

TKE men in dorm triggers opposition

By Ivy Harper

The handling of a recent decision allowing fraternity men to move into a residence hall has triggered strong reaction among those involved.

Fifteen members of Tau Kappa Epsilon have contracted with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Housing Office for eight rooms in the basement of Heppner Hall for one year. Heppner facilitates the Centennial Education Program.

Nelson Potter, Senior Fellow at Centennial, said he was never notified of the decision officially or unofficially.

Such a move, he said, affects the Centennial community because of the proximity of the eight rooms to their work areas.

Potter said that Centennial had no specific plans for the eight rooms but that some Centennial students are now being denied requests to have rooms by themselves.

In the past, the rooms had been used by Centennial students but when resident enrollment dropped last year the rooms were closed.

Schuyler Houser, Fellow at Centennial, said, "This has come as a complete surprise to us. We hope to work more closely with the Housing Authority in the future."

Richard Armstrong, director of housing, said that he agrees with Potter and Houser that courtesy was violated and that they should have been notified.

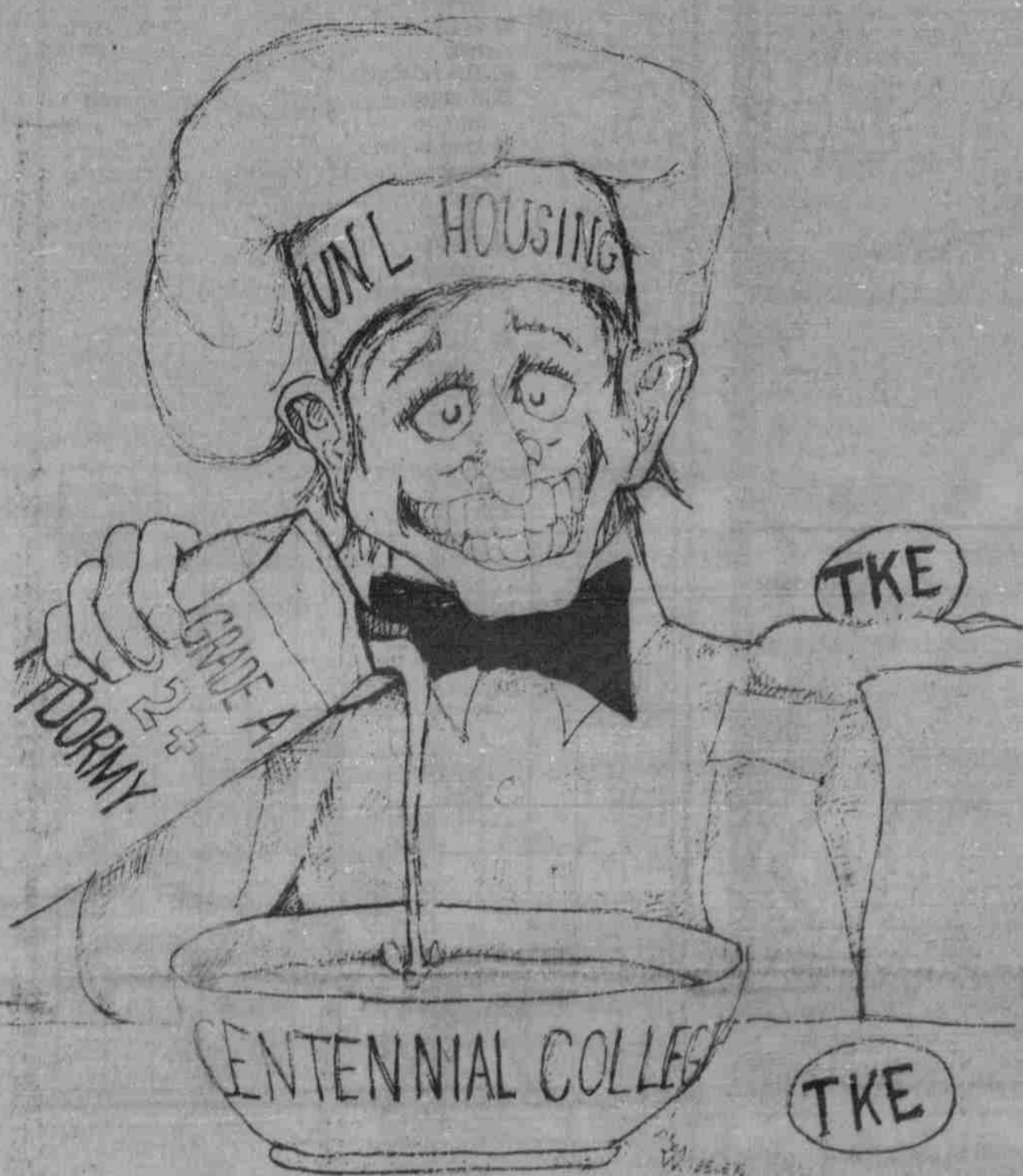
Armstrong said the decision was arranged while he was on vacation but that Associate Director, Fawzi Hermes, "made every attempt to contact them."

Hermes said that he tried to contact Houser and Potter but that they were not in Lincoln this summer. He said that by the time the decision needed to be made, it was impossible to let them know ahead of time.

The TKE house at 425 University Terrace can house 36 persons but the fraternity is trying to expand, President Jim Robinson said.

Hermes said he was approached by the TKE's early this summer through their Board of Trustees, and asked if they had any available housing. At that time, he said, he had planned to move them into Raymond Hall, but when it became apparent that it would be filled, he offered them Selleck quadrangle or the basement of Heppner.

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Indian students boycott Minority Affairs Office

Sparked by the resignation of Indian counselor Karen Buller in late May, UNL Indian students have begun a boycott of the Minority Affairs Office and have given the UNL administration a list of demands.

If those demands are not met satisfactorily, Indian students said at a news conference last week, they will ask the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to investigate discriminatory practices here. A court injunction also may be sought to stop all federal funds coming to UNL, they said.

It was undetermined just how extensive the boycott of Minority Affairs is, but it has resulted in Indian students refusing to take part in selecting a replacement for Buller. Minority Affairs Director Jimmi Smith said all services provided by Minority Affairs are available to all minority students.

Rick Williams, spokesman for the UNL Council of American Indian Students, said these demands are:

—A more extensive recruiting program for Indian students. Williams said only four trips were made last year by a Minority Affairs counselor and from four to six Indian students recruited this year.

—Establishment of an Indian cultural center housing a library, art exhibits and artifacts. It also would have space for Indian students to meet socially and listen to native music.

—More progress on an Indian Studies Program which would allow students to receive a major in that area.

—Removal of the Indian Counselor from Minority Affairs to a yet-to-be-created Indian Affairs Office directly under Vice Chancellor Ken Bader.

—Removal of the probation period given to

Buller from her record.

Buller's resignation followed an evaluation of her by Joe Renteria, coordinator of Special Services for Minority Affairs.

The evaluation resulted in Buller being placed on professional probation for six months. She was given the probation period, Renteria said, to improve some professional aspects of her work. He said it was not a disciplinary probation.

Mrs. Buller said she could not do her job as an Indian Counselor if she worked under the conditions recommended by Renteria. She offered her resignation in late May to be effective Sept. 1.

Williams called the resignation "the straw that broke the camel's back." He said it was one more instance of discrimination against Indians and that Buller lost her job because "she wasn't conforming to white standards."

He said the demands were part of an effort to attract Indian students to UNL. He said Indian students now are being alienated and Minority Affairs has become "a dying program to Indian students." Minority Affairs offers counseling, tutoring and cultural programming for minority students.

Bader responded to the demands in a letter dated July 15. Williams said the only thing substantial in the letter was that Bader agreed there was a lack of communication between the administration and Indian students. Ely Meyerson, dean of student development, said of the letter: "The more specific the request, the more specific the reply was." Bader was on vacation and could not be reached.

One of the problems Smith is facing, he said, is that he is not sure of exactly what the complaints are. Meetings of Indian students, Minority Affairs and UNL administrators and a consultant-mediator from the community

relation service of the Justice Department have been held to clarify positions.

The last meeting held Wednesday resulted in UNL officials refusing to use a federal mediator in negotiations between Indian students and the administration. Smith called the step "premature" and said all avenues of communication between the two had not been used.

Indian students responded by saying that unless requests are answered satisfactorily they will send a letter to HEW Sept. 1 asking for an investigation into discriminatory practices at UNL.



Rick Williams, Council of American Indian Students spokesman.