

Amnesty in order

The amnesty issue, as it relates to men who left the country rather than serve in the armed forces during the Vietnam war, provokes a great deal of emotion, especially in those against it.

It's particularly difficult for friends and relatives of those who died in Southeast Asia or returned crippled and maimed to accept the idea of amnesty, and it's hard to fault them for their views. But amnesty is nonetheless in order.

One of the groups whose opposition is both predictable and opprobrious is the military.

In recent years, some Pentagon reports have been notable for their gross inaccuracies. A likely candidate for this category is a recent study that indicates that the great majority of individuals refused to serve "for reasons that soldiers have deserted throughout history." These include personal, family or financial reasons, but not, according to the report, opposition to the war.

Another Pentagon investigation of deserters in foreign countries between 1966 and 1973 showed that 46% had no established motivation. Of the others, only 3.6% had established objections to the Vietnam war, the report said.

The Pentagon pushers contend that amnesty would set a dangerous precedent and would be detrimental to morale and discipline. But in an all-volunteer army?

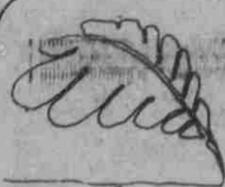
In a recent poll, 45% to 43% plurality of Americans said they favor amnesty if those affected would be required to work two years in some form of national service other than the military. Such an attitude, while not the most desirable, is somewhat heartening.

Perhaps some of the "My country, right or wrong" factions have come to realize that the United States' meddling in Southeast Asian affairs was a mistake and that no one should now be made to suffer for it. Some of the bravest men involved in the conflict are likely many of those who left family, friends and country—and went to Canada.

Mary Voboril



"Bless you, Patricia Hearst, and these thy gifts..."



to the editor

Letters appear in the Daily Nebraskan at the editor's discretion. A letter's appearance is based on its timeliness, originality, coherence and interest. All letters must be accompanied by the writer's true name, but may be submitted for publication under a pen name or initials. Use of such letters will be determined by the editor. Brevity is encouraged. All letters are subject to condensation and editing.

Dorm dilemma

Dear editor,

I've sent the following letter to the UNL housing director:

Dear Sirs,

This is to let you know that I will not be renewing my housing contract for next year.

You may ask, why take the trouble to write a letter? I just thought I might save you a precious 10 cents for sending out a questionnaire to find out why I left.

At present, I live in Selleck Quadrangle, which has neither carpeted halls, elevators or good food (I've lost weight this semester by eating here and I've held the loss down only by snacking in between meal hours), or nearby recreation areas. I've lived here for two years now, solely because I've felt Selleck was the only residence hall that had a friendly, more personal atmosphere.

Now I hear the regents don't want to spend much money to improve Selleck. It is said that if occupancy continues to drop, Selleck will be the first hall closed and turned into an office building. Too bad.

Of course, this is not my only reason for leaving. I have others. Among them:

—The price. I just can no longer afford to live in a residence hall. We now pay about \$125-plus a month for eight months of residence, and now you are asking for a rate increase! This price, by the way, is for a double room. Where do you spend it? On water, heat, electricity (considering all the measures we had to take to conserve energy, it couldn't be there), clean linen, recreation, food (impossible, considering the fact that Selleck started using TVP, dubbed "Tender Vittles By-products" by residents, to save money and also cut the size and content of most of the main dishes in half), unnecessary paperwork or an overpopulated staff? This last summer I lived in a 4-room apartment that cost us each about \$50 a month. With groceries and washing, we lived there for \$100 a month at the most. Then friends thought we were spending too much for a furnished 5-room apartment.

—Rights. Both the state and national constitutions say I have certain rights as an adult citizen of this country and state (I am 19 years old). I do not recall signing away these rights when I signed my housing contract. The Residence Hall Assoc. guest hours sign-up was enough when I signed my housing contract. Now Selleck has suddenly, without consultation, decided to implement a new plan where the person signing up has to take control of the floor and hand in detailed reports as to who was naughty and who was good. I am going to a state university, not a state penitentiary or a military school. I do not like being awakened in the middle of the night so the person on duty can do his job by checking on reports from unknown sources that there are women in my room after hours. Neither do I like being asked if my roommate has violated the rules. If he has, it's his business, not mine.

I will return, of course, when you acknowledge that as an adult citizen I do have guaranteed rights under both constitutions, whether I live in the residence hall or my home. Therefore I don't expect to return. I do expect you to write a rebuttle or make a statement saying I am wrong. I do expect you to tear down my arguments and my mental capacity. I've come to expect this from you, directors, regents, some senators, and almost all of the officials of this University. They all seem to eager to leap on the complainer saying he is wrong or something is wrong with him.

Just once I'd like to see them stop and notice that something might be terribly wrong with their thinking or their policies and actually listen to the complaints, thereby taking action to correct them.

Duane Schleusener

More money?

Dear editor,

There has been a lot of criticism directed at ASUN this year for its ineffectiveness, incorrectly organized representatives, and assorted other problems. There is another student representative organization on campus that has not received as much criticism but that is probably because it is not so well known organization. I am referring to the Residence Hall Assoc. (RHA).

Ask yourself what you know about RHA. What have they done? Having trouble? Let me tell you about the two main things that RHA has done this year. They have rented refrigerators to students, which in my opinion is a very useful service. The other major accomplishment is jointly filing a law suit against the University contesting the constitutionality of alcohol and visitation restrictions. Mainly this is what RHA has accomplished this past year. Before I tell you what I think RHA can do, a few more facts should be presented.

Presently \$7 of the \$1,020 (or 1,320) that you pay for room and board returns to each residence hall government, to use as they see fit. Upcoming is a rate increase of an undetermined amount. There is nothing we can do about that increase, it will happen no matter what. As usual, that rate increase is only to cover the cost of inflation in our economy. There will be no new services, etc. started with this extra money.

I feel that there is a way to get something for us out of that rate increase. That is to add another \$3 to whatever amount the Housing Office dictates. Now don't get alarmed over another \$3; let's look at what another \$3 can do. First, that \$3 will be split up two ways. One is an additional 50 cents going to hall government. The other is for the other \$2.50 to go directly to RHA. You may be asking yourself what RHA would do with a \$10,000 to \$15,000 budget. I will now explain.

With this amount of money RHA can create an effective lobbying group that would work jointly with a similar ASUN lobbying group. The student lobbying group in California spends \$50,000. We can't come close to this, but it is necessary to have a substantial budget for effective lobbying. Another part of RHA's budget could be spent on physical improvements that the Housing Office usually balks at as it takes too long to approve it. Physical improvements along the line of microwave ovens, weight machines, etc., whatever the students recognize a need for. Communication could also be improved, but it would take some money for paper, print, etc. There are many other things that a \$10,000 to \$15,000 budget could be used for. Lawyers and accountants are possibilities. RHA would be responsible for accounting for the use of this money and taking the initiative to report that to the students. But communication from the residents would be necessary so that the money was spent to everybody's satisfaction.

The above are all possibilities if RHA had that large of a budget, if the additional \$3 was approved. But that \$3 must be approved by you. It would take a referendum, possibly a petition, with two-thirds of the present residence hall residents approving of this additional \$3.

Now that you have been presented with the facts and justification behind this proposal, what is your opinion? Places to express your opinion is your hall government, RHA or even to myself (203 Schramm.) This is a chance to improve RHA to a level that will make it a more effective organization representing the residence halls and making them a better place to live.

Tim Evensen