

The regular editorial of the Summer Nebraskan has been replaced by two columns of special interest to readers. S. J.

# —bruce brugmann

**Note:** The following column is a portion of an article which is being written for a national magazine by Bruce Brugmann, past editor of The Nebraskan. It is not meant to reflect the views of the Summer Nebraskan, its staff, or the personnel of summer sessions. The views expressed are Brugmann's own interpretation of recent events with the University. The Summer Nebraskan feels that though the column is of special significance to members of the faculty, this advance release of the article is of interest to summer and regular session students alike. S. J.

The recent decision of the University privilege and tenure committee, upholding three charges in full and three others in part that administrative officials had abridged the academic freedom of Dr. C. Clyde Mitchell, dramatically characterizes the self-imposed position of the University of Nebraska.

The six-member committee has confirmed suspicions—aggravated in 1952 by the American Legion attack upon Dr. E. N. Anderson, in 1953 with a legislative attempt to institute a faculty loyalty oath, in 1954 with the pressure-soaked resignation of Bill Glassford as head football coach and in 1956 with the eruption of the Mitchell controversy—that (1) the University has been steadily falling prey to powerful pressure groups in the state, and (2) its administrative officials have become dangerously responsive to such outside pressures.

In findings marked with care, scholarly judiciousness and rare courage, the committee report leaves little doubt that penalties inflicted upon Dr. Mitchell, including his eventual demotion as chairman of the agricultural economics department, were prompted by "continuing objections" to his politico-economic views by "groups within the state."

(Among letters filed in the record objecting to Dr. Mitchell were ones received from Charles Marshall, crustaceous president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau; Fred E. Owen, writing as president of the Paxton and Vierling Steel in Omaha, and W. S. Henrich, writing as vice-president and chairman of the Woodmen Accident and Life Company in Lincoln.)

Furthermore, it courageously exposes the public treachery of the administration (whose publicity releases lacked "candor" and involved an "unfortunate equivocation"), in trying to slip the stiletto to a professor on one hand while disgorging platitudes about academic freedom on the other, an unenviable practice matched only by the apparent unconcerned support of the Regents.

Wasn't it but four years ago that the Regents, adopting a nationally acclaimed statement by Dean Lambert, affirmed that "the

right to uphold, to discuss and dissent are . . . the strength of a great university" and guaranteed the teacher's right to speak as a citizen?

Wasn't it only last year, in the heat of the Mitchell controversy, that Chancellor Hardin said, "Never, in my opinion, are the best interests of a university served by a violation of academic freedom?"

It was only a month and a half ago, following the publication of the Mitchell report, that Chancellor Hardin "had no comment at this time;" Dean Lambert had "no comment;" (Dean Breckenridge, who originally scotched the Mitchell rumors, was not contacted this time), and the Board of Regents, singularly and collectively, had "no comment," except to methodically issue a flock of statements expressing "complete confidence" in Chancellor Hardin.

The tragic thing, of course, is that the report will accelerate steps already long in motion to assure that never again will another Mitchell report be laid bare to embarrass the administration before its constituency.

All avenues of communication are being carefully sealed, including a tightening up of the University Press and the latest of a series of moves to emasculate The Nebraskan; and a number of the more courageous, outspoken professors, particularly those associated with the Mitchell case, will become victims of promotion manipulations, minimal salary raises and innuendo campaigns.

The damage wrought by the Mitchell case, but one of a series of less-publicized incidents, stands as a successful invasion of the University by private interests, imperiling not only the climate of the independent mind but the atmosphere of a free university.

The University of Nebraska, traditionally and potentially a great institution of higher learning, may regain its former status only if an alert faculty realizes that the Mitchell report—fine in itself—is nothing more than a damage report, doing little to either solve the problem or insure effectively that never again will the institution be blemished by external assaults or internal defections.

# —dick shugrue

A wise old man (almost 40) said to me the other day, "You can gripe all you want as long as you do your job." And Harry Truman is reported to have told some of the five percenters, "Boys, you shouldn't be in the kitchen if you can't stand the heat."

Two fine points to concern yourselves with.

Both are quite applicable as far as campus politics are concerned, I believe. It should be that those with the best grades become the greatest malcontents—that is if they have the time to gripe.

It seems that the administration would honor the requests of students or faculty members who have proved their interest in academic life through hard work, long hours and all the rest. When the day comes that the administration will not honor the requests of the real scholar—student or teacher—then the chancellor and his fellow administrators had better get out of the kitchen.

However, I have found that the present administration has always been fair and has offered time and effort to those students who have approached Adminy Hall with legitimate gripes—I'll qualify

that; The administration has been fair as long as the knowledge exists that the student is doing a good job.

I cannot condone the sluggard who has time for griping but no time for work. I cannot believe that anyone who spends more time looking for trouble than looking for books in the library has much of a place in the University community.

Harry Truman's words hold true today. They are probably enshrined in Kansas City. They should be enshrined in Lincoln at the corner of 13th and R Streets.

Maybe it should read a little differently. Something like this:

Now look, all you hot shots who think a University is for words not action. Your first responsibility is toward the freedom to think straight and to work hard. You can insure academic freedom best by avoiding fancy phrases and by embracing hard work.

Make yourself aware of the problems at the University and approach those sources which can alleviate them best. Become first a searcher for education and then, only if necessary, a roaring crusader for reform.

# —sara jones

It's with undisguised relief that the editor turns in the last page proof on the last edition of the Summer Nebraskan. Six hot editions, hot in the sense of sweltering offices and perspiring editors, have left the tiny staff wondering if the Steve Wilson type newspaper offices are not just a figment of some non-journalistic mind.

The joke of the summer — a faculty member who remarked in my presence, without knowing who I was, that "the Summer Rag certainly is dull reading. Why don't they get a controversy going?!"

My advisors, William Hall and James Morrison, and I had a friendly spat over responsible journalism and its definition. Contrary to the opinion of a lot of faculty members, student editors don't always enjoy stirring up controversies — some of them even have a few qualms about what they print, and spend a few sleepless nights wondering if they are doing the right thing.

It isn't that the student editors feel they must declare war on any and all action taken by faculty and administration, but sometimes at

nineteen and twenty they still have a few ideals shining and still believe in some of the platitudes taught in their classes. The worry of public relations and "What it looks like" are still less important to them than what is the right thing and how it ought to be.

Rumors fairly well confirmed indicate that the Daily Nebraskan will have an advisor next year in the form of the newest addition to the school of journalism staff. It's things like this that make editors wonder.

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