

Daily Nebraskan

Tuesday, February 21, 1984

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 83 No. 104

"Fraternalities can mean many things to many people. They can mean academic benefits, varied social life, personal involvement with others, chances to develop personal and group leadership capabilities, the opportunity to make friends for a lifetime or a balanced combination of all these elements.

A fraternity is much more than simply a place to live. A fraternity is a way of life..."

— "Fraternalities: Pride Through Excellence"
brochure compiled by UNL Interfraternity Council

Men find fraternity life satisfying, disillusioning

By Mona Z. Koppelman

Since the UNL Greek system was organized nearly a century ago, thousands of men have had satisfying careers as members of fraternities. But every year some men choose to leave the system.

Some men leave because of monetary difficulties. Some find they don't have the time to be fully-committed members. Some choose other lifestyles: off-campus living, marriage or career instead of continued college education.

Some are forced to leave because they refuse to conform to rules and rule changes established by their national and international organizations.

Some leave because of disillusionment with the fraternity system.

Dissatisfaction with the UNL Greek system seems to stem from a number of problem areas, including competition, isolation and treatment of pledges. Descriptions of fraternity life by former and current members — their personal views on the successes and failures of the system — may indicate the future of fraternal living at UNL.

About 2,600 UNL men are fraternity members. Greek men make up 10 percent of the total 23,397 students.

There are 27 fraternities on campus, ranging in size from 40 to 100 members. Houses have living capacities of 35 to 95 men.

This fraternity system is typical of fraternities on every campus. But in some ways, it is unusual. Jayne Wade Anderson, director of Greek Affairs and Co-ops, said her office refers to fraternities as living/learning units, while other universities refer to fraternities as "activities."

Healthy relationship

"We differ in approach," Anderson said. "There is a

very supportive, appreciative, healthy relationship between the university and Greek system."

Anderson serves as liaison between UNL and Greek units, including their alumni organizations, advisory boards and the Interfraternity Council. The Board of Regents organized the IFC in 1905.

The IFC is comprised of fraternity presidents and alumni members. The IFC makes policies dealing with issues like alcohol use during rush activities. The IFC also plays a major role in recruiting high school seniors. An IFC brochure lists the following advantages to fraternity membership:

- College offers the opportunity to learn. The Greek system provides the motivation.
- College life offers the benefits of the community. Greek life involves you in it.
- College life offers a room. Greek life offers a home.

Opinions vary widely about these "advantages."

Motivation to learn

The IFC brochure cites studies indicating that scholarship is the primary motive for joining the Greek system. The studies also found that Greeks are more likely to complete a college education than non-Greeks and that "a majority of the successful businessmen in America are fraternity men."

Good grades leading to successful careers motivate men to join fraternities. ASUN president Matt Wallace, Sigma Alpha Epsilon member, said the Greek system was UNL's major attraction for him.

"I was impressed by how successful fraternity

members were," Wallace said. "Each house showed me alums that were working in prestigious business firms, lawyers, dentists, doctors — it seemed like a very successful environment."

Steve Blum, Lambda Chi Alpha member, said many houses enforce mandatory study hours for pledges and quiet hours in the house. He said it is important to be a good role model for incoming freshmen pledges.

"I really try to push the books," Blum said. "Everyone comes out of high school thinking they're half-way smart. High school is such a breeze. Then freshmen will get 2.5s and just be shocked. Grades are so important. I don't want associates to get down right away."

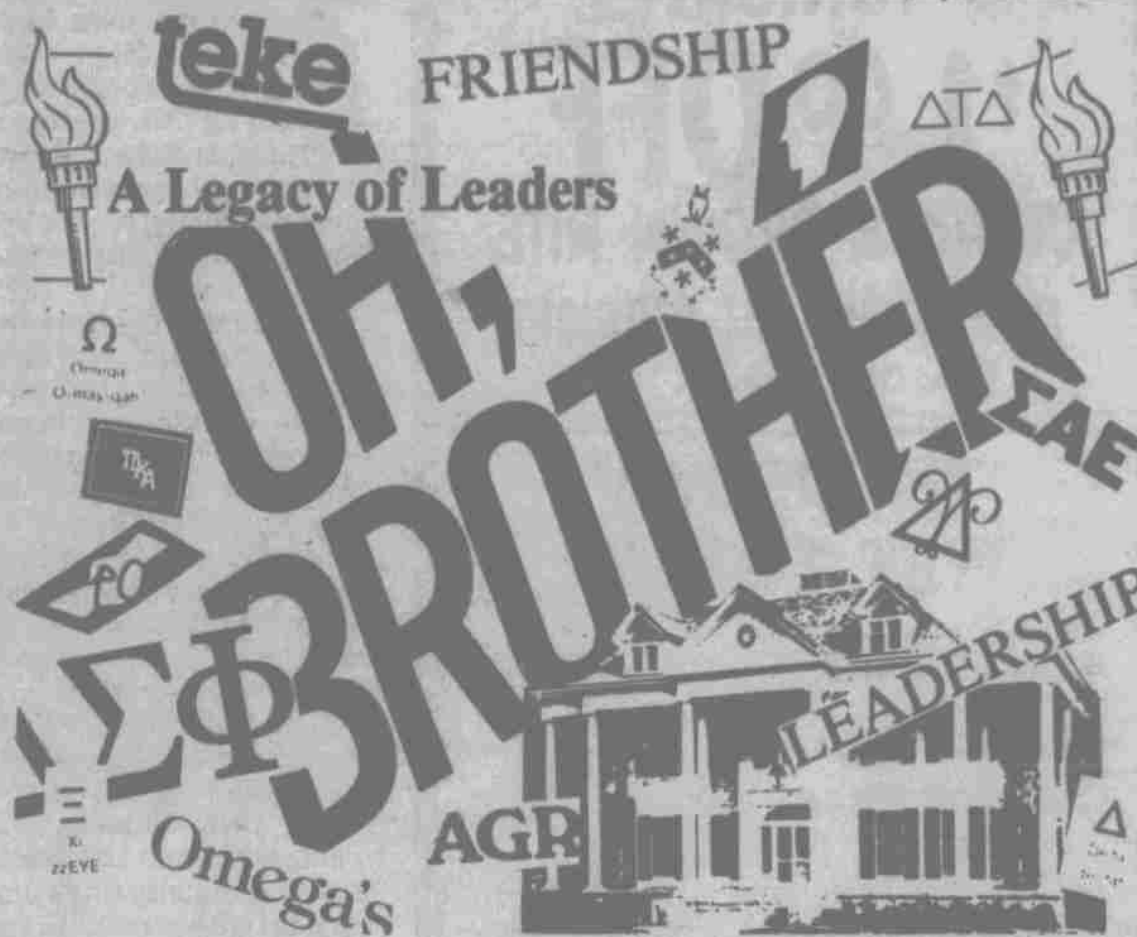
Jon Stick, a sophomore majoring in history and English, left the Kappa Sigma fraternity in October. Stick said enforcement of study hours is "a joke."

"It's like saying we have a 55-mile-an-hour speed limit — unless you're in a hurry," Stick said. "I firmly believe that had I stayed in the fraternity, my first semester grades would have suffered."

Steve Henning, Delta Upsilon member, said his GPA depresses him sometimes.

"I'm involved in 13 activities, and I'm in leadership positions in all of them," Henning said. "But I don't feel I'd be getting any better grades if I wasn't in those activities. I manage my time better. And I still have time to go drinking Friday and Saturday nights."

Continued on Page 7



Lou Anne Zacek/Daily Nebraskan

Debilitating effects of drink discussed

By Jay Mulligan

Alcohol, machismo and sex were all discussed Monday night as part of Alpha Tau Omega and Delta Delta Delta's Week on the Wagon. Dr. Clayton Rivers, professor of psychology, spoke to members of both houses about the effects of alcohol on college students.

"You arrive at the pearly gates of academia right at the height of adolescence," Rivers said. As a result, students must learn how to control their use of alcohol as well as gain an understanding of the effects of alcohol, he said.

"Although many college students believe that alcohol is a maker of manhood, you should never equate the use of heavy alcohol to manhood," Rivers said.

Rivers said a university study showed that females are disenchanted by men who are heavy drinkers, which disproves a long-standing belief.

"Sex drive is often impaired after the use of alcohol," Rivers said, "despite what many people may think."

"At one or two drinks, promiscuity is increased, but after too many drinks males can suffer from 'yeastmans droop,'" he said. Chronic alcoholism can result in recurring impotency, he added.

The female sex drive can also be affected by increased alcohol use, Rivers said. "Studies show that after women consume excessive amounts of alcohol, many believe they are more sexually aroused when actually, they are less aroused than they would be if they hadn't drunk at all," he said.

Continued on Page 7



Dave Trouba/Daily Nebraskan

Dr. Clayton T. Rivers

Tuesday

Inside

• UNL College Young Democrats call for the defeat of Ronald Reagan in a guest opinion article Page 8

• What's wrong with Big Eight and Husker basketball? Page 8

• The Alvin Ailey Dance Company will bring its unique brand of contemporary dance to Kimball March 5 Page 11

Index

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Arts and Entertainment..... | 10 |
| Classified | 11 |
| Crossword | 12 |
| Editorial..... | 4 |
| Off The Wire | 2 |
| Sports | 8 |