

Editorial Comment:

Council Should Consider Direct Officer Election

Every spring after Student Council elections, the outgoing Council chooses five of its junior members to serve as senior holdover members for the next year.

And from these five, the offices of president, first vice-president and second vice-president are filled by the old Council's vote.

The new Council chooses the recording secretary, corresponding secretary and the treasurer. All these officers are sophomores, who will serve during their junior year.

Thus Council members themselves choose the officers whose decisions often have either a direct or indirect influence on the entire University community.

Rationalization behind these Council constitutional provisions is that Council members themselves know best who should serve as holders of three of the most potentially powerful offices on campus.

Although the basis for this claim may have some justification, it might be worth considering direct election of all Council officers as a provision of the to-be-revised Council constitution.

Direct election of presidents of legislative bodies has background in American political history. For instance, the U.S. Senate is presided over by the Vice President, who is directly elected by popular ballot.

The Lieutenant Governor of the state of Nebraska also is presiding officer over the Unicameral; his office is obtained by direct election.

Walking Blood Bank Idea Is Fine One

The University Red Cross unit's campaign to establish a walking blood bank is probably one of the most serviceable ideas the Red Cross has ever inaugurated on this campus.

Besides doing the University community a service, the bank also will be doing the individual students a service by making them feel a part of a civic project which will be doing some good.

A few minutes taken to fill out the necessary blank and to be typed for blood also will assure the carrier of the information card of a fast blood transfusion for himself if he should ever need one.

This volunteer operation will show whether University students are civic-minded enough to go along with this disaster program.

Historically, democratic-functioning government has directly elected officers, not to mention legislative representatives.

Whether this system would provide the best possible officers for the University legislative body—the Student Council—is not known. But direct election probably would enhance Council offices and bring back a greater participation in activities of governing the student to the student.

Although arguments against direct election generally are that the student body would have no way of knowing who was best qualified, such an election could correct some obvious defects in the system as it now is.

At present, a Council member appointed from one of the organizations represented on the Council could become president without having ever been voted on by the student body.

However, if such direct election of officers came about, organizations would probably lose their opportunities for direct representation on the Council.

But as it now is, to become a Student Council officer, first you must be a Council member. Thus with the rather small number of Council members, the number who might reach a senior office is very small.

A student not on the Council might be best qualified for an officer's position. But he has no course of action.

Although the present Council and its officers have shown indications of meritorious service, direct elections of officers by the entire student body would bring the Council greater prestige and respect from the student body.

With this backing, more and better projects could be carried out by the Council.

Tourney Conduct

The State Basketball Tournament which begins Thursday will bring a great many visitors to Lincoln and to our campus.

In particular will be the members from the various high schools participating in the Tournament. These "young" high school students will be exposed to the daily activities of a college student.

It is during such events that we, the students of Nebraska, act as representatives for the school.

The high schoolers will be watching our actions with an envious eye. Some day they will be in our position, but for the present we must show to them how a college student lives.

Let's treat them with all the courtesy due any visitor to our campus and show them that the University is a great school to attend.

Staff Comment:

A Leftist's View

By Sandi Laaker

The questions of the week are: When in the ever lovin' blue-eyed world will it stop snowing and: Will the Third World War really be fought on the mall?

The two bear some relationship. If it doesn't stop snowing pretty soon nobody will be able to find the mall.

But providing the great snows do cease it might be possible that war of some kind will break out on this mall or on some mall. It will be war between the Army and the Defense Department. The issue will be compulsory ROTC v. elective ROTC, naturally. Why wouldn't it?

Monday Chandellor Hardin said "We're waiting for the Army and Defense Department to get together before we do anything more about it," (changing the ROTC program.)

Seems the two groups can't get together on the issue. The Defense Department states they are taking no stand on the issue. The Army feels that compulsory training is necessary to the security of the nation.

In the Soviet Union during the Stalinist era children in nursery schools were given toys to play with which were inscribed, "Thank you, Comrade Stalin, for giving us a happy childhood." Maybe the Army out to start playing a similar role of the great giver.

They could issue guns to students that are inscribed, "Thank you, Department of the Army, for giving us the opportunity

to defend our country."

But if that wouldn't work the University could invite the two groups to come here for a convocation in the form of all-out war on the mall. The Student Council Beautification Committee could again suggest that a reflecting pool be built.

Then there could be a really good tug-of-war. Army v. Defense Department. And the losers would go splashing into the pool—soggy uniforms, floating hats—such a fun way to decide whether or not ROTC should be compulsory.

Now that "Hell Week's" have been replaced by "Help Weeks" this would provide some entertainment of the more spectacular nature for the campus.

Where, oh where has the cider barrel gone? The Union came up with a good gimmick and before it was properly initiated it was taken away. It was so much better than muddy coffee with splintered sticks.

Glad to see the Young Republicans got Hazel Abel to speak here Thursday evening. She's probably one of the "saltiest" type politicians this state has ever had—especially of the female variety. Her talk should prove most interesting.

Would be equally glad to see the Young Democrats really get Kennedy here. All they seem to be accomplishing is nothing. First they release a story that they have invited so and so to speak. Then they release a story saying so and so can't make it. They get lots of publicity this way but their program could use some stabilization.

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For the Heck of It

By John Heeckt

One of my readers has cleverly suggested that I write on some problem related to the Orient or its culture, so in developing the rest of today's column I shall oblige him by choosing Communist China as my example . . .

I can little doubt that the basic system of government in the United States is currently the best possible—for the United States. I do not, however, feel that government (in practice), social institutions, beliefs, practices or values are above criticism. I am inclined to think that those who believe our system to be a political and social heaven-on-earth and the best possible for all countries of the world are somewhat politically immature.

A grave error of our system is the narrow cultural view it fosters. The American citizen is propagandized from birth to death on the idealistic virtues of democracy. He never learns to detect the most obvious defects of American democracy in practice. Worse than this, he is led to believe that there is only one system of government, one value system, that is right for the entire world. Thus, he is taught the antithesis of the simple anthropological fact that there is no valid criterion for judging our culture, our value system, superior to any other on earth—except for us.

The American is literally taught that other value systems are inferior to ours to the extent that they differ from it. He does not learn that other nations need different systems to solve a far different complex of social, economic and political problems.

An example of the resulting ethno-centrism, is the proselytizing zeal of Americans to spread our system all over the globe, without perception or knowledge of the cultural history or current needs of other societies. For years we have known that there are certain basic requisites to operational democracy. One of these is a high individual income and standard of living, and another is a relatively high level of LIBERAL education per capita.

The first not only purchases the second, but it buys the leisure time to become a politically articulate citizenry; the second furnishes the knowledge requisite to a necessary de-

gree of political astuteness on the part of the general public to prevent governmental excesses.

In many countries where we preach our system, these requisites are wholly lacking. They are not only lacking currently, but it will be a long time until they are sufficiently available. Democracy for such countries eventually ends in a new type of despotism. Turkey is a sufficient example.

Another generally conceded requisite for democracy is that the wealth of the nation be broadly distributed throughout the people and not concentrated in the hands of the government. In most of the countries to which we preach democracy, the government is the only agency which is capable of concentrating and distributing investment capital necessary for modernization. This alone generally precludes anything like our system of government.

I think a most important and classic example of the American inability to understand foreign cultures is our failure to recognize Red China for ideological reasons. We abhor a society where millions may be "murdered" just to raise the status of many, many more millions out of the morass of minimum physical existence.

We fail to recognize that while the American heritage is one where everything is surplus but human beings, the Chinese heritage is just the reverse. Thus, while in our country the individual and his preservation are natural paramount ends, the status of the individual in China is naturally insignificant in relation to the mass.

We are prone to overlook the fact that modernizing China, bringing the Chinese common man above the level of pure existence, necessitated the overthrow of a social and economic structure based upon 2,000-plus years of continuous custom.

The republican effort in China was doomed to failure because the forces necessary to change China had to be abrupt and dynamic if many millions of Chinese lives were not to be lost by a death far more hideous than a bullet in the head—I mean mass starvation and endemic disease.

The Red Chinese government may make good use

of the argument that the killing of several million holdovers from the old regime was the price of making life something more than existence for many millions more. To them this was the culturally logical way to do something that gradualism could not.

Of course this is repugnant to our Christian culture, but it should be remembered that we are a declining minority culturally, and that other cultures are much older and no less based on "fact."

The mind of the man in the colored world works closer to that of the Chinese than ours. We do not understand him but we want him for an ally. Yet the Asian outside of Communist China finds it hard to recognize how a major power can realistically deny the political existence of over a quarter of the world's population.

I neither condemn nor commend Red China's acts. In our culture they would be abominable. But they are not in our culture, and I am not able to judge them on my limited knowledge of the Far Eastern or Chinese mind.

Letterip

The Daily Nebraskan will publish only those letters which are signed. Letters attacking individuals must carry the author's name. Letters must be on stationery or a pen name. Letters should not exceed 300 words. When letters exceed this limit the Nebraskan reserves the right to condense them, retaining the writer's views.

Two Measures

To the Editor: Congratulations on your editorial of March 7 on the unequal representation in the Student Council.

The solution to the problem could well be answered by two measures. First, do away with the present club and organizational representation and replace it with representation by college, with the number of representatives apportioned by the number in the college.

Second, do away with club and organizational support of candidates, thereby preventing the IFC and RAM and other groups which attempt to extend a disproportionate amount of influence to their members.

It would be hard to deny that this system would be more fair than the one which at present is being used.

Michael F. Flannigan

Read the Daily Nebraskan Classified Ads. Better still USE THEM!

On Campus with Max Shulman (Author of "I Was a Teen-age Dwarf", "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis", etc.)

EAT, DRINK AND BE MARRIED On a recent tour of seventy million American colleges, I was struck by two outstanding facts: first, the great number of students who smoke Marlboro, and second, the great number of students who are married.

First of all, we will take up the matter of diet. In the past, babies were raised largely on table scraps. This, however, was outlawed by the Smoot-Hawley Act, and today babies are fed a scientific formula consisting of dextrose, maltose, distilled water, evaporated milk and a twist of lemon peel.

Florentine 18K DIAMOND RINGS Reward of love... the gift of a diamond ring in extra precious 18K gold with the distinctive hand-tooled Florentine finish. Choose from a selection of wedding rings and fancy rings. Priced From \$65 SARTOR'S "Quality Tells" LINCOLN

And when baby is fast asleep—the little angel!—why don't you relax and give yourself a treat? With Marlboro—or if you like mildness but you don't like filters—with Philip Morris mints in long slow and regular by the sponsors of this column.