

Mead labels student concerns 'trivia'



Mead . . . ponders the student press.



Greetings for a famous anthropologist. . . faces, faces, faces.

Photos by Bill Ganzel

"I am very deeply discouraged, world renowned anthropologist Margaret Mead told 1,400 people overflowing the Union Ballroom Thursday. "Every campus I've gone to this winter has been concerned with cheap trivia.

"This world will not be habitable in 50 years, but what are students worrying about? Pot and coed visitation. You are proposing mass violations of little things when we have wars to worry about."

Today's campuses are beginning to resemble those of the 1920's, Mead said, in that students again seem to be concerned mainly with themselves and not the world.

Hassles over marijuana and visitation "are not much of an improvement on panty raids" or putting a cow on the fourth floor of the administration building, she said.

"Your phrasing is better—you talk of freedom and

self-determination now—but it's still trivia.

"I'm not talking from Mount Sinai, but I think you're attacking too small a piece of society. We have got to start everywhere at once, with the grandparents as well as with the children, with the whole planet. Anything less won't work."

Students have read in magazines that the colleges have lapsed into apathy, she said, and have believed it. The truth is that students have made a difference in the past and can continue to do so. All revolutions and changes have been made by a very few people, she emphasized. Individuals today have more power than ever—if they choose to use it, she added.

"You can swing this next election. It is probably the only election you will ever influence, because the first time people vote they tend to use their brains and really think," she said. "The first vote after women got the suffrage was definitive—women

elected Woodrow Wilson because he promised to keep us out of war."

Within 10 years after their first vote, Mead said, people start voting without thinking. Unless there is a change, she said, students will be no exception. And unless students start thinking about more than their immediate concerns, they won't even do that.

"Most of your elders are more concerned with the morals of the young than if they're getting killed. In the 1950's, all people wanted was a house in the suburbs, four kids and a station wagon to put them in."

Today the danger is not realizing the size of the world's problems and setting priorities high enough, she said. "We're not looking at the things that matter. And we don't have that much time."

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Administration outlines violation procedures

UNL officials met Thursday and decided on the procedure to be used in the case of mass violation of present RHA visitation policy. In attendance at the meeting were representatives from Campus Security and the offices of Housing and Student Affairs.

Also present were UNL Chancellor James Zumberge and UNL Dean of Faculties C. Peter Magrath.

Following the meeting, Ely Meyerson, Interim Executive Dean of Student Affairs, said the procedures are an attempt to follow normal procedures and to maintain as much as possible the rights of students.

"If the number of violators grow too large to be handled by Student Affairs staff, we will ask the Chancellor to appoint hearing officers to hear appeals and cases," he said.

Most hearings for second violations are handled normally by the Student Tribunal. The tribunal is composed of seven students and two faculty members.

Meyerson said the appointment of hearing officers to help handle the second-time violators is not a usurpation of the power of the court.

"This is just to provide extra personnel, a development of resources," he said.

He said the Campus Security Police are on 12-hour alert, but they will not be used to "confront" students.

"Campus Security will only be used in two situations," he said. "They will be used when and if, in the judgment of staff personnel, people or University property is put in danger beyond the staff's control."

"They will also be used if a non-residence hall student is causing problems the staff cannot control and if that person refuses to leave the dormitory."

He also said the campus police would continue in their role as night-watchmen.

It could happen to you . . .

When a student commits a first violation of the current RHA visitation regulations he will be told by a Housing Office staff member that he has committed a violation. His name, address and social security number will then be taken. This information will be given to Ron Gierhan, Student Affairs staff member in charge of discipline.

The student will receive a letter of warning, notifying him that he has committed a violation of University rules. The letter will remind the student that subsequent violations will result in more severe action and urge him to change his behavior.

A carbon copy of the letter will be sent to the student's parents and another will be placed in his discipline file. The student may appeal a warning letter to the Council on Student Life (CSL). CSL may either hear or reject the appeal.

If the student commits a second violation, he will be warned by a staff member that he is making a violation. His name, address and social security number will again be taken and forwarded to Gierhan.

The student will then be sent a letter notifying him that he will be placed on conduct probation. He may either appear before a hearing officer to have his case heard, or be placed upon automatic probation if he chooses not to appear. If the student is placed on conduct probation, he will be sent a letter saying so.

His parents will receive a copy of this letter and another will be placed in his discipline file.

If placed on probation, the student may appeal the decision of the administrator or the hearing officer to CSL. CSL can choose to hear or reject the appeal.

If the student commits a third violation, he will be told by a staff member that he is in violation of the present RHA visitation regulations. His name, address and social security number will be taken. The information will be given to Gierhan.

The student will be sent a notice of charges and the date of his hearing.

A verdict of guilty on the third violation will result in suspension.

The case will be heard by the Student Tribunal or a sub-committee of that court. A recommendation will then be made to the Interim Executive Dean of Student Affairs who will make the final decision.

The student may appeal the decision of the dean to the Faculty Senate Committee on Conduct, Suspension and Dismissal.