

8th floor Harper— academics come first

By Mary Shackleton

"We might be smart, but we can't play basketball."

That's how one resident of 8th floor Harper Hall describes himself and his floormates.

Harper 8's unique quality originated during the 1967 second semester. Harper's top four floors were vacant, so "a bunch of study-hard guys" decided to move up to 8th floor, according to 8th floor member John Petersen.

Every year since then, 8th floor residents have sent letters to regents scholarship winners inviting them to live on 8th floor.

The letters describe the floor's advantages: "an atmosphere conducive to learning, a small library, a strong sense of community spirit, a definite interest in learning and a dedication to free thought and individual rights," in addition to

cards, chess and Ping-Pong tournaments, pizza parties, informal rap sessions and intramural sports—including basketball.

The Harper 8 environment has been well received by its 53 residents.

"I wouldn't live on any other dorm floor," said Petersen, a sophomore chemistry major. "We have the highest return rate of any floor."

Quietness is one of the floor's trademarks.

Student assistant John Wiltse said the floor's personality matches his "noise bugaboo."

"These guys are able to do the same kinds of activities quieter than guys on other floors," he said.

Wiltse said floor policy and government are organized so floor residents "go their own way" and don't need him. Wiltse said he tried to get away from the social programming aspects of being a student

assistant.

Petersen said that sometimes the floor is so quiet, the only audible sounds are from the ventilators.

"People think we have quiet hours all the time," said Ed Furman, a junior majoring in electrical engineering.

Floor members' grade point averages are what one might expect of scholarship winners. Last semester, seven persons got 4.0s, Furman said. Many others were close, he added.

While grades on 8th floor are normally high, grade point averages usually improve when they move to the floor, according to Bruce Harms, a junior in pre-med. He cited an example of a student who lived in Abel and had one of the highest averages on his floor—a 2.6. He got a 4.0 the semester after he moved to 8th floor Harper.

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ASUN First Vice President Mark Hoeger (left) and mass meeting moderator John O'Shea.

Rent strike urged at ASUN meeting

By Susanne Schafer

The multitude numbered fewer than 100 persons at ASUN's "mass" meeting Wednesday evening, but the suggestions students made to the senators present were numerous.

"Rent strike" was the most repeated phrase supported by speakers near the close of the meeting, which was an informal session called by the ASUN Senate to test the waters of student opinion on campus alcohol and visitation policies.

Speakers supported actions ranging from residence hall walk-outs to strict enforcement of current housing policies.

"Amorous disobedience" was proposed by part-time student Ron Kurtenbach as a means of confronting the visitation and open door regulations in residence halls.

Students' opinions broke down to two factions, either supporting some type of mass violation or some kind of court or legislative action.

Ron Clingenpeel opposed mass violations because he said it might jeopardize the suit which the Residence Hall Assoc. and ASUN have brought against the Board of Regents over housing issues.

"Mass action is the answer," interjected Mark Hoeger, ASUN first vice president. He told the gathering that State Sen. Terry Carpenter of Scottsbluff told him that "if students fill the galleries (of the Legislature) the day of the vote on the alcohol bill, there would be some chance of it passing."

A number of students insisted that "money is the only thing the Regents understand" and until students in the residence halls move out en masse, hold back their rent payments or suggest to incoming freshmen that they not live in the halls, policy will not change.

The Differentiated Housing Proposal, submitted to the Council on Student Life by one of its subcommittees, received strong support from a number of speakers. The proposal suggests that halls be allowed to independently determine their own visitation and alcohol policies.

A final informal motion was made by John Wiltse, who suggested that the ASUN Senate look into the possibility of organizing a rent strike on the part of residence hall residents, support visiting and writing state senators, and support the Differentiated Housing Proposal.

Large fraternity may return; absent since Depression

By Mark Hoffman

After a 35-year absence, a chapter of one of the largest national fraternities might return to UNL.

Two staff members of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity are on campus this week contacting UNL students interested in establishing a chapter.

Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity was a UNL fraternity from 1921 to 1939, but the Depression caused it to close, said Gary Tiller, national director of expansion for the fraternity.

Students dropping out of school for financial reasons and to fight in World War II contributed to many fraternities closing then, he said.

The fraternity ranks second nationally in number of chapters and colonies, and fifth in the total number of initiated members with 125,000 students, Tiller said. Only Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity has more chapters and colonies.

He said the Lambda Chi Alpha national office, with headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind., has been interested in reestablishing a UNL chapter since 1955 and was invited back by UNL officials last year to try.

Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity is interested in UNL because of its earlier association with the campus and because of the strength of the Greek system at UNL, Tiller said.

According to Jayne Anderson, UNL coordinator of fraternities, sororities and cooperatives, fraternity and sorority

membership at UNL has not declined in recent years. She said in the late 1960s membership reached a plateau and since has continued to increase.

Tiller and Denney Jorgensen, who is Lambda Chi Alpha national director of chapter services, are contacting students who expressed interest in joining the fraternity after answering letters sent in January by the national office.

If enough students are interested, Tiller said, Jorgensen and he would apply to the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and then to the Board of Regents for a charter.

If the charter is granted, a colony will be established, Tiller said. The colony will be recognized as a chapter after it has met certain standards.

Those standards include sufficient membership, financial stability and the creation of governing bylaws and an advisory board, Tiller said.

By Wednesday about 30 prospective members had been contacted, he said. Tiller said he was optimistic about establishing a chapter at UNL by next year.

"It's not easy (to form a new chapter) . . . when you have an established Greek system at a college, but easier than when the Greek system is faltering," and most students are not interested, he said.

Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity has chapters at UNO, and at all Big 8 schools except UNL and Colorado University.



John Wiltse (above) suggested organizing a rent strike at the ASUN mass meeting Wednesday.