

Down with ship . . .

Continued from Page 4

there's not enough pillows and blankets to go around, and the dinners all taste like the lunches which all taste like the breakfasts which all taste like boiled Styrofoam. And you can't sleep because of the one big worry on your mind."

"What's that?" says I.

"Will there be anybody there to meet you when you land?" says Paddy.

So, president, I figure you could sell this Doomsday Plane to Lee Iacocca or somebody who needs it. Us citizens would feel a lot safer knowing you and us were all in the same boat.

In the end, I got to agree with Paddy. "A captain," Paddy says, "ought to go down with his planet."

Truly Yours,
Joe Sikspak, American

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letter to the editor

Abuse goes on

I am indebted to Justin West for his letter of Nov. 20 criticizing my comments concerning the UNL alcohol policy. Mr. West superbly exemplified the knee-jerk "Law 'n' order" opposition that any attempt to pass a rational alcohol policy must overcome. Unfortunately, to hold his position one must blithely ignore what the philosophers affectionately call reality.

Mr. West states: "The number one fact of the matter is that Nebraska State Law allows no one under the age of 20 to consume alcoholic beverages." However, he fails to consider that neither the NU Board of Regents nor the Unicameral - or, for that matter, God Above - can effectively stand between Man and The Bottle. Consider these results of a survey taken last spring in the residence halls:

- 84.3 percent of respondents aged 18 or under drink in the dorms.
- 38.6 percent of them do so once per week or more.
- 91.6 percent of them drink off campus.
- 33.7 percent of them do so once per week or more.
- 60.2 percent of respondents aged 18 or under drink once per week or more.

Furthermore: in analyzing the survey I used three different criteria for alcohol abuse. The lowest of the

three values (reported memory blackouts) indicated that 22.9 percent of the respondents have alcohol problems. Other values for other criteria are 27 and 53.6 percent. A breakdown of these figures by age suggests that persons 18 and under are significantly more likely to abuse alcohol than older persons.

Neither the mandate of the deified Unicameral nor the policy of the Board of Regents seems to be countering frequent drinking and epidemic alcohol abuse in the dorms. This should come as no surprise; the 18th Amendment and the Volstead Act were equally successful.

A rational, if less fiercely legalistic policy might be effective in combating this frightening trend; certainly, most reasonable persons would acknowledge that the failure of the present policy warrants trying a new one.

Bill Flack, Chair
RHA Ad Hoc Committee
on Alcohol Policy Reform

daily nebraskan

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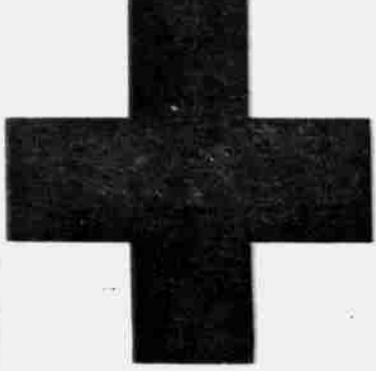
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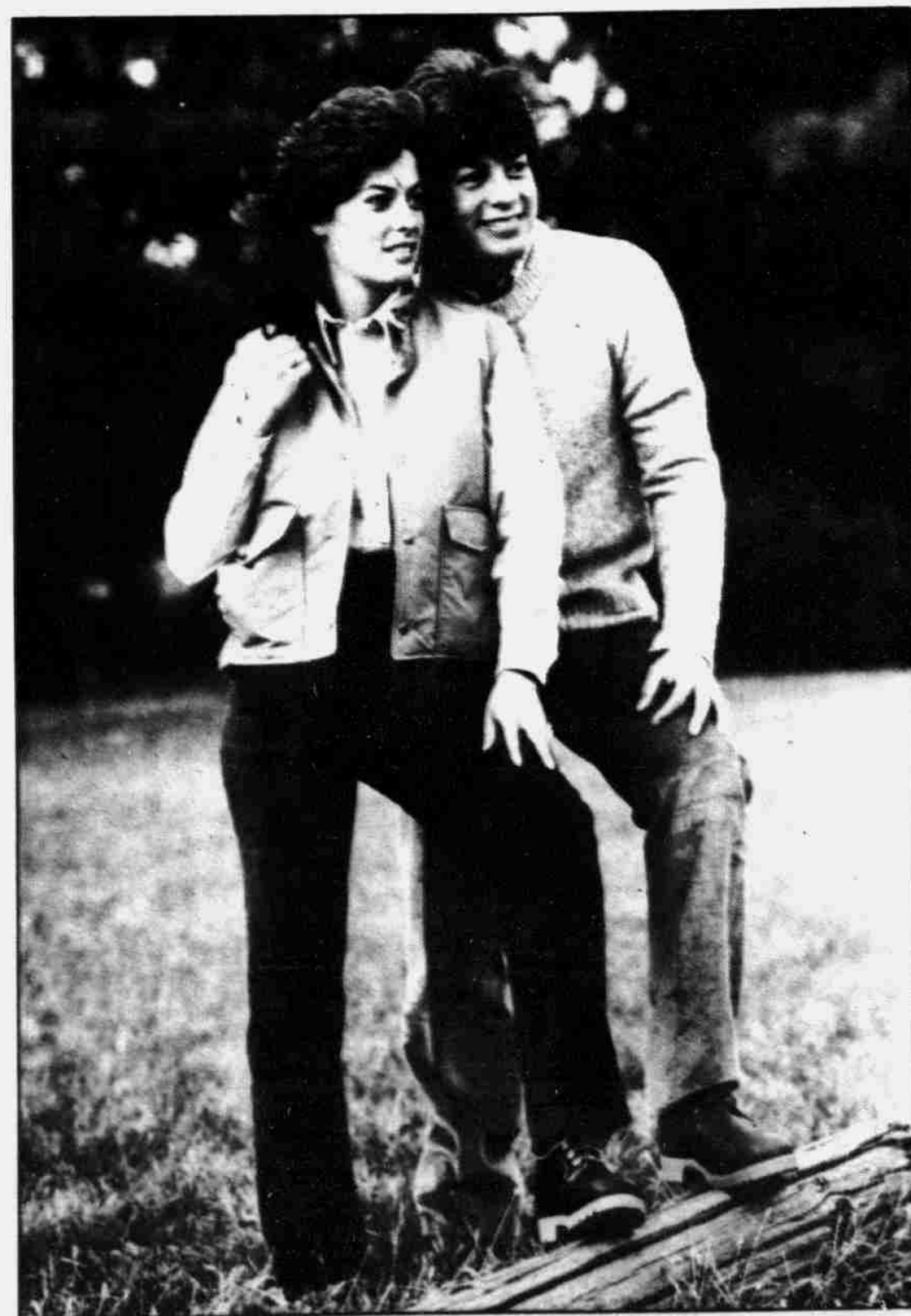
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