

EDITORIAL OPINION

A Liberal View

By Herb Probasco

Needless to say this corner has received many letters in the past few days on several issues, the primary cause for concern being editorial comment carried in this paper a week ago regarding some rather ludicrous comments of one Bill Jennings (After reading the reports of the Omaha Quarterback Club meeting Monday, we can comment that judging from the support Jennings received, his only mistake at Nebraska has been winning a few football games.)

However, our purpose in writing this column is not to defend our stand against Jennings, but rather to justify our right to take such a stand on such a matter and as far as that goes, on any issue.

A letter received recently (but not signed, unfortunately, so it could not be run as a Letterip) charges us with "grievously violating the confidence which has been placed in your hands by the University and the student body. Unless I have been grossly misinformed, it is the responsibility of any public medium to give fair, impartial and unemotional coverage. You have not done this."

The author's information is correct, up to his last sentence. This responsibility for impartial coverage extends only to the news columns. If the author can illustrate a case where we have not been impartial, fair and unemotional in our news coverage, we will gladly apologize. However, part of a paper is also devoted to the opinions of the editorial staff, which apparently differ with those of the letter writer. We make no attempt to reflect opinions other than our own in the editorial columns. When there are two sides, we present what we think is the more correct side and we support it. Such is the case with our opinions concerning Jennings. In the news columns we printed a report

of the proceedings of the meeting where "Silly Willy" made his charges against the press and the fans. We have also been extremely liberal regarding the publication of letters which we have received criticizing us, although at times we had to sacrifice what we consider more important material to make room for the "other side."

This letter writer goes on to say, "In expressing your preference for Senator Kennedy you have indicated to the students and the citizens of this city and state that Kennedy is the choice of the University. This is not true as was shown by the mock election held on campus last week. If you are going to report in this manner, it is also your responsibility to devote an equal amount of space to the opposition. This you have not made a point of doing. Why?"

If the writer knew anything about the function of an editorial he would know that we were not intending to support a candidate as the choice of the students and the citizens of this city and state. We supported the candidate of our choice. The function of an editorial is not to represent the opinion of its readers, but rather the opinion of the newspaper regarding what it feels is best for its readers. Fortunately, no body has clamped an "equal space" burden on newspapers as the FCC has on radio and television regarding "equal time." But we have tried to be as impartial as we can in reporting the news in the news columns. Although the only jury is the public and a newspaper, if it wants, can distort the facts, few newspapers have not been impartial in their coverage of the campaign nor any other issue for that matter.

We reject this letter writer's charge of an "irresponsible attitude," and we would suggest that more careful thought be put into further criticism.

Ferae Naturae QUARE

The human personality and (dare I say it) soul are inseparable. If one wishes to rear the type of individual who is able to think for himself and to have a certain degree of freedom of thought in this world of dictators and bureaucrats, one must allow them freedom in the areas they would like to be free in as well as freedom (sic) in such ways as the restraining body feels desirable.

To elucidate for the illiterates; if we are to demand that the University students learn to think we must be willing to be at least tolerant towards the consequences of that thought whether it be free love or the desire to drink beer.

Maybe these activities are not desirable. If so the laws of society provide a sufficient redress. The University is not and should not deceive itself into believing that it is a legislature.

To elucidate again: if the legislature wants students punished beyond the level of other citizens for abusing the laws let it say so. To be even more basic: if a student is to be fined,

placed on probation and further threatened and embarrassed for an error committed en route to maturity let such punishment be meted out by a group elected to supervise society rather than a group which is afraid to stand up to public opinion when its own freedom and standards are threatened (Re: Bernstein).

It cannot be maintained that this jejune level of fines, wrist slaps and insults makes for better scholastic standards. Amherst College, which one of the national magazines has labeled a collegiate leader, permits minors and adults in its group to maintain liquor cabinets in its rooms. It is not maintained that this improves the college; it is maintained that it does not harm it. We need not bore the intelligent reader by reminding them of behavior patterns at the Sorbonne, Southern California, Harvard, etc.

The amount of time that is saved for the student (since he does not have to use his mental energies to thwart the campus patrol so that he may behave as he would at home) is obviously available for study time.

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AUF Acknowledges Student Support

To the editor:

The All University Fund board members wish to express their most sincere appreciation to the students, religious groups and their leaders, the Union, house presidents and all those who helped to make Sunday night's pancake feed a big success. It is good to see the campus get behind a project of this kind—the house presidents waiting tables, IWA members shining shoes, students standing in line for pancakes, and all working to make the kick-off affair a fun event as well as a profitable one.

The Student Union deserves a great big "thank you" for its contribution. Its personnel allowed us to use all the facilities, assisted us in planning and executing the event (some of them were even flipping pancakes).

Also special mention should be made of the group that presented the musical skit, "The Hag Behind the Flag." These people spent hours practicing, making scenery, and advertising for the "feed." This is surely an example of group cooperation for a worthy cause. Thank you again.

The All University Fund Sue Carkoski, President

Completely Behind Editorial Stand

To the editor:

I'm completely behind the stand of the editorial of The Daily Nebraskan along with Hal Brown's comments on the sports page. However, I think that a few pertinent facts should be brought out to substantiate your position no matter any member of the athletic department are of the voice of the student body.

In 1955 when Bill Orwig came to Nebraska as athletic director, he promised the people of this state a return to greatness. After Bill Glassford had a 5-5 year, he was fired for lack of luster in his offense and his supposed inability to handle football players. In the same year, Harry Good was fired for having five losing seasons in a row after winning and being co-champion of the Big Eight conference two years in a row. Lets look at the replacements that were hired.

Pete Elliott came to Nebraska the next year and had a 4-6 record. After being lured off to California by more money, which, incidently, didn't break too many hearts, Bill Jennings took over. Since that time, we have not had a winning season; 1-9, 3-5, and 4-6. This year we can't do much better and at present it appears we will slip to a 3-7 mark again. Jennings and Elliott together had more losing seasons than Bill Glassford, yet we axed him to improve our football situation.

Then along came Jerry Bush, probably the greatest showman and personality in basketball for a long time; yet, his overall record is 45-72; much poorer than Harry Good's record here. He was hired to bring greatness to Nebraska basketball and although he probably is the greatest clown in basketball, his record shows inability to handle basketball players with such greats as Ron Parsons leaving school and troubles occurring on the squad every year with men like Kowalke quitting only to return. Then there was the sad mistake of Bob Boozer going to Kansas State since Jerry Bush said that Bob couldn't play Big Eight ball. Also, a few comments about how Nebraska couldn't furnish basketball players of any caliber similar to the Jennings statement were quite outstanding early in his profession. However, no one ever takes Jerry to task because he's a great backslapper and a hell of a good guy with the sports writers although he has no record to go along with it.

Baseball has been in the same sad shape. Two years ago we backed into title contention with forfeits from Missouri. Nebraska has had fabulous baseball material for years and time in and time out they can't produce. Encouragement seems to be lacking from the baseball field every year if one listens closely to the critical sarcasm of the Coach on the bench.

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We must say that track has improved greatly since Frank Sevigne has tried his best to assemble the best he can with what money he has. He deserves a well-earned congratulations.

But let's look at the facts in athletics. Bill Orwig has not fulfilled the promises he made. Our athletic stature has fallen considerably in the past five years in all sports. Our only accomplishment has been the minor sports of gymnastics which really doesn't enter the scholarship or profit-making end of Nebraska athletics. How much longer do you think Nebraska fans are going to spend four bucks to see a dud play? How much longer are you going to come to see rather than a good football team? We've sunk a lot of money into Nebraska athletics, where are our results? Just where has Nebraska gained in their investment in a do-nothing but personality athletic department?

I think it is time to re-examine the situation. No one has heavily criticized anything in the athletic department since Orwig took over. Everyone has tried to cooperate with money, time and patience. If we are going to change football coaches, is this the solution?

This must be answered, the solution is either no change or a complete change, athletic director on down for those people not producing. Just like anyplace else in the cruel world, if you don't produce, you don't have a job. We aren't producing, therefore, I recommend the people of Nebraska put pressure on the University for a complete change again with the exception of the producing coaches and that we do the job thoroughly from athletic director on down before it is too late or form another conference with North Dakota State, South Dakota State, South Dakota University and North Dakota University and possibly include Kearney as Nebraska State to play in a league where we won't have a losing season every year. It seems Nebraska doesn't benefit from tough outside schedules such as Missouri and Kansas had this year and isn't beneficial to us.

We can criticize every major sport of Nebraska objectively, football for lack of fundamentals, basketball for lack of handling men, and baseball for the inability to get the most out of the material we have.

Lets wake up before it is too late. Lets have a complete change or go small time.

Facts

Thanks Rag For 'Courage'

To the editor:

I think you and Hal Brown deserve a medal for your article in the Daily Nebraskan in regard to Coach Bill Jennings and the Cornhusker football situation. No truer words have ever been written and thank you for your courage in speaking up for the fans who have waited and waited patiently for a winner but instead have had to "sit and suffer" afternoon upon afternoon while opposing teams clobbered and humiliated the Huskers.

Some people seem to think that coaches are something sacred... that they must not be criticized or condemned no matter what their record is. But how about the fans? Certainly they are entitled to some consideration. To say the least, they make varsity football possible... they finance it and in my opinion they certainly have the right to criticize when things get as bad as they are.

I have been attending games at Lincoln since 1924 and knew Husker teams when they were great and when loss of three or four games was regarded as a disastrous season. How the picture has changed!

I think we have very fine material this year and I certainly don't blame the players. I know they are putting out. But they seem a confused lot on the football field generally speaking and particularly with reference to their offensive play.

I place the blame on the coaching. Jennings in my opinion is second or third string in the coaching profession and most of the assistants are about in the same category.

Nebraska needs a top flight coach who can attract the best boys in the state

to play football for the home state. A coach with imagination, with proved ability; one who can lead and inspire his players to "play the game to win."

You have the general feeling of Husker football fans sized up right. They're plain "fed up," they, too, think it's time Jennings was packing his bags and leaving and personally I'd like to see most of the football coaching staff and Bill Orwig join him. An athletic director who supports and defends coaches like Bill Glassford and Bill Jennings and condemns football fans for criticizing them, isn't worthy of the job he holds and ought to be fired.

Stay right in there and keep pitching, Friend Brown. In my section of the stadium you've got all the votes. Keep hitting 'em where it hurts the most (their failures and incompetence), and maybe we can get the kind of athletic department and coaching staff at Nebraska that will give us a winner.

Truly, the thousands of loyal, patient and long suffering Husker fans deserve something better for their money than they have been getting and it's wonderful to have someone like you to "speak up for us."

Fritz Dimmel Wisner

Compares Crowds With Iowa State

To the editor:

I just completed reading the Nov. 1 issue of the Rag in which you justly criticized Jennings' statements of the preceding week. When you compare the crowds the Huskers have drawn with those of Iowa State (which has had pretty good teams the past few years), it is evident that the fans have given much more in spirit than Jennings has in achievement.

Doug Youngdahl

Would Demand Apology to Coach

To the editor:

If the Omaha World Herald quoted you correctly, I am almost ashamed to admit that I graduated from the University of Nebraska. I think that your remarks about Coach Jennings are despicable, un-

justified and most certainly were made by someone who is definitely neither a gentleman nor a loyal Nebraskan. If I were an administrator at the University I would demand that you march forthwith to Coach Jennings and offer him your personal apology and that you publish such an apology in the next issue of The Daily Nebraskan.

It is true that this country enjoys "Freedom of the Press," and I would be the last person in this world to forbid you to express your opinions in whatever medium is open to you. Those opinions can be expressed, however, in a much higher plane than you exhibited. Especially should this be true of a highly regarded institution of higher learning.

If you desire to improve the fortunes of the University's football team, you could do it much better by promoting confidence and solidarity, rather than disunity. No team can win if it lacks confidence and high morale. A newspaper can do more to tear down a team with just one issue than a coach can build up in a month. Think it over. You can do harm—or you can do good. Which do you prefer?

If you dare print this, I'd appreciate receiving a copy. Thank you. Harvey W. Headley

Blasts Editorial Persecutions

To the Editor:

On Nov. 1, The Daily Nebraskan published two of the most unfair and baseless editorial persecutions of a coach that I have ever read. I believe that this is just one more instance of the type of fans and sports writers of which Coach Jennings was speaking.

You of The Daily Nebraskan (along with a great majority of the sports writers and fans in the state) must have awfully sore toes in order to raise such a wail when Coach Jennings steps so lightly upon them.

Coach Bill Jennings was incorrect in blaming one per cent of the defeats upon the fans and sports writers. A more accurate rating (Please see page four)

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