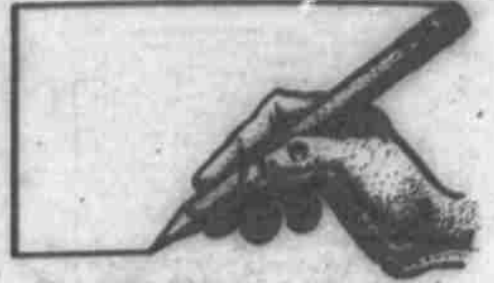


# opinion



## New powers should mean more responsibility, too

Regents, take one small step forward. Judge Samuel Van Pelt's ruling on division of authority between the NU Board of Regents and the Legislature will help the university in its day to day operations.

If more students enroll than were budgeted for, their tuition money will be of some help in hiring the professors and processors needed to get those extra people through the university.

This year's "extra" tuition was over \$700,000. Admittedly, that doesn't go far in the university system, but it's enough to add or compensate at least a few faculty members.

Now the regents can give faculty members raises when and as they see fit without getting permission from the Legislature.

It also was a nuisance to have gifts valued at over \$10,000 approved by the Legislature.

Now that the regents have this extra money and leeway at their disposal, the university community and the rest of the board's constituents should press the board to make responsible budget decisions.

Many segments of the university community will clamor for that money, now that they know it's spendable.

The regents will have to allocate the scarce funds weighing each request carefully, not blindly ok'ing or chopping a few million from something termed "facility improvement allocation" with the idea that the Legislature will do with it what they will in the end, anyway.

The legislators, the faculty and the students will be watching a little more closely now. At least for awhile. And the regents will be able to point the finger at the Legislature a little less often.

The ruling will not do away with the university's yearly budget battle in the Legislature, but it will give the battle a new slant.

While Van Pelt acceded some power to the regents he reminded them that "if the framers of the Constitution intended for the Board of Regents to have a free hand in the government of the university the phrase 'under the direction of

the Legislature' could and should have been deleted in its entirety."

He pointed out that the powers and duties of the board are such as "shall be prescribed by law."

Depending on how sensitive they are to the ruling, the legislators could take steps to diminish the potential impact of parts of the ruling.

Now that the university can use self-generated income, the Legislature may get into the business of speculating on the sum of NU's self-generated income expenditures for the next year and cut the budget request accordingly.

Also, the legislators still have the power to "prescribe the law"—to make constitutional amendments which would effectively limit the regents' authority.

We have no reason to believe a majority of the legislators would want to foil Van Pelt's opinion. Many will appreciate that the ruling determined questions which have been quarrelled about for years.



## The system, including Nero Wolfe, is just one big ripoff conspiracy

By Jim Williams

Assignment: go to the library and look under "Stout, Rex" . . .

. . . It was about half past three when I showed the stringy girl into Wolfe's office. He was sitting behind the desk, leaning back with his eyes half closed and his fingers laced across his incredible stomach.

"Cripes," I heard the girl say under her breath as I got her a chair, "what a blimp."

Wolfe opened his eyes. "Good afternoon, madam. Excuse me for not rising—it is not discourtesy but adiposity. Archie, verbatim please."

I got my notebook while Wolfe finished off the introduction.

" . . . now then, Miss Lipman," he was saying.

"Mizz. You Nero Wolfe? The famous detective?"

"That is correct."

"Boy, are you bloated."

I didn't know what Wolfe was going to do. He didn't do anything. "If there is some way I may help you, please

to walk two, maybe three blocks farther. It's just a rip-off."

Wolfe nodded, but the girl didn't seem to need encouragement.

"And you know, you have to pay fees to the college to cover everything, and still I went to the health center to get my acne treated and they told me I'd have to pay more. Even though I'd paid the fee already, right?"

"And the worst thing is like, you're in college, you know, and everything they teach you is so irrelevant to how things really are, you know, reality, like I'm taking this course in Casteneda that's really together but doesn't count for my major, so it's just a ripoff. And then when you've got your degree, you know, well big deal, because the system won't let you do anything, they'll just stick you in some filing job where you can't even express yourself, so the whole college thing is just a big ripoff, like it doesn't do you any good."

Wolfe looked at her while she was getting her breath. "What do you want from me?"

"Well, justice, you know. You're the great detective, you should be able to find out who's doing all this and, you know, expose them."

Wolfe began pursing his lips again. "I think we could find that out for you," he said eventually. "However, it would be time-consuming and quite expensive. How much are you prepared to pay?"

The girl stared at him. "I—I'm not really into money, you know? It's like—you, I thought you'd want to get justice and everything, and help the oppressed people."

"My dear young lady, I must support three people besides myself. Justice is very beneficial to those with a particular grievance, but it doesn't buy many Gattleva Dowiana

particular grievance, but it doesn't buy many Gattleva Dowiana aurea. If you will excuse me, it is time for me to go to the plant rooms."

And the funny thing is that as both of them were leaving, I heard both say the same thing to themselves: "What a ripoff."

### wrench in the works



tell me," he only said. "I have not much time at your disposal."

The stringy girl looked down at the floor. "Well—I'm being ripped off, you know."

"I do not know. Neither do I understand. From what have you been ripped off, or what has been ripped off of you?"

The girl looked frustrated. "Just—like everything, you know? It's the system. I go to college, you know, and it's like one big ripoff. The system, you know, it's just a conspiracy to rip people off."

Wolfe sat back in his chair and began pushing his fat little lips out and pulling them back in tight. I always looked for this, because it showed he was thinking hard. He stopped doing it and looked at the stringy girl again.

"You mean to say you are being systematically defrauded by a university?"

"Hey, how come the big words, man? You trying to show off or something? Don't try to jive me. I've done it all, seen it all, you know. I was at Woodstock, man."

I could tell Wolfe had decided to set his mental clock back and drop that one. "Perhaps you can give Mr. Goodwin and myself some example of what you mean," he said.

"Well, just everything is so screwed up, you know. Like I got a car, right, and the system says to park it you need a sticker, like, so I bought one, and then it turns out there are more stickers than places to park so sometimes I have

## European history updated by Ford

By Arthur Hoppe

For the benefit of inquiring citizens, the Republican National Committee has issued a small pamphlet entitled, "A History of Eastern Europe, 1945 - 1976, (Revised Edition)." Excerpts follow.

Following World War II, Eastern Europe was in terrible shape. Nobody knew what to do. Everybody hoped the Russians would take them in, because the Russians were richer and kinder than anybody else.

But even the Russians couldn't take everybody in. They did take in the Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians,

### innocent bystander

because they begged the hardest. And they finally reluctantly agreed to accept 16,000 square miles of homeless territory Finland didn't want. But they insisted on paying for it by building a military base right near Helsinki which they even staffed with their own soldiers. And they never charged the Finns a kopek for maintaining it!

Though they hated to do it, the Russians had no choice but to tell the other Eastern Europeans they'd have to go it alone.

"How can we?" whined the Eastern Europeans. "We don't have enough money to buy tanks and hire soldiers to defend ourselves." So the poor Russians were forced to loan tanks and soldiers to all these countries which still haven't paid them back.

"Okay," said these countries, "but what kind of governments should we have?" That's where the Russians drew the line. "It's up to you," said the Russians firmly. "You have to learn to stand on your own two feet."

So all these countries thought it over and every single one decided to go Communist. Some historians attribute this to sheer coincidence. But, more likely, it was due to the admirations these countries felt for Russia.

Western Europe was so happy to see such peace and harmony that it organized NATO to give cocktail parties and tea dansants for visiting Eastern Europeans. The Eastern Europeans responded by forming the very exclusive Warsaw Pact country club. They did decide to let Russia in, but not Yugoslavia, which had been uncouth.

Everybody had fun in the country club. The Hungarians, for example, loved throwing rose petals and things at the Russian tanks which were constantly liberating them. Once, they got so carried away the celebration lasted for days.

So attractive was Eastern Europe that the Russians finally had to build a wall across Berlin to keep fun-crazed Westerners out.

The only fly in the ointment was power-mad Czechoslovakia. But in 1968, badly-outnumbered Russian tanks defeated thousands of Czechs heavily armed with bottles and rocks. And, thanks to this historic defense by the Russians, there has been no domination of the Soviets in Eastern Europe to this day.

The Republican brochure ends there. It's a sell out. "You'd be surprised," said one Republican committeeman, "how well it's been received by people who say they are card-carrying Party members."

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