

Greeks, Part 2

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Less than two years ago the UNL Greek system was hit by a bombshell. That bombshell came in the form of a report on discrimination prepared by an associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, which charged the Greek system with overt and covert racism.

At the time, reaction varied from panic to mild surprise. Some feared that the report would spark a witch hunt, purging the fraternities and sororities. Others hoped the report would encourage them to initiate programs to encourage minority participation.

Two years later, neither has happened.

At this time, there are no black fraternity or sorority members. No blacks went through sorority rush this fall. One black went through fraternity rush week, but did not pledge.

On the other hand, minority representation in other areas has increased. Several fraternities and sororities now have members of Chicano or American Indian origin. Even so, the numbers are below what could be expected.

The numbers, however, don't tell the whole story. Currently, no fraternity or sorority has constitutional or bylaw provisions which would deny membership to any minority person.

According to fraternity and sorority advisor Jane Anderson, all UNL fraternities and sororities have cleared away paper obstacles from the minority path to membership. A number of the Greek houses cited in the report have altered membership voting requirements as well, making it more difficult to blackball any potential member.

Formerly, most sororities required alumni recommendation of a student before pledging, which made it difficult for unknown minority students to pledge. This according to Anderson is no longer the case, as only four of the 16 UNL sororities retain such requirements.

Evidently, no formal bars to minority entrance exist.

What does exist, however, are the elements of *de facto* segregation which were also here two years ago.

The segregation exists as an extension of the conservative credo "What never was, never will be." This reactionary attitude is fostered

by the No. 1 student ailment—total apathy.

While no roadblocks to minority Greek membership exist, there has been little effort on the part of the Greeks to change the situation.

The sororities on one hand, recruit no one—WASP or minority. Only those girls who decide on their own to go through rush are included in membership consideration. This, of course, keeps the situation fairly stable—and fairly closed.

Fraternities, on the other hand, actively recruit the entire summer. While some few fraternities did make an effort to recruit minorities, the predominant attitude remained much the same as in the past.

So the situation can be partly blamed on the Greeks.

But not entirely. The road to minority participation is a two-way street.

The minorities themselves, which have at times been noncooperative and racist, have responsibilities no less than those of the Greeks. It is their responsibility to participate in the fraternity and sorority selection processes—to force the Greeks into a decision situation.

Minorities cannot rightfully claim discrimination unless they prove their interest in the Greek houses.

Solving the Greek-minority problem is the responsibility of not one but both sides.

Jim Gray

Joe Sikspak, American, loves a fight

Dear President: I, Joe Sikspak, American, take pen in hand to get it off my chest. Congratulations to you and the Mrs. And Spiro, too.

I stopped by down at Paddy's Place Labor Day night. "Give me a Seven High, Paddy," I says, "and tell me what you think about the upcoming campaign."

"It's going to be a close one, Joe," he says. "But I think Spiro can cop the nomination from Senator Percy and go on to lick Teddy Kennedy."

"I didn't know Teddy was running," says I.

"I'm speaking of 1976, Joe," says Paddy. "That's what all the experts are talking about these days."

"But what about the '72 campaign, Paddy?" says I. "Don't it start on Labor Day?"

"Haven't you been reading the papers, Joe?" says Paddy. "It's all over. The experts have declared Nixon the winner in a landslide. So there's no sense talking about that."

"I'm sorry to hear it's done with, Paddy," says I. "I was looking forward to watching a good fight."

"It would've been a dilly, Joe," says Paddy. "But all in all, I figure we're better off without it."

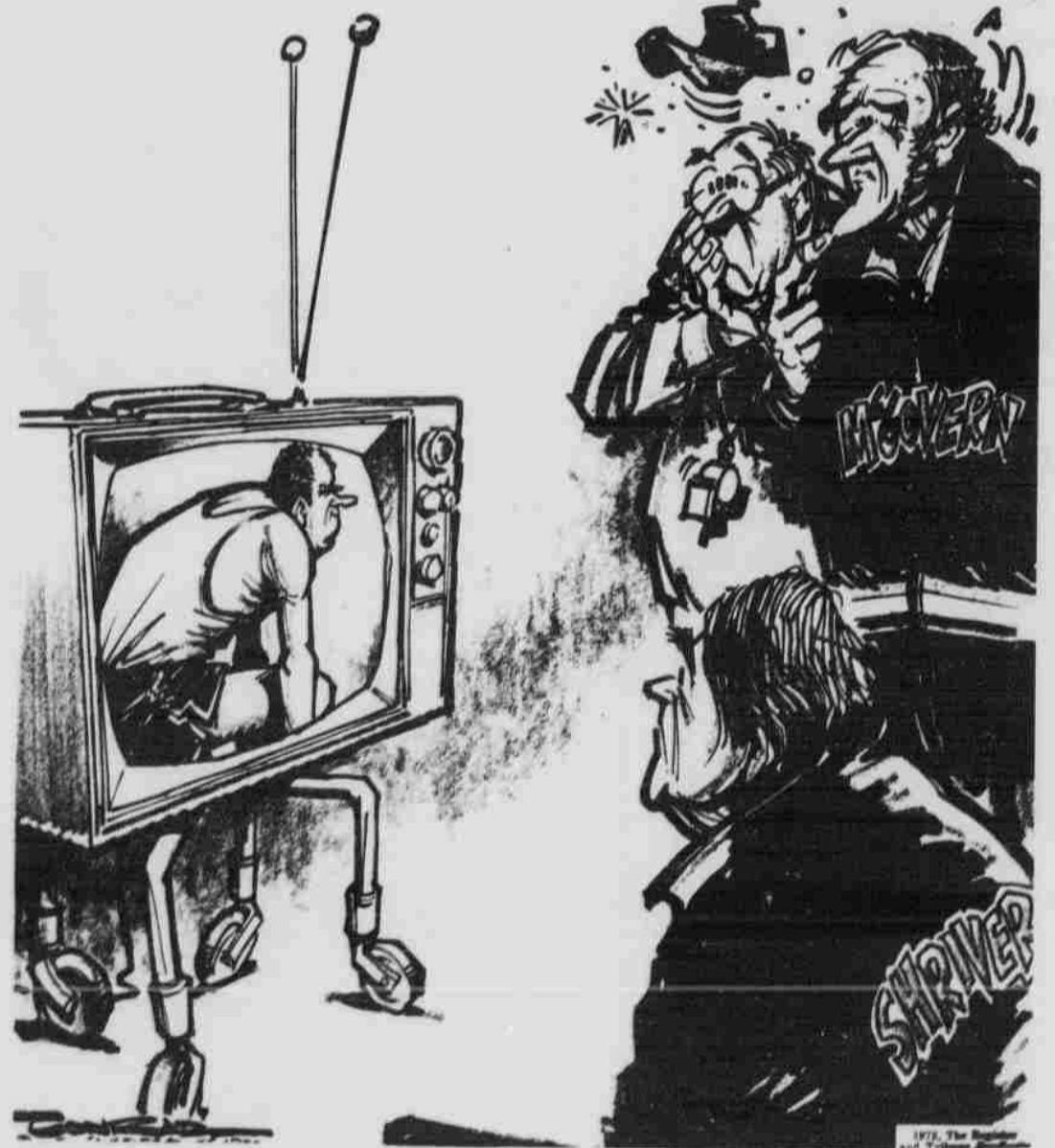
"How do you figure that, Paddy?" says I. "Don't you think old George would've put up a battle?"

"Sure he would, Joe," says Paddy. "He'd of come out swinging. First thing, he'd accuse Nixon of selling favors to his bloated capitalist friends while heartlessly grinding the poor and downtrodden under his iron heel."

"Hit him again, George!" says I.

"He would," says Paddy. "He'd take him on about bugging Democratic headquarters. He'd lay it to him about wire-tapping and the no-knock laws. By October, Joe, you couldn't call Bernie the Bookie without wondering whether Trish was listening in. And you'd lie there sweating in bed at night, waiting for the storm troopers to bust down your door and haul you off to the concentration camp for saying Mrs. Nixon dyed her hair."

"I never said that, Paddy," says I nervously. "But I sure would've voted for old George."



"I didn't know you were soft on Communism, Joe," says Paddy, arching an eyebrow. "Now if there's one thing Nixon would've made perfectly clear it's that wishy-washy, spineless old George wanted to wreck the economy, sap our moral fiber with his welfare schemes and cut the Pentagon budget to leave us defenseless. By October, you'd be wondering which day the Viet Cong was going to march down Main Street, looting our houses, raping our women folk and butchering our beloved dogs and cats."

"Jeez, Paddy," says I. "What about the issues?"

"That's always the issue, Joe," says Paddy. "After every campaign you got to

go into the voting booth and exercise your inalienable right to decide whether you want to live the next four years under a Fascist or Communist dictatorship. That's the very heart of our democratic way of life."

So, like I say, President, I'm real glad the campaign's over and you won the election. Seeing as how you already won, I won't have to vote for you. Or him, neither. And that's sure a load off my back.

Truly Yours,

Joe Sikspak, American

P.S. And I never did say your Mrs. dyed her hair. Honest.

arthur
hoppe
**innocent
bystander**