

Editorial Comment The Flopnik

The Flopnik is the new American line of earth satellites. Or it was, while it existed. Then boom! With a mushroom of flame and smoke the hopes of a successful early satellite launching quickly diminished.

Of course, the satellite was but a little mocking model of the vast Russian Sputniks and Mutniks. Also by its lateness, it would have lost some of its significance. But at least United States would show itself in the running.

But it failed. The Vanguard reached a height of two to four feet, not a record, of course. Even more discouraging was the lowering five to ten notches of the American prestige. From a psychological and political point of view the damage is comparable with the injury suffered last October when the first Soviet Sputnik began circling the earth.

It does make a difference. The free nations of the world look to the U.S. as the fortress of democracy and the guardian of peace. Yet, in science the Soviet Union apparently has flashed ahead of the powerful United States with all of its scientific resources and productive capacity.

The explosion of the 72-foot sky giant echoed

around the world and was quite a spectacle since the project was non-secret. The dramatic tension was heightened by the disclosure of everything about the preparations for the launching.

This unprecedented publicity was unfortunate, less publicity will probably follow in future launchings. Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson (D-Tex) summed it up by calling the explosion "one of the best publicized—and most humiliating—failures in our history."

There is some hint that the big brass expected and was prepared for a failure. For shame—so much publicity for a test which turned out to be a failure. But may they take consolation that from a failure, they may be able to learn many valuable lessons for the next try.

Let's hope that the failure—evidently one of mechanical nature rather than design—will not hold up progress. Let's hope that the full scale, 27-inch sphere will still be able to meet the target date "some time next year," and that we remember the adage . . . "if at first you don't succeed, try, try again."



AND GIVE MY DAD A BOOK ON FIRE PREVENTION SO OUR HOUSE WON'T BURN DOWN AGAIN THIS YEAR.

The Galley Slave by dick shugrue

If you overheard one of the top-level administrators of the University say that it is not the place of the student to be taking an active part in political affairs, rather he should be here to study and to learn, I wonder if you would be disturbed.

More than likely not. And this hohum reaction of the average student makes me a little sick.

I heard an administrator say words to that effect and I was quite alarmed about the fact that he fails to recognize the importance of the student's place not only in regard to the issues which face both the administration and the students, such as academic freedom, the right of the student to an active voice on joint committees (call it a privilege if you will), the duty of the University to establish consistent social policies with respect for the laws of the state, social policies which will be adhered to by students who entertain students as well as others connected with the University who entertain students and myriad other right heaped upon us all in a free society.

Two distinct schools of thought have sprung up in the modern world concerning the place of the student. One of them, like the one expressed by the administrator, intimates that students are too dumb to handle their own affairs, too immature to be treated as adults, too ignorant to be handed the civil and social rights reportedly accorded every man in a truly free society.

A young lady who has represented the National Student Association was in the city recently and described the liberating efforts of that organization.

She had been a regional secretary of the NSA and had the opportunity of visiting schools which had established local participation in the national organization.

"It is our belief (and this is the second school of thought; that students should have a voice in the legislation which affects them. The age of the voter, the payment of taxes by those who cannot vote, the right of the student to participate actively in those political endeavors he sees fit . . . these are all issues with which the NSA concerns itself," she told me.

Administrators are likely to pooh-poo such ideas, chuckling that the NSA is for radicals and pinkos.

Just like the ignorant people Mrs. Roosevelt referred to who label everything they do not as Communism. I have never heard an administrator on this campus refer to the NSA as any of those things. But I have heard it referred to as "Left." Whatever that really means.

The basic objection which the old folks at home have with this type group is that students who get into it are likely to go way overboard in asking for concessions. They think we'll demand the moon. But in this day and age, it's a wonderful thought to imagine any American youth would want to take the trouble to man the moon.

Schools like The State University of Iowa and Michigan have joined, many of the eastern schools have joined. They are going places fast with NSA.

This year the national president of the organization is a graduate of the University of Texas. The organization is not centered around the Ivy League. There have been repeated attempts to get the University of Nebraska interested in the NSA.

Last year a fellow named Pomroy who was vice-president of the group came here from Pittsburgh to talk with students and administration about our joining.

That's the last I heard of it. The NSA may have been lost on the parliamentary table. It may have been defeated. But I hope it's not forgotten. It is important for Americans—and especially students—to get behind with the times. It is our duty to act with regard to our liberties. If we don't, we won't deserve to have those liberties.



Shugrue

Do Students Read Newspapers?

Initial data analysis from a recent survey by Associated Collegiate Press shows that more than three-fourths of the college students interviewed say they read a daily paper regularly. ACP asked the following question of a representative group of college men and women across the nation:

"DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO, OR READ REGULARLY, A DAILY NEWSPAPER?"

	Men	Women	Total
Yes	79%	78%	78%
No	21%	22%	22%

Almost equal proportions of men and women read a daily newspaper, but college men hold a slight—one percentage point—lead over the women in their schools. One freshman coed at Wayne State University (Detroit, Mich.) qualified her "yes" answer by stating that, at least, she always reads the comics and the sports pages. A freshman at Tyler Junior College (Tyler, Texas) indicated that he subscribed to and read his home-town newspaper, and a senior at the Missouri School of Mines (Rolla, Mo.) added that, in addition to reading a morning and evening daily paper, he also reads several weekly newsmagazines.

Lack of time was the major reason given for not reading a daily paper. Almost all the students commenting on their "no" answer indicated that college itself took up all their available time. One man qualified his statement, however, by saying that whenever he found the time he read a paper, and another, from the University of Kentucky (Lexington, Ky.) added to his "no" reply, "not thoroughly, and not every day."

Editor's Note: Very few of the students who said they read a daily newspaper offered reasons why they did so. But the simple fact that over three quarters of the students interviewed answered yes to the question is interesting in itself. One could logically assume from this fact that college students are inter-

ested in day to day happenings of their country and the world in general. We don't, of course, know what kind of news they read (political, foreign relations, domestic, or human interest) but just the same, we can be comfortably sure that their interests are not completely confined to on-campus happenings and that they have an awareness of the "outside world" of which they will soon be a part.

Jack of All Trades

and master of none. The NSEA, Nebraska State Education Association, being the composite group of educators of this "cultural desert," should be well qualified to expound upon the financial needs of the school system.

And they will find an alert audience when they chose to tell of these needs, but in telling us how to raise the taxes to support better schools they will be reminded that, like children, maybe they should be seen and not heard.

As Senator Donald Thompson advised the teachers, "for the good of your organization perhaps you should not assume leadership in the fields of taxation."

The teachers avoided generalities in their tax recommendations at the NSEA delegate assembly which met in Lincoln last week. If they had but stated that the additional funds needed for school expansion should be met through a broadened tax base or some such imprecise terminology, they would probably hear little objection.

But few intelligent citizens will hesitate to admonish the NSEA for its support of the sales tax—the tax that tax authorities say is not based on the ability to pay, but that taxes the able and unable alike.

Perhaps the NSEA should limit itself to teaching, allow the legislators to pass tax measures and leave the trading to Jack.

Into The Limelight

dave rhoades

Two weeks ago a rather bitter editorial in the Daily Nebraskan suggested that the Activities Committee of the Student Council was "irresponsible" and should be censured by the Council. The editorial referred to a motion from the Student Activities Committee recommending that funds derived from students (i.e., money obtained from the selling of tickets to a dance) which is later spent on social affairs for a particular organization be limited.

The editorial resulted when the Daily Nebraskan checked with Mr. Clare Harper, Treasurer of the Student Activities Fund, and found discrepancies in what Mr. Harper had asked for in the matter and what the Committee was seeking the Student Council to approve. The editorial went on to comment that . . . they (the Committee) were using the prestige of his office to enact the measure." At the next session of the Student Council, Connie Hurst, Chairman of the Committee originally proposing the motion, requested and received permission to take it back to the Committee for "further consideration."

The Council will soon be discussing the new recommendations which, in effect, merely rubber stamps the policy already established by the Administration. The Council will be asked to approve expenditures—whatever they may be—incurred in carrying out the "expressed and approved aims and purposes of the organization as set forth in its constitution" except money spent for a "limited number" of students.

This is quite a watered-down proposal from the original motion. Nevertheless, the action of the Student Council on this matter informs the various campus organ-

izations of the policy established by the Administration. Perhaps groups which find their treasury overflowing will, in the future, find better ways of following the "spirit of their constitutions" than giving dinner parties for themselves. Perhaps also the Administration will be more emphatic in enforcing organizations to follow the established policy.

This week the Library Committee of the Student Council will present to Mr. Lundy, Director of Love Library, two major suggestions. The first will emphasize the desire on the part of students to have the library open during vacation periods. The second suggests that a box of some type be placed outside the library so that students having overnight and reserve books can place them in the box and not have to wait in 20 degrees of gusty winds for the slots to open.

Anyone meandering through the library this week noticed a display of publications of the Humanities Faculty across from the circulation desk. The display arranged by Mr. Kreissman of the Humanities Department is drawing much attention and many favorable comments. Mr. Kreissman should be commended for taking the time to contact the various faculty members involved and arranging the display. I hope an arrangement can be made to have other departments and colleges display their publications. I talked with Prof. James Olson of the History Department recently and he commented that his department would "cooperate fully" in any such display. These displays give students an opportunity to see the accomplishments of other departments.

from the editor—

First Things First...

by Jack Pollock

Inter-service rivalry, prevalent throughout the U.S. armed forces—and carried out to a lesser extent at the University through the Reserved Officers Training Corps programs—has evidently provided the impetus for making the opening social season function a top-notch affair.

To revitalize what becomes just another dance except for costumes, last year the Navy ROTC department planned each phase of the event, decorations, etc.—with minute care, with the end result being the first financial success the ball had had in years, with some 1,850 persons in attendance.

The Navy sponsors (1) flew in the NavCad choir as additional entertainment, (2) initiated the reserve seat sections and (3) offered a ticket combination which included tickets, dinner for two, corsage, and transportation from the dinner to the Ball and back again to stimulate interest and make the Ball something more than an enlarged Union Saturday evening fox trot.

Not to be outdone this year, the Army sponsors utilized the facilities of new Pershing auditorium, which, coincidentally, were appropriate for a Military Ball since the auditorium was named after the late U.S. Army Gen. "Black Jack" Pershing.

The Army spectacle, complete with uniformed doormen and blaring spotlights, included a fast-moving and varied program of

entertainment, interspersed with the music of Ralph Marterie and his troops. As a professional non-dancer, I include this year's Military Ball among the most enjoyable social events I ever attended over the last 20 some years.

Except for what seemed an over-lengthy Grand March (we would have called it a "forced march" in the service), the Ball met with great reception from the crowd. With an estimated 2,500 dancers, non-dancers, and spectators in the crowd, this year's affair will probably go down as another financial success. The Army Ball Committee even enlarged on the reserve seat section idea, selling "space" to financial backers who were given box seats away from the mass of humans on the dance floor.

With continued interest by the services in improving the season's social opener, the NU Military Ball will become something that should be one of the top social functions in the state. Think I'll save my costume for next year—again.

While we're on more or less of a military tone today, it might be of interest to note Russia's latest claim to fame. In addition to launching the world's first space satellite, the Soviet Union last week announced another first—a Soviet personality has invented a cinema device, known as "Cinerama." Wait'll Lowell Thomas hear about this.

Through These Doors

george moyer

Warning to would be journalists. Enter any newspaper office with a ready made armor plated skin.

Nobody is more in the middle and more alone than the newspaper reporter who makes a mistake. Then he must go around for a week or so with his collar turned up and his head down avoiding streetlights and slinking through dark alleys. He is waylaid while sitting at his typewriter by everyone from the editor to the copy boy and gets a thorough raking over the coals of all of these.

Recently, a reporter here made a mistake. (I will undoubtedly be heavily censured for admitting this sort of thing can happen on the Daily Nebraskan.) She was covering a report made by a committee of the University chapter of the American Association of University Professors which was a study of the committees of the Faculty Senate. She understood from the chairman of the committee, J. L. Sellers, that the committee report had been neither accepted nor rejected.

Perhaps, this was a misunderstanding for the young lady had been getting irate letters from other members of the Association calling her treatment of the matter biased and pointing out that the report was rejected by the Association as a whole. And it was.

Since the young lady is a little new at the business of being bounced around by people for something she wrote in the paper, she is taking the matter rather to heart. She is frantically convinced that she heard Mr. Sellers correctly and she is just a little amazed that the world, even the University world, can be this rough.

She made a simple and basic mistake, not too uncommon among reporters everywhere. She simply forgot that some people have axes to grind and therefore, any job of reporting has to come from both sides of the question. This is not a censure of her, but a complaint against those people who will hide things they don't want

known from reporters in spite of the fact that, this information is vitally necessary for a correct and unbiased story. Certainly, such stories are the wish of the Daily Nebraskan and, I hope, all the members of the faculty also.



'I' House

To the Editor:

I wonder how many students on this campus realize that there is no longer an International House. Evidently the compilers of Builders do not, for it is still listed as an Independent house. Probably there are a considerable number who never did know of its existence. For over ten years, the red brick house at 1520 R Street (next to the State Historical Society), has been a home for countless foreign girls who have come here to study; many of them, unused to the American way of life, and not well versed in the language, found at International House a home and orientation center combined. Usually there were just as many American girls living in the house, so there was plenty of opportunity to become, at least partially Americanized.

Last semester, it came to our ears that the Administration had deemed it necessary to close International House; we were never officially notified of this decision, which seems ill-mannered, to say the least. When we pressed for an explanation, it was explained that it was—"uneconomical to run such a small house, and anyway, it is much more democratic for the foreign girls to live in the Women's Dorm." We were all quite willing to pay more each semester and keep our house, but this alternative was not offered to us. What exactly "more democratic" means, I don't know. But I do know that it can be a very unnerving experience for a foreign-speaking student to be thrust into a massive dormitory full of giggling co-eds, most of whom have no desire to room with foreign girls, and many of whom regard a foreign accent or a colored skin something to be shunned, or smirked at in faint embarrassment. But do not let me give the impression that all American students are like this; the students who lived in International House and who work with Cosmopolitan Club, are among the finest ambassadors this country could have. My point is this—if International House had been retained, foreign girls many thousands of miles away from home, could find in it a congenial, family atmosphere, meeting American girls who are specifically interested in international students. It could act as a meeting place for all the foreign students on campus and their American friends; and I wonder how many people realize that this year there are over 250 foreign students here at the University, representing 52 different countries.

International House now houses the Faculty Club—an organization which, if rumors are correct, is not a financial success. The rooms which used to house 33 women students are now empty and unused, except for those occupied by the caretaker. If the needs of the Faculty were so great that this highly successful

Letterip

international living group had to be dispensed with, why is the house standing unused? As far as I can ascertain, it is used for occasional committee meetings which could just as easily be held in the Student Union. The first social event of the Club was held a few weeks ago; it was, ironically, a tea for foreign graduate students. Was this a coincidence, or was the Administration perhaps, feeling a little guilty that International House was no longer available for the foreign students on campus? By all means let's have a Faculty Club, but I think the need for an International House is just as great.

This letter is intended only as a complaint at the closure of International House, and not a general invective at the treatment of students from overseas. We foreign students are very grateful for the opportunity afforded us to study at the University of Nebraska; we are more than thankful for the numerous acts of friendship and hospitality we have received while living in this country (and surely Nebraska must take the prize for open-hearted friendship.)

But Please—American students—do not forget what a very difficult experience it can be for a foreign speaking student to adapt himself to the American language and way of life. If you have the opportunity to assist a foreign student, to offer him encouragement or advice of friendship, do not hesitate to do so. It will be very much appreciated, and you will be doing your country a service—for who knows, that man may some day be Prime Minister of Jamaica or the Foreign Minister of Iran, and his future actions may well be colored by the treatment he receives in the United States today. If you are still not convinced, just imagine what you would feel like in a strange town in Afghanistan or Argentina—with no hamburgers, no milk shakes, no American buddies. See what I mean?

Clare C. Cooper

Nebraskan Courage

To the Editor: I was glad to see that The Nebraskan had the courage not only to retract but apologize for statements obviously referring to me as the "meddling" council member who had "juggled" the type of the student tribunal story last spring.

It is my hope that charges of such an irresponsible and unsubstantiated nature may never again appear in this campus newspaper.

I also trust that the Council and The Nebraskan will be able to work together throughout the remainder of the academic year, particularly in regard to instituting the student tribunal.

I hope this council will be remembered as the one which finally put the tribunal into operation.

My best wishes for an eminently successful year, Bruce Brugman

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