SDS Fights Draft; Approves Proposal

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story was written by Toni Victor, Senior Staff writer, who attended the Berkeley conference as a correspondent for the Daily Nebraskan.)

An anti-draft proposal was passed at the national conference of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), held at the Berkeley campus of the University of California, Dec. 26-30.

The proposal, which "encourages all young men to resist the draft", was passed by a vote of 53 to 10, with one abstention.

Delegates from 150 chapters of SDS attended the five-day conference, which is held four times a year at different college campuses. Margaret Young and Wes Cooper attended as delegates for the University of Nebraska chapter.

The anti-draft proposal dominated the agenda of the conference's national council meetings. The proposal as amended, was authored by a committee headed by Carl Davidson, national vice president, and former graduate assistant at the University.

Some delegates viewed the proposal as a further protest of the Vietnam war, while the majority decision extended the protest to the military conscription policy of the United States.

The proposal reads in part: "SDS reaffirms its opposition to the draft in any form and maintains that all conscription is coercive and anti-democratic. SDS realizes that the draft is intimately connected with the needs of the U.S. foreign policy and the economic system."

Following points in the proposal call for various programs at a national and local level to "encourage young men to resist the draft."

One program creates unions of draft resistors "Brought together under the common principle that under no circumstances will they serve in the military." This would, in effect, discourage conscientious objection and subsequent military service in a non-violent capacity.

Direct action within unions of draft resistors would include: direct action during pre-induction physicals; and anti-draft and anti-war education among high school students and the families of potential inductees.

The proposal also states that "National SDS will assist all efforts to organize resistance to U.S. foreign policy within the armed forces."

Nick Egelson, president of national SDS, termed the proposal "definitely illegal."

"Theoretically, we could be jailed tomorrow for conspiracy," Egelson noted at beginning of debate on the proposal.

There was some question from the floor concerning the necessity of a referendum from all SDS chapters if an illegal platform was adopted. However, a recent referendum concerning the draft was thought to be sufficient to allow the conference to adopt the anti-draft proposal without further authority from ember chapters.

The proposal passed at the national conference is not binding upon local chapchapters, which always reserve the right to choose which national programs they will implement.

The University chaper of SDS will meet Feb. 8 and will discuss the proposal, according to Al Spangler, president of the local group.

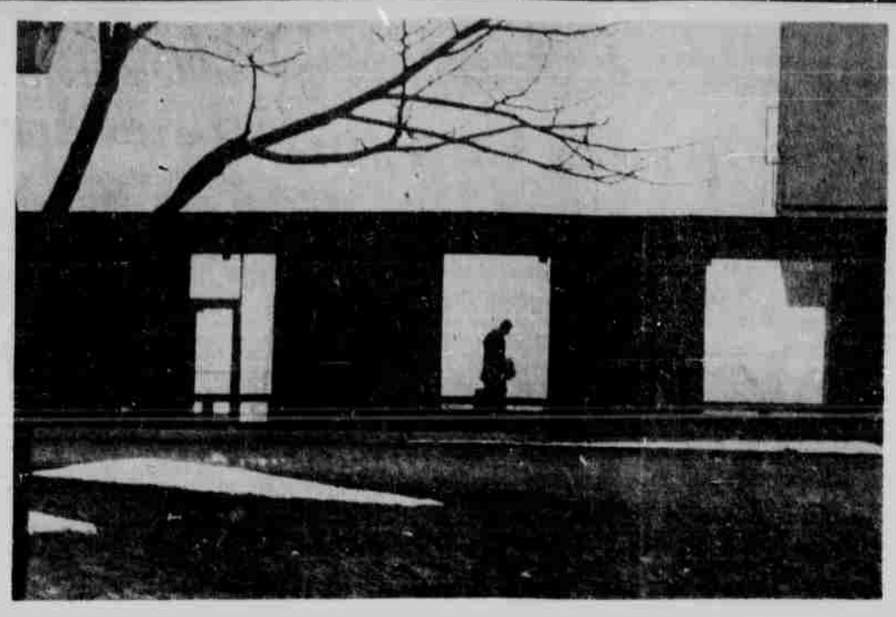

Photo By Mike Hayman

TRUDGING DEJECTEDLY . . . a student leaves the University for the final time as he joins the ranks of a college dropout.

Med School Ranks Last; Money Cited As Reason

By Randy Irey
Senior Staff Writer

In a recent study of medical schools throughout the nation, the University's Medical School in Omaha was ranked 31st out of the 31 schools analyzed.

"This isn't far from wrong," explained Cecil Wittson, dean of the school, "at least it isn't wrong for the 1965 figures which were analyzed in making the survey. The reason for this poor rating in the past is that we simply have not had the money. The budget for the medical school is one of the smallest in the nation."

Wittson, however, stressed the point that the poor rating is no longer true.

"While the number of medical school applications, made throughout the nation, has remained fairly stable recently, this year we received three times the number of applications received two years ago," he said.

"The academic ratings of the students that we accepted for the 1967 school year are way above the national average. Two years ago we were below the average of the North Central region; last year we were on par with the academic ratings of the Ivy League schools," he continued.

Another basis for the rating are the facilities available.

"Two years ago we were stuck with the worst university hospital in existence," Wittson admitted, "but, with the completion of some remodeling in February, we will have a small one, but one of the finest."

With the completion of the present remodeling program, there will be an increase of 189 beds within the hospital. He explained that the University hospital and clinic are laboratories for health instruction like the physics labs are for physics.

In addition to the remodeling program, there is a building program going on simultaneously which will include specially designed emergency and surgical suites.

Wittson said that the facilities will have the most modern conditions and equipment, including electronic apparatus for performing kidney transplants and cardiac surgery.

"These operations could be performed with the present facilities but the doctors would be somewhat handicapped under these old facilities," he said. "The new surgical suites will provide the best service to the patients and for student participation."

Included in the building program is a new basic sciences building which will provide facilities for the study of anatomy, pathology, and microbiology.

Wittson said that the new building will provide facilities for student instruction and research participation for all levels.

"I haven't seen a similar building at any medical school," he commented.

Planned atop the basic sciences building is a new library. Wittson said that the library is not entirely financed yet, but that the University has applied, under a new Federal law, for a large grant to build the new library.

The present library, which Wittson said is one of the 10 best medical libraries in the nation, is housed in what was termed 39 years ago as temporary quarters. These temporary quarters still serve as the main room of the library, while the books have been scattered in sub-basements throughout the hospital.

"There isn't room for any more books within the present facilities, yet there is an explosion in the volume of knowledge which the school must obtain," he explained. "We have gained more medical knowledge in the last ten years than since the beginning of time."

"The completion of our proposed plans for a new library would give us one of the five best medical libraries in the nation, both in the number of volumes available and the facilities provided," Wittson continued.

In addition to a growing physical plant, the school is "generating momentum towards getting top doctors interested in teaching here" according to Wittson.

"We are seeking funds for the endowment of the faculty and have been successful in naming seven faculty members to specially endowed chairs."

Some of the new faculty members include Dr. Rena Boyle, new dean of nursing, Dr. Robert Kugle, pediatrician and chairman of the department, Dr. Paul Pearson, a specialist in child health and Dr. Robert Sellers, a well-known heart surgeon.

Paralleling an expansion in the faculty and physical facilities area planned increase of 100 per cent in the student body and graduate program. Wittson called for the development of a school for allied health personnel to meet the demands of the state for technically trained individuals.

Scholastic Drop-Outs Add To Draft's Roll-Call Count

By Mick Lowe
Junior Staff Writer

Nearly 150 University students will quit school for scholastic reasons before the second semester is underway, according to statistics from the United States Department of Education based on differences in registration figures between first and second semester at the University.

What happens to so-called college "drop-outs?"

For single male students, the question is easily answered. Within a matter of months, they will probably be in the service.

Since both the Navy and the Air Force have waiting lists of people who wish to volunteer, most students will probably end up in the Army.

Waiting lists do not mean that a man cannot join the branch of his choice, however. It all depends, in the words of Lincoln's Navy recruiter, "on how close you are to being drafted."

If a student leaving school has not taken his physical examination prior to induction, he may have a three or four-month wait before being drafted.

Chances are slight that he will flunk the physical, however, since only one out of five Nebraskans are found to be unfit for service, according to the Nebraska Selective Service Office.

The picture is not as clear for women leaving the University. Most girls that leave school go to work in a metropolitan center like Lincoln or Omaha. Others attend secretarial and business colleges.

Why do students leave college?

According to Harry Cannon of the University Counseling Service, students are often "disillusioned — they find out that academic work is not as exciting as they expected."

Occasionally, according to Cannon, students discover that the competition for grades is just more than they can handle—or discover that the occupational goal they have set for themselves is not commensurate with their ability.

"There are few students at the University who simply aren't intelligent enough to stay in," Cannon observed. "The admissions people do a good job of examining a person's high school records, and they sometimes tell them quite frankly that they can't expect much of a career in college."

Cannon admitted that some male students may feel trapped in the University because they know that their only alternative is the service.

Cannon suggested that students who are relatively apathetic towards their classes may be attending college because their parents wanted them to, or because "it's a part of their socio-economic setting."

"It's not their own choice," Cannon remarked. "And it's hard to really work at something unless you really want it. Many students solve this problem by attaching themselves to something outside the academic part of the University."

A woman student who finds herself in this position is more likely to persevere and get her degree, according to Cannon, because women find it easier to do what society tells them they should do.

Another prime reason for students leaving college is that they simply run out of money, according to Dr. Floyd Hoover, registrar emeritus.

"We aren't as concerned about the drastic nature of dropping out as we once were," Cannon said. "We used to think that it was terrible, but long-range studies now show that many drop-outs do return to school after the service or a period of work."

"Sometimes," Cannon remarked, "we think it is better for a student to leave school rather than to continue doing something they're not happy at and digging themselves deeper into a hole."

Nevertheless, grades and classes have taken their toll, and the Navy Recruiter said he has "cleared the decks" in preparation for the seasonal end-of-semester rush away from the academic community.

SDS Holds National Conference at Berkeley

Some 150 chapters of Students for a Democratic Society were represented at the Dec. 26-30 national conference, held at the Berkeley campus of the University of California.

The first two days of the five-day conference were spent in national council meetings discussing a variety of national programs, and especially centering around the passage of an anti-draft proposal.

The delegates lounged in chairs in the auditorium of the student union amidst a constant flow of newsmen and television cameras from local news agencies. Tables were set up in the back of the large hall, promoting such causes as the JOIN Community Union, the California Grape Strike, and the Young People's Socialist League (YPSL).

After passage of the anti-draft proposal, the council moved on to a consideration of various aspects of the movement.

Education within the organization was discussed by Carl Davidson, traveling vice president for SDS. He gave his views on SDS programs after visiting many chapters across the country. Davidson, formerly a graduate assistant at the University and founder of the local SDS chapter, visited the University chapter in November.

He then recounted his experiences at various chapters, and called the Great Plains Region, the "most active region in internal education."

Davidson's suggestions for increasing activity in the area of radical education, included: traveling teach-ins, film libraries, regional staff workers, and free universities.

The farm workers' strike in the Texas Valley, the Grape Strike and other off-campus organizing programs were explained to the delegates. But attention was mainly focused on campus organizing, and featured a comparison of the December Oerkeley student strike and the University of Michigan's draft protest.

The remainder of the conference was spent in workshops concerning specific problems. The workshops were held in classrooms on campus and concerned such issues as Student Power, The Hippy Revolt, Programs for Educational Change, Ghetto Organizing and the Vietnam War.