

To Act In Seriousness

THE STUDENT Council is frequently criticized by observers, the student newspaper, and other branches of the University community for a multitude of reasons.

These attacks are often grounded in personal prejudices, or the impression that the representatives are afraid to do anything but compromise. Many observers express disillusionment that the body bogs down in parliamentary entanglements. If these criticisms are ever to be valid and fair, a much more fundamental charge must be leveled and answered by the Council members.

ANY REPRESENTATIVE, legislative body is based on the theory that the will of the people can best be carried out by elected representatives. If this were not true, the work of the Council could be carried out by simply presenting every issue in the newspaper, and asking the public to respond.

In addition to the difficulties of communication, the objections to such a system are many. The decisions on most proposals would have little more value than a man-on-the-street poll. There would be a minimum of intelligent study given to any legislation, and only the most superficial considerations would be taken into account.

THE MOST serious and basic charge that can be leveled at the Student Council is that some of their votes amount to just this. The current group of representatives probably represent as qualified a body as could be elected. By refusing to educate themselves in the laws, concepts, and true needs of student government, the majority remain no more valuable to the legislative process than would the man-on-the-street.

So far this year, the Council has

acted in many areas. Many problems have been attacked in a serious manner. The most outstanding example is the Senator's Program which recently was begun — the response to this program, by both student participants and senators, has been excellent. At last we are inviting some of the state's most important people to visit our campus. Finally, some of the senators feel that they have a purpose in visiting the campus, and, after spending time with University students, they feel, we hope, that the future of Nebraska is in good hands.

THE SENATOR'S Program, will, no doubt, go on record as one of Council's most outstanding innovations. And, from the results so far, it seems that the entire Council has worked hard in making the program a success.

Yet, too often, Council has been reduced to a forum of humor and even the ridiculous. This is done when insignificant resolutions, and sometimes farcical ones, are introduced. Therefore, we conclude that it is time for Council members to re-examine their own responsibilities and, in light of this responsibility, to act for the rest of this term in a serious and sincere manner.

WHEN THE Council representative heads the Council Constitution, he begins to be qualified to sit in the body. When he analyzes his voting and formulates governmental philosophy, he is qualified to stand for re-election on some basis other than "how many votes he can get," or how "nice" a guy he is.

Only with such an approach can the Council overcome the traditional criticism, and take a responsible and consistent approach to the problems of the campus.

Fraternity Story Applies to All

—by bill ahlschwede

John Poppy, Look senior editor, probably approached the question regarding student attitude with amazing accuracy.

His article, "Will Fraternities Survive?" was written specifically about fraternities and their place in a changing educational community. What he says, however, does not apply only to Greeks. It can have a good message to all students.

Looking directly at the Greeks, it doesn't seem that the situation he describes is applicable to NU. However, in some cases, it is close.

Specifically, let's consider the "leisurely curriculum with the gentlemen's C". That condition does exist here! Where does this fault lie? Certainly not on any one person's shoulders. John Poppy's Greeks are involved. Basically, the Governor and his legisla-

ture can claim some of the blame.

The student and his attitude are at fault because he was weak enough to get sucked into taking only the leisurely way out. "Adminky" cannot bow out because they are not made certain that proper guidance and policies have been provided to protect each student from himself. Maybe they have been too lax — maybe too stern. The faculty is to blame because they have not stimulated enough of the students in the positive direction. This is where F. B. M. and our faithful senators fit in. You guessed it — Money.

Without enough money to expand the faculty to meet growing pains, or to hold onto the better staff which we have, how can instructors take time to stimulate students?

If we replace first-rate professors with some

which are not so good, our teaching faculty soon comes to a state where they are unable to stimulate a whole lot of students.

Also, they do not have time to revise the outdated curriculum or to re-write or revise the notes for a given course. What stimulus is there to sit in class and copy notes like mad when the identical notes were given word for word, four semesters ago and every semester since?

And when all is done, all that is required is to memorize the notes the day before the exam — don't think, Memorize.

There are those who fear that our school will start on the road downhill if the legislature doesn't come through pretty soon. With student attitudes and existing conditions, I fear that we have already fallen a good way.



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... Which Means ...

(The following definitions are taken from the Dictionary of the English Language)

ARMY — An organized group which travels on its stomach in contrast to some individuals who travel on their gall.

ASSASSINATION — The extreme form of censorship.

ASTRONOMER — One who can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the heavens will be at half-past eleven tonight. He can make no such prediction about his young daughter.

AUCTIONEER — The man who proclaims with a hammer that he has picked a pocket with his tongue.

AUTHOR — A fool who, not content with having bored those who have lived with him, insists on boring future generations.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY — An alibiography.

AUTOMOBILES — A machine that eliminated horses but made horse sense necessary.

AVERAGE MAN — A married man who expects his wife to be a sweet-heart, valet, audience, and nurse.

BABY SITTER — Someone you pay to watch your television set while your children cry themselves to sleep.

BACHELOR — A souvenir of some woman who found a better one at the last minute.

BACHELOR OF ARTS — One who makes love to a lot of women, and yet has the art to remain a bachelor.

BAD MANNERS — What it takes to make a journalist.

BANK — An institution which will lend you money if you can prove that you do not need it.

BANKER — A fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining and wants it back the minute it begins to rain.

BARGAIN — Something you can't use at a price you can't resist.

BEARD — A thing you need to wear with gift neckties.

BEAUTY — Like a rainbow — full of promise but short-lived.

BEAUTY (RAVING) — A girl who finishes last in a beauty contest.

BEGINNER'S LUCK — A college freshman with an idea.

BEING NATURAL — Simply a pose.

BENEFACTOR — One who makes two miles grow where one grew before.

Policy About Letters to Editor

Several unsigned letters to the editor and columns have been delivered to the Daily Nebraskan office. Our policy specifies that each letter or column must carry the writer's signature and address. Pen names can be used for publication, but only if a signature also is included. All letters to the editor are kept on file in the editor's office in case any questions concerning the writer's opinion are asked. We invite those who have turned in unsigned letters to come to the Nebraskan office and sign them so that they may be used for publication.

Do Better Than That!

EDITORS NOTE: The following excerpts are from applications forms and form references of Volunteers and would-be Volunteers received by the Peace Corps Division of Selection.

Job description: "Connector of steel girdles."

"I've never had a fiscal examination."

"First I thought you had to be an English major to teach English; then I learned different."

"I'm quite prolific, but haven't developed a n y particular skill in anything."

"About emotion, he can take it or leave it."

Reference about garbage collector: "He seems to be down in the dumps some of the time."

"And when he was in the mental hospital with T.B. . ."



REGENT PETERSON:

As a student at the University of Nebraska I am well aware of your long period of service to your country and your state. Like most students at the University, I am pleased and proud that you are concerned enough with the future of the University of Nebraska to be one of its Regents.

However, I must state that I feel that you have made a serious mistake in the present liberal-conservative controversy.

I feel quite strongly that nothing will be gained by having a board of editors determine whether the Nebraskan is basically liberal or conservative in its editorial page tenor. I have several reasons for feeling that nothing will be gained.

1) The editorial page is the proper place for the editor and staff to express their views. They are entitled as a matter of the basic rights necessary to any paper that it is not to be a mere house organ

to express any views they please. In a state such as Nebraska where one is inundated with heavily conservative and frequently reactionary commentary on the editorial pages day after day, it is refreshing to read an editorial viewpoint that although far to the right of most college papers, in my opinion, is nevertheless, a little to the left of Nebraska papers generally, i.e. stands in a moderate position nationally.

2) I feel that your position in requesting an investigation is mistaken because even able, impartial judges have the greatest of difficulty in determining what liberal and conservative mean. It is unlikely that any two people agree.

3) People will understand the result of the study to be an answer to the question: Should the Daily Nebraskan be muzzled?

4) A study, if anything, would show the following indisputable fact: Any

person who so wishes may express himself at any time in the paper on any subject from any viewpoint provided only that he observe good taste, pertinency, and length requirements.

5) The only proper position for the Board of Regents to take in this controversy is the unequivocal stand that the Board is not interested in determining which stand or philosophy is held by the members of the staff, but is only interested in seeing that the paper is open to all viewpoints, honest, fair, and unwilling to carry any editorial page viewpoint over onto the other pages.

If the University of Nebraska student newspaper is not to have these privileges and these responsibilities, then it should not be called a newspaper but should be recognized as a propaganda arm of whichever group is able to gain control of it.

RENNY ASHLEMAN

'Simmons Is Misunderstood'

TO THE EDITOR:

The recent denunciation of the Daily Nebraskan by Mr. Simmons regarding its alleged one-sided slanting of political-economic issues proves an interesting lesson in the relativity of concepts like freedom of speech and press and fair presentation of issues. It is not my contention that Mr. Simmons' accusations were misunderstood, but that Mr. Simmons was and is misunderstood.

Many have come out to decry the charges, issuing formidable defense against the conclusions of the Simmons report. I must admit my support for these defenders and my resentment to the charges leveled. But, to argue without stating or understanding the context within which the argument is being pursued, is arguing intelligently (perhaps) in ignorance. What I am trying to say is that before we set out to refute Mr. Simmons we must consider the social environs in which Mr. Simmons operates as a social participant and in which the Nebraskan is published.

Nebraska, as a state in relation to the other states of this Union, is considered conservative in its political essence. Within such a political milieu more issues become 'hot' topics (i.e., more ideas are deemed radical by a greater percentage of the populous) than is the case in less conservative areas, this being axiomatic.

There is, therefore, more sensitivity to such issues and concomitantly their presentation. It is this that must be kept in mind if one is to properly evaluate the assault upon the Nebraskan by Mr. Simmons. If one is to be criti-

cal of Mr. Simmons, one is to implicate not merely the individual but rather the political phenomenon of which he is a product — a manifest product.

And when I, for one, consider that this is the context in which Mr. Simmons charges must be viewed, I find myself no less anxious about the charges, but not the charges per se, rather the phenomenon which they manifest. We address our indignation to Mr. Simmons, but we fail to see we are defending ourselves from the tooth and forgetting the jaw. Actually, it is hard to determine if this is really forgetfulness, blindness, fear or pragmatism — maybe a little of each.

In light of the above I would say that we have missed the mark.

I do not believe that the interests and/or ideological phenomenon (composed of people, by the way) merit far more of our attention that we will ever accord to Mr. Simmons.

A second and final point I would like to make concerns, directly, the defense for the Nebraskan. I believe that, given the political setting in which this University publication is conceived each day, there is good reason to expect that it will be viewed somewhat as Mr. Simmons appears to view it — as rather liberal in emphasis. To deny this, I believe, is to fail to relate judgment to context. Perhaps in Brooklyn this very same Daily would hardly raise an eyebrow, much less an upper lip. But this is not Brooklyn and the view expressed by Mr. Simmons, extreme as it no doubt is, holds some

water in this context.

But, granted that the Simmons' thesis has some essence of credulity, his own point of view (that all sides of an issue should receive presentation to the public) works to his extreme disadvantage when we view the entire situation in accurate perspective. The Nebraskan, and the University it represents, exists as one of many institutions with a vocal chord within a political universe of limited scope. The 'universe' I refer to is Nebraska, and its limits are therefore the arbitrary 77,237 square miles of its fertile body. Within this political milieu dwells a conservatism (in relative terms to the other 49 states). It appears an obvious fact that within the milieu the conservative institutions with their conservative vocal chords stand in the predominant position of power; power to be heard; power to be respected.

Therefore, if it is fair representation of all sides of an issue that is the goal, then a liberal point of view is needed and if the Nebraska can supply, to some extent, this need for a minority function (as it would be in this context), then the Nebraskan is certainly fulfilling a role which Mr. Simmons applauds. When the Nebraskan presents, the liberal viewpoint, the fact is that it is a small voice with a message not well heard in these parts.

In conclusion, there seems little doubt that both Mr. Simmons and his opponents have failed to abide by one of the main principles of analytic thought—achieve perspective.

GERRY STERN

!WIN!

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