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Residence halls plan dance to improve Greek relations

A full calendar of programs and activities for residence hall students is slated for Residence Hall Week, which begins Sunday.

The week's activities include a free campuswide dance at the Nebraska Union, a trivia bowl, a mock election and a free showing of "The Big Chill."

RH Week chairman Kevin Kissinger said the event was originally planned by the officers elected last spring in an effort for more special programming.

Twenty-seven teams will compete in a trivia bowl for \$280 cash beginning Tuesday, with the final four competing Thursday. A \$150 first prize will be given to the winning three-member team.

On Friday, the pop-rock band Inasense will play at a free "Campus Pride" dance in the Nebraska Union Ballroom.

"The dance kind of goes in with our effort to improve Greek relations," Kissinger said. He said it

was called a "Campus Pride" dance because it would not only be open to hall residents, but also to fraternity, sorority and off-campus students.

Greek relations is set as the main topic of Thursday's RHA meeting. Presidents of the Intrafraternity Council and Panhellenic Council will be there to discuss problems and answer questions.

Special educational programs in each residence hall complex will be offered in conjunction with RH Week on Tuesday and Wednesday. Programs will include a sexual awareness seminar at Burr-Fedde and a program on alcohol and drug abuse at Harper-Schramm-Smith.

Students at Abel-Sandoz can hear a talk on ways for the career-minded to maintain a successful relationship. Selleck Quadrangle residents can hear Administrative Dietician Anne Dumper address the problems of "surviving"

eating in residence halls.

The full schedule of Residence Hall Week activities:

Sunday:
 Residence Hall Night Downtown — Ted & Wally's, P.O. Pears and Pontillos will offer special discounts to all hall residents who show their Valldine cards.

Monday:
 Mock Election — All students will be able to vote for president, senator and representative in a straw poll of student opinion.

Movie Night — "The Big Chill" will be shown in the Nebraska Union Rostrum at 7 and 9 p.m. No charge for residents with valldine.

Tuesday:
 RH Week Programs — Every residence complex will have special educational programs conducted by the residential education staff.

Wednesday:
 Trivia Bowl — Preliminary rounds will be from 5 to 11 p.m. in the Nebraska Union's Georgian Suite. This round is open to the public. More programs will continue in individual halls.



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Fasting...

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Sinclair's best advice was to "lie round in the sun and read story-books and take care of your body, and leave the soul-exercise and the nervous efforts until the fast is over."

Fasting as a sacrificial rite goes back many centuries. In his "Sacrifice in the Old Testament," Buchanan Gray quoted a sacrificial fasting prayer:

"Master of the Universe, it is revealed that men sinned and brought sacrifice, of which the fat and blood was offered and this atoned for them; and now I have set fasting and my fat and blood has been diminished. May it be Thy will that it may be accounted unto me as though I had offered it on the altar, and do Thou accept it from me with favor."

Gray shows in his book that fasting and other sacrificial rights are largely based on ancient pagan practices performed for a multitude of gods — gods of the elements, seasons, the harvest.

Now this idea of pagan origins may not bother Falwell's flock. After all, I'm sure they celebrate Christmas and Easter, which were



Daily Nebraskan File Photo
 The Rev. Falwell

purposely scheduled by early Christian fathers in winter and spring to coincide with pagan festivals of the winter solstice and the new year, and the coming of spring and the planting season.

November is full of big festivals. Nov. 1 is the Feast of All Saints, celebrating the conversion of the pantheon in Rome to Christianity in the seventh century. And Nov. 2 is All Soul's Day for Roman Catholics, who traditionally threw a sumptuous feast for souls in purgatory who were supposed to revisit earth temporarily and make merry on the scene of their pilgrimage.

While this feasting may also be based on pagan rites, at least it was positive action. If I was the Master of the Universe, I would rather watch people have fun with their belief than sadistically watch them test themselves through voluntary starvation.

And least you try to argue that such positive behavior could lead to extremes — gluttony, orgies, widespread drunkenness — I will again refer you to history.

Sergius Morgulis, a University of Nebraska Medical Center professor, wrote the following in his book "Fasting and Undernutrition":

"Fasting was never an even-handed phenomenon. In the Middle Ages it seems that the rich could forgo fasting and obtain absolution for a price by buying indulgences.

"Mass starvation from religious devotion is an important phenomenon in Greek Catholic societies. Three days of the week were fasting days, besides several prolonged seasons of fasting. In fact, half the year seems to have been spent fasting. Alcohol was used to deaden the pain of constant hunger, and alcoholism and liver disease were widespread." Fasting for political or social

symbolism is as old as the Bible and as new as Bobby Sands' hunger strike in strife-torn Ireland. But such strikes have seldom brought new converts to any cause; instead, they merely heightened the fervor of confirmed believers.

So instead of fasting for guidance or political symbolism, perhaps Falwell and his flock should take a lesson from America's "Mother England," land of our founding fathers.

For hundreds of years, English men brave and true would gather in the tavern and perform an elaborate toasting ritual to their sovereign, their government, their land and their people.

In an 1893 edition of the "Book of Days" found on a dusty shelf in Love Library, we can read descriptions of the political history of toasting. In ancient scripts, a maid named Rowena bowed low before the Celtic king Vortigern and said, "Waes Heal, hlaforð Cyning" meaning "Be of health, Lord King." He toasted her in return, and so the custom began.

William of Malmesbury wrote: "It is said that the death of young King Edward who was stabbed in the back by his stepmother as he was drinking led to the tradition of holding up a knife, pledging protection as a toast."

"The loyalty of the English to Charles II was shewn by such a frequency of drinking to his health, as to threaten to disturb the peace," the "Book of Days" says.

Ward's "Living Speeches of Dying Christians," dated in 1600, cites one martyr as saying "My Saviour began to me in a bitter cup; and shall I not pledge him?" (drink to him the same).

Through the Middle Ages and English renaissance, an elaborate toasting ritual had developed. On the night before new crownings, meetings of new Parliaments, and so on, lords and peasants alike would gather in the castles. Toasts typically began with: "The Queen!" or "The King!", followed by "Weale and worship!" through "The Queen's College!" and "The Good Court!" By the end of the night, revelers may have toasted the lord's wife, children, crops, bowl, dog and horse — depending on how fond the lord was of ale.

So rather than fast before the election Nov. 6, perhaps we should feast instead. I think folks think clearer with a full stomach and clear head.

As for myself, I'll be down at Chesterfield's, toasting hopes for a fresh start in the new year — and the foolishness of the old Right.



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