

Pledgeship: turn on, drop down push up

"You will learn what a fraternity is and its function on a college campus. You will benefit from frequent constructive criticism. You will learn to accept it and profit from it. You will always be a gentleman while associated with this fraternity."—from a pledge manual of a campus fraternity.

by Jim Evinger
Senior Staff Writer

"The first morning of our Hell Week we did 1400 push-ups," a University freshman said in relating his life as a pledge of a campus fraternity.

"I cannot think of a more miserable six months than the way I have spent my last six as a pledge," he added. Yet this same young man voices no dislike or hatred toward the men of his fraternity. To him they are "a good group of men."

Traditional concepts

The enigma of University fraternities — pledgeship — continues. Although some houses have programs, the traditional concept of fraternity pledgeship remains in varying degrees within many University chapters.

This traditional concept, characterized by mental and physical

hazing, is coming under increasing attack by freshmen as more and more demands are made upon their time by the University.

Pledges — caught in a conflict between fraternalism and common sense — respect the men of their house, but not their pledgeship.

Monday night dinner

"Monday night dinners are literally hell," one freshman said, describing how individual pledges stand during dinner to answer lore and history questions about their fraternity.

Each is asked questions until he reaches the inevitable point where he no longer knows the right answers. Then the consequences of failing as a pledge befall the individual and hence, his pledge class — "If one of you screws up, then you all have screwed up."

Another freshman described his year as a pledge as "essentially based on a psychology of fear."

Not for one, for all

His pledge class's primary motivation was that "if we didn't do something right, there'd be bad consequences — not just for the person who failed, but for all of us."

This negative system of punishment, as opposed to a positive system of rewards, does not achieve the goals it sets out to do, he said.

In listing its failures, he said there was a lack of respect by the pledges for the actives as individuals. He had also developed little respect for himself as a member of the house.

Trivia required

Although that house's pledgeship program has moved recently toward progressive pledgeship, he said there is still a tremendous amount of trivia required of pledges.

All responsibilities and duties in the house, including running errands for individual actives, fall to the pledges, he said.

Fear and fraternalism mutual-

ly exclude each other, he said. He desires a pledgeship based on friendship and pride — a psychology of fraternalism.

Initiates apathetic

The effects of simply working as a pledge to get things done and never doing more than required carry over after initiation. Because there is no way to threaten an active, he said a large number of initiates are consequently apathetic about the house and campus.

He attributed this symptom of a negative pledge program to the fact that the pledge is merely being conditioned to react, mentally and physically, to constant situations.

He objected to the lack of crea-

tivity fostered by the pledge program. Instead, individual creativity is suppressed.

Yet he has found times in the pledge program where a true essence of fraternalism has existed.

It is the building up and tearing down, the highpoints and let-down, and the pattern of inconsistencies of his pledgeship to which he objects.

One sophomore pledge said his fraternity imposed informal sanctions regarding dress of the pledges. Although no rules are set down in writing, pressure from the actives gets all the pledges to conform to "Greek standards" of dress, he said.

These informal sanctions and the established rules for pledges suppress individual initiative within

the house that leads to creativity, he said.

One freshman said his house based its program on a reputation and tradition of a tough pledgeship. Part of this is a weekly work session in the house, involving house cleaning and push-ups.

"I was more scared of not knowing my pledge lesson than not being prepared for an hour exam," he said. Rather than developing an appreciation for the fraternity's history and lore, he simply memorized it from week to week, forgetting what he crammed for after the exam.

"There was never any regard for doing something good. We had to accept constant criticism and ridicule. It was not a learning process that could help me develop and mature. They made me a complete mental and physical wreck," he said.

In line with "tough and traditional pledgeships" based on reputation, the unique and most mysterious aspect of many pledge programs is the period prior to initiation known as "Hell Week."

It is often described as an experience the initiate would never want to go through again, though he was very glad he had done it once.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the first of a three-part series on pledgeship programs of University fraternities. The first part was based solely on interviews with pledges — this is pledgeship through their eyes.

Thursday's article will deal with progressive alternatives—as proposed and practiced within several houses. This will be pledgeship from an active member's point of view. And a pledgeship which offers an alternative to traditional concepts.

Friday's article will deal with the efforts of the IFC toward pledgeship and opinions of administrators will be included.

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David and Gloria Myklebust man the Peace Corps recruiting station in the Nebraska Union. They are two of the Corps volunteer returnees who are on the University campus this week.

Faculty Senate . . . ASUN advisor moves to change open door policy

by Mark Gordon
Senior Staff Writer

The Faculty Senate Committee on Student Affairs voted late Tuesday afternoon to recall the subcommittee on student affairs to consider a motion altering the open door policy of the new open housing regulations.

The motion, introduced by Dr. Paul Byerly, ASUN advisor, states that only students actually participating in the open house shall be required to register their intent and students not participating in the open house are not required to keep their doors open.

G. Robert Ross, vice chancellor and dean of student affairs, who chaired the full committee, said it was the job of the subcommittee which established the new regulations last December to study the resolution.

"They can recommend that it may or may not be brought before the full committee at a later date," he said.

Presented request

The motion, which passed by a 14-1 count, culminated efforts by Bruce Bailey, Inter-Dormitory Association (IDA) president-elect and Richard Page, Abel-Sandoz president, who presented the request for a reconsideration of article five.

Article five, the controversial open door ruling states that all doors except those of residents absent from the floor during the open house must remain open and those residents leaving the floor must register their absence with the responsible officer.

Bailey said the committee's decision to reopen discussion on the open door policy indicated the committee was open-minded by recommending the reconsideration.

'Work with students'

"They felt there was a desire on their part to work with students," he said, in explaining it was essential further work on the motion be kept in legal channels.

Byerly said the motion is essentially backing up the students by

placing article five in inverse order as it puts the regulations on the participating residents rather than the entire residence hall.

"I'd just as soon they didn't have article five, but this is a good temporary position," he added.

Committee members

Although three sub-committee members were absent from the Tuesday meeting, two sub-committee representatives said they felt the motion was an appropriate place to begin further reconsideration.

"This is a motion which should guide out thinking and not lead it," said Miss Patricia Theimer, a faculty senate representative.

Gary Grahnquist, one of two student members on the committee said the proposal opens the door for the committee to consider the needs of the students "in an atmosphere which will be more realistic than it has appeared in the past."

Substitute rules

The lone dissenter among the 15 member committee said the proposal was merely a substitution of one rule for another rule.

"The students don't like the enforcement of the rule now, so why will they like the enforcement of another rule," questioned Royce Knapp, a Regents professor of education.

He added that he also rejected the motion since the subcommittee spent a considerable amount of time studying the implications of the policy before they established it late first semester.

Declined further action

The full committee's action resulted from a request by Bailey after the subcommittee reconvened Feb. 2 but declined to take further action on the open door rule.

At that time, Helen Snyder, associate dean of student affairs, who chaired the sub-committee said the open door rule was the

simple stipulation in the new policy which distinguished an open house from the coed-visitation in principle.

The coed visitation idea was given to the University Board of Regents last April after it had been approved by the Faculty Senate Committee on Student Affairs.

Since then the article has come under heavy criticism from dormitory leaders, the IDA and Harper Hall, which defied the rule in a Feb. 4 open house after the Harpe Senate openly announced its intentions to violate the rule in a motion passed the preceding week.

The motion which the subcommittee will study further reads: "All students who intend to invite or expect visitors from outside the participating group, shall register this intent prior to the open house. These students shall then keep their doors open during the entire open house. For those cases of unexpected visitors, the student shall, during the open house immediately register this fact and then follow the above open door policy. Rooms of persons not registered as participants in the open house shall be inaccessible to visitors."

Professor honored at concert Organist to play music by Roberts

Compositions by Myron J. Roberts, professor of organ and theory at the University, will be featured at a concert Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ.

Michael Veak, former pupil of Roberts and now organist at the Cathedral, will present the program entitled "tribute to the Organ and Choral Works of Myron J. Roberts."

Veak explained that Robert's work has been noted on the national and international scale as well as throughout the state of Nebraska.

One of his most recent pieces, commissioned for the 900th anniversary of Westminster Abbey, London, has been selected for publication by the Oxford University Press.

It will be included in an album of international church music and is the only contribution by an American composer.

Sunday's concert will include compositions for organ performed by Veak, such as "Improvisation on the Agincourt Hymn," "Litany," "Homage to Perotin," and "Improvisation on God Rest Ye Merry."

The Cathedral choir under the direction of John P. Moran will present "Te Deum" and "Alleluia," which was written for this recital.

Peace Corps volunteer gains perspective on status society

by Janet Maxwell
Junior Staff Writer

One good way to really see America is to leave the country, according to David Myklebust, returned Peace Corps volunteer from Cameroon.

Myklebust, who is visiting the University for Peace Corps recruitment week, said he entered the Peace Corps to gain a better perspective of America by getting away from Americans and a society which he believed was becoming marked with too many status symbols.

Stationed in the small Cameroon town of Batibo from 1965 to 1966, instructed students ranging from 13 to 65 years old at a teacher-training college.

Marries another volunteer

In 1966 Myklebust married Peace Corps worker Gloria Williams, who was stationed in a neighboring Cameroon town. The Myklebusts had previously completed the three-month Peace Corps training period together in New York.

Before her marriage Mrs. Myklebust taught English grammar and literature and basic Latin grammar at a Catholic secondary school for boys.

Cameroon is a little Africa, according to the Myklebusts. It contains many different elements of Africa from the forest to the grassland and from the gorilla to the pygmy, they said.

An agrarian society

Cameroon is an agrarian society, Myklebust said. Cameroonians live in mud brick houses with grass roofs, but they are not poor by

their standards and they will not starve, he said.

The Myklebusts were active in extracurricular activities in order to show the students that they were willing to talk to them and give them extra help.

Before departing from Cameroon the Myklebusts were rewarded for their efforts with gifts signifying their acceptance into the Cameroon society. Mrs. My-

klebust received a marriage bracelet and Myklebust was given a horn of a dwarf cow, traditionally used only by the chief for drinking palm wine.

Speaking of his entire volunteer experience, Myklebust said, "I gave more than I expected to give and I received more than I gave. This was because there was only one of me and one thousand of them," he explained.

NSA to provide aid in open house case?

by John Dvorak
Junior Staff Writer

Affiliation of the University with the National Student Association (NSA) could aid students in resolving the current open house controversy, a NSA spokesman said Monday.

"In the case of the conflict over your open house policy, NSA officials could talk with the students and help them define the problem," said Miss Janet Berenson.

Miss Berenson is a campus liaison officer from the Washington, D.C., headquarters of the National Student Association (NSA).

"After NSA officials had conferred with students regarding the open house conflict, we could offer information on what other school with this same situation have done. Finally we could offer some tactical solutions," she hypothesized.

She came to the University for

a day because of campus interest in affiliating with NSA.

Senate proposes bills

Two bills were introduced in the Student Senate last week that would propose and endorse NU's affiliation with NSA. If the bills are passed, they will be submitted to the students on the spring general election ballot.

NSA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan university student governments representing over 1.7 million students.

The National Student Association advocates a volunteer army and negotiation in Vietnam, Miss Berenson said.

The student association also believes students should have total determining power concerning social regulations in living units, she continued.

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Student Senate to rule on Model UN

A final decision on the resolution transferring the authority over the Model United Nations from the ASUN to the Nebraska Union will be made by the Student Senate Wednesday.

The Senate will also hold discussion on Government bills fifteen and sixteen concerning University affiliation with the National Students Association.

The office would exist separate from, but comparable to, the existing Office of Institutional Research directed by Harry S. Allen.

student Disiplinary Procedures headed by Sen. Robert Weaver will present a report and the first round of debate will open on the report.

A resolution will be introduced concerning government bill seven-teen, which would establish an Office of Curriculum Evaluation.

This resolution is in the form of a recommendation to the University to set up an office to continually evaluate the curriculum.

The office would exist separate from, but comparable to, the existing Office of Institutional Research directed by Harry S. Allen.