

the campus forum

Brilliant Job By World-Herald Noted By Letter Writer

Once again the World-Herald has done a brilliant job of opening mouth . . . inserting foot. This is in regard to its justification editorial entitled "Professor's Farewell" on May 13.

It was a marvelous job of "stacking the deck" to picture Dr. Chasson as a villain who has hurled completely false and dirty remarks at the state, the University, the legislature and the Nebraska taxpayer.

By now most of the students are aware of Dr. Chasson's resignation. His resignation is important for three reasons: (1) as chairman of the Physics Department he is nationally and internationally known, (2) he was candid in his criticism of the legislature and Nebraska, and (3) it dramatizes the effects created by an insufficient budget.

It's unfortunate that the University's administration has tried to cover up, to a certain extent, the

really great loss this man is to the state by calling him "impatient" and stating the transition period will be made easier by the high caliber physics staff still within the department. I also realize the administration may not be in a position to say what they actually believe, but we as students are in a position to make our deep concern known to the people of the state.

I ask, why even make a transition? It certainly will cost more in the long run to find an equally capable replacement. It may even be possible, so we will settle for less. I maintain that more will be lost dollarwise in time and effort getting a replacement than a substantial raise would have been to keep him here. But then again, Nebraskans seem to believe in false economy.

The other question concerns Dr. Chasson's alleged impatience. He has been here six years. To

me, that is definitely not being impatient. Six years is more than many "patient" native Nebraskans would wait for things to get more promising before moving out of state where opportunity is greater and one's future is more certain.

The World-Herald editorial then goes into some complimentary remarks on the University's school of journalism, who the same day Chasson resigned, won first in national competition. Then follows this choice little sentence:

"If Dr. Chasson's complaints about the state, its university and its people are even partially justified, the journalism students deserve uncommon praise."

Well, I submit right here and now that the journalism department does "deserve uncommon praise." Who do you think gave financial backing to the department for the depth reporting

experiment which made the national victory possible. Was it a Nebraska concern? Was it included in the budget? Heavens no! How ridiculous. The money came from the Wall Street Journal in New York after being convinced to risk its money on this idea conceived by the journalism staff. Readers Digest has contributed a substantial amount for other projects by the journalism students. Nebraska newspapers also have done a marvelous job with financial support. The money for the really big payoff didn't cost the taxpayers near as much as the reward it will bring to the state, the university and its people.

By comparing the two departments in the same editorial, there is an implication that one good department makes a great university. This is commonly known as the informal fallacy of composition. An example is that because there are one or two All-American football players on the team, the team will be All-American. This is pure bunk. In order to have an excellent university every department needs to be first class, and there is no reason why that should not be the goal of every Nebraskan — only the best should be good enough.

The next 150 words in the editorial makes the point that life in Nebraska never has been easy and that drought, hoppers and other adversities faced our pioneers. It goes on and says the state has contributed their quota of the nation's artists, writers, educators, and scientists.

On the scientist account they gave Dr. George Wells Beadle as an example. He is or was Chancellor of the University of Chicago. Now isn't that great? I certainly am pleased with the present Chancellor, but why isn't Beadle the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska. I would have liked to have seen him stay here to do his work and help the nation by working in Nebraska, not Illinois.

One would think that these people who advocate doing things on the local level, (and most Nebraskans fall into this group) then the state level, and then the federal level only in very rare cases, that they would be the first to recognize that we must keep our leaders, teachers, and talent in the state. By doing so,

we make a strong state which in turn is then in a position to help the country who then help the world. As it is now, Nebraska talent is being used to make other states stronger.

To be consistent in their thinking these same people shouldn't expect a strong central government to make the state strong, thereby enabling local communities to be made stronger.

The last point the World-Herald attempts to make is that Chasson has found "a place more ideally adapted to his temperament." They add, "But it would be mighty difficult to make Nebraska over for every one who comes its way."

Now that last sentence is a true jewel and only the World-Herald is capable of making such a clever observation. However, they themselves, seem to be in the process of leaning over backward to "make Nebraska over" for industry by giving property tax exemptions, or to "make Nebraska over" for tourists by promoting the restoration of historical sites, etc.

Have they already forgotten that Nebraska lost one representative to Congress because our population has not increased in proportion to other states? Shouldn't we make some effort to "make Nebraska over" to keep our share of the people? Or would the World-Herald like to see Nebraska with only two senators so they wouldn't have as many politicians to worry about?

When 17 per cent of our youth are leaving at the time of their first employment, isn't it time to "make Nebraska over" for that 17 per cent and not just for Dr. Chasson as the World-Herald would lead us to believe.

One last point that I would like to make concerns the Herald's constant screaming about the national deficit and the great burden it will place on future generations. If it is really so concerned about future generations and the young people of Nebraska, why doesn't it promote a budget for the University that will give this future generation the kind of higher education it is going to need to maintain a strong state, a strong nation, and a peaceful world. Or is this asking too much of the "descendants who made a prairie bloom."

George Peterson



'Mild Dissatisfaction'

To the editor:

I write to express a mild dissatisfaction with the new housing policy explained in the lead article of the Daily Nebraskan for Monday. If my "mild dissatisfaction" soon takes on the proportions of an ineluctable torrent of rage, then such is the force of events.

Though the University has some obligations to assure proper housing facilities for students, the power necessary to such an obligation can be grossly abused. It is obvious from the simultaneous programs for building extensive dormitory space and for raising the standards on off-campus housing (and will this always be done on the basis of health and safety or will it be carried to an extreme by the force of ulterior motives?) that the main object is to gain a fuller control over the student life on campus.

Women undergraduates, even now, are under nearly as strict a system of regulation as the children in the strictest and most petty of nursery schools. Balanced with the need for regulation should be some slight (even in quasi-fascist Nebraska) respect for the individual. When, through such subtle and loathesomely insidious measures as forcing rents on accepted housing up and greatly increasing the pressure to live in those facades of

mindless, constitutionalized conformity called dormitories, the individual loses his freedom to even choose where he will live, then all is not right with the world.

The increase in the individual's college expenses that will result from this new housing policy was admitted as a disadvantage for international students, but what about the ordinary native citizen?

That this new housing policy could be so flagrantly proclaimed on the front page of the student newspaper, shows to what a great extent the students of Nebraska have been reduced to docile automatons by that domineering mother hen, whose solicitous cluckings are, of course (oh, mais oui!), all in our own interest. Rock us into a mindless security, Great Mother Hen!

And it is supremely ironic that this should be announced in the same issue in which appears an editorial urging the students to be concerned about the future of Nebraska and the terrors of desiccation that are eating through the whole rotten state. One administrator, who was quoted in front page article, said (perhaps rather hopefully) that because so many youth and young families are leaving the state, the University population will increase about 60% by 1970 (and we can build enough

dorms to keep that many under our thumbs — is that it?). It is precisely such discouragement of individualism as is seen in the new housing program that is causing the youth of Nebraska to "get out while the getting's good" (and how many of my friends have used those very words in reference to this article!).

The new housing policy is only a small part of the mindless conservatism that is emasculating the state of Nebraska, but it is perhaps the place to make a stand (if there's anyone left to do so). Profound unrest is felt about the general problem in both the faculty and the student body, but neither tearful lamentation nor attempts to reason with the unthinking, mechanically rutted conservatism will bring the needed results. If we all remain "calm and sensible" about the matter, Nebraska will soon become the stagnant morass of spinelessness (that's like reptiles, you know) and decay that it is fast becoming.

Misha Taufe

Address Changes

A reminder from your post office—now is the time to advise publishers of your summer address change. It takes six weeks to change addresses.