

## Lost Cool

By LIZ AITKEN

I write this column from a sort of peculiar position in that I am a voting member of Student Senate and the subject of my musings this week is the Faculty Evaluation Book.

In writing this column I have no intention of speaking for the Senate, but as an interested student who has heard what the dispute is all about and who has done some investigation into the matter.

Before I go into specifics there are two assumptions that I think are obvious. First, the evaluations as they are to be printed will have little or no effect in the extension of tenure of University professors.

The heads of various departments know even now, without an evaluation book, which of their instructors are notoriously bad. They have talked with students or received complaining letters often enough that they have a pretty good idea of the student popularity of the men in their department.

Ask any of them and they will tell you that this factor has little to do with the retention of professors, particularly seeing as how it is a sellers market in the faculty hiring field.

The second assumption which I work under is that there would be NO, I repeat no, professor who would actually sue any member of the faculty or student committees who had a part in the production of the book.

Now this may be a naive belief that holds too much faith in man as a species, but I just don't think that there will be an instructor who will be petty enough to take offense at the book to a great enough degree to haul his hurt pride to court.

Nor do I think he will have cause. If anyone took enough time to read the example write-ups presented to the Student Senate by Ladd Lonquist he would see an example of careful and studied evaluations which were prepared with a delicacy that would make a politician jealous.

On the example sheet there were unfavorable evaluations but along with the mildly reported bad aspects of the professors were good points in just as bold print as those less favorable.

But being very lawyer-like about the whole question, I must take into consideration the chance that one of our professors might sue and with that in mind we move on to the legal aspect of the case.

Having talked to a prominent Lincoln corporation lawyer on the subject I found out that there have been no libel cases filed in Lancaster County for a good many years and thus few lawyers have specific facts on libel at their fingertips; but I did find out this much—

First, the book will contain defamatory remarks (no matter how mild), second, people will be named in the book, and third, the book will be published and widely circulated.

With these factors, there is the chance for a libel suit to be brought against those responsible for the booklet's publication.

Now then, in Nebraska truth is not a defense against a libel prosecution, the defense must show that there was a justifiable reason for "the publication of the material."

The fact that there has been no prosecution for libel in the other 20-odd universities which now publish a similar book-

let is no defense; the Nebraska defendants will have to show that there was sufficient reason to publish the book and probably have to show how the book was in the best interest of the school and students.

There may be some defense in that the book will merely be a tabulation of many students opinions rather than solely the judgment of the ASUN Senate committee under Ladd Lonquist. But the questions for a line of defense are questions that can only be answered by lawyers after many hours of research and ultimately by the judge who presides over the case.

But there are two aspects to the question that are concrete and require no questions which will be proved by time. First, if the prosecution can find any hostility in the Committee on Student Affairs or on the student Senate committee, the defense's goose is cooked.

The second concrete factor in the possibility of a libel case is that even if the defense won and subsequently does not have to pay damages or court costs there would be a BIG expense involved, mainly in the area of legal fees. So, even if the defense wins, they must pay out a good deal of money, a factor which makes even the possibility of a libel suit unattractive.

So there are all the legal facts that you are going to get without a thorough (and expensive) research by a lawyer. What do they all add up to? Well, I still hold that the faculty is of a high enough collective character to weather the storm of an evaluation book with little more than verbal gripes and grumblings.

It's not that I'm saying that the scrutiny under which the faculty will be put each semester is something that I would want to face, but as Larry Frolik pointed out in his comments to the Senate last Wednesday, come hell or highwater, that book is coming out this spring whether under responsible ASUN supervision or under commercial management which would have no supervision by a representative of the University.

Last let's consider the resolution that will come up before the Senate this Wednesday after having been tabled at the last meeting—that of appealing to the Regents.

This resolution will probably pass as it is the only alternative presented to the Senate that is at all feasible. If it doesn't the book will be passed into commercial hands.

But what if the resolution does pass, how will the Regents respond to it? Well, obviously they can either vote yes or no on giving their sanction to the book.

Before they vote yes, they will most likely want a complete legal investigation into the possibilities of being liable (for regardless of who sanctions the booklet, the ASUN committee will remain prime targets for libel) and this investigation will cost money, as was brought up earlier.

And then of course the Regents can always vote no and avoid the time and expense of an investigation. With these two avenues of action, which one do you think that the Regents will take?

Looks to me like the Faculty Evaluation Book is doomed to be commercial.

## CHAMPION OF JUSTICE



## Sorry About That!

Being a compendium of farce, absurdity and comment selected arbitrarily by the Editor . . .

Ever try to cash a check in the Union? It doesn't make any difference if you have a driver's license, social security card, draft card, passport, birth certificate, military ID, department store charge plates, gasoline credit card, bank account ID or a monogrammed garter, you can't cash a check without a CURRENT University ID—the one that has the green adhesive backing measuring an inch longer than the ID card. That is, the card no one has yet.

Well, we understand the Union's problem. They handle University money, have to have University ID's. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of any stray green stickers, let me know. There's a Union attendant whose mouth . . .

Talk about the growth of the insurance business. You can insure anything from your Aunt Millie's gold fillings to your father-in-law's crutches.

One University sorority received advertisements for insurance to "eliminate funeral bill worries." The plan "Pays in full, regardless of how little has been paid in."

Geewiz. "A few cents a day pays the layaway."

Lee De Jonge of the Teachers College suggested the Daily Nebraskan publish his release on national teachers examinations. Wisely, he sent a personal note to the editor with the release—a note to "Joe

Stohlman" with the salutation, "Dear Sir." Uh . . . Mr. De Jonge . . . now and then letters like this get stuck away in my purse . . .

So you think the University has problems? The South Coloradoan reports discussion for a tavern to sell 3.2 beer close to their campus is causing quite a bit of controversy. One writer looked at the issue's ramifications:

"By now everyone has no doubt heard of the 3.2 place. At least fun and games will be within walking distance for those under 21. However, there are a few serious points to be considered.

"First of all, if one walks down, how does one get back? We suggest the license be granted on the condition that a one inch rope be extended from the bar to each of the dorms.

"Also, when one has sufficiently plied one's date with beer where does one go to play huggy bearg out on the sidewalk? We suggest that park benches be installed in front (under the street light of course.)

"This should be a fine addition to the local business district. Movies may not be better than ever, but who cares if they can go across the street and get winterized first."

And our parents say that the world's problems don't plague University students!

Received my grade transcript the other day. To my parents I can only say, Sorry About That!

### Another Viewpoint—

## Dating Pattern—Defective

Editor's Note: The following appeared as an editorial in the Kansas State Collegian.

With the first semester completed, some students have discovered their most prized possession is their "popularity kit"—complete with guides on how to play the game of dating.

Popularity seems to be the Utopia of many college students. Inevitably, a large number of students associate popularity with a person's desirability as a date.

Since dating is one of the most frequent occupations of college students, many feel that they must pursue the prevailing dating pattern. If they can easily adjust and conform, they soon learn a ritual for dating.

Students who are trapped by the college dating pattern learn the social refinements of the campus so

they may avoid unwittingly doing the wrong thing.

If "cooking" in the Union is the thing to do, these students must discover it. If a bowling tournament isn't considered suave entertainment, they should find this out before it's too late.

These students' eagerness to do the proper thing overrules any desire to do as they please. So they take their dates to the places where all the other couples go.

Always some students can find consolation in being sought after as a date, even when their intellectual performance is poor. Too often such students can boast of a higher campus prestige than the more intellectual students.

Contradictory forms of

behavior in the dating pattern often go unnoticed. For instance, many coeds are very insistent upon not kissing on the first date, so they will not create the wrong impression. However, the same coeds have no inhibitions about it later. Some students may pet with joy in the back seat of a car, but blush about a slip of the tongue at a formal party.

Students who follow the dating pattern usually refrain from questioning it, probably because they fear finding something wrong with the system and themselves.

It would appear that students involved in the dating pattern are insulting their intelligence. An intellect, for example, could not put up for long with the shallowness of the system and most of its participants.

## CAMPUS OPINION

### Why the Wait?

Dear Editor,

I should like to add only one comment to your editorial dated February 9th in which you stated it was "sad that the Committee on Student Affairs has not dealt with or investigated the problem of liability heretofore."

Quite some time ago at a meeting of the University Senate Liaison Committee, of which I am a member, I went over extensively with a representative of the Committee and Mr. Ladd Lonquist the issue of liability.

I believe my views as a member of the Bar of the State of Nebraska coincided exactly with those you reported in your paper to be those of Mr. Flavell Wright.

Upon a later occasion I also talked briefly with Dean Ross about the issue of legal liability and indicated again my views.

In view of this I believe quite some time ago the issues were raised, and I too cannot understand why the Committee and the student sponsors of this venture waited so long to get "official" advice on this legal point.

Dr. James A. Lake, Sr.

Professor of Law  
Member of the Bar of the  
State of Nebraska

### Infringement

Dear Editor,

Treachery is among us in the form of a new Administration decree. We the student body are about to be had! In the future, starting this summer to be exact, the student body will be required to buy (pay, fork-up) University of Nebraska registration schedules.

To pay for this form which invokes fears of add and drop in the best pencil-pushers in just one of the insults that our mighty University has heaped on our poor souls in just the last year.

Tuition has been hiked. Graduate students with assistantships have been required to pay tuition (but not all, for some departments just increased their stipends to cover the cost which just increased the damage to those that were in less honorable departments). Procedures for registration have been changed no less than every time we register.

Do not think that this is all that has happened to you. You now have fewer seats at basketball games. In fact if you do not get your ticket many hours prior to the game, you just cannot get one.

Do not believe what the Administration tells you

about these changes. You have heard their arguments on tuition and tickets. But wait until you have heard the reason(s) for selling the schedule books (which it is understood, will be available at the book stores for cost).

We will be told that supplying 15,000 students with free schedules is prohibitive in cost; when in fact, it should cost less per student because of the larger printings.

Have you ever known the book stores to do anything for cost? A probable reason could be that Administration just does not wish to take time to hand out the schedules.

What good is Administration to the student? What can we do to stem this tide of infringement on the student? Ask any graduate student which also was an undergraduate at this school how things have changed over the last seven or eight years.

Let him tell how the price of football tickets has doubled. Let him tell you about the loss of the all sports activity ticket (other than football).

Let him tell you about the disappearance of student parking with the increased price of parking stickers from \$1 to \$5. Let him tell you about the free bus service from the Ag-campus to the city campus. Just let him tell you!

Gaylord Mannequim

### Too Many Mads

Dear Editor,

The student union, a place where students can hang out and pass their leisure time, is very sufficient—for these and other functions.

I'm very dubious about the adequacy of the magazine section. No, I'm not asking for a Playboy or a Batman comic, but I would find it surprising to be able to purchase a Scientific American there.

It may be true that they do handle these in their rack, but is it too much for them to order a few more than they do, so there will be enough for the student desire?

I could have gotten a Mad magazine; for that matter I could have purchased an entire stack of them.

Is there some feasible excuse for the shortage of intellectual magazines in the Union? They just don't have adequate space to house both them and Mad, and, as you can easily see, Mad gets priority.

Don't get me wrong, Mad is fine — if you want to be entertained, but I think the major goal around here is education (please correct me if I am wrong.)

Mad Scientific American

## Class Attendance—Why Require It?

Editor's Note: Many students question the fairness and the thinking behind being graded on class attendance. One university, as reported in the following article, recognizes that attendance is not necessarily a good grading criteria. It's time that the University of Nebraska did, too.

Bethlehem, Pa. (I.P.) — All juniors and seniors at Lehigh University will be exempted from the regulations regarding class attendance beginning with the spring semester. The announcement of the faculty-approved action was made here recently by Dr. Glenn J. Christensen, vice president and provost.

Prior to this new change, only junior and senior honor students, those who maintained a 3-point average or better, were relieved of regular class attendance. A 4-point average is a straight "A" at Lehigh. The new regulation is a joint effort of the Faculty Educational Policy Committee and the University Student Life Committee.

While the University continues to maintain its basic principle that attendance at regularly scheduled classes is expected of all students, the new ruling does recognize that mature students can make responsible decisions and does permit all juniors and seniors to use individual discretion concerning class attendance. The new and liberal freedom of unlimited

"cuts" does not include scheduled examinations and special academic exercises such as laboratory sessions, where absences would impair the progress of fellow-students working on team projects.

Dr. Christensen said, "The purpose of this action is to recognize maturity and responsibility among the upperclassmen at the university, where active participation in academic exercises is emphasized."

"While the students are now free to make their own choice, they must recognize their individual responsibility to the work missed even though the faculty will not take into account the number of absences when measuring a student's performance.

"And the students are obligated to assess the effects of their action on both themselves and others in the same course," Dr. Christensen added.

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## Closet Case

By FRANK PARTSCH

I sometimes have to laugh when I hear people worrying about the "impending riot" at this University. It should be obvious to everyone that, since the University takes such good care of its students, any frustration is completely out of the question.

Today let's consider only one phase of the University's parent-like care. Now, if I were to ask, "What area on the campus is the most efficient in terms of number of people served per dollar of expenditure?" what would be your answer?

Of course, it's Area Two. The obvious use of Area Two is for a parking lot. But Area Two, that magnificent estate south of Vine and east of Seventeenth, bounded majestically by lumber warehouses and by the main line of the Rock Island Railroad, is not an ordinary parking lot.

Security there is so tight that the campus cops don't even have to guard it.

Booby traps—well-disguised pits lined with steel stakes snake out at unauthorized cars, keeping all looters out of the student area.

Rumor has it that the campus cops haven't even figured out how to get into the lot without breaking a spring, and that's why they move more than the normal amount of their time giving out 3 a.m. tickets in the Administration lot.

But the function of parking is only a small part of Area Two's utility. It also serves as a laboratory, a recreation area, a landfill, a bar, and, most important, as the only place on campus where it is possible for lovers to whisper sweet nothings without being watched.

As a laboratory, the lot is filled each morning with physics students, measuring the daily deterioration of paint on each car, the acceleration of wind-driven rocks, and the rate of saturation of water into the ground.

As a recreation area, Area Two represents one of the few remaining malls on campus where it is possible to play touch football without harming the sodded lawns.

As a landfill and as a bar (these functions are interchangeable) the perimeters of Area Two offer invaluable space for the deposit of metal beverage containers, which one may only assume were emptied there also.

As a rendezvous for lovers, last week-end Area Two was the scene of four engagements, six pinnings, ten fights and five reunions. These are important events in the lives of college students, events not meant for public consumption, and, as always, Area Two is there.

Yes, you can look back with sadness at the loss of a noted professor or at the razing of an old building, but, as far as I am concerned, the darkest day in the University student's life will be the day they decide to build a dormitory in Area Two.