

"STILL A LITTLE WORRIED
ABOUT THE FUTURE ..."

THE UNDERGRADUATE



The personality of a University is in many ways a composite reflection of the personalities of its students. In today's Daily Nebraskan staff writer Chris Harper examines the political and social reflections of a few of the University's newest personalities—its freshmen.

The Young man lounged on the Naugahyde couch, puffed on his cigarette and remarked, "I go to

college because I want to get into a professional field and make better money."

A return to the 1960s? Maybe. But he's only one of six pragmatic, job-oriented UNL freshmen students interviewed last week by the Daily Nebraskan.

The ballot box appears to be a more effective tool for change in the minds of these freshmen. And they seem more interested in confronting a textbook than a University administrator.

Why did these freshmen students come to college?

"My relatives have always come to college, so I just wanted to come. I didn't really think about it. I always took it for granted that I would go to college," said Nancy Mohrman, of Fargo, N.D.

The Kappa Kappa Gamma pledge said she believes politics are important but she "hasn't really followed them since I've just become able to vote."

A better job is the reason Kendall Binder, of Pawnee City came to college.

"Nowadays you almost have to have a college education," Binder said. "You have to learn more about what's going on. Most jobs are more complex—you need the college experience."

Another freshman, Kelly Buechler, of Grand Island, said that student demonstrations are useless.

"Protests are not an effective means of change because most people pass them off as a group of rowdy students. No one pays much attention to what

they're saying," Buechler said. "I believe in many of the old American traditions but I also agree that we do need some changes."

Buechler, who is a Sigma Alpha Epsilon pledge, cited the Vietnam War as the most important American issue.

Although another student also cited the war as America's most pressing political issue, most felt the country's economic condition was the most urgent problem.

Marla Norman, a freshman from Ord, termed herself "apathetic and a bit cynical" about politics.

Centennial College freshman, Shiela Boler, 17 of Omaha, said she believes the student protest movement has had some positive affects, but said demonstrators should opt for ballots rather than marches.

One positive result of the student movement has been that young people have won the right to vote, she said. Politicians now must address themselves to youth issues in order to gain students' votes, she added. And other groups, such as the elderly citizens, realize they can protest as a result of the student movement, she said.

Boler, however, was harshly critical of some student activists, who she termed "intellectual moochers."

"Students could be heard better if they did more constructive work in our society. Many older people consider a person's worth by the amount of hard work he does. Many students' original ideas are good but they often evolve into pure rhetoric," Boler said.



Jerry Stehlik



Kris Limbo

Freshmen agree on drugs, abortion

The emphasis was on personal freedom—specifically, personal choice. On questions like abortion, drugs, religion and women's liberation, the answers lie with the individual, according to seven UNL freshmen interviewed last week by the Daily Nebraskan.

"I'll never use drugs but I'm not down on anyone that does," said Arlan Rielmnitz, of Mitchell, S.D.

"I guess it's something that I don't need," he added. "I can do very well without drugs."

The pre-law major said he believes "Everyone has what they feel they need and thus each person should have a choice of what they need."

Carol Egger, of Hickman, said she doesn't need drugs. "I don't use drugs because there are too many other things to get high on. But I don't disapprove of someone that uses drugs," she said. "I don't use drugs because I'm happy with myself. If I wasn't happy, then I'd rather change reality."

Another coed, Lisa Peterson, of Elkhorn, said she doesn't object to use of marijuana, but believes most other drugs are harmful.

"I don't believe there is any physical effect with marijuana—it's only as bad as alcohol," Peterson said.

Marijuana is a "social mechanism," Peterson added. "I don't approve of hard drugs. I think people who use them are crazy."

Jerry Stehlik, of Kearney, urged decriminalization of marijuana.

"It's fine if you want to smoke marijuana," he said. "I've seen no substantial proof that marijuana has negative effects."

However, he said he believes there is sufficient evidence that hard drugs are harmful.

"I can't condemn other people for using hard drugs, but I feel it's not worth it for myself," he added.

Most of the freshmen thought abortion should be a matter of personal choice.

"I'm very liberal about abortion," Rielmnitz said. He cited population growth, deformed and unwanted children as several good reasons for more liberal abortion laws.

But physics major Bill Feay, of Omaha, was rather skeptical. "I can see abortion in certain cases but not in others. It should be up to the parents or individuals whether the abortion is warranted," he said. "I put faith in those individuals but abortions should not be a means to cop-out."

Egger was also skeptical, but contended it was a personal decision.

"I wouldn't approve of abortion in most cases, but it would depend on the circumstances," she said. "It would be much better than bringing kids into homes where they wouldn't be loved."

"I don't approve of it entirely because of the Puritan instinct in me—I guess my mother got something through to me," she added.

Stehlik said he favored legalized abortions. "It should be up to the individual. Abortions should be legalized for health purposes," he said. "Illegal abortions are unsanitary and are not performed by qualified doctors in many cases."

The need for an abortion should be determined by the individual not the state, according to Kris Limbo, of Oakland, and Lincolnite Linda Raymond.

"I couldn't have an abortion myself," said Limbo, "but I can't say it's wrong for other people. Anyone that wants an abortion should be able to have one."

Abortions should be legalized, Raymond agreed.

"I don't think an abortion is good but it's the lesser of

turn to p. 7



Arlam Rielmnitz



Linda Raymond



Lisa Peterson



Bill Feay



Carol Egger