

**CHRIS HALLIGAN**

# Greek system ripe for change

I can never forget the first day I stepped on to this fabulous campus, bearing witness to the breath-taking array of fraternities and sororities.

I knew then that my destiny awaited within this glorious system and, relinquishing my self-control to the actives of my chosen fraternity, proceeded to go on a most interesting, colorful ride in self-righteous brotherhood that would change my life forever.

Without a doubt, UNL's greek system is one of the strongest in the country. Its powerful stronghold on UNL's student government and basic student culture has paved the way for future generations of both greek and non-greek students.

Somewhere out there, in the depths of the Midwestern fields of life, is a person, innocent that he may be, waiting to be "enlightened" by college. But more influential than that will be his fraternity, which will teach him the social graces and leadership skills that will guarantee him success in all that he does.

So as I say "too-doo-loo" to my greek system forever, and know that there will never again be a time when I can make an impact on it as an active member, I have decided to take this opportunity to communicate some things I see that need to be changed in our system.

These changes would help our friend from Bumblefarm, Nebraska, and allow him more fundamental growth as a greek.

For the past four years, I have been paying A LOT of money to live in my fraternity. As a pledge, I had to clean my own house. As an active, I have had the responsibility of hiring staff, planning a budget for our various needs and playing policeman when the brothers got out of hand.

However, although we run our own homes, we still fall under the campus policies and codes of conduct.

University officials do not pay for our food. They do not pay for our cleaning. They don't donate to renovating our homes. However, they do feel they have jurisdiction over the way we live our lives.

This university must realize that the grecks do very well on our own. We prove ourselves time and time again through our generous philanthropy projects and leadership abili-



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ties. We do not need to be baby-sat. If we wanted to be, we would have lived in the dorms.

We need to do what the University of Washington greek system did many moons ago — secede from university policy.

Hitting much closer to home, I have found that over the past four years, our beloved Interfraternity Council office has been, to put it mildly, asserting itself in ways many do not describe as fair.

To put it less mildly, the greek system has been run by an IFC dictatorship that has handed down some baseless decisions and punishments from that small office in the Union.

I say it's time to clean house. I say it's time to get some people in there who see the greek system not as a tool for manipulation, but as a potential force for good that needs to be guided in the right direction.

Like the United States government, our greek system has been infiltrated by inconsistent leadership and stagnant policies far too long.

Of course, we cannot forget about the illustrious community of secret subrosa members who reside within our greek homes. These guys also definitely need to go.

In attempting to legitimize the greek system, these buffoons accomplish nothing more than to make it look

like it is being run by a pack of illiterate lackeys, claiming that they are the chosen few obligated to "tell it like it is."

It is one thing to be a member of the Skull and Crossbones subrosa at Yale and quite another to be one at UNL. These guys think they will be a bunch of future George Bushes, when, in fact, they will be lucky to be members of the Million Dollar Club at Century 21 realty.

I can see it now: Ten years down the road, when the subrosas have their reunion, we will see a bunch of guys running around with their gold polyester coats on with buttons that say, "I'm a TNE'er too!"

On a much more serious note, our greek system needs to see more minority recruitment. The days of greek Eurocentrism are dying, and it would be in the best interest of the grecks to start bringing in some different cultures.

I have been told that the IFC president, Mak Azadi, is striving to activate a new minority recruitment program, but we can only hope that his work will carry over into the terms following his.

Isolationism equals ignorance, and we don't want to encourage our friend from Bumblefarm to remain as racist and ignorant as he already is.

There are also the little things that must stop, such as drinking beer and interfraternity brawling. Of course, what would be the greek system without these ingredients? They are truly the character-building essentials.

Sororities, of course, need not worry about these problems, at least in their houses. This is the area where the beer-fly epidemic must be addressed.

It is true. The greek system and I are parting ways. I needed to voice my views just one more time, if not for my brothers and sisters, then for our future brother and friend from Bumblefarm, Nebraska.

The greek system empowers its people, and if we clean house just a little bit, there's no reason why UNL's greek system couldn't be the best in the nation.

Note to Rush Chairmen of UNL: Yes, you may use this column as a rush tool.

Halligan is a junior English major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

## Constitutional amendment no solution

On May 12 you will be asked to vote on Constitutional Amendment 1. Per Gov. Nelson's legal department, you would need 29 years of education to fully understand what it says. In simple terms, if you vote yes, you will give our state senators power that they have never had before — to tax personal property however they please at the time, as long as the tax was "reasonable." Whose definition of "reasonable" do we use?

The Constitutional amendment was worded so that Gov. Nelson's tax law LB1063, which he was quoted as saying "stinks," would be constitutional.

LB1063 increased the overall tax on agriculture \$8 million with virtually NO relief to the average homeowner's real estate taxes.

The railroads started out paying \$10 million, then \$5.5 million under LB1063 and then their tax was reduced another million in a true last-minute deal after they threatened a lawsuit. A "yes" vote on Constitu-

tional Amendment 1 will let the Legislature change all of this again next year, however it pleases.

The Nebraska Legislature is trending from conservative rural control to liberal urban control. Do we want to give a simple majority of senators — 25 — the power to do what they please? Maybe next year they will see fit to tax agriculture an additional \$20 million or \$30 million or so.

You will soon be "bombaraded" with a huge advertising campaign sponsored by 25 large interest groups. They will tell you that you must vote "yes" for Constitutional Amendment 1. These ads, paid for mainly by big businesses, will tell you to vote "yes" so the big guys can be taxed instead of the little guy. Utilities, pipelines and telephone companies will simply pass on taxes to the little guy in the form of higher bills. Many businesses will pay less under the depreciated-asset basis than they would under the actual value we had before. No wonder

big business is spending \$250,000 to try to get you to vote yes.

Gov. Nelson is trying to blackmail us into voting yes by saying the only other option is to tax all personal property and inventory. THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS. Gov. Nelson is playing poker (with a big bluff) saying there would be NO special session to fix the tax mess correctly if Nebraskans said no to the constitutional amendment. In reality, the citizens and business people of Nebraska would demand and get a special session.

Will your vote be swayed by the \$250,000 advertising campaign and Gov. Nelson's "blackmail"? Will you vote to give our state senators new taxing powers?

Vote NO to blackmail! Vote NO on Constitutional Amendment 1!

Larry Dinkel  
John Dinkel  
Norfolk

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