

TKEs defend their stand on new membership policy

This letter is in response to the editorial Aug. 29, 1989. Ms. Rood implies that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon not only hazes, but hazes in such a manner that could result in injury or death. Such an assumption is simply unfounded.

She claims that not immediately implementing the New Membership Development Program is unwise. We feel she has made a hasty observation without fully understanding the program.

There are reasons this program was not made to be immediately mandatory. With more than 300 active chapters of the International Fraternity, there are many different campus situations to which the program must be adapted.

The basic program has been modeled for chapters that have a rush week similar to UNL's sororities. The main quality-control process of the new program works within the setting of a rush week. It involves most of the undergraduate officers and the chapter adviser interviewing each candidate extensively. We feel that this process would not be adaptable to our summer rush situation.

Because of the two-year implementation period, we have the opportunity to adapt the program to our specific situation. This policy was passed in response to the negative publicity concerning hazing. Hazing hasn't been an issue, let alone a prob-

lem, at our chapter, and therefore we do not feel implementation of this program is immediately required. The deadline for implementation is Sept. 1, 1991. In August of 1991 there will be another meeting of the conclave in New Orleans. The chapters that have implemented the program will undoubtedly suggest modifications and refinements to the program, and we will voice our suggestions for implementation in a summer rush situation. Any reform this sweeping in nature is sure to have a few wrinkles that need to be ironed out.

Overall, we feel the program's intent is positive. It will better enable chapters to enhance the bond of brotherhood among its members. All members will be treated with respect, all members will be better educated about the fraternity, older members will stay more involved and membership standards will be applied equally for every member. However, jumping blindly with both feet into a sweeping reform such as this would be unwise. Any change takes time and this is no exception.

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letter

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