

Editorial Comment:

# Democratic Council? Not By a Long Shot

This is one editorial we really hate to write.

We dislike it for two reasons:

1.) Because we hate to admit that such warped thinking as is revealed herein can penetrate so deeply into student government.

2.) Our relations with Student Council this year have been very cordial until now the Council seemed to show a great deal of good sense in the matters it has had to consider.

But three recent events have caused us to drastically alter our opinion of the Council.

The first of these was the way the Council nominating committee went about selecting candidates for the Student Tribunal.

The committee adopted the attitude, according to one committee member, that any person advocating any change in the Tribunal charter or in the procedure of the student court, was automatically unfit for membership on that court.

This is an obvious denial of the very basis of democratic government. The advantage of democratic government is that it is supposed to give the electorate a chance to express its opinions, through its elected representatives.

But when these elected representatives deny that the electorate has a right to change its institutions for the better once it has established them, they are crossing the line once crossed in Germany, Italy and Russia.

### Expulsion

The second event which has caused us much consternation is the expulsion of a Daily Nebraskan reporter from the Wednesday Council meeting. The Council voted to go into executive session to accomplish this feat.

Now we are willing to overlook the fact that the Student Council constitution (or at least the one we have—if there is a later one the Council has not yet supplied us with it) makes no mention of their right to go into executive session.

We are willing to overlook this because we realize that the Council might occasionally wish to discuss matters which they do not, at the time, feel that it would be in good taste to make generally known.

But Wednesday's expulsion was a rather remarkable about face. In the past the Daily Nebraskan reporter has been allowed to remain in the meetings with the understanding that he is not to print what goes on. This has been a very satisfactory arrangement which has resulted in better reporting when the story finally does break.

This time, however, the reporter was told that the next order of business was

the interviewing of candidates for Tribunal judges.

The reporter was told to go because the Council feared that the candidates might make promises about the Tribunal which the Daily Nebraskan might attempt to hold the candidates to after they were elected!

Now, everyone knows about "campaign promises" in national politics. But we weren't aware that the political scene on the University campus had sunk that low. We presumed that any promises candidates for the Tribunal made were sincere and not conceived with the mere object of getting elected.

If that is the state of affairs presently, the Council ought to be thoroughly revamped.

### Irresponsibility

The third event which has elicited this editorial is the obvious irresponsibility of the Council where filings for the upcoming elections are concerned.

Filings were supposed to close last Saturday noon. But the slate wasn't filled by then so the chairman of the council elections committee decided to extend the filing deadline to Thursday noon. No public notification of this extension was announced either to the Daily Nebraskan or to KNUS, the recognized news organs on the campus.

As a result, those "in the know" went ahead and filed. Students who lacked this information were excluded from filing, obviously.

If the Council made an honest mistake here, the only fair thing to do is extend the filings again until next Wednesday noon.

And if ever there were grounds for a student filing to run on a reform ticket, there are this year. We hope a full slate of reform candidates are available.

### Beware Gardeners

Spring is the time for gardening, the Readers Digest reports, so the Digest comes up with some helpful hints to would be gardeners.

If the urge to garden really smacks you hard, remember it is strictly transient—it usually doesn't survive the first hot summer day. So, if you must, spade and plant in the spring, pick a very shady, well graveled area where nothing will grow. That way, there is nothing to hoe in the summer.

Also, be sure to outfit yourself with spade, trowel, hoe, comfortable, loose fitting clothing and a cooling drink. Move the hammock near the garden area and then give the neighbor's kids a quarter apiece to take your orders while you relax. And break out the liniment 'ma!

## Casual Observer

Remember the teddy bear in Winnie the Pooh who was being dragged down the stairs by one leg? On the way down, Winnie's head went "bump, bump, bump." It seemed, the story went, that he thought there might be a better way of coming down the stairs, but he never had enough time to stop bumping long enough to figure any way out.



Diana

Well, now, despite a Council member's protest that if recent Rag criticism is valid, the Council can't be bumping down the stairs since it has nowhere to go but up, I see a distinct resemblance here.

Consider the filing snafu as one small example. In at least two colleges, not enough candidates had filed by the official Saturday deadline to constitute a slate. Reportedly, only three Engineering students threw their 25-name petition into the political arena. Six were needed to constitute a slate. The same is said to be true of Business Administration. So... what was the solution to this problem? Pretty simple, Council leaders figured. Re-open filings.

So far, so good. Now, if you'll recall, no announcement appeared in the Daily Nebraskan about filings being opened. It's not that we were so crammed for space that we couldn't squeeze in such an announcement. The whole business was being kept noticeably silent. However, selected individuals were notified of the candidate deficit, so that subsequent filings could be made.

So, now the Student Council has a full slate. A check of filings showed that it was impossible to determine which candidates

had filed after the legal deadline and which had not.

The Council's apparent reason for keeping the lack of candidates secret was to keep this manifestation of the Big A (apathy) from becoming public. Now it's public. And it looks pretty bad for everybody. It looks bad that the student body is so disinterested in the only group we have which can serve as its spokesman. It looks pretty bad that the Council took the "quiet" method it did to fill the slate.

After chatting with a couple of Council members, it seems as though there might be another group which emerges in a not-so-white light. These Council members are frankly and rather justifiably discouraged in their attempts to represent the student body to the administration. As one member said, every time the Council has approached the administration with a proposal, the response has either been a refusal, or "Take a Poll."

These representatives have a good point in mentioning that the Council is already supposed to be a representative body, and thus when the Council must take a poll, it is an admission that it does not know the desires of the students.

Okay, so the powers of the Council are weak. The student body is perhaps discouraged and not many students care to enter the group when it appears that a year of head batting against brick walls is inevitable. Just acknowledging these weaknesses is not enough.

If the Council is so weak that people aren't interested in running for it, let's consider the organization of the Council itself, and see if a more effective, dynamic system could not be worked out.

*Diana Maxwell*



## Daily Nebraskan Letterips

### Individualism

To the Editor:

Each time I resist the temptation to express some thoughts about your "Individualism—Where?" editorial in Wednesday's Nebraskan some insistent core of rebelliousness within me demands expression. So I've convinced myself I'm obligated.

A good jumping-off place is the sentiment, "the increasing paternalism of... college administrators leads to... the average American's lack of confidence in himself and his ability to survive when cut off from the group." But you should reread the entire editorial, since this is only the point of departure.

There are a few assumptions which deserve examination:

1.) College administrators are paternalistic (This would be very difficult to demonstrate; for my money, I'll bet on the exact opposite.)

2.) There is something of a cause-and-effect nature operating here. (Anybody who believes anything causes anything else has the burden of proof to show that no other contributing conditions are operating concurrently.)

3.) Counselors, etc., (are seen) on the average of once a week. (Not in my book—my appointment book I mean.)

4.) Counselors discourage individualism. (The kind of counseling I know about not only encourages individualism—it demands it if counseling of the sort we do is meaningful.)

5.) Counselors are interested in solving students' problems for them. (The aim of the counselor is to understand various types of situations and to increase the likelihood that students can understand themselves. The "help" a student receives is a by-product of

these sorts of understanding, not a goal sought directly.)

I like very much the last two sentences of your editorial. Whatever else you say, you save the punch lines until the end. That's fine.

C. d' A. Gerken

### Understanding

The recent publicity of foreign and American student relations has been a very widely discussed subject among many University students and faculty members.

Arising from this, many groups associated with the university have entered upon a very positive program. I feel quite certain that all the foreign students would join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation for the unbiased co-operation of the editor and the staff have given us. The freedom of expression allowed, (even in our conflicting problems) has been a very impressive demonstration of the democratic way.

The existent problems can be obliterated and our barriers removed only as we possess a medium through which we can know and understand each other's view points. A greater understanding will diminish conflict, increase harmony and foster greater toleration of our differences. To promote these ideals in our university and community cannot but have the positive effects of friendship and brotherhood in our society.

If we can be successful in doing this here, there is a greater possibility that we can later project this upon our chaotic world scene. This could only bear the fruits of peace and promote the mutual respect and dignity between Americans and the many other nations represented here.

We feel proud and grateful that the Daily Nebraskan

has taken such a dynamic part in this noble task.

Sydney L. Jackson

### Subversive?

To the Editor:

Interpretation of the editorials and columns in the Daily Nebraskan is sometimes rather difficult. One must read between the lines and this often requires concentrated effort in order that one might extract the jewels (paste or real) therein.

For example, consider Bob Prokop's column in Wednesday's Rag. He makes the statements: "A cheater cheats not only himself but society. He does not cheat the instructor or the rest of the class." Without consideration of the accuracy of the above statement, let us consider what he is saying.

By his statements, he is excluding instructors and classes from society. This clearly indicates that he is in favor of a class-less society, which is obviously a subversive idea.

We must constantly be on our guard in order that we be not led astray. Remember friends, reading between the lines costs nothing and often prompts you to write a letter to the editor. As poor Richard so aptly put it, "A stitch in time saves nine" and in this case, I believe I have stalled Mr. Prokop's drive to "liberate" the campus and will earn the undying gratitude of thousands of University students, present and future. If asked for quotes, I, with characteristic modesty, will merely say, "Shucks, I just did my duty."

Sigismund

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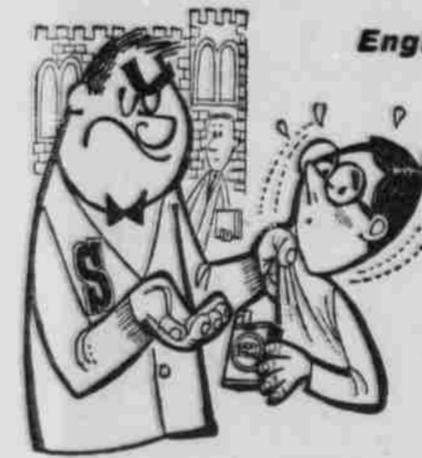
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141 No. 13

Next to Varsity Theatre

# THINKLISH



English: CAMPUS TOUGH GUY

Thinklish translation: This character belongs to the beat generation, as any black-and-blue freshman can testify. When he cracks a book, it ends up in two pieces. His favorite subject: *fistory*. Favorite sport: throwing his weight around. Favorite cigarette? Luckies, what else? Puffing on the honest taste of fine tobacco, he's pleased as Punch. If you call this muscle boulder a *schooligan*, bully for you!



English: SCRATCHING DOG

Thinklish: FLEAGLE



English: ILL TYRANT

Thinklish: SICKTATOR



English: UNHAPPY MARRIAGE

Thinklish: SPATRIMONY



English: SPRING CLEANING

Thinklish: MOPERATION



## HOW TO MAKE \$25

Take a word—celebration, for example. With it, you can have a football rally (*yellebration*), a gossipy bridge party (*tellebration*), or a clambake (*shellebration*). That's Thinklish—and it's that easy! We're paying \$25 for the Thinklish words judged best—your check is itching to go! Send your words to Lucky Strike, Box 67A, Mt. Vernon, N. Y. Enclose your name, address, university and class.

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**Daily Nebraskan**

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