

C O P Y

27 October 1947

To the President, Sponsor and Residents:

Congratulations on your newly organized house! A friend sent a clipping from "The Daily" which Wm. B. Branch wrote, telling of the opening of an International House on your campus. I wish you much success and happiness in this new situation.

Our house is four years old today and rose from similar demands as those expressed by Mr. Branch. This campus didn't (and still does not) accept foreign students or girls of minority groups in the University dorms. This is, of course, a great injustice to the integrity of the individual girls, but such talk was (and is) considered an irrational point of argument. Fortunately one of the newer sorority was disbanded and the University bought the house and is now the International House. Rules and regulations were very strict - resulting from the expected scrutiny of the community and school. For the first year, Negroes and "Niseis" and other foreign students were not allowed to sleep in the 10-bed dorm on our third floor! Since then, there has been a tremendous improvement in the policies governing the house. We have "all the advantages and none of the disadvantages" of the sororities. Because this is still a university-owned house, we are subject to the general amount of rules, but we are given a great deal of opportunity to show our initiative and individuality as a house if we wish. The Chancellor (Gustavson) and the Dean of Women are interested and anxious that this house has every opportunity to do what it wishes and can.

This year there are 2 girls from Turkey, 2 Hindu girls from Trinidad (both very glamorous), 2 girls from Hawaii, one girl from Bolivia (a Polish-Jewess), and one very charming girl from China, (she is the great-grand niece of T.Z.Koo), five Negro girls and five Niseis. The balance to add to 34 are the ordinary selection of "Caucasian" girls who had shown a special desire to be here. The demand list is greater than we can fulfill. None of the foreign girls room together, but, on their own choice; we are very proud of what we have accomplished in the way of living together and in serving the community by accepting invitations to speak. By the way, this is the favorite haven of the foreign fellows, who not only need a place to go, but who also always seem to have such a good time here.

All this has been possible through the work of many adults and students and women like our house mother, Mrs. Edna Caldwell, whose dreams have come true in many ways and whose dreams of a house for the foreign fellows may soon come true.

Again, good luck!

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Dorothy Ichinaga, Pres.
International House
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

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