

Visitation battle centered in dorms

By Mark Hoffman

So far, battles about coed visitation at UNL have been waged in dormitories.

Dormitory officials at Harper Hall last week suspended visitation for three days because they believed residents weren't complying with the open door rule by keeping doors open when residents had female guests in their rooms.

Schramm and Smith Hall residents also were warned to keep doors open when entertaining guests of the opposite sex or risk losing visitation hours.

Meanwhile, other university-chartered living units—fraternities, sororities and cooperatives—seem outside the fight for visitation rights.

As university-chartered living units, they are subject to the same rules as any dormitories.

As separate living units without university personnel living in, their visitation policies often are self-imposed.

Where has this semi-autonomy led? Visitation from house to house varies. In checking with seven fraternities, four sororities, and five cooperatives, the Daily Nebraskan found a wide range of policies from never allowing guests of the opposite sex into individual rooms to what amounts to 24-hour visitation.

Pioneer House, a UNL cooperative, is advertising "no visitation policy" in the hand-printed brochures it's distributing this year.

UNL's visitation policy allows six hours of visitation during the week between noon and 12:30 a.m. and 12 hours of visitation on Saturdays during the same hours.

Rusty Reno, president of the Brown Palace cooperative, said, "We don't have a visitation policy. (We) leave it up to the individual member."

Officers of the Brown Palace and Pioneer House cooperatives said they developed their own visitation policy

because they were basically on their own.

They said they have had to fight vacancy problems because UNL does not widely publicize the existence of cooperatives. Officers said they felt that the UNL housing office staff first worries about filling dormitories and then cooperatives.

Randy Rasmussen, Pioneer House secretary, described the freedom of the cooperatives visitation policies as more relaxing. "You don't feel like Big Brother is watching over you."

Rich Wall, pledge trainer at Sigma Nu, said his fraternity's official visitation hours are from 6 to 12 p.m. during the week and 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. on weekends.

But "(I) can't guarantee we follow that," he said.

Some fraternities officially have six hours of visitation during the evening but allow female guests in individual rooms during the afternoons.

Other fraternities have more limited visitation.

Farmhouse allows visitation for three hours on Friday and Saturday night, and on Sunday afternoon and evening.

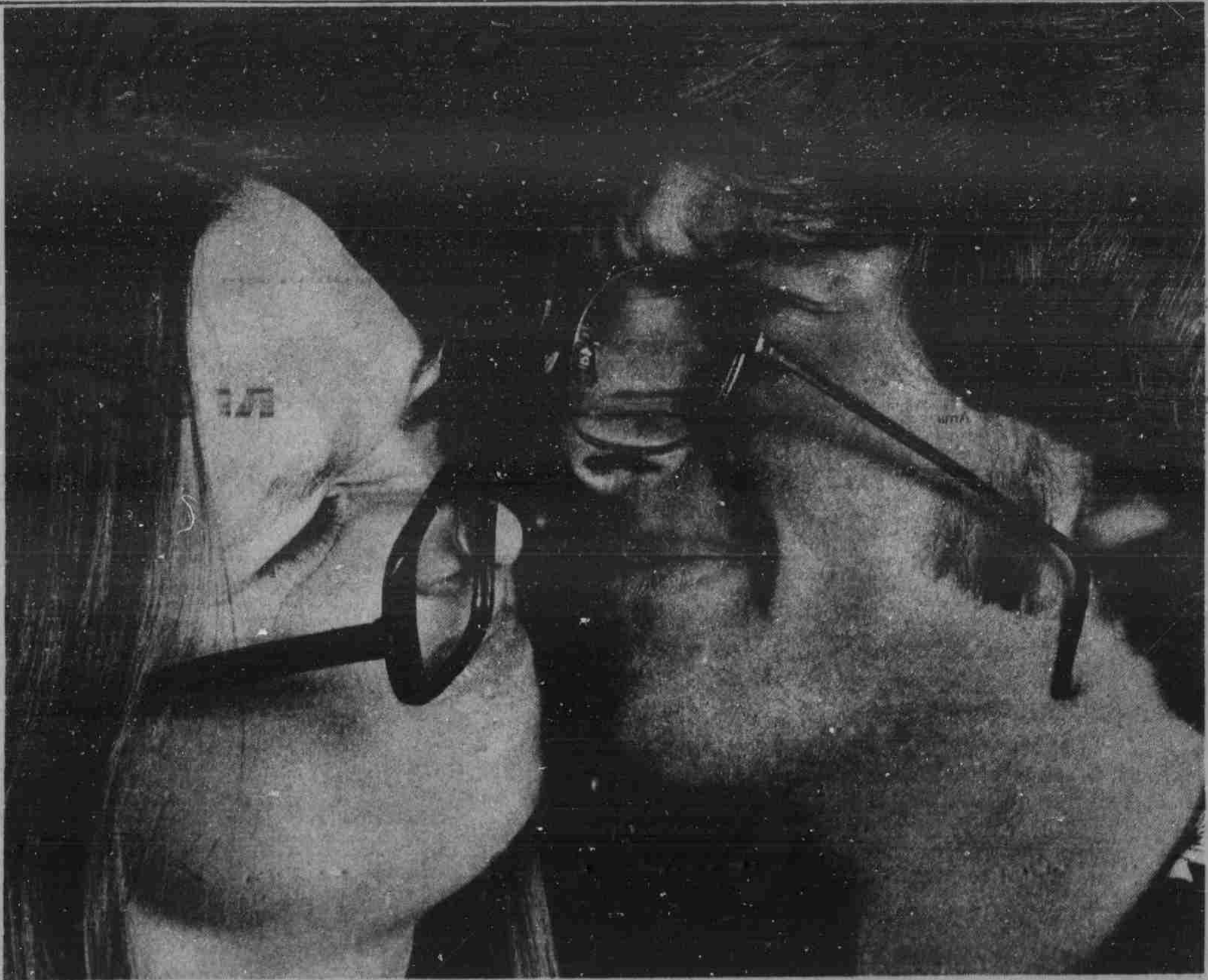
According to visitation policy statements filed with the Interfraternity Council (IFC), Farmhouse also has one of the most severe penalties for visitation violators—fines up to \$25.

Of campus living units, sororities have some of the most limited visitation and the most severe fines.

Alpha Delta Pi has open house on Sunday, and allows visitation in its television-recreation room until 2 a.m. during the week, according to president Kathy Shorney.

Violators are fined \$50 and social privileges are taken away.

Kappa Delta sorority does not allow men in individual rooms, according to vice president Donna Stone.



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