

On Academic Freedom . . .

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following column is reprinted from a 1962 Daily Nebraskan.

WHAT IS a University?

By definition, it is an institution of universal learning. It is a testing ground for thought and theory and it is a battleground of ideas. A university is the meeting place of divergent views with the desired end being the realization of truth and natural law.

OUR UNIVERSITY is universal enough. Subjects of instruction range from animal husbandry to Greek philosophy and from medicine to the history of the art. Our University provides the means to research—the work that goes on in most academic departments without heraldy. And if it is not realized that new truths are being found each day, it is certainly acknowledged that seeds of truth are being implanted in the minds of the University's students each day.

What, then, is it that the University is not? FIRST OF all, it is not a privately endowed institution. It is dependent for its support upon the taxpayers of the State of Nebraska. And as is any public institution, the University is sensitive to public opinion. Very few state universities, if any, can be ranked, in terms of liberalism, with the private eastern colleges of the Ivy League.

Any adverse comment about a state institution is a black mark on the record of the officials who are appointed to be in charge of the institution—whether or not the comment is grounded in fact. Therefore, it is to the credit of the University administration and faculty that there has been no question raised as to the Nebraskan's right to comment on the issue of Clyde Mitchell and his transfer of duties. (A recent issue covered this semester by the Daily Nebraskan could be paralleled to the example cited in 1956.)

SECONDLY, THE University of Nebraska is located in the center of the bread basket of the nation. Nebraska is not an industrial state nor is it an area of strict community culture. To most of the state's inhabitants, "academic freedom" is a term of vague significance, but the inference that "outside pressures" are influencing the state university's policy is a matter of concern for any citizen.

Academic freedom at our University may be the issue of concern at the present time, and, although the current debate is distasteful to all parties concerned, it seems unlikely that academic truth or freedom of expression will completely disappear from this state institution, conservative as it may appear to be, now or in the foreseeable future.

gyre and gimble . . .

The Asian flu and the bubonic plague, not even the black death can rival the scourge of the High School Basketball championships. For those of you who have not witnessed the yearly phenomena-trauma, there are three exciting days of hell week awaiting.

From all over the state they come with their little pompoms and letter jackets, and they pour into the Union like a tributary of the Mississippi River. They are all "so" excited about being here at "THE UNIVERSITY" where everything is cool and exciting and they just love, love, love to take over the Crib and stand in the halls and give three cheers for Bexatahotia High.

The little varmints in their baggy sweaters and levis run around the place like it was the Indianapolis Five Hundred. Careening around corners, get-

ting lost five hundred times between the Crib and the information desk. Crying real tears because they lost while slurping cokes and combing their hair over the tables.

Jazz and Java is more like Morons and Milk as the little demons rush to the dance floor with such finesse that Emily Post would turn over in her grave.

Wow! Is it exciting and fun to be trampled by a bunch of those out-state outcasts when you walk in the door of the Union. Now we know why it's called the Nebraska Union — just those Clearasil personalities of the month can giggle and snort in here for three days.

Somehow, the Union manages to adapt. They start serving cokes in smaller cups, and have promised this year to provide tranquilizers for the Crib rats who have been ejected from their mecca. In case any of you

would like to join this marauding band of mudhens and get in the spirit of excitement of the basketball tourney, and help them overtake the Union and make life a misery for everyone else, it is suggested that you learn the following cheer:

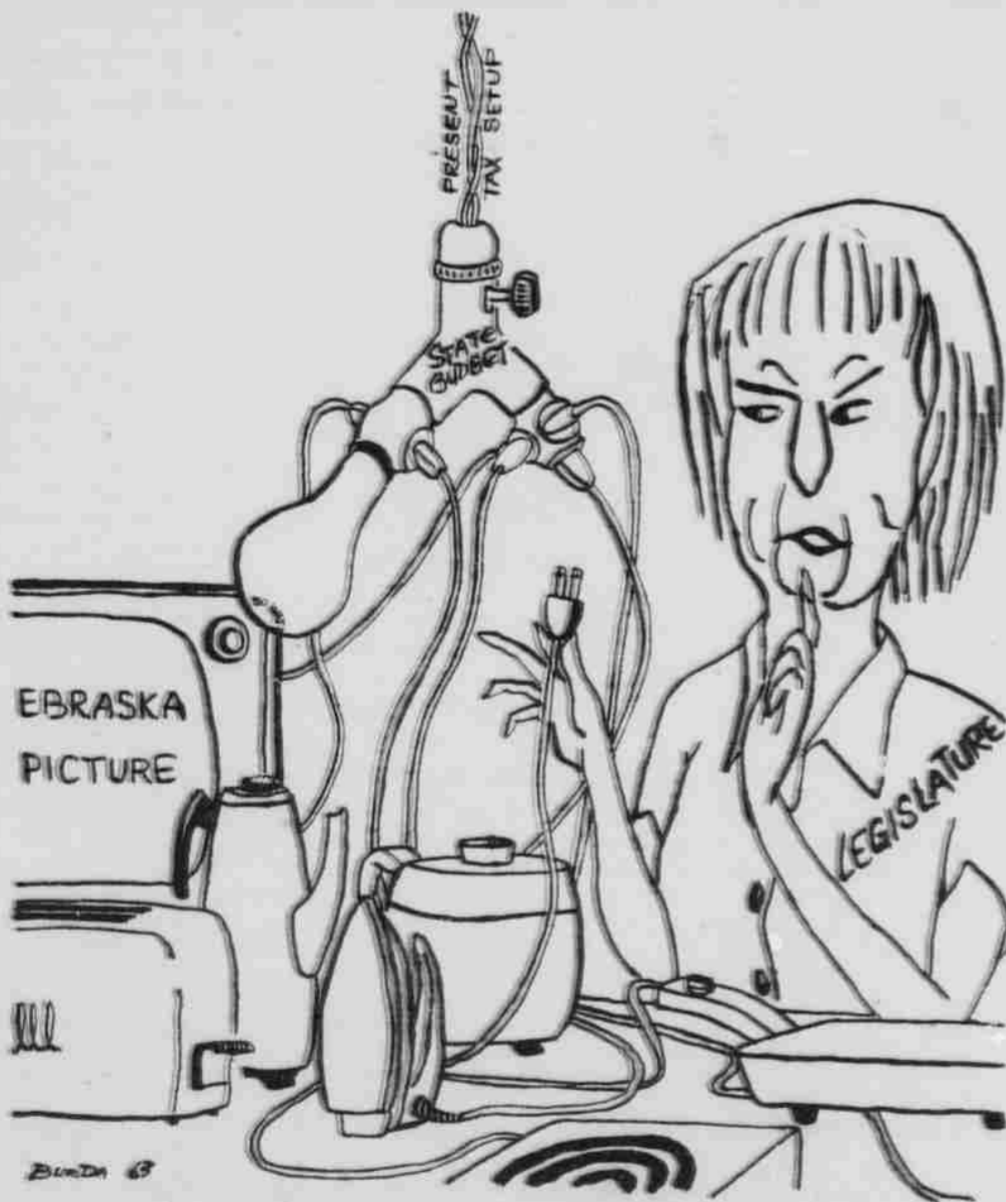
Three cheers
One Yea do
Off to NU
We will go.

Cokes in the Crib
Fights in the hall
Raucous in the lounge
Man, What a brawl.

Shatter their nerves
Break the tables
Spit on the rugs
Swing from the gables.

Tournament, tournament
What a spree.
We push the campus
to insanity.

— m.s.



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CAMPUS FORUM



Comment on 'Babbit'

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter to the editor was written by Robert Perry, a University faculty member.

TO THE EDITOR:

Congrats to Bob Lingo for his tough article on the Simmons-Rag tussle. All the guys in my frat think that "Babbit Reads the Newspaper" really lets the proverbial cat out of the bag.

Personally, I think it's the greatest I've read during my sojourn at this institution and should go a long way towards jettisoning premonitions among us that the Rag is oriented to the "liberal" frame-of-reference.

The really great thing about this article is its originality in that it presents a realistic bull session between realistic people on a bus. This gives it a kind of dramatic environment that really packs a punch, which is really a new way of expressing opinions on vital issues and should be utilized more often.

However, a few questions do raise themselves in my mind. Does the word "Zenith" refer to the proverbial product? And is the "Zenith World Messenger" a news media of the Zenith Corporation? If so, wasn't the writer "plugging" Zenith products? And isn't this illegal in a public news media?

Secondly, just who is this guy Mr. Babbit? Is he a friend of the author or maybe a relative? Whoever he is, I'm discussions chairman of my house and would really like to have him over for dinner some night. We have a tough bunch of guys here and I'm sure he could give us a fresh, stimulating slant on the current political scene.

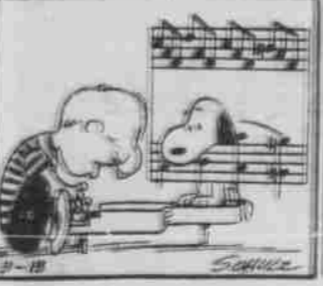
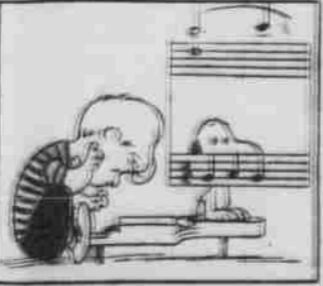
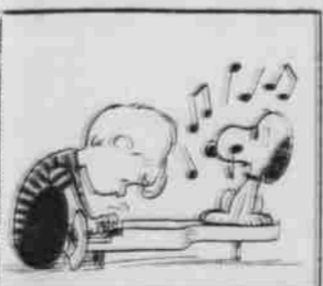
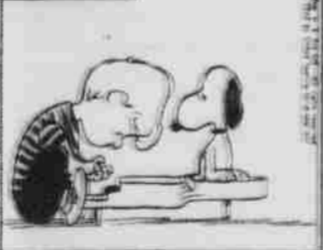
Content-wise, I agree with Mr. Babbit on all facts except where he says college students are too glib and swallow everything they read.

Speaking from personal experience only, I would say instead that we are really quite a clear-eyed, level-headed, realistic bunch.

For instance, we've realized for years that so-called "liberals" and other such cranks infest the curriculum but nobody I know ever took them seriously. And as for believing everything we read — heck, with all the parties, dinners, mixers, blasts, primers, games, dates and other social functions we really honestly don't have the time. So why worry?

Other than this I just want to say keep it swinging, keep your presses oiled, and keep grinding out the really great columns.

PEANUTS



INDE-structible

—by h. roger dodson

Last time in this column, the state legislature and the governor of Nebraska were blamed for their "lazy" approach to appropriating a workable budget for the University of Nebraska, but, as I said then, they are not entirely to blame . . . students, parents, AND administrators of the University are also guilty of not properly educating their state legislators of what is needed and wanted.

After the defeat last session of the requested budget, radio stations in Lincoln asked at random what the citizens thought of the "gross injustice" performed by the governing groups and, by quite a substantial majority, most were appalled at the way in which the budget was handled. Evidently then, the people of Nebraska see the need of providing for the educational values of the state colleges; however, it has not been expressed in a directive form, consequently the "3 Old Men" are not being saturated by the ideas akin to their elected responsibility.

Administrators, too, are as guilty as the students and parents. Not that the Chancellor's office is not attempting to create good relations with the legislature—we know differently. However, it is up to instructors likewise to improve the overall view the senators have about the University. The constant threat posed by the instructor

that he will resign his position if he is not offered better benefits is certainly not the most effective pressure. Admittedly, the instructor must consider his economic situation, but to threaten resignation seems not to affect the senator, so there must be another method which could be more effective.

Students, parents of students, and the ad-

ministration could all do more to persuade the legislature that the appropriation of a workable budget cannot be left to fate—there is something the student here on campus can do.

All in all, though, it is still the legislator who must answer to us, and if his answer is not the right one, then he either must find the right one or be replaced.

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A United Air Lines Representative will be on campus March 18 and 19 to discuss this exciting and challenging career. The film "Jet Age Stewardess" will be shown Monday, March 18. Mainliner Stewardess Jane Deppen, a recent University of Nebraska graduate will be on hand to answer questions. Interviews will be held on Tuesday.

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