

Tassel disenchantment mars group rapport

by Debby Fairley

Tassels and Corn Cobs are two separate spirit organizations—Tassels for women, Corn Cobs for men—who often work together on pep rallies, Homecoming and raising support for athletics.

It's a case of separate but not equal, according to many Tassels members.

"They think of us as a ladies auxiliary," said one Tassel. "We help organize, write letters, work in booths, work on committees. They announce the results."

Another felt Tassels were "looked upon as secretaries. It's the old situation of the male ego versus the female ego. We do half the work, but don't always get half the credit."

While not all Tassels feel this way, she said, a sizable—and vocal—faction are getting more and more annoyed with Corn Cob actions.

Football tickets are one sore point.

Corn Cobs were allotted 50 tickets to the Colorado game this year; although there are twice as many Tassels—100—as Corn Cobs, they were given only 20 of 45 requested.

Advance Requests

The reason Corn Cobs received their 50 tickets, said Corn Cob President Jeff Hochster, is that they made their request 10 months in advance. Tassels put in their bid this fall.

Ticket manager Jim Pittenger said both groups were given a block of tickets from the total student allocation because the Athletic Dept. wanted a student pep body at the game. Because of this year's ticket cutback, each group was given only enough tickets for its active members.

Corn Cobs have 33 or 34 actives, according to Hochster.

"We didn't check out their pledge-active totals," said Pittenger. "We took their word for the number they had."

Hochster said that if Tassels were upset at the number of tickets they received, they could negotiate with the ticket office on their own, but that there was no connection between the number of tickets Tassels got and the number received by Corn Cobs.

Extra Cob Tickets

Corn Cobs also get two tickets—theirs and their student date's—in the card section for home games. Tassels (and Corn Cob workers, or pledges,) get one ticket.

There are about 400 seats in the Tassels-Cobs-Kernals block. About 200 go to Kernals, the spirit organization for freshmen men and women, according to Pat Krater, Tassels president. Tassels get about 100, as do Corn Cobs.

The extra 40 or 50 seats allotted to Cobs but not used by them can be bought by members for their dates.

"That's standard policy," Hochster said. "Any member of a fraternity or any other organization can buy a ticket for his date as long as he has her I.D. Tassels haven't done it because up until a week ago, their constitution didn't allow it."

If so, Tassels apparently didn't know about it.

"We have never been given the option of buying extra tickets," Krater said. "We get 100 tickets because we have 100 members."

There is no constitutional rule against a Tassel member buying tickets for her date, she said.

Tassels Not Consulted

Another complaint is that Tassels are not consulted in what should be joint decisions with Corn Cobs. One example was the Bob Devaney recognition dinner during Homecoming.

Most Tassels did not know what gift had been given to Devaney in their name and Corn Cobs until it was reported in the Daily Nebraskan.

Hochster said when the gift has not been chosen by the Wednesday of the week of the dinner, he took it upon himself to find one. He then called his executive board and Krater to tell them of it—a microwave oven.

The oven had been selected after consulting Don Bryant, sports information director, Jim Pittenger, and assistant head coach Tom Osborne. They recommended the oven.

The original gift idea had been a trip to Europe, but Tassels hadn't been too excited about that, said Hochster, so the idea was dropped.

Several Tassels suggested a scholarship in Devaney's name, but according to Hochster, Bryant indicated that there already were so many scholarships that another gift might be more appropriate.

The oven was settled upon and presented to Devaney with Tassels' full consent, Hochster said.

Because of the lack of time, Krater said, Tassels were not able to vote on the gift, so she approved it on the condition that the oven's price and quality be thoroughly checked out.

Since the gift was paid for with ticket money from the dinner, said Hochster, he didn't really see a basis for complaint.

"We have no complaints about Tassels," he said. "The situation is apparently a one-way affair. I think we've had a very successful year."

"Some personality conflicts are unavoidable, but we definitely don't have any animosity toward them. In many cases, I've gone out of my way to help them out. We won't be deaf if the new executive board comes to talk to us."

Cobs faculty adviser Dick Metcalf agreed. "We consider ourselves blameless. I don't think there is really any problem, but if they feel there is one, it isn't our responsibility to try to find out about it."

Tassels elected new officers Tuesday. New president Pam Dickey said she felt there definitely are problems to be worked out but that the situation isn't as bad as some Tassels seem to think.

"There is dissatisfaction and there does need to be more cooperation between the two groups," she said. "We could be doing a better job for the University if we could get these problems talked out right away."



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