

Closed-Mouth Test?

In today's Campus Opinion, we print a letter complaining about professors' expressing their political views in the classroom.

We can understand his feelings. Susan Smithberger, in her editorial backing Goldwater for the presidency last semester, said "Americans have always voted with emotion."

Many students were insulted last semester by instructors who in so many words told them that the political philosophy with which they had been indoctrinated throughout childhood and high school was reactionary and ended in the Year ONE (1932.)

But, in spite of the hurt feelings, a professor, guaranteed his sacred right of academic freedom, must not be fettered. We know that several could not discuss the last election in a fair manner, but why is that any different than our previous indoctrination by little old white-haired high school civics teachers?

All but the most narrow college students should realize that any question has two sides, and (although some would disagree) this also holds for the last election. It should be the duty of a student to question his teacher's political teaching, and it should be the duty of the teacher to answer (without smirking) any political queries from his class, no matter what the coloring, without effect on grade.

Our personal experience with teachers before the campaign was limited to one who would not comment on the campaign or the issues. We respected him for doing what he thought was right, but we were anxious to hear what a more educated person than ourselves had to say about some of the issues involved, especially since the class discussed was one likely to be concerned with the issues.

Whatever he said, however, would not have changed our opinions or our votes.

This discussion brings to mind a constantly recurring problem when writing a theme—do you write what the instructor wants to hear or do you write the way you really feel? Certainly teachers are one-sided in subjects other than politics. One will say that "Hamlet" is superior to the "Tempest" and another would laugh at such an idea. We do not question their academic freedom; we recognize that this is their opinion, that we may certainly disagree, and that we will not be penalized for our opinions if we can prove them a logical manner.

Academic freedom is necessary and essential for the preservation of "intellectual ferment," and we fear that any kind of ban on the expression of political philosophy would be a breach of the University's right to make its students think.

We sympathize with Mr. Rosenquist, but, again, we feel that freedom of speech and freedom to teach must prevail at all cost—even if it be the taxpayers.

FRANK PARTSCH



Closet Case

By Frank Partsch

I had originally intended to fill this space with another Bill Mauldin cartoon, but, what with the Great Typewriter in the Sky's low flying and the murmuring of the Jolly Green Grapevine in my ear, I decided to revisit the Closet.

First, I'd like to speak a bit about the carrier of this trivia, the Daily Nebraskan itself. Upon assuming the position, (stepping up to THE CHAIR, so to speak) I was filled with many good plans, among them a list of quotations from Shakespeare with local timely ties.

I consulted several friends, whose evaluations of the idea sounded like Hubert's boss speaking of the Great Society, so I borrowed my sister's English 235 text and spent several days assimilating quotes and tie-ins, which I then printed during our first days of publication. I would appreciate anything good that anyone has to say about my idea; the other, I have heard already.

One night, while sitting in my lonely-Shack-by-the-railroad track, as I affectionately dub my great white concrete fright, I got to thinking about Winston Churchill. The thought proceeded to a phone call and from thence to a meeting and finally precipitated into

a discussion of who the ten greatest men in history might be.

After much argument and elimination, we arrived at a list of ten; we will reprint it at a later date as an attempt to agitate some campus discussion on the subject. We invite anyone to predict our findings.

Also on the subject of Churchill, one of the men for whom I serve as a den mother was quite disgusted because he couldn't find enough brave hearties to take the two Shack television sets by force so he could watch an hour review of Churchill's life instead of blood and thunder.

That reminded me of an incident two weeks prior to finals. I had also been disgusted that the two Shack sets were always tuned to "Outer Limits" with no consideration given to those of us die-hard Jackie Gleason fans who have not yet been carried off.

On this particular Saturday night I enlisted the services of Tom Powell, a good friend who happened to (at the time) be rooming with a 250 lb. hunk of football player.

The three of us captured one of the sets during the early stock returns and held it until good old Craze began to croon, during which we growled at about 42 "Outer Limits" fans and

told them to go to the other set.

About 7:15, when the American Scene began to get obnoxious, we retired to our rooms. As we walked by the other set, however, we learned the fate of the 42 we had sent there to watch outer limits — Gleason fans had captured that set, too.

At the time I thought of writing a Case about people as animals—I characterized these TV watchers as sheep; I called up an old instructor and named him Billy Goat and found several coeds to be the minks.

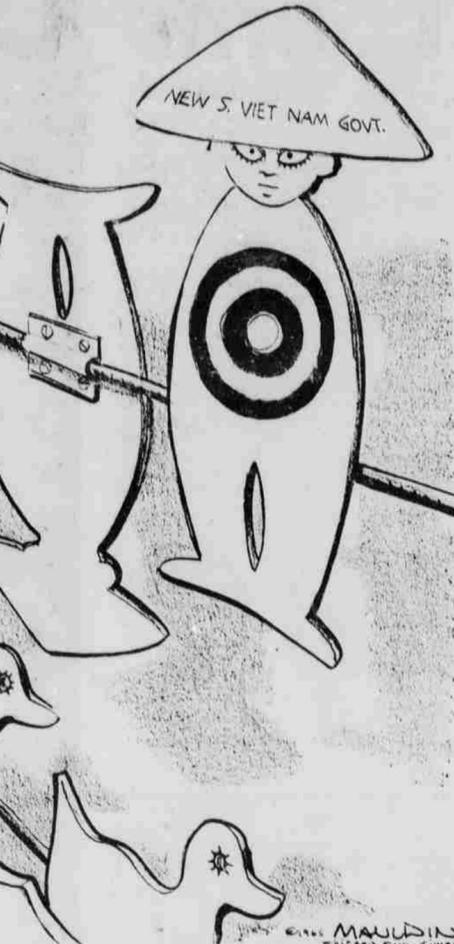
Pausing a moment and accidentally looking in a mirror I tore up the column and punted.

The cartoon I had planned to use in this space showed a World War II dog face winking up beneath a cow in a shed somewhere in northern Italy. It was entitled "Breakfast in Bed."

That was for those of you who would have rather seen the cartoon than read this Case.

About Letters

The DAILY NEBRASKAN invites readers to use it for expressions of opinion on current topics regarding campus life. Letters must be signed, contain a verifiable address, and be free of libelous material. Pen names may be included but lessen the chance of publication. Lengthy letters may be edited or omitted.



THE GALLERY

Writer Says No To War

Editor's note: The following editorial, expressing one writer's view of the emotionalism sometimes expressed in contemporary moral, intellectual and political crusades, is reprinted from the Minnesota Daily.

By Garrison Keillor

As I was reading the January issue of the Minnesota Gaffly (the independent journal of mimeographed opinion on campus) last week, I remembered the old days when political clubs used to hang out at the YMCA. I was sergeant-at-arms for the World Peace Club then, when everyone came to meetings fresh from the shower and a game of volleyball and

let Congress and the Administration have it right where you have to have it when you don't have it in the arm.

Campus politics was more earnest then. The reporters who covered our meetings used only three verbs in their stories: denounced, blasted, and charged. If they used "said" it meant they hadn't heard the speaker. Everything was conbro and hot mamas. We had fellows like Irv Vivance who could gavel in at five o'clock, get through the Old Business and burn Washington down to its bomb shelters in time for us to get to the Paramount before the admission went up.

But I was reading the Gaffly. According to an editor's note, the writers in this issue were attempting "to stir something within you." In other words, the writing was pretty turbulent.

The prize piece of verbiage was entitled, "The Passivist's Manifesto," a misleading title for the passion this passivist manifested.

"Peoples of the world, the time has come, the hour is at hand, arise and take hamlets, from your farms and off the land. Rise up your voices so they might be heard in high places. Arise ye peoples of the earth and cry out loud and clear. Say this you peoples of the earth: SAY NO TO WAR. SAY NO TO WAR."

I arose and took life with his first sentence, and although I found it difficult to come off the land, I said no to war at the top of my upper-case voice. It got much better as it careened along, and I only regret that I cannot reproduce it here in full. The motif was SAY NO TO WAR. "Let this be your greetings to every man you meet... when you leave him, say the same... Start in to say it now, on every occasion, in answer to every question... Before any request be granted, make he who asks SAY NO TO WAR."

The piece was heavily populated with warlords — satanic old geezers who prepare for Armageddon and who are arrayed against Peace-makers and, of course, the peoples of the earth. Children were there, too, for as the writer asked, "Who among you would burn his own child? Who among you would set fire to his wife and home? Who among you would incinerate his sisters and brothers?" (In answer to those questions, one can only say, SAY NO TO WAR.)

No, the children and wives and sisters and brothers came through this piece

insinged quite some trick considering the purity of the flame in the torch the writer carried for us all. And there were fires elsewhere — "The great fire awaits, it is buried in the ground and in your silence it shall rise up to destroy the earth and all of its people forever."

That, my brother, is the real revival stuff, at which the organist leans hard on the tremolo button and brings "Peace, Peace, Wonderful Peace" sobbing up from the pipes below.

It is meant, I think, to be read at top speed, top voice, as one is kicking his legs, lashed to a windmill-paddle. And, I might add, it is a welcome sound in these parts. It's about time we got this sort of stuff in campus political life. How long has it been since someone last stood on the Northrop steps and shouted, "Let's take over the Daily!"? How long, O how long O Lord, has it been since someone on this campus addressed himself, not to the Dean or to his colleagues, but to the peoples of the world? SAY NO TO WAR, you reply, and you are right, it has been just that long and not a minute longer.

I, for one, am done with those pragmatists who write letters to their Senators, who organize Parking Committees and study groups on higher education. I propose that we go beyond the advocacy of nudism, free love, atheism and Jeffersonian violence. Evidently, according to the Gaffly, there are those who advocate the burning of children, wives, homes, sisters and brothers. I propose that we hear from them, the Armageddon-bringers-on-of, the warlord element.

Perhaps we can arrange a debate between these red devils and the spokesman for the peoples of the world, from which we shall emerge with renewed viscera, our hearts beating hard for peace, our livers pumping for an end to war, ready to meet every question, greet every man, and every conversation with magic words. Can we do less? I think so.

The New Guard

By Bob Weaver

Lincoln's freshman State Senator John Knight has recently introduced a measure providing for the elimination of capital punishment in Nebraska.

LB 466, authorizes the use of death penalty only in cases involving treason. In a copyrighted article in the Lincoln Journal, last Wednesday Knight stated that the death penalty "serves no useful purpose."

This is probably the most important reason for the elimination of the execution of criminals. As it stands today, criminal punishment is used to punish the offender, protect society by acting as a deterrent and a restraint, and to rehabilitate offenders. Capital punishment insures only that the offender will be punished and forecloses any possibility of rehabilitation. It is to be seriously questioned whether or not it does in fact act as an effective deterrent to crimes providing for this penalty.

To date, nine states have eliminated the death penalty from its criminal statutes. The Iowa legislature is presently considering a similar proposal as it meets in Des Moines.

A recent study, on the basis of the eight previous states, indicated that the ratio of crimes of a capital nature, in those states which have eliminated the death penalty to those which retain it is 2.3 to 8.1. Naturally there are many factors which contribute to the reduction of crimes involving the death penalty: educational and sociological factors which are not to be considered here. Although one cannot conclude that the elimination of the death penalty brings a corresponding reduction in capital crime one can conclude that the retention of capital punishment is not an effective

Capital punishment is most frequently linked with the crimes of murder, rape and kidnapping. These offenses are crimes of passion, done in a fit of irrational behavior.

When this is not the case, the offender usually attempts to perform the act as a perfect crime, considering the possibilities of escaping detection to be good. In either case, it is doubtful whether the possible offender views the death penalty as a deterrent to his intended or unintended act. The above figures indicate that the elimination of the death penalty does not result in a rise in the number of crimes of this nature. In the light of these facts, the protection of society which capital punishment is supposed to afford, becomes more or less a myth.

What does the execution of convicted individuals prove? For one thing it proves that in an era of sociological and psychological advances and in a continuing Christian tradition, the state and society still feels that it can exact "an eye for an eye."

Aside from moral considerations there is at least one practical argument in favor of the abolition of this penalty: history indicates that society has sent innocent men to their death.

So long as there exists the possibility of this happening to one suspect, the death penalty should not remain. Unlike a sentence involving a prison term an execution cannot be revoked and compensated. "Obvious guilt" can occasionally and emotionally shroud reasonable doubt.

Likewise, rehabilitation and the return of useful members to society is eliminated. New methods in criminology and rehabilitation are now being employed at Nebraska's Penal Complex. These practices should aide the individual whether he is a capital offender or not. Since 1901, only one individual sentenced to life, has returned to confinement following his parole. This one case involved a violation of parole and not an additional crime.

Knight is presently studying the effects of economic status in cases involving capital punishment. Persons who are financially able can hire competent attorneys and psychiatric experts and can continue appeals. Here as in many cases, the indigent defendant is at a distinct disadvantage.

CAMPUS OPINION

Deriding Choice

Dear editor,

During the recent campaign for the presidency of the United States, I was somewhat disturbed as I listened in class to professors and instructors deride my personal choice for the presidency—Sen. Barry Goldwater.

I do not deny anyone his right to opine. However, when this opining is done in the classrooms of a public institution at the taxpayers' expense, I do not think it is fair.

An instructor or professor is hired to teach the subject matter, not to express political opinions one way or the other. I resent having my tax money used to pay someone to deride and slander my personal choice of any man for public office!

How does a student protest without fear of having a grade lowered? I ask for suggestions and possible solutions.

Steve Rosenquist

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED

Car insurance. Young drivers and insurance problems. Call 480-4015.

FOR SALE

A.P.O. Book Exchange. Pick up Books or Money from Lynn Davidson, Room 1302, Sellsack, Mon-Thurs. 3:30-5:00 until March 1.

1960 Sunbeam Alpine Roadster—See weekends: 1219 H street, (southwest entrance)

FOR RENT

Four male students, beautiful two-bedroom apartment, paneled living room, nice kitchen with disposal, washing, close to campus. Pricier colored appliances. 434-3654.

Students — nice warm basement apartment, one bedroom, large living room, kitchen and bath with shower. Suitable for 2 or 3. \$63.00, furnished. 434-3654.

Apartment for rent. Call Bob Newton, 477-4945.

Comfortable clean room, near bath, male student, near us campus, reasonable rent. 460-2421.

FOR SALE



Add A Present Of Your Own

Life insurance premiums are based on your age, as determined by your nearest birthday. Hence, the cost of additional life insurance will never again be as low as it is at your present age.

Why not give yourself a birthday present this year — a CML policy that will bring many happy returns for years to come in the form of protection and savings that can be converted to income.



Agent—Clinton Skinner

Call—432-3289

Kosmet Klub Workers Meeting Tuesday 7:00 Student Union

Connecticut Mutual Life The 'Blue Chip' Company that's low in net cost, too

The Daily Nebraskan Mike Jeffrey, business manager LEE MARSHALL, managing editor: SUSAN RUTTER, news editor: BOB SAMUELSON, sports editor: LYNN CORCORAN, night news editor: PRISCILLA BULLINS, senior staff writer: STEVE JORDAN, KEITH SINOR, RICH MERER, WAYNE KRUSCHER, junior staff writers: BOB GIBSON, sports assistant: POLLY REYNOLDS, CAROLE BENO, JIM KOEHLER, copy editors: SCOTT EYNEARSON, ARNIE PETERSON, MIKE KIRKMAN, PETE LAGE, CONNIE RASMUSSEN, business assistants: JIM DICK, subscription manager: LYNN RATHJEN, circulation manager: LARRY FIEHN, photographer.