

# Free University Statement

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** A meeting for persons interested in attending or leading courses in the planned Free University will be held 7 p.m. Thursday in the Nebraska Union. The following is the full text of the statement issued Sunday by the Coordinating Committee for the Free University.

**TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA:**

Higher education at the University of Nebraska is not living up to its responsibility and commitment to its own goal of "total education."

The University of Nebraska defines "total education" as an "acquisition of a pattern of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will result in increasingly responsible and productive behavior." And it says it will pursue this objective by "providing facilities, staff and environment."

This goal of "total education," however, is not being realized in the following ways:

1. The established curriculum of the University of Nebraska exhibits a lack of courses that are relevant to the desires and needs of a significant segment of the study body. Few courses address themselves to many of their serious concerns of the students — students who are seeking an education which will help them, as individuals, determine the role they will play in today's and tomorrow's world. This lack of course selection makes a mockery of the idea that a university is a free marketplace of ideas.

2. Most of the course work that is offered is not taught in a way where it becomes a creative learning experience. Rather, it becomes an academic rote game, where student participation and involvement in the course is not seriously developed.

### A PARTIAL ANSWER TO THIS PROBLEM:

To, at least partially, alleviate those and other conditions the NEBRASKA FREE UNIVERSITY will be established with the following purposes:

1. To offer to people opportunities for learning that cannot be found in the established curriculum of the University of Nebraska.
2. To offer people an opportunity to

participate in a creative learning experience that is student-centered where the spirit of creativity, discovery and critical inquiry is promoted.

To accomplish these purposes the NEBRASKA FREE UNIVERSITY will provide the structure through which any individual, group of individuals or organization, on the University campus or from the Lincoln community, can offer a course on any subject. The course can be conducted by any educational technique. **THE NEBRASKA FREE UNIVERSITY STRUCTURE:**

Final responsibility for the NEBRASKA FREE UNIVERSITY will rest in the hands of the people who participate in its programs. It offers a chance for students and interested adults to get involved directly in the search for knowledge and understanding, for the participants of the NEBRASKA FREE UNIVERSITY will determine the courses offered and the way they are taught.

A coordinating committee for the free University will be established to perform the following tasks:

1. to assemble a list of the courses that will be offered.
2. to publicize this course list.
3. to help find a location and time for the courses to meet.
4. to register students for the various courses.

The responsibility and job of the coordinating committee will end when the person or group responsible for a course and the people who are interested in taking the course have their initial meeting. The direction the courses will take after this point is totally the responsibility of the people involved in the course. Each course will have to justify itself and keep itself going solely on its own merits.

### A CHALLENGE TO THOSE WHO CARE ABOUT "TOTAL EDUCATION":

The NEBRASKA FREE UNIVERSITY is open to anyone sincerely interested in the quest for knowledge and understanding. It is not an end in itself, but only a means toward a better realization of the goals of education. To the goals of education it is dedicated and toward these goals it will strive. The success it will have in the realization of these goals will be determined by the people who participate in it.

# CAMPUS OPINION

## A House Divided . . .

**Dear Editor:**  
As usual in Negro affairs the imperious female must lead the way. Being a male Negro and not in any way athletically talented, I sympathize with one Brenda Lyle; however, so far she has yet to say plainly what are some of the problems of a handful of Negroes on a predominantly White campus.

The tendency for Negroes to restrain themselves from various campus activities can, in my lowly opinion, be contributed considerably to Negroes themselves, to interracial breakdowns as much as racial breakdowns, especially as things manifest themselves on this campus.

It seems to me that the difficulties are these: Negroes are afraid to try and fail. "Thou shalt not fail" is just as potent a law among Negroes as among Whites, if not more so. Negroes tend not to go into certain activities because no predecessor has braved the initial uncertainties of acceptance for their less than courageous souls, and Negroes tend to enter only those areas where they feel safe and where their friends are; consequently, they aggregate.

Those who tend not to aggregate become de facto outcasts. In effect, another problem of Negroes is that this most discriminated against race is wretchedly, internally discriminatory. Those that tend to aggregate discriminate against those who tend not to aggregate or vice versa.

In either case, there is no unity just as Miss Lyle mentioned. It seems one Negro is always afraid he will be embarrassed by another Negro or that another Negro will ruin "what he has going for him" with the White majority.

Speaking as a male, I submit that my own social activities are limited only when they must involve male-female pairings. I number exactly two Negro females on this campus among my "hello-how-are-you-good-by" acquaintances. This is my fourth year on this campus and in all those years I have had two Negro females as classmates (and three males).

Last time I heard, there were about four Negro males per female on this campus. You can't fight numbers, you just live with them. Either you get chronically horny like me or you do as some have done and cross that touchy interracial male-female boundary.

Otherwise, except for social fraternities and sororities, you are as free or limited as your ambition to partake of campus activities.

Perhaps, by virtue of our numbers, we are aliens in this place. You just have to get used to it like liver or Prokofiev. Perhaps we need organization or "an" organization like the foreign students have, but I fear we would only tend to withdraw into each others safe racial keeping and merely segregate ourselves.

It seems that every solution to a problem brings with it a host of other problems; however, I do think we could use an extended get acquainted and brotherhood week among ourselves. It is time the "boppers" and "trotters," the "squares" and "rounds" realized that enmity and idiom are vain things.

I suspect that both Miss Lyle and I are just heaping so many more words upon the thousands of unheeded words that cover the pages of the "Daily Garbage Can Lining," and considering the closeness (sic) among Negroes on this campus, how does each know that the other is not an SDS member in disguise or that Brenda Lyle is not merely a pseudonym for Dick Schulze?

If after all these cries of "unwanted" and "left out" Miss Watt and Miss Lyle are merely not adjusted to the lonely life of being a "token" Negro, I submit that information has my phone number. Frankly, I would like to get unadjusted. Maybe we can organize something. . .

Victor A. Padron

## Dean—Open Your Eyes

**Dear Editors:**

In the Daily Nebraskan Friday, Dec. 2, Dean Ross termed "disturbing" any argument based on a "need" to assert rights because this implies a basis of mistreatment, a situation that he said he had not noticed. My first reaction, of course, is "How can you help but notice them?"

Second, since the dean of Student Affairs lacks the insight to discover the problems of students I suppose someone should point out several in order to "get the old bureaucratic ball rolling" and hope that it rolls forward (for a change).

To begin with, would anyone argue that a violation of a student's constitutional rights is "mistreatment?" This does exist at Nebraska kiddies (and Dean Ross), so face it. For instance, if a student is caught for something like "minor in possession" by the Lincoln authorities, tried and fined by the city, then, under the law of the land, he has paid his debt to society and is not to be tried for the same crime again.

So the student returns to his academic world, glad to have the unfortunate experience behind him and starts to settle down to pursue his education again, unmolested.

Boy does he get a surprise! He finds out the hard way that the Office of Student Affairs couldn't care less about the constitutionality of "double jeopardy" proceedings and he finds himself on trial again for the same crime which he can't be retried for.

The "double jeopardy" system is bad in several ways. First, the student is sentenced where he shouldn't be. Second, if the University truly wishes to make any kind decent citizen out of anyone, it seems to be going at it all wrong as if in fact teaches students to "ignore the laws of the land if you don't like them."

In regard to housing, it seems that all student housing does is force students to live in either poor or overpriced housing or both. In the case of women, they are most definitely being persecuted because of their sex.

If a female gets a job and an apartment right out of high school, society says this is ok. But if this same girl goes to NU, she is treated like a child, forced to live in overpriced housing, eat third rate food and keep hours that her parents wouldn't even impose on her.

Many times over the protest of parents who don't want their girls living in the dorms, girls are forced to live there. Dean Snyder terms this educational. For what? Living in the YWCA or a convent but nothing else. For the female students who want to get their education and still be treated as adults, this is certainly a "mistreatment."

So how about it, dean? Do you need some more examples or do your eyes work now?

Don Sutton



# STEVE ABBOTT'S AGENBITE OF INWIT

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Instead of the usual Agenbite of Inwit column, Steve Abbott writes an open letter to members of PACT. The following letter was read Tuesday night at the PACT executive meeting.

### AN OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS OF PACT:

Every once in a while it is customary for the past presidential candidate of a party to address himself to party members. I have not done this publically so far (with one exception of humorously cajoling you for changing the party name) because I'm not in a position to put my money where my mouth is.

In other words, I should be cautious about criticisms if I can't roll up my sleeve and work to put my proposals into action. Actions speak louder than words and we should not pay undue heed to armchair critics and theorizers.

So where does PACT stand as of now? Very well I think. It is highly remarkable to see a political party engaged in committee research work in an off-election season. It would be folly for us to measure the success of our party only by the number of people we have attending weekly meetings. Rather let us measure it by the number of people we have working in SDS, the Free University and ASUN.

Even better, measure it in the general influence our party has on the direction of the University. Those of you who attend regular meetings faithfully should be commended not for being the only "true" PACT members, but as members fulfilling a specific party function: that of doing research and planning overall organizational and ideological structure.

But while we should be proud of our accomplishments to date, let's not lull ourselves into a dogmatic slumber of self-congratulatory egotism. There are still things to be done.

First, concerning the role of our party chairman. It seems to be an unwritten rule that the chairman can't speak for PACT. But if she can't, who can? PACT is not a duplicate of SDS but a political party that must take stands.

Some positions are determined by research, but unforeseen developments occur that should be answered promptly. For instance, in the Dec. 2 Daily Nebraskan Dean Ross seemed to object to the Bill of Rights on the grounds of legal power rather than on grounds of education. Since Dean Ross last spring and summer wanted to avoid discussion in "power struggle" terms, a clarification should be asked for.

Again PACT, through its elected chairman should be able to commend Curt Bromm's Legislative-Liaison Committee, the Free University project, etc., because these areas were covered under planks three and four of last year's platform. The chairman should be able to point out what PACT is involved in because people will forget what good things we do unless they are reminded.

Secondly, I understand some PACT members have reservations about the Student Bill of Rights as drafted by ASUN's Conduct Committee. Since the majority of the committee is made up of PACT members, PACT is responsible for the document like it or not. It would be best, for objecting members to draft a minority report letter to the Daily Nebraskan, while a simultaneous official party endorsement of the bill is given. To do otherwise will split the party needlessly, making it look disorganized and foolish.

Lastly, and most important PACT has not helped the campus to understand the necessity of a strong two party system. People think parties are superfluous whereas in actuality they are imperative to good en-

vironment. Without party loyalty, government is either anarchy or a rubber-stamp farce. ASUN is currently plagued with both problems.

No matter how good an individual senator, his ideas and effort will perish upon graduation UNLESS he can pass them on through a political machine. Take as example one of ASUN's ablest members, Dick Schulze. Dick began the year attending several PACT meetings, then announced (more privately than publically) disassociation from PACT because of some disagreement.

Was this disagreement fundamental? If so, Dick has the responsibility of counteracting PACT with a party of his own. If the disagreement was not fundamental and Dick agrees with the basic tenets or tenor of PACT, then he should openly declare himself a PACT member and, depending on his available amount of time, he should continue to influence the party with his ideas.

I would say this matter of parties is almost as important as passage of the Bill of Rights itself. To act as an ASUN senator or associate without party affiliation is like modeling in a fashion show stark naked. It's ridiculous for senators to worry about how their bodies are dressed at ASUN meetings when they don't care if their minds are clothed with even the slightest threat of political commitment.

Parties should have ideological foundation to distinguish themselves from each other. Vox Populi's recent failure in this respect made it a joke I daresay no one will ever want to repeat.

PACT is the first real campus political group the University has had. It has more than many thought possible. The era of campus politics is just beginning, however, and we can't spare time to rest on our laurels.

# BRENDA LYLE'S... The Other Sheep

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the third column in a six-part series by Brenda Lyle about her personal opinion of the Negro woman's role on the University campus. Miss Lyle was asked to write this column by the Daily Nebraskan.

John Wycliff, an Oxford scholar who was famous for translating the Bible into English made a statement many years ago that has held fast to Christian people all over the world. "I believe that in the end the truth will conquer."

I am of the belief that the truth will conquer but how does one seek out people that are able to accept it intelligently. When the truth is expressed, some people become afraid and this fear in the end exemplifies guilt.

Before I began my column, a friend asked me if I knew what I would have to face when I began to express my personal opinions about different subjects. She was inclined to believe that I would not be strong enough to take all that people would have to say.

I must confess that many of my friends have turned their backs on me, have thrown my name in the streets and have falsely accused me of being a "Black Nationalist." These accusations were to frighten me into stopping my column. . . this is why I present to you my third article which merely discusses the topic "Dating." It is written in conversation form stemming from a conversation that was held about three weeks ago on this particular topic.

**QUESTION:** Brenda, can you briefly tell us why there is such a limited number of Negro girls on this campus?

**ANSWER:** Nebraska, as a state, has a very low percentage of Negro residents. Because of this, many of the Negro girls come from Omaha or Lincoln where the majority of the Negro families reside. Some are from out of state as are most of the guys. Because there is a very low percentage of Negroes in the state, this University does not attract many girls. . . the influx is not very great. This year, I believe there are more Negro girls here than there has ever been in the past.

**QUESTION:** What is your opinion on the very "touchy" subject of interracial dating?

**ANSWER:** It is true that this subject is somewhat "touchy" but I assure you that it can be discussed intelligently. About five or six years ago, there were approximately three Negro girls on cam-

pus and maybe ten or fifteen guys—most of them athletes. The ratio was very unbalanced and the guys had no choice but to go to Omaha or find a social life here. And so they found some entertainment here because girls of other races were willing to date them. This is still occurring in some instances because the ratio is still unbalanced.

I believe the major criticism of many Negro girls is that she has to make a special effort to get any attention from the guys although she feels no superiority or inferiority to girls of other races.

I must confess that a few of my friends have married members of other races and I assure you, that this is not to be condemned—it is something to be accepted because it is happening all over the world.

**QUESTION:** In summary, could you tell us your reaction to this problem?

**ANSWER:** I suppose it will be easier to quote myself from a speech I made on this subject just recently and explain my reaction this way.

"Maybe I should refuse to answer on the grounds that my answer will hurt me as an individual and then again maybe I shouldn't be afraid to say that some of these people are strange. I have heard many people talk about interracial dating on campus and believe me the majority of the "whites" are against it, but are afraid to say anything about it.

"I have seen many Negro girls sit in their rooms and sulk because they have no dates. But then when the subject is discussed in a group, they avoid it for fear of being ousted. Personally, most of my time is dedicated to studies but I can say this:

"I would like to see the day when a Negro girl is free to date a guy from another race and not fear that he may, for example, be kicked out of his fraternity, or for myself, be condemned for exercising the true spirit of freedom. . ."

And so the conversation was ended and may I add that before any of my readers start to condemn me for what has just been said please read my short conclusion—as Alexander Pope wrote:

"Laugh then at any but at fools or foes—

"These you but anger, and you mend not those—

"Laugh at your friends, and if your friends are sore,

"So much the better, you may laugh the more."

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