

EDITORIAL OPINION

Council President Election Reviewed

What possible logic is behind the recent action of the Student Council in which they unanimously defeated a proposed constitutional amendment advocating an all campus election of the Student Council president?

This is a question which many University students have been asking since the Council decision one week ago. If the amendment brought before the Council would have been approved by the group, it would have appeared on the Council ballot in the spring and the students themselves would have had the final say as to whether they wished to elect their own student government president. The students at the University were not even given that chance by the Council. If there was any doubt whether the students wished to elect this president, the final decision should have been theirs.

According to a poll taken during the spring election last year, the students voted 2 to 1 in favor of the proposed changes in the Student Council constitution to change the method of the selection of the council president.

Contrary to the opinion of some Council members, the voters should have been clearly informed on the essence of the questions concerning the Council representation system and the method of officer election because the questions and issues were carefully explained on the front page of the Daily Nebraskan at least three times prior to the election (April 5, 28 and May 8).

A second reason against the adoption of the amendment was that the election would then degenerate into nothing but a noisy gaudy campaign which would promote a popularity type election. However, if Council members would refer to past campus elections of this type, even to past Council elections, it would be quite plain that the Council election would not become a popularity contest.

In the first place, University regulations and the Student Union regulations concerning use of their bulletin boards and poster size would hamper flashy displays. Also, the Council would still maintain the right to formulate a set of campaign rules which would prevent campaigns which would encourage a popular voting contest.

There is one other quite important element which the Student Council members failed to realize, that being the fact that the Council would retain the ability to slate the two senior students who they felt were best qualified for the position.

We feel the argument which Council members presented that the Council will not always select the two persons who are most qualified to serve as president is completely out of line. How does the Council now decide on the presidency? They select the two candidates whom they feel will do the best job as president of the organization and they choose between them. The situation would be no different in an all campus election. The two most capable persons would be selected for the slate by the Council members, the people who know the two who would do the best job. The campus could hardly go wrong in the selection of either of the candidates if they were carefully chosen by the Council.

An all campus election would encourage the students to look at the actual qualifications of each candidate. They, as citizens of this University, should have the right to select the person who will head their student government.

As far as the argument that political machinery from outside the campus would attempt to install political machines on this campus is rather questionable. Nebraska is still a conservative state and far more than just a majority of the persons at this University would be immediately aware of a liberal political machine that started moving in on the campus. The response to support such a group would be nil.

The Student Council for the first time this year has really failed the students. They should have at least given the student body the right to decide whether they wanted their student government president to become a democratically elected individual or to allow the Student Council presidency to remain a self-perpetuating position unknown or not recognized by the majority of the students. (A. M.)

Kansas Cowboy Asserts His Constitutional Right

This week's Saturday Evening Post contains an editorial supporting the proposed Prairie National Park in the Flint Hills in Northern Kansas.

And Monday, Interior Secretary Stewart Udall was "run off them thar hills." Udall and company landed by Army helicopter in the proposed park and were promptly met by rancher Carl Bellinger with a firm "Yankee Go Home!"

Bellinger represented some 200 ranchers who oppose giving up their land for the formation of a tourist attraction on grounds that "the vanishing prairie is a plain, unvarnished myth."

The Post editorial favored the prairie park so that "this generation and the generations to come can see some remnant of the immense grasslands of the West as they once were." The Post pointed out that if approved, the area would undergo the work of original restoration until it became a "paradise for ornithologists."

The Post concluded with "We need it (the park) to help us save and remember the panorama of the Old West. The synthetic cowboys of television are not enough."

Authentic cowboy of Kansas Carl Bellinger and "rev-enooer" Udall might have passed this conversation: Bellinger: You and your men take that thar funny airplane and git off my land, Udall!

Udall: You can't do this, Bellinger, I'm the United States Marshall. And this here's my deputy, Conrad Wirth of the National Park Service.

Bellinger: Yeah? Well this here's Carl Bellinger, and this here's cattle grazin' land, and we don't need no dude city sheepmen drivin' all over hell on it takin' pictures and ruinin' the grass.

Udall: Listen Bellinger — we want to make you a nice park where the grass can grow long and tall and all your kinsfolk can see how it was when your pappy first came here.

Bellinger: What's in it for me?

Udall: Have you ever taken any forestry? We'll have an opening in—

Bellinger: Git!

Udall: Bellinger, I'm tellin you—you can't do this! We'll be back!

Bellinger: I'll be waitin'.

And may all of Kansas back him up. (D. S.)

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The University

Fraternity Problems

By Tom Eason



Most Nebraska students fail to see and examine problems related to the campus. The occasional person who does so deserves a chance to express his findings, even though you and I may disagree with them.

The pre-Christmas series which I began last week will be delayed. In the article below, Joel Lundak, junior double major in English and philosophy and a member of Sigma Chi, voices his beliefs about two major problems which affect the fraternity system throughout the nation:

"Death of the College Fraternities" was published in the October Esquire. The tone of the article is hostile and sarcastic. In a few cases, its author is guilty of wretching from context quotes of national fraternity officers and others. But it sets forth evidence to support at least some of its conclusions; and the evidence is startling—or should be considered so.

"Brower, the author, states that over the nation many local chapters are bucking national discriminatory membership requirements, and in many cases have chosen to disaffiliate rather than give up their proposed pledges. This is a reflection of the changes being experienced by the whole society; and while no one

would dispute the right to discriminate on the basis of poise, personality, or intelligence, few people are willing to grant indefinitely to social organizations the chance to do so because of race alone. Most college campuses are experiencing new dynamism among students, a marked change from their apathy of the last several years. It does not seem likely that young adults working for progressive social reform and intellectual enlightenment are going to tolerate discrimination on such a blind basis as it is now practiced. If fraternities are to avoid suffering under the new sophistication, they cannot continue embracing practices found upon outdated principles.

"A second major point of contention, Brower claims, is the fraternity attitude toward scholarship. He says that fraternities pay only lip service to education, encouraging "the easiest way through;" and that when they do work for grades, their concern is only for the appearance of high marks rather than the academics themselves. There are, of course, individuals who are exceptions to this; but I, for one, would agree with Brower in generalizing this way about the Greek attitude as a whole. There

is, on the other hand, a good deal of evidence supporting those who say the mood of college students is changing. There is an increased interest in the humanities, increased student political activity, and an increasing number of students doing post-graduate work. At the universities which are providing more student activities of an intellectual as well as recreational nature, lower percentages of students are becoming Greeks. This speaks for itself. Unless they change their level of interests, fraternities cannot expect to draw the numbers they have in the past when incoming students become more serious.

"It is not my purpose to attack the Greek system on behalf of the NAACP or the Faculty Senate. I only want to point out that there are issues which jeopardize the future of the fraternities, and that these issues are outgrowths of characteristics once considered unimportant. Fraternities may well be faced in the not far distant future with the choice of sacrificing certain practices and attitudes or their attributes and potential. It is my hope that we Greeks will recognize the signs of the times, and not only conform to, but lead social reform and intellectual progress."

Nebraskan Letterip

The Daily Nebraskan will publish only those letters which are signed. Letters attacking individuals must carry the author's name. Others may use initials 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 view. The opinions expressed in these letters do not necessarily express the views of the Daily Nebraskan.

Student Objects To Graduation Switch

Dear sir:

As a senior planning to be graduated from the University next June, I wish to protest against the proposed changing of the graduation ceremonies from the Coliseum to Pershing Auditorium. This is one of our few campus traditions and it should not be sacrificed merely for the sake of a few hours' comfort. And as far as the question of ask whether a little discomfort on one of the most monumental days of our lives should cause us to move the ceremony from a site which has so many memories and traditions for us to a city auditorium in which wrestling matches and Grand Old Opera are presented.

I, too, ask "how precise (each Student Council member) was in polling constituents" in their vote of approval to the proposed change. Surely there must be some other graduating seniors and future graduates who share my opinion, and if so, shouldn't our voices carry some weight too? Sincerely, Arts and Sciences

Senior Blasts Council Decision

To the editor:

The Student Council should be congratulated for its brilliant move to help erase one of the few remaining traditions from the University of Nebraska campus.

The Council moved to favor the change of Commencement exercises from the Coliseum to Pershing Auditorium next June.

It is indeed too bad that a state University with 9,000 students can't even

hold its graduation exercises on the University campus. The thought of jumping into the cold, bare world is not aided by the thought of jumping into it from the cold, bare Pershing stage.

This is the Pershing Auditorium with the steel beam rafters that Military Ball and Homecoming dance committees have been trying to cover with balloons and crepe paper for the last few years. Perhaps the Commencement committee will disguise the "barn" by dangling little black tassels from the rafters—proper atmosphere.

But more than anything else, seniors will be missing the traditional walk—for the last time, SNIF—across campus, past the Carrillon. It seems like

this would be a lasting memory of our Alma Mater. But who will remember the mosaic mural on the front of Pershing.

This campus is where I go to school and this is where I want to graduate!

A Maudlin Senior

Reader Objects

To the editor:

I object to the word "fire" used in regard to Jennings in the December 1 issue of the Daily Nebraskan. This word was used twice in headlines and three times in your editorial. The Board of Regents neglected to renew Mr. Jennings' contract, which has the same effect, but not the implication of the word "fire." Margaret Flory

Problem of the Week

In frontier days a storekeeper had a scale (two pan type) with accurate weights. The beam broke and he replaced it with a branch of a tree which was uneven and tapered. He adjusted its bearing point so it (with the pans) balanced. A customer wanted two pounds of sugar so in an effort to be fair, he weighed out one pound and then reversed the position of sugar and counterweight for the second pound. Did the customer win, lose, or

come out even? Give reasons for your answer.

Bring or send answers to 210 Burnett.

Answer to last week's problem: the correct number 9,801. Correct solutions were submitted by Gary Hiatt, Carolyn Frederick, Merlin Erickson, Jerry Dietrich, Ed Collet, DeLann Hay, Dan Knievel, Louis Dagger, Don Schroeder, Keith Kroon, Gaylin Humphreys, Ivan Ficken, Roxanna Carpenter, L. R. Weed, Leland Lamberty, Leo Laska, Robert Bramble, Jim Johnson, Craig Colburn, David Gustavson, Jan Bloemker, Bob Reynolds, Ed Pierce, Don Nelson, Dean Thompson, Roger Williams, and John Koptik.



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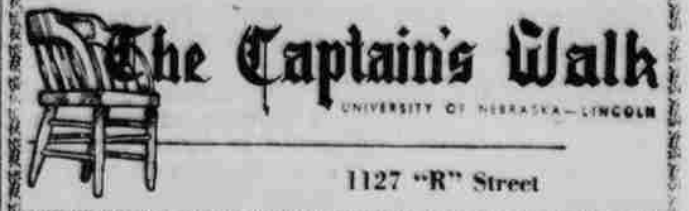
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