

Nebraskan Editorials Exams On Tap

What may well be termed a "tired subject" at present due to widespread discussion and concern the past two weeks seems to be doomed to the graveyard process of being buried with only a few editorial tombstones marking its existence.

Referring to the Faculty Senate decision to reduce the two weeks examination period to one week, this writer senses an almost eagerness on the part of some faculty members that the issue be forgotten or spaded under, to be rediscovered another time. Through this process the issue may well be permanently forgotten. That is, the issue may be forgotten but the substance which fostered the issue will remain with former antagonists lapsing into resigned acceptance—the easiest way out of a losing situation.

Over the Summer, the issue which drew the attention of both students and faculty will be aging and most likely lose its inherent capacity for argument pro and con. This, according to some interested parties, is exactly what the proponents of the shortened exam period wish to happen. The Nebraskan hopes it will not.

It is obvious that any moves to remedy the Senate error will have to come from the faculty members themselves. In this realm, students would accomplish little if anything in protesting by petition or poll. The proposal is such that students have no legal legislative referendum over it. Their only means of protest would take the form of a mildly influential lobby. What the students think on this matter, seems to be of little importance to the faculty members and as long as this attitude on the part of the faculty exists, student opinion expressed in any form assumes the aspect of a "cry in the wilderness."

Next fall, however, it has been rumored that the matter of reducing the exam period will again come before the Senate, not that a re-entirement attempt will be made (although The Nebraskan encourages such a move) but that the Senate must decide when and how the new exam period will be incorporated into the University Calendar.

The shortcomings of the shortened examination period have been pointed out in previous editorials but there are two points which The Nebraskan would like to stress again. The first is, that because there is such a great emphasis placed on final examinations in determining a semester grade, and because the shortened examination period will foster confusion, and exhaustion on the part of students, the faculty must devise a system whereby, final exams are emphasized uniformly throughout the University and to a lesser degree previously during a two week exam period.

The second point is, that because the Senate

move indicates an attempt to de-emphasize final exams, perhaps to the extent of abolishing them altogether, the examinations given during the one week period will necessarily become more objective and less subjective. The former type of examination is regarded by this newspaper as hardly indicative of a student's insight into a course, which it is felt is the true educative process.

It is hoped that in the first Faculty Senate meeting next year this presently waning topic will be re-introduced with a new vigor. It is hoped that next fall, even after three or four months of dormancy, the Faculty Senate will take it upon itself to allow free and democratic discussion of the issue, which was all too shamefully absent at this spring's little gathering. Whether those faculty members who desire maintenance of the two week period win or lose in another Senate meeting, at least they will have gone down verbally fighting. —J. H. B.

Spring Event

A week ago the long anticipated Spring Day Dance occurred, just as it was planned; students attended, just as most people thought they would, and Corn Cobs, the sponsoring and bill-paying part of the affair took a financial loss again, just as everybody predicted.

Now the dance is over. Billy May's band and Sammy Donahue have gone on their way, but what remains here at the University is a successful spring dance attended by a large group of students.

All who attended should offer a note of thanks to the Corn Cobs, who agreed to underwrite the expenses, who did all the work in making arrangements for the dance and who ended up taking the dollar and cents loss. The Union must also be thanked for making initial contact with the band and providing the free use of the Coliseum.

Campus minds should not be closed on the dance yet, though, for there is yet much that remains.

The fact that the dance was a success, for it entertained those who went and attracted a sizable group, indicates that more dances of this sort might be held. Add to this the anti-climactic effect of the whole business, following the riot as it did. This equals a downright success by any terminology.

We have seen that part of a spring event can work. Even the Coliseum seemed all right, especially on Wednesday night. The very logical conclusion of all this is that someone must now step in and begin working for next year.

Maybe it should be the Student Council, maybe it should be Corn Cobs and maybe it should be all of us, working through the many and varied groups where we have the opportunity to speak our minds. D.F.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS by Dick Eibler



You can't flunk me . . . I've got a contract.

Schneid Remarks 6-Toed Femme Fatale Snows Romantic Hero

By STAN SCHNEIDER

School is almost over and the summer is drawing nigh. And when ever anything starts drawing nigh you know what every body starts saying. "It's drawing nigh. It's drawing nigh, they say." I know one guy who isn't saying that. He's saying, "Beware the Ides of April." Of course he didn't think of that by himself. He always said "Beware the Ides of April" and he had reason to say that. Here's why.

It seems Frank, our hero, met a bar-fly while home for Spring vacation and the risqué rascal impressed the girl so much with his literary genius that she fell in love with him. "Beware the Ides of April," he'd say and she would say, "Gee." You can readily see how a thing like this got started. He would read her poetry and she would sit there contentedly and play with her toes. This confused Frank because she had six toes.

"Don't you think you ought to shave your legs, April?" he would say and she would retort sharply, "Look, Frank. Six toes."

"A goodly trick," said he and would read on.

No matter what Frank did she seemed unimpressed. He took her to dinner and fed her the finest food.

After dinner Frank led April to the porch where the pale, full moon cast an enchanting shadow across her voluptuous, sensuous form. She ran her tapered, delicate fingers through her rich, brown hair and the madness of the evening was almost too much

for Frank. He kissed her softly on the back of her snow-white neck and whispered, "April, my love, my all. Tell me what is in your heart and in your soul."

"Got any Tums?"

"April, could it be that you do not wish to return the love that I so humbly offer you. I know that I am not much but what more could I offer you than a bleeding heart, a throbbing bosom and a full, rich blood-stream that bleeds for want of you."

"Frank, I hate to be the one to tell you this but you have denture breath."

Frank wandered off in the darkness of the night, his heart in his hands, his hands in his pockets, his pockets still in his pants and his pants shining from too much sitting.

April stood full-faced into the moon, picking her teeth, her teeth in her mouth, her mouth where it has always been; all over her face.

The last time we saw Frank he was standing on the brink of a high cliff overlooking the rich, fertile valleys of his homeland. He stood knee-deep in a tub of solid cement. A careful listener could hear him singing to himself, "Eight o'clock, nine o'clock, ten o'clock jump. Eleven o'clock, twelve o'clock, one o'clock jump. He too was fascinated by the Blackboard Jungle."

That was three weeks ago and Frank is still up on that hill. It seems nobody can move the tub of cement to get him out of there.

Jest Jestin' Official Gobbly-Gook Thwarts Student Will

By JESS BROWNELL

Because I quit studying some months ago, I've had a lot of time on my hands, and while most of it has been spent in brooding and cursing the fickle Muses from the bottom of my black heart, I have kept informed about what is happening to my university. The recent warm weather encouraged me to creep out of my gloomy hole and learn the reaction of my fellow students.

I have discovered a strange and dangerous attitude among my fellows. Many students seem to have taken the "They can't do this to us" position. This won't work children. They can do anything they want to do, and there is nothing any of us can do about it.

Oh, I could tell you stories of students who tried to buck the system that would make your blood run cold. I knew of a young man at another university where they were faced with a similar situation a few years ago. This poor fellow decided to do something about it. He went to the head of his department and demanded an explanation. He received a statement something like the following:

"It is our policy that the university should be an ever-changing in-

stitution, acting always in the best interests of all concerned and never ceasing in its efforts to further higher education in this state. If at times certain changes seem contrary to these high ideals, we are confident that if the long view is taken our wisdom will be seen."

That is the gist of the statement, although it naturally contained more official double-talk. I have cleaned it up as best I could. At any rate, while our unfortunate friend was trying to make some sense of this, the English Department was scrapped to make room for a new Agronomy building, and a boy's dorm replaced the Art's building. Not easily deterred, he went on to other officials, demanding explanations from all of them and always receiving similar statements.

If you don't want something like that to happen to you, just sit back, relax, and let things take their course. If some of you need a guiding principle to live by in these trying times, I think I can supply you with one. Just remember that college, at best, is a waste of time, and nothing can be done to make it very much worse. Got that; college is a waste of time. That's all you need to know.

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The Self-Governed Independent Movement Gains Momentum This Year At NU

By LOUIS SCHOEN

Notwithstanding the Greek sweep of the laurels in last week's Student Council elections, the elections provided definite encouragement for those of us who exult in the independent way of life, and those of us who believe in the need for greater participation in democratic political action at every level.

There was definite evidence in the election of increased interest by independent students in campus politics. Certainly a large portion of the increased voter turnout must be attributed to a larger number of independents troubling themselves sufficiently to go to the polls. But particularly refreshing were the increased number of independents who filed for council positions, and the co-operation between the independent candidates prior to the election to form a "slate" and adopt a common "platform."

Since the old Independent Student Assn. collapsed in 1951, there has been little evidence until this year that enough independent interest could be generated to make even a few Greeks question the Greek ability to retain virtually universal control of the council. Actually, there has been a gradual resurgence of independent interest throughout the past four years. But only this year has the independent movement become vigorous enough to be felt by anyone not participating in it.

In the fall of 1952—just short of four school-years ago—the Student Co-operatives Assn. was on the brink of the same cavern into which the ISA had fallen the previous year. At the time, the SCA was the only independent organization still operative. A few co-op members—most of them now graduated (some independents will recall John Marks and J. Michael Whalen, two of the chief leaders in the SCA revival)—saw in the SCA not only the coordinating body for co-op activities which it was originally intended to be, but also an excellent vehicle of expression of opinion for the co-op independents.

It took three and a half years and the effort of many individuals, but at the end of the first 1954-55 semester, the SCA finally secured a position on the Student Council. These efforts were aimed not only at achievement of political representation. The larger goal was closer contact with—and thereby greater interest in—campus affairs, for the members of the co-ops. The co-ops still have a long way to go. Apathy remains rampant through most of the organ-

izations. In some cases, the general organizational attitude is one of withdrawal from University life—a sort of exclusiveness, of being in the University and yet not being a part of it.

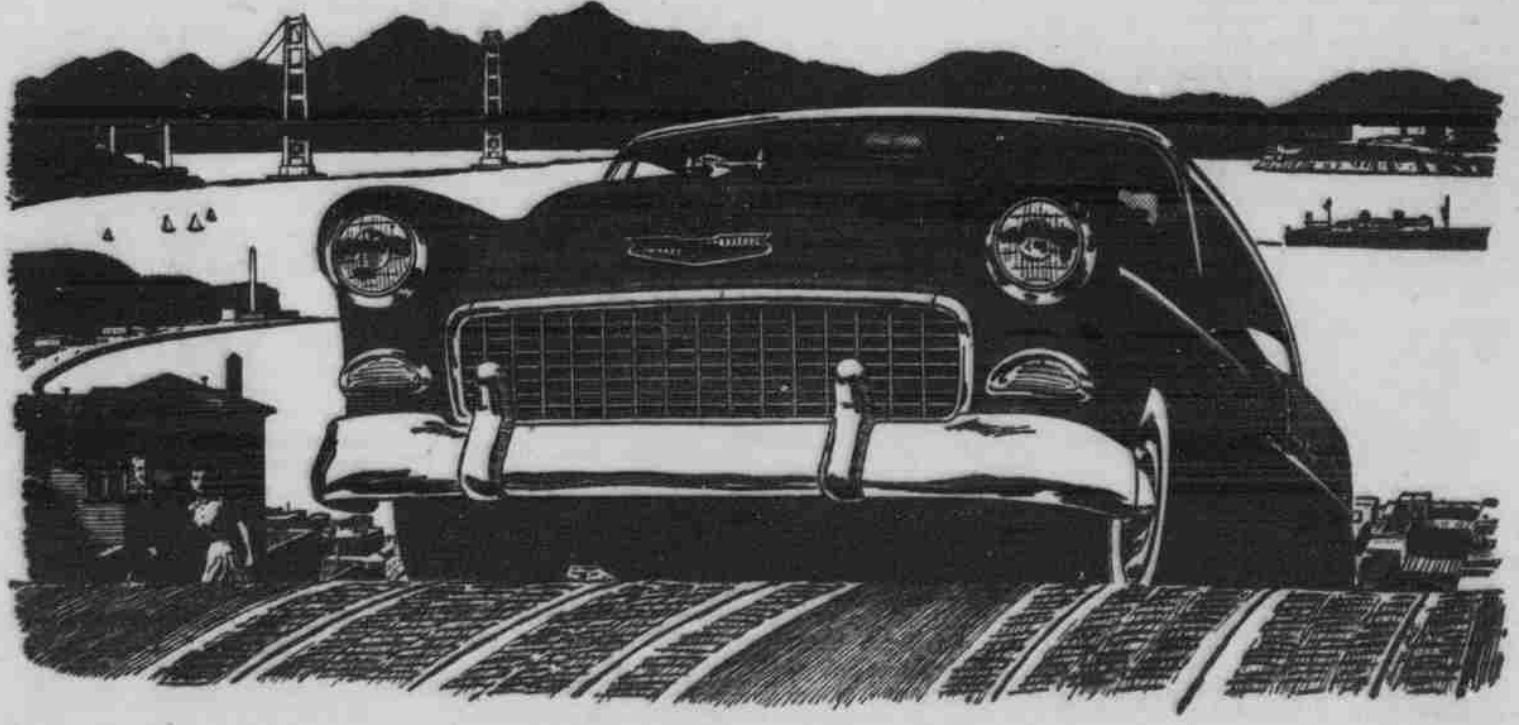
Part of this attitude probably is due to the large number of co-op members who work part-time. Outside social interests—and frequently outside activity interests—develop to supplement outside professional or business interests. Yet the withdrawal attitude exists to an equal or greater degree in those students who have no outside working interest. After having lived in a co-op three years and observing co-op affairs as an alumni member for most of one year, I still find this aspect of the co-op independent's thought unexplainable.

Although the withdrawal attitude remains, I think it has subsided notably in the past four years. There seems to be gradually increasing interest among co-op independents in student affairs.

Over at the men's dorm's meanwhile, the fall of '52 saw interest in campus activities dormant. A year later there were many expressions of hope when an organization calling itself GDI began to form. But rather than an objective effort to increase independent participation in student affairs, this movement turned into a sort of independent TNE. Not until the dormitories were expanded and reorganized last fall was considerable interest shown there.

Outside the organization living groups, independents remain probably about as apathetic as they were four years ago. Perhaps the excellent example set by Jack Rogers will have some influence.

It is important, however, that all students gain a working knowledge of the political and cultural organization and activities which are the essence of campus extra-curricular affairs. For these are but a reflection of the affairs of society with which every citizen inevitably comes in contact. Furthermore, it is important that greater balance be achieved in extra-curricular leadership and participation, so that the extra-curricular load is taken from the shoulders of the few and placed into the hands of the many. With such a balance achieved, greater opportunity would be afforded for advancement of curricular interests and non-University interests of all students—both essential to balanced development of the future leaders of society.



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