

Residence Hall Association 1972-73

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Residence Halls Association has been actively engaged in working to improve the living environment of the residence halls during the 1972-73 school year. This information is presented as evidence of the effectiveness of the Residence Halls Association. With your support of the RHA Elections on Tuesday, March 20, 1973, you can voice your support of this year's actions to the administration and regents. A large turnout at the polls will be very advantageous to our position.

EXTENSION OF GUEST HOURS IN THE RESIDENCE HALLS

The current RHA Guest Hours Policy was formulated near the beginning of the second semester of the 1971-72 school year. At this time the policy was drawn up with an arbitrary six hour limitation as the maximum number of hours for any day of the week. Since that time, we have had a full year to study the effectiveness and adaptability of that policy. The RHA Study Committee on Visitation found that the six hour limitation for every day of the week often worked against the lifestyle which is prevalent in a Residence Hall. Furthermore, the use of the six hour limit was found to undermine several positive aspects of the current policy by creating minor irritations and frustrations among a large portion of the residents.

The committee therefore proposed several minor revisions in the current policy for the purpose of making it more adaptable to life in the residence halls. These modifications include:

1. The use of a 0-12 hour policy on Saturday and Sunday.
2. The use of a 0-8 hour policy on Monday through Friday.
3. The extension of the mandatory end of Guest Hours to 1:00 a.m.

These revisions would make for more effective programming on the weekends by allowing more efficient use of floor lounges on non-class days. The use of the 0-8 hour policy on weekdays would eliminate the dead period between dinner and the beginning of hours.

The Committee also proposed the elimination of the mandatory open door policy in favor of a voluntary policy regarding doors. The report of the committee was accepted as proposed by RHA and HPC. CSL passed the portion of the policy dealing with the extension of hours however it tabled that part dealing with the open doors for action at a later date. It now appears that the extension of guest hours will be brought before the Board of Regents at their April or May meeting for their acceptance or rejection. The committee hopes that the Board will see the need for a more desirable living environment in the Residence Halls if the occupancy rate is to be kept at the present level.

Meanwhile, the question of mandatory open doors remains in process awaiting the decision of the Council on Student Life.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

On your ballot for the RHA election you will be asked to approve the new RHA Constitution. Basically the Constitution is the same, the major change being the definition of representation.

We are now proposing that dorms be allowed to have more than their allotted number of representatives, still allowing them to only cast their established number of votes. Also we will be increasing ASRA to six votes by redefining membership in the Association. Please read the Constitution posted in your hall and if you have any questions please call the RHA Office at 435-2961. We hope you will approve the new Constitution as we feel we have made mainly necessary minor changes which we feel will help us be an even more responsive organization.

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN RESIDENCE HALLS

by The RHA Alcohol Committee
Rocky Massin—Chairman
Sharon Johnson
Glen Murray

More and more campuses across the nation are allowing alcohol to be consumed in their campus living units. Creighton University, in Omaha last fall initiated the consumption of alcohol in their dormitories. In keeping with the objective of working for improved living conditions, RHA created a committee in September to check the possibility of legalizing alcohol consumption in UNL living units. Since the legislature previously determined the minimum age of 19 for alcohol consumption, why then should UNL students 19 and older be deprived of this right because their home is on campus. The committee found that the Board of Regents had the legal power under Nebraska State law to grant this right to UNL. A plan of action was formulated and it was decided that the best way to achieve this right was through "established channels." "It was thought that since we are responsible students, we would go about this in a responsible manner," stated one of the committee members.

The proposal basically provides that, with 85% of the dorm floor residents giving initial approval and with proper registration of the dorm Residence Director (R.D.), alcohol consumption would be legal but only in individual rooms. Alcohol consumption would also be allowed in dorm floor lounges on special occasions, again with 85% approval of the floor residents and with advance registration and permission of the R.D.

The first step the committee initiated was to solicit help from ASUN. By drawing from their experience and knowledge of the overall UNL administration, the committee's forces were strengthened. A survey was administered to all UNL dormitory students to solicit their opinions and ideas. From the results of this survey, a proposal was drawn up and given to Student Affairs and housing for their criticisms. A final proposal was drawn that was "workable" for both the administration and the student body. It then received approval from RHA, ASUN, Housing Policy Committee (HPC), Council of Student Life (CSL), and Interfraternity Council (IFC). It has been endorsed by Housing, Student Affairs, and Chancellor Zumberge. The proposal was tabled at the March 3 Board of Regents meeting and is to be brought up again at the April Regents meeting. The committee has worked long hours to insure the acceptability of this proposal to all concerned. This can be evidenced by the wide spread endorsements it has received. The committee hopes that they are not disappointed in April.

RHA ELECTIONS MARCH 20TH

for President, Vice-president and
Constitution Amendments

To vote simply present your meal ticket
to the voting booth located in your cafeteria
lunch and dinner lines.

From The Housing Office

AN EXPLANATION OF THE CAUSES FOR THE \$80 HOUSING RATE INCREASE AT UNL RESIDENCE HALLS

The Housing Office Staff was engaged in a comprehensive and in-depth study of the operating costs of the housing operations and at the end of two months of analyses and studies, the report made the following conclusion:

The existing housing operation will cost roughly \$535,000 more in 1973/74 than the current 1972/73 budget. This assumes current standards and services with no new programs or staffs. Prorated on a per student basis, this represents an average of \$111 per student more in 1973/74 than in 1972/73.

The major causes for the additional cost of operation are:

1. A projected reduction in income from student payments by roughly \$114,000. This is based on assuming a lower occupancy ratio for 1973/74 than the ratio assumed for 1972/73. With the prospect of a rate increase, occupancy is certainly not expected to improve over current levels.
2. A projected reduction of income from "other" sources by about \$50,000. The housing operation generates income from a variety of sources besides student payments. This includes guest lodging and meals, vending, snack bar sales, other concessions, summer housing operations for institutes, workshops and other programs, property rentals, . . . etc. This is more than \$10.00 per student.
3. An increase in total wages and salaries by an estimated \$113,000 is projected. This was essentially based on the assumption that the new State Classification System Wage Structure will be approved by the legislature and applied as of July 1, 1973. This represents over \$23.00 per student.
4. An increase of \$68,000 in student employee wages is assumed. There are bills in Congress dealing with raising the minimum wage to a variety of figures ranging from \$1.80 per hour to \$2.20 per hour. \$1.80 was assumed to be the projected new minimum. This meant an increase of \$68,000 or \$14.00 per student.
5. Additional security officers for residence halls were hired and for 1973/74 this represents an extra \$28,000 for four full-time security officers. This is just under \$6.00 per student. It should be noted that this \$28,000 represents less than half the total security coverage cost for residence halls.
6. Food cost increase was projected at 9% over current actual levels or an additional \$154,000 in cost. This is almost \$32.00 per student.
7. Other miscellaneous items were projected to increase by \$8,000 or under \$2.00 per student. Included are such things as utilities, insurance, housekeeping supplies, . . . etc.

After these results of the study were carefully analyzed by Housing Staff, the staff was able to cut this \$111 per student rise in cost by \$31.00. This was done by streamlining the operations, cutting down various costs in labor, deleting some positions or wages, reducing food costs, and eliminating some unnecessary services. The balance of the cost increase, namely \$80, was passed on to the student in the form of a housing rate increase by Regents action in the Regents March meeting.

STATEMENT OF REORGANIZATION

Starting with the fall semester of 1973, there will be a Complex Program Director in each complex, composed of 3 halls. This person will be the chief program and administrative officer in the complex. He or she will be responsible for staff development, student development, student government and staff training, to initiate new programs and continue successful program of the past. In addition, he or she will be responsible for the supervision of 3 administrative R.D.s. The administrative people will be expected to spend 75% of their time in their administrative areas such as: contract releases, room changes, supervision of switchboard, mail room, etc. The remaining 25%-50% of their time will be spent in the areas of programming. The specific delegation of the program responsibilities between the program and administrative person will differ in each complex, based upon the needs of the students, and the personalities of the 3 halls comprising each complex. This reorganization in the program and administrative staff reflects a commitment to program endeavors within University Housing. We feel the reorganization will help make the residence halls a more meaningful place for students to reside.