

A Look at Party Politics on the Big 8 Campuses

By STEPHEN LOUGH
Editor's note: This story, by Stephen Lough, deals with party politics in the Big Eight schools.

It is based on interviews with leaders of campus political groups in the Big Eight, interviews with heads of various college departments and a survey of over 300 college students. The story gives some indicators that may help answer questions that have been asked about the future voter on the Midwestern college campus.

Lough wrote the article in the University's depth reporting class. It is being rerun in the Nebraskan for the benefit of those summer session students who have not had an opportunity to read it.

National political leaders all claim him. Party spokesmen woo him. It's the rage to write about him.

Who?
The fledgling voter on the nation's college campuses. In the Midwest much attention focuses on the Big 8—Colorado, Oklahoma, Oklahomads contacted seem to in-

State, Kansas, Kansas State, Nebraska, Missouri and Iowa State. What is the political profile of this future voter of mid-America?

Interviews with his campus political group leaders, a survey of the membership of his organizations, and the opinions of his instructors indicate:

1. Conservative activity is on the rise with the organization of at least five conservative groups on Big 8 campuses within the past year.

2. There is increased political activity on the campuses, but not necessarily an increase in numbers. As one professor put it, "more noise from the same people."

3. Students will accept a political label—Republican, Democrat, Conservative, Liberal—but most of them won't accept all of the philosophies for which that label is generally believed to stand. For example, 30 out of 35 members of two conservative groups were for low tariffs.

4. A majority of the students contacted seem to in-

herit their politics, despite the often-popular theory that Junior comes down to college and switches political parties. But, though they may inherit their party, most of them don't inherit straight tickets.

5. Grown-up politicians at the national level don't seem to know much about their budding counterparts at the campus level. Young Republicans on the campus are not even organized nationally, and Democrats at national headquarters confess to lack of such specific information as names of campus Young Democrat presidents.

These indications are the result of:

—Interviews of leaders (22 in all) of every Big 8 campus political group that could be discovered and contacted.

—Interviews with most of the heads of political science, history, and economics departments on all eight campuses. Because of varying departmental organization, the total was 21. In some instances the department heads referred to other professors in their department whom they felt were more informed.

—A survey of more than 300 students, most of whom are enough interested in politics to belong to a campus political group.

The leaders and professors were contacted in person or by telephone. The survey was conducted by mail with student leaders passing out questionnaires to their group members.

These were the sources. Their opinions could not add up to answers in clear-cut blacks and whites. But their answers could provide indications—indications that help answer questions being asked about the future voter on Midwestern college campuses:

Is there an increase in political activity among the students?

Apparently, yes. A majority of the professors and student leaders indicated that they felt there was an increase in political activity.

Most thought the increase was slight at the present time, but would pick up as the elections move nearer.

However, those at Kansas University Disagreed. Both student leaders and pro-

fessors feel there is a general air of apathy towards politics. Philip M. Rice, chairman of the department of political science and history, said, "Students at Kansas State are unpolitical-minded."

What is the cause of this increased political activity?

Those who feel there is an increase think that the students have a greater awareness of the issues than they have had in the past. They attributed this awareness to the gravity of the international situation.

Is this increase in numbers?

Carl Schneider, acting chairman of the department University of Nebraska answered the question this way:

In the Young Republican organizations a greater number of students favored low tariffs over high ones. Several were satisfied with the present tariff or didn't give an answer.

Equal numbers of Young Republicans favored more federal aid to education as opposed federal aid. A few were pleased with the present aid. A large share of the conservative groups had no objection to extended social security provided it was done on a voluntary basis.

In every case a majority of the members of the Young Democrat organization were consistent with the policies of the Kennedy administration. However, there were many students among these organizations whose answers were inconsistent with the label they had given themselves. For example:

A Missouri Young Democrat tagged himself a liberal Democrat but he wanted less federal aid to education, less power for the executive and less coverage under social security.

Another liberal Democrat at Missouri wanted high tariffs, less executive powers, and was against federal medical care for the aged.

A liberal Democrat at Oklahoma State wanted less executive power, less social security coverage and was against medical care for the aged.

A Young Democrat at Kansas State tagged herself a conservative but voted

straight Liberal ticket on questions about tariffs, federal aid to education, executive powers, social security, and federal medical care for the aged.

Many other students who tagged themselves as conservatives voiced liberal opinions on three or four of the issues.

A Young Conservative at the University of Missouri said that the entire social security program should be abolished—then added that Kennedy's federal medical care for the aged was a good idea.

On a visit to the University of Nebraska, Senator Barry Goldwater was asked to comment on these statistics. He said that these students simply were not what they called themselves. He said he failed to understand how anybody could abolish social security and support federal medical care for the aged.

The students contacted didn't seem to have a pat definition for Republican, Democrat, conservative or liberal. A student at Iowa State and one at Kansas State defined the Republican party as liberal and the Democratic party as conservative.

A student at the University of Nebraska called the Democrats conservatives and the Republicans reactionaries. Several students said both parties are liberal. Another defined both as reactionary.

The president of one Young Republican organization in the Big 8 said, "Our organization definitely follows the conservative trend. We are followers of the George Norris philosophy." The late Senator George Norris of Nebraska might not have agreed. He wrote an autobiography entitled "Fighting Liberal."

Will students cross party lines when they vote?

Seventy-seven percent of the students interviewed in all political groups combined said that they would split their ballot in a general election if they did not like their own candidate.

Do students inherit their politics from their parents?

In every political group, with the exception of the Young Republicans at the University of Nebraska, a majority had the same political philosophy as their parents. Every professor and student leader interviewed agreed that students inherit their politics.

Where do the campus po-

litical groups fit in with the senior party?

The Young Democrats on the campus claim to be a part of the national organization. But a telephone call to the college director at Democratic National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. produced the name of the president of only one Young Democrat club in the Big 8. The respective clubs on each campus carried on no correspondence with each other. The president of one club did not know the names of any of the presidents of the other clubs. However, the Young Democrats do appear to be in the organization of the party within each state.

The Young Republicans on the campus don't even claim organization on a national level. They extend only to the state level. As was the case with the Young Democrats, the Young Republican leaders did not know each other and apparently carried on no correspondence.

The only way campus leaders of any political faith could be found was through the campus newspaper at each school.

What do these students feel is the political philosophy of their parents?

There were no surprises in the answer to that one. It made no difference what the professed political faith of the student. Of those who had a clear-cut opinion, they believed by a whopping, top-heavy majority that politically Mom and Dad are—"Conservative."

"There is more discussion, but I don't think it involves more students."

A majority of the others interviewed echoed Schneider's sentiments with the exception of those at the University of Colorado. All of the individuals interviewed there feel that the increase is in numbers as well as activity per capita.

Membership figures obtained from some of the 16 Young Democrat and Young Republican organizations support the view that there is no increase in numbers. Of the membership figures available, only the Young Republicans at the University of Colorado show an increase. That organization had 169 members last year compared with 358 for this year. The Young Democrats at the University of Nebraska and Oklahoma State have maintained a steady membership the last two years.

Other figures are:

	1961-62	1960-61
Kansas Young Democrats	302	350
Kansas State Young Republicans	over 400	over 400
Missouri Young Democrats	200	500
Colorado Young Democrats	60	186

Editorial Comment—

Truman Library Fascinating, Truman Visit Disappointing

The Harry S. Truman Library and its historical museum were fascinating. Documents and letters in the handwriting of every United States president from George Washington to Dwight D. Eisenhower were both interesting and informative. An interested student could find answers to many questions by studying the numerous displays. And it's a good thing, for most of what was learned from a question and answer session with former president Harry S. Truman could have been learned at Love Memorial Library.

An aging Mr. Truman entered the stage of the auditorium of the Truman Library. He welcomed members of the University of Nebraska Political Science 20 class, and told them he was expecting very intelligent questions from such an intelligent group.

Ignoring a list of prepared questions sent by the group prior to their visit, the former chief executive asked for questions from the floor. He answered the questions smilingly and usually with a brusque humor. But for most of the questions, his answers didn't offer much in the way of his own personal opinions—he merely referred the students to the Constitution, to history books, or to his memoirs.

For example, in answer to a question about his feelings as to whether or not prayers should be said in our public schools, Truman answered, "Read the first amendment to the Constitution," with no further comment.

When asked what presidents he would name as the most outstanding, Truman answered that there are five or six—"Read my memoirs."

Mr. Truman was asked how he felt the farm surplus problem could be alleviated. His answer? "Read the Brannan plan; I endorsed it."

Truman stressed that the students would have to decide for themselves the answers to many questions. That's fine, but what was actually hoped for by the students, after a busride of nearly seven hours, was Truman's own personal opinions in answer to the questions. To find out, one would need to spend hours in a library reading the documents to which he referred, and from them to infer what Truman's own answers to the questions would be.

Mr. Truman was down-to-earth, smiling, and humorous. He sometimes answered questions with a humor that bordered on the sarcastic. A lull in the interrogating by the students, who had expected their prepared question sheet to be answered, more than once brought a "don't be backward—ask questions" comment from Truman.

He strongly and appropriately encouraged questions, but, on the other hand, stifled the questions of some with such comments as "If you'd read your history book, you wouldn't have to ask me that" and "Well, young man, you've already asked five or six questions, but go ahead anyway."

When there were apparently no further questions, the former president closed the meeting with words that were not new to students—that the future of the country is up to its young people.

Ruthann Chubbuck
Editor

Summer Bookshelf

An account of the uniform resistance doctrine to the Supreme Court's ruling on segregated schools, Virginia's Massive Resistance, by Benjamin Muse, acknowledges that liberal forces do exist in Virginia and the South. The uniform resistance doctrine was masterminded by Senator Harry Byrd Sr.'s political machine in Virginia.

Other books for summer reading, by the staff of Love Library, include:

The Science of Dreams, Edwin Diamond. A highly interesting account of the scientific efforts which have been made to determine "the stuff dreams are made of," from the ancient Egyptians to modern experimentation with electronic monitoring devices. Psychology, philosophy and modern technical methods are combined to form a book which will interest anyone who is at all curious about this much-discussed and little understood subject.

The Ruling Servants; Bureaucracy in Russian, France—and Britain?, Erich Strauss. An attempt to give a balanced view of the rise of bureaucracy in the State and its effect on the distribution of power in political bodies. More than half of the book

comprises surveys of the political evolution of Russia, France and Great Britain.

Third Programme (Radio program), Rival Theories of Cosmology. Three leading scientists, Bondi, Lyttleton and Bonner, present arguments supporting the three generally accepted but basically conflicting theories of the nature of the universe, and discuss various aspects of the theories. Basing the book on a 1959 BBC series, the authors have clarified and amplified their original talks, while retaining the same content.

Skyline, a Reporter's Reminiscence of the 1920's, Gene Fowler. Damon Runyon figures largely in this book on the great and near-great who lived and made history during the years Fowler dubbed "a carnival... of mass make-believe."

The American Short Story in the Twenties, Austin Wright. The author examines the work of the five dominant short story writers of the twenties: Anderson, Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Faulkner and Katherine Anne Porter, contrasting and comparing it with the work of predecessors.

Regular readers of Saturday Review are probably familiar with the writings of John Ciardi, the American poet and critic. His column, Manner of Speaking, deserves mention for the freedom with which Ciardi approaches his subject. Not confined to poetry, he has recently discussed censorship of books and the execution of Eichmann. Ciardi has a unique ability to puncture fallacies and bend egos.

UNICORNS Plans Include Record Hop

The University of Nebraska Independent Cornhuskers (UNICORNS) will hold a record hop this Saturday from 8-11:30 p.m. in the Selleck Quadrangle TV room. Anyone is invited to attend, especially those interested in learning more about UNICORNS, according to Byron Almqvist, vice president.

The co-educational organization was formed last fall for "the person who lives at home and often feels left out of University activities," Almqvist said.

He explained that belonging to UNICORNS gives commuters a chance to feel more identified with the University and to participate in intramurals, Spring Day and other such functions which are usually entered by organized groups, mainly Greek houses or independent living units.

UNICORNS plans to have organized social functions and activities during the school year to help Lincoln students get acquainted with other students on campus.

Other plans of the organization include holding activity orientations for new students to inform them about University activity organizations, and to set up communications between UNICORNS and the independent living groups.

Turkey's Ataturk University Holds First Commencement

The first class of students were graduated this past week from Ataturk University, just seven years after the University of Nebraska agreed to assist the Turkish government in building a sister institution from the ground up.

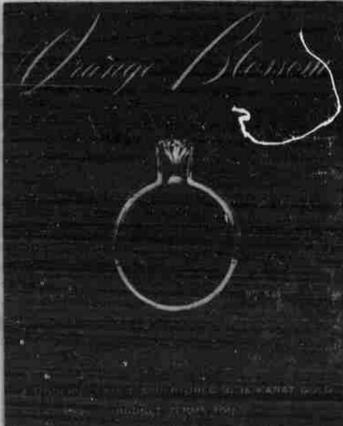
One hundred two students were in the first graduating class. The ceremonies at Erzurum were highlighted by the participation of Nebraskans.

Ninety-five students received degrees from the Faculty of Agriculture and seven from the Faculty of Letters and Science.

Dr. Marvel L. Baker, dean of the University of Nebraska mission in Turkey, was the commencement speaker. Other Nebraska participants were Dr. B. N. Greenberg of York, a University of Nebraska regent; Dean Elvin F. Frolik, Dr. Franklin Eldridge, and Jason Webster, all of the University's College of Agriculture; and Hal Allen of David City, associate chief advisor of the Nebraska Mission.

The University of Nebraska helped found Ataturk University, located only a short distance from the Russian border in eastern Turkey. The original survey work was done in 1954 between the United States government and the Turkish government. Work then started at Ankara University and with plans for founding Ataturk University in 1955.

QUALITY GREETING CARDS
for Every Occasion
GOLDENROD STATIONERY STORE
215 North 14th



SARTOR JEWELRY
1200 "O"
AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY

GET RICH...

use our moola machine!

Got some odds and ends kicking around the house? Put 'em in our moola machine (want ads) and they'll turn into good, old hard cash. Experience tells us that there is a buyer for almost everything. These buyers shop the list of want ads day in and day out. Start combing the house today and then call the moola machine attendant.

Tel. HE 2-7631
Ext. 3261

SAVE—SAVE—SAVE

PLAIN SKIRTS
SWEATERS **49¢**

With This Coupon

NO LIMIT—EXPIRES JULY 19

ROYAL CLEANERS

432-1339 352 N. 27th



Gold's
OF NEBRASKA
REAL HOPE OF FRESHING

Famous Name Swimsuit Sale

Originally 19.95 to 22.95... **12.99**

KNIT MAILLOTS, SHEATHS, ONE AND TWO-PIECE SUITS

You'll recognize this famous brand immediately. Choose from sheaths, mailots, 2-piece and others in print and solid knits! 8-16.

GOLD'S Sportswear ...
Second Floor