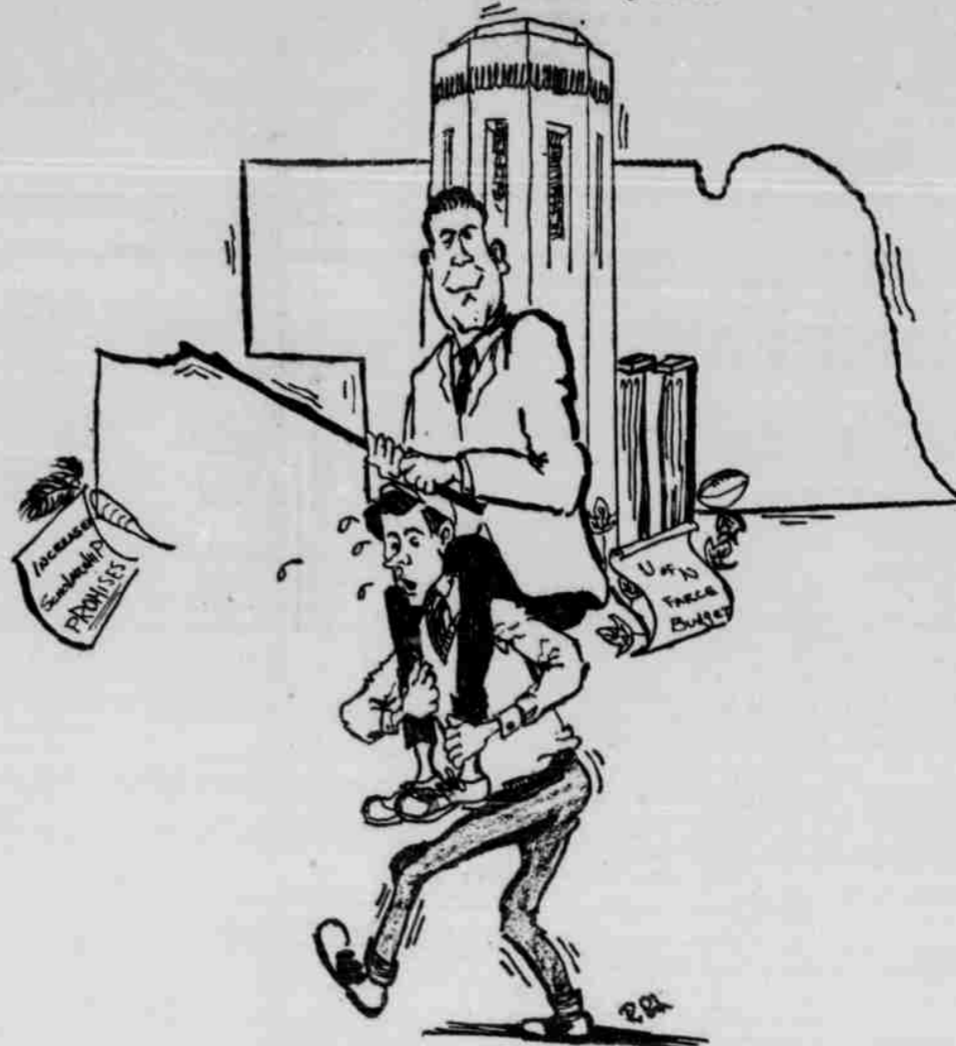
Only a little study would reveal that the rules have been decided upon by the Board of Regents and the Housing office and have been supported by other parts of the University. I would be remiss in my duty if I were to do anything other than support our University and its policies.

I have several times this year sat with student groups discussing regulations which do not please them. During such meetings I have encouraged student government representatives to work with us in specific action on specific issues to effect desirable modification of policy. I continue to have faith in the ability of students to make the University a better place.

In spite of the high feelings expressed over the housing issues, I would be hopeful that a serious and reasoned attempt will be made to articulate positions and to make a considered attempt to accomplish what is desired. I am ready and willing, as are my colleagues in Student Affairs, to examine the points of difference and to make recommendations to modify the rules in a way that can serve the best interest of students and still serve the purposes of the University.

Helen A. Snyder
Associate Dean of Student Affairs

NEBRASKA'S NEW CATCH-UP PLAN



Our Man Hoppe

A Civilized Value Scale



Arthur Hoppe

The International Commission to Determine Human Worth has met in Geneva to set the relative value of American and Vietnamese lives.

The meeting was called after charges were made in the U.S. that restrictions on bombing North Vietnamese civilians were endangering the lives of American pilots.

"A single American boy," said one typical angry letter writer, "is worth a score of unfortunate Asians."

The American position was ably defended by the Honorable Homer T. Pettibone of the U.S. Bureau of Moral Weights and Measures.

"We do not contend, gentlemen," he began gravely, "that one American is worth a million Asians. Our restraint in using nuclear weapons proves this. On the other hand, it would be a travesty of logic to argue that an American and a Vietnamese are of equal value."

"To begin with, Vietnamese are smaller. On a straight per-pound basis, they are obviously worth less. In addition, the average peasant neither dresses properly nor does he speak English, so that you must shout at him to penetrate his stupidity."

"Hear, hear," said the British delegate. "We felt the same about our Fuzzy-Wuzzies. Dashed good fighting men, though."

"True," said Mr. Pettibone, turning the point to his advantage. "But that, of course, is because he places such a low value on his own life. For example, we compensate the beneficiaries of friendly civilians we accidentally kill with a few hundred dollars. If they were Americans, each would cost us thousands."

"Now while many of these peasants own their own homes, few own their own cars, television sets or freezers. Clearly, they would be considered poor credit risks anywhere, simply because they aren't worth much."

"What a non-Frenchman is!" said the French delegate with a shrug.

"Generally speaking," continued Mr. Pettibone, "they are poorly educated, ill-housed and underfed. Few read good books, play golf or even go to the movies. In a word, gentlemen, they are natives."

"Oh, natives," said the Belgian delegate, nodding. "We had to deal with them in the Congo and we know what they're worth."

"All we ask," said Mr. Pettibone, "is that the Commission set a fair ratio—say, 30 to one—so that we may go on bombing in good conscience."

A lively debate followed, highlighted by an hour-long speech by the German delegate on genetics, Nietzsche and the superiority of the Aryan race. In the end, a compromise of 23.2 Vietnamese per American was unanimously adopted.

"I feel this standard," Mr. Pettibone told reporters waiting outside "accurately reflects the view of civilized people everywhere."

An irate African journalist protested that the Commission's members included only delegates from technologically advanced, Caucasian, Christian nations.

"Good heavens, man," said Mr. Pettibone in surprise, "who else is civilized enough to compare the value of human beings?"

CAMPUS OPINION

Avoid Personal Attack

Dear Editor:

Recent letters to the Daily Nebraskan in regard to housing policy have shown a lack of knowledge of the source of that policy. There is at present student concern over seeming inconsistencies between existing Board of Regents By-laws. The question to be decided is whether administrative policy is in accord with these By-laws.

Personal attacks accomplish nothing. Dean Helen Snyder may be merely performing her role as an agent of enforcement. Those who find fault with the Regents' By-laws or specifically the enforcement policies should direct their energies toward changing or clarifying these policies.

Peggy Kaufman
Barbara Beckmann
Peg Wagner
Jean Jaspersen
Ann Windle
Larry Johnson
Gene Hohensee
Darryl Gless
Dave Cummins
Rich Hilsabeck
Jay Lefko
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Jan Connell
Diana Focht
Erma Winterer
Pam Hedgecock
Pam Wood
Beverly Armstrong
Elaine Kallous

University Money-Oriented

Dear Editor:

As every student of this University knows, the University is in dire need of financial resources. We have been lampooned with the idea of a \$95 resident tuition increase. As if that isn't enough, the dormitory rates have been increased some \$75 per academic year.

There now seems to be increased interest in the rules and regulations which govern the residency of students attending the University. Questions have been raised concerning mandatory on-campus residency and certain individuals have taken physical actions to express their discontent with current policy.

All of these questions and actions, boiled down, amount to this one thing. The University wants the \$95 a month which they could make if every student resided in a dormitory. The University is money-oriented enough to realize that they are losing \$800 for every student who has chosen to live off campus.

As one who has resided in a dormitory and is currently living off campus, I am happy to say that I have seen the light and realized that the rules and regulations concerning housing were made and are being enforced by a money-oriented University.

John L. Schmidt

Higher Dorm Rates Unjust

Dear Editor:

The recent announcement of an increase in dormitory fees has caused us to wonder whether there will be an improvement of the facilities at Selleck Quadrangle initiated. Evidently not!

The increase in payments were not designed to give improved service to residents of any dorm. The purpose as we understand will be to pay for new dorms.

However, the present conditions in Selleck Quadrangle do not match the standards of the other dorms on this campus, by a long shot. No other dorm has Selleck's special features; among them: lounges furnished in early junk, a scratchy intercom, a lighting system that the column set would enjoy, rooms furnished (bare essentials, with paint scraped off).

Of course, Selleck does not fall behind in one area. Yes, Selleck has poor food. We really don't mind these inconveniences, if the fees were proportional to the facilities provided.

As it is we are being overcharged, and soon we will be forced with a fee increase, which will probably not be followed by an improvement of the facilities. If conditions were improved, an increase would be justified, if not, there is excuse for higher costs to future residents of Selleck Quadrangle.

Jim Deitch
Pierre Daggett

Tuition Increase Intolerable

Dear Editor:

It seems strange that the basic issue of "can we afford a raise in tuition" has been passed over for "better student instruction."

I seriously question the importance of this issue being cognizant that 1) the base of college instructors is rapidly expanding, 2) this is a state university as opposed to a private college, and 3) there is a significant portion of the student body that is presently financially pressed and whose views have been unrealistically represented.

Consider this if you will. A student will work at \$1.40 an hour 15 hours a week during the school year and 40 hours a week during the summer. This brings \$1476 minus approximately \$100 in taxes leaving a total of \$1376.

His expenses of \$334 tuition, \$100 books and supplies, \$840 a year in board and room (\$40 board and \$20 food per month), plus \$100 for clothes, shoes and toiletries leave him with expenses of \$1374.

With the remaining \$2 our young man will buy insurance, pay for his medical and dental expenses, and have money left over for transportation, household and social expenditures.

Could it be that no one has considered the possible elimination of this element of our society. It would be embarrassing to peek through the facade of our bill of rights and find that all men are born with equal opportunity... and then there are others.

James Schmitz

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Quiet Desperation

... BY JERRY OLSON

ATTENTION LOYAL CITIZENS
Crime and/or evil is running rampant on the streets of Midland City. Let us now drop into the office of the Commissioner of Midland City and hear a discussion among the leaders of the city as to how to handle the situation. The people present are:

THE COMMISSIONER: the rarely heard from and never seen leader of the City.

CHICKEN MAN: the fearless, white-winged warrior who oversees the citizens of Midland City.

MILDRED, THE MATERNAL MA-RAUDER: the omnipotent protector of the welfare of the women of Midland City. She is so concerned for the women citizens that she treats them like her own children.

ASSISTANT CHICKEN MAN: an ambitious young fellow who hopes to be just like Chicken Man (when he grows up).

★ ★ ★

COMMISSIONER: You probably wonder why I have called you all here. Let me see... why did I call you here? Oh, yes. Some dolt in the community had the audacity to suggest that the citizens were being overprotected by us. Well, he went to the city council and told them that something must be done and consequently the council has demanded that we justify our position. I can't possibly do this because I have to run to two directors meetings, a luncheon, and a golfing appointment. If I get a chance, I'll stop back later and see how things are going. Have to run. Bye.

(Exit Commissioner for two weeks)

CHICKEN MAN: Well, this could mean one of 52 things only. Obviously, the loyal citizens are not aware of the danger lurking everywhere and running rampant in the streets. We must show them why it is imperative that we protect them. Isn't that right, Assistant?

ASSISTANT: Yes, Sir.

MILDRED: Very good idea, Chicken Man. First we must devise a catchy term on which to base our statements. How about "total welfare?"

CHICKEN MAN: Yes, very good.

ASSISTANT: Yes, very good.

MILDRED: I don't possibly see how the citizens can feel that they know more about what protection they need than we do. After all, we have spent years read-

ing books about government and our systems have worked perfectly for years.

CHICKEN MAN: I think the whole problem arose when Joe Ceiling wanted to move out into the suburbs. Evidently, he is not aware of all the sin out there. Why, I've heard that there is a tavern in the neighborhood and that the men actually have women come to their houses.

MILDRED: No? Well that certainly does not contribute to the total welfare of the citizens. Why, to allow Joe to move out into those nasty suburbs denies him all the welfare protection of living in the city. Besides, I feel it is our solemn duty to protect him and keep him virtuous.

CHICKEN MAN: Good Point, Mother.

ASSISTANT CHICKEN MAN: Yes, good point, Mother, I mean Mildred.

CHICKEN MAN: Well, I think we are ready to issue a statement. Mother, why don't you do it?

ASSISTANT CHICKEN MAN: Yes, good idea.

MILDRED: OK. How does this sound? "Citizens Welfare is the purpose of the city. To allow the citizen the choice of leaving the city is denying him part of his development which comes from living in the city. There is violent crime and/or evil everywhere and it is our responsibility to protect the citizen and keep him virtuous and safe."

CHICKEN MAN: Good Job. That statement is just confusing enough to make them believe we've said something. Any suggestions the citizens might make would simply be ignoring administrative policy. Oh yes, another complaint of the citizens is that nobody in city hall will give them a straight answer—that we just turn them back and forth.

(Enter Office Secretary)

OFFICE SECRETARY: Chicken Man, there is a citizen here to speak with you.

CHICKEN MAN: Oh, tell him that he must first speak with Mr. Jones at the central desk, and then get an OK from Miss Smith in the Office of Citizen Welfare. Then he must file his topic with you and wait two days while we consider what he has to say.

OFFICE SECRETARY: Yes, sir.

CHICKEN MAN: Oh yes, then give him an appointment with my Assistant. He can handle it.

W-E-L-L-L-L-L!!!!

...NUtes By Karen Jo Bennet

"Something familiar... something peculiar... something for everyone - A Comedy Tonight..."

If you're interested in Nebraska, history, music, choreography, art, drama, costuming, politics, playwriting, creativity, humor, or girls... Pershing auditorium is THE place for you this Friday night.

Ordinarily I'd confine myself to discussions of music-department-type music in this column. But "Coed Follies" is not to be ignored by anyone who deeply believes that music deserves to be a part of everyone's life, and that everyone deserves to have a part of music be in their life.

Take a whole living unit of people (most of whom have never performed on a stage or had any musical training), combine them with a few people who do have such fringe benefits, add hours and hours of time, dependable leadership, and faithful followers who try and who show up at most of the rehearsals, plus a large dose of limerick and coriciden (to battle colds and laryngitis), and the result is — a surprisingly musical performance, although music is only one of a multitude of factors involved in producing a successful skit.

Admittedly the lyricwriting and singing is not the technically skilled work of a "Rita" or "Carmen" Opera. It isn't even as coordinated or harmonious as a good high school musical. But it is hardly fair to even compare the Follies with any performance based on professionally staged music.

The wonder of the Follies is that everything must be done by the girls themselves and within a remarkably brief period of time. After all, with little more than six weeks of planning and a month of actual preparation, what could even a Rogers and Hammerstein have done if they also had to attend classes, turn in assignments, take exams, attend other meetings, and keep their dates happy???

Since the tunes are necessarily borrowed, the artistry involved is the selection of songs, creation of appropriate and rhythm-right lyrics, and the psychology to convince every girl within your living unit that she too can sing and is actually needed in spite of how musical or non-musical she thinks she is.

Strength in numbers and the fun of new lyrics to old songs produces a surprising supply of singers who never knew they were! And because the lyrics are usually vital to the storyline, these inexperienced show-women also learn to be pretty strong articulators. There's no question in my critical music mind that the finished products, musically and otherwise, are delightful entertainment. However...

Perhaps the question should be not the product... but the purpose. Traditions from time to time must be examined and investigated, or they can become dictators instead of inspirations. So let's ask the brutal question: Is the Price worth it? Many hours, taut nerves, lost tempers, sluffed assignments, slipped grades, sore muscles, lost sleep, diminished mental and physical health, and a sizable financial investment — all this is the toll for each EIGHT MINUTE skit put on ONCE in front of judges and an audience that can't possibly appreciate all the effort entailed.

The rewards? Prestige for the groups that "get in"; even more for those that place on Judgment night; good public relations for the University; increased loyalty, pride, unity within each group (after the tempers are found again); experience in showmanship, group psychology and human relations. Are these benefits too costly?? Do they even exist?? Hopefully such projects do lead to worthy developments of the body, mind and soul that can't be measured and tagged for sale.

I don't know. It's one of those questions that really can't be answered until we've lived a little longer and can see things in perspective.

Let's hope that the Follies... aren't.