

## Nebraskan Editorials

# Inner-Not Outer-Control

Over-emphasis of activities on the University campus has become a focal point in the list of campus problems.

At least a few people who are in a position to do something about this over-emphasis are making a brave attempt. Whether these attempts will bear fruit remains to be seen.

As widespread as the opinion is that a change is needed in the activity set-up it would seem that the change should come with the beginning of school next fall. This means that machinery must be worked out now—before this school year ends. If it is not, the activity chaos will continue and the opportunity to begin anew next fall will be missed.

Such a re-evaluation of the activity set-up has been discussed by many persons on campus. There are two approaches to the problem: First, activities are over-emphasized from the standpoint of the individual in attaining future goals—mainly embodied in the senior honoraries, Innocents and Mortar Boards. Second, activities are over-emphasized within the organ-

izations themselves, including social fraternities and sororities. The former approach is limited to a few "gung-ho" students who drive themselves to the ultimate glory without too much concern for outside alliances. The latter position includes the portion of the student body who, in order to bask in the glory reflected by the individual activity workers, pushes, shoves and pulls the more ambitious students into the activity stream.

Of the 7,000 students attending the University, approximately 1,000 at the maximum are actively participating in a campus activity. In referring to activities, honoraries and professionals are not included. This means that actually the problem of over-emphasis effects only one-seventh of the student body—those persons in activities.

Several solutions to this problem have been offered. One is to increase administrative control, which on this campus would be a big mistake. By applying administrative restrictions and supervision to campus activities the administration would find itself involved in a myriad of red tape and possibly a curtailment of activity efficiency altogether. Control by the administration would lessen the incentive on the part of students to participate in activities and would lower the value of activities for the development of individual thinking and security in individual accomplishment.

A second solution, submitted for consideration would be the increase of academic requirements. This leaves much room for skepticism as to which would suffer most—activities or studies. However, the more studies a student finds himself burdened with the less time he would have for activities—therefore, it might lead to participation in many activities for short periods of time a week or participation in one activity, with all spare time devoted. However, this method is still pushing the student into a restrictive situation which is not conducive to freedom of action or the incentive to develop his leadership abilities. The student would be forced from outside sources to limit his activity participation.

Then there is a more practical solution to the over-emphasis of activity problem. Because only those persons in activities are effected by this over-emphasis, it is logical to assume they should be the ones to re-evaluate and reorganize.

It should be pointed out that students in activities are not making an effort to neglect their studies. If they do neglect studies, they soon become ex-activities. In the present activity system, one virtue is that the students who can not maintain a sensible balance between studies and activities are soon either dropped from activities or from school. But the main problem rests within the organizational structures of the various activities.

If there are restrictions to be set up so that students will be less susceptible to an over-indulgence in activities and a neglect of studies, let the restrictions come from the students in those activities. This means that Student Council attempts to investigate the activity situation should be delegated to the activities themselves.

The Nebraskan suggests either the establishment of an intra-activity committee composed of delegates from the various campus activities to discuss over-emphasis problems and ways to curb them or an inter-activity committee set-up within each specific activity and assigned to review the same problem, arriving at some solution which fits its own activity's situation.

The secret lies not in handing down an ultimatum in the form of "incorporate this rule in your constitution or your constitution will be revoked" sort of dictate but a delegation of responsibility to each individual activity and its members to solve the ever-increasing problem of over-emphasis.—J. H.

## Campus Capers

By Bruce Conner



## Where There's Smoke Sneers Undeserved By 'Gung-Ho' NUers

By JOHN GOURLAY and MIKE SHUGRUE

High school basketball fans swarmed the Nebraska campus last weekend. We watched them with particular interest because they seemed so awe-inspired by the University atmosphere. It's too bad more of that awe and respect for college doesn't last once one gets down here.

The high school fans were impressed by the novelty of all they saw and by the spirit around the University during state basketball time. They seemed to sense the excitement in the air. Aside from basketball, when they weren't talking about the winner of the next game, one could see them peering inside buildings and watching with admiration as professors passed them on the streets.

One couldn't expect college students to be inspired by the novelty of the Student Union every afternoon at coffee time. One doesn't expect every fellow and coed to carry rally-spirit with him at all times. But one can expect collegians to react to the spirit of the institution. The knowledge that this is a place of learning should breed some kind of continuous respect for NU's "hallowed halls."

Many college students chuckled at the wide-eyed, interested high school students on the campus. And being "gung-ho" once one gets here is as bad as being wide-eyed before matriculating, according to many smirking collegians.

Not everyone is vitally interested in the University. But some are. And those collegians who are, are trying to interest others through their activities, sports, publications and departmental clubs. They really don't deserve the smirks and chuckles they get. They aren't completely like the high schoolers. Sometimes they get a little too enthusiastic, yes. Sometimes they are a little too anxious to show spirit, yes. But they mean well. And, in general, they do a good job. So, hold back the smirks. There's a place for this spirit. Admit it.

## Globetrotting Our Fathers Brought Forth A New Tax . . .

By CHARLES GOMON

Now that winter coats have been discarded in favor of spring cashmere it will not be long until thoughts of most collegians will turn to the study of figures. Naturally I mean the forms involved in making up one's income tax; its due by April 15, you know.

Government spending programs now encompass most of the known world, not to mention the billions. At the root of our national budget is a gimmick called deficit spending.

So far we have managed to spend \$271,259,599,108 (approximately) more than we have received into the U.S. treasury. Most authorities agree that this is doing very well, since we have been a nation for only 179 years.

It seems, however, that we students have little recourse but to pay through the nose. At least we can weep with the wag who drafted the following Gettysburg address for 1955:

"Two score and two years ago, our fathers brought forth into this nation a new tax, conceived in desperation and dedicated to the proposition that all men are fair game."

"Now, we are engaged in a great mass of calculations, testing whether that taxpayer or any taxpayer so confused and so impoverished can

## Givin' 'Em Ell Raise In Dorm Fees Questioned By Coeds

By ELLIE ELLIOTT

Today I think I shall risk my life by living up to the title of this column. It had best be understood that this is simply my own opinion of the situation.

The Comptroller has announced that the dorm rates will be raised \$50 next year. This is not, perhaps, a staggering sum; but there are some questions that have been raised by the students involved. I speak more, now, for the women than for the men.

All freshman women are required to live in the dorm. For independent upperclassmen, the choice is hardly less limited. In the past, it has been generally accepted that the dorm was the cheapest and most convenient place to live. The food is the most nutritious on campus . . . lima beans are full of proteins. The rooms are cleaned (?) once a week; the beds are bearable.

Now, however, it will not be cheaper to live in the dorm than to live off campus. Let us consider some of the disadvantages that one thinks of when he considers the difference between paying \$65 or \$70 a month for room and board.

Food seems to be uppermost in the Comptroller's mind. Our board fee is not separate from our room fee. We lose money every time we do not eat at the dorm . . . a situation which becomes more frequent, the longer one lives here. I am reasonably sure that there is an excessive amount of waste of food here . . . unless we get it the next day for lunch.

If the University feels that it needs to raise the rates to pay for the food, I suggest that it try some plan such as this: first, separate the room and board fees. Post the

menu well in advance. Permit each student to buy meal tickets for only those meals which he wishes to eat in the dorm. Plans similar to this have been effected successfully in many elementary and secondary school lunch programs. It might relieve a great deal of waste and agony.

There are other elements to be considered. We don't have "wash day" over here; we have "rearrange the dirt day." Our laundry facilities are, I think, of a pre-Civil War vintage, of the pay-as-you-go variety. There are three washing machines for 379 girls; three driers; two hair-driers and six rotten rubber shampoo hoses; 19 house phones but only 15 out-wires; and five pay phones. Our kitchenettes (parlor, gas burner, ironing board, and sink) have been turned into bedrooms to accommodate the overflow. We have no television, no snack bar. We do have, however, a ping-pong ball. This latter is a great morale-booster.

Can we be assured that these deplorable deficiencies will be remedied next year? Our rent has been raised \$20 in the past two years, but we still have dusty rooms, inadequate facilities and beans. There is a definite feeling among the dorm residents that we are paying for the men's dorm, rather than gaining any benefits for our own housing conditions from the rent hike. If this is not true, I think that a public accounting of the true facts is in order.

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## Afterthoughts

### Royal Party

English royalty seem to have the hardest time getting married.

The Duke of Windsor had to abdicate the throne to marry the woman he loved and now Princess Margaret is having trouble in becoming united with Peter Townsend, a commoner divorced from his former wife.

As if Royal disapproval weren't a big enough barrier, it seems that Church of England tradition forbids marriages of divorcees. British papers are now trying to find out which prominent clergymen is willing to marry Princess Margaret and Townsend.

Probably the most formidable barrier to wedding bells, and the least noticed, is the fact that Townsend himself states that he has no reason to believe that the Princess has decided to marry him.

## Campus Circuit

## SEATO Unknown To More Than Half Of College Students

By the ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS

How many people know the meaning of those strange initials SEATO? SEATO is the "NATO" of the Pacific. It's a group of eight nations, dedicated in part, at least, to prevent the further spread of Communism in Southeast Asia. Congress not long ago okayed our membership in this group—so we're in.

And yet: Less than half of the college students in the United States can say they've ever heard of SEATO.

The Associated Collegiate Press asked college students throughout the country this question: Have you ever heard of SEATO, the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization? The answers were: yes, 47 per cent; no, 51 per cent, and undecided, 2 per cent.

Here's something to think about: more college men than women said they'd heard about SEATO. The figures went like this—men: yes, 58 per cent; no, 41 per cent, and undecided, 1 per cent. Women: yes, 33 per cent; no, 64 per cent, and undecided, 3 per cent.

Is this in line with other readership studies that indicate men tend to read more current events than women, on government and politics, or is there some other reason?

Not everyone who said he has heard of SEATO knew much about it, though. ACP asked those who had answered yes to the question a sort of check-up question: Would you name as many of the SEATO Pact nations as you can, please? Only 3 per cent could name all eight nations correctly, and 21 per cent could not name any of the nations.

The eight nations belonging to SEATO are: Australia, France, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States.

Even though college students don't know much or anything about SEATO, one of the important bulwarks against Communism, ACP has found that they have some definite ideas about certain things the United States should do in the "cold war," or whatever it is.

For one thing, they think the United States should do a better job of putting out propaganda than it has been doing.

The ACP asked them: "It has been stated by certain sources that the United States is losing the cold war because the Russians are producing more and better propaganda. Regardless of whether this statement is true or not, do you think the United States should spend more money on overseas libraries, Voice of America radio stations, the Point Four program, etc?"

And here is how they answered: 66 per cent say yes, we should spend more; 24 per cent say no, we should not spend more, and 10 per cent have no opinion.

It is interesting to note on a question like this, how closely college opinion runs to that of the oldsters. Another polling organization checked adult opinion not long ago and found much the same thing. On the question of spending more money on propaganda, they found that 67 per cent of the population was in favor, 20 per cent disagreed and 13 per cent had no opinion.

## The Nebraskan

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