

Seek Or Demand

The crux of the implementation approach for the Student Bill Of Rights seems to be whether "We seek" or "We demand."

Senator Al Spangler would have ASUN demand that the Bill of Rights be included in University policy while President Dick Schulze would have ASUN seek to have the Bill of Rights included in University policy.

The Nebraskan assumes that Senator Spangler means by "confrontation" that ASUN would present the Regents with an ultimatum—either approve the Bill of Rights or else. And this "else" could mean anything from demonstrations to strikes.

This we do not feel is the proper approach and would only hurt the cause. Regents, like a cornered animal, would probably react with a flat "NO." Thus, the students would be left with no implementation of the Bill of Rights and it is unlikely they would change their minds as a result of a demonstration.

Although freshmen are not likely to realize it, Pass-Fail courses, the Faculty Evaluation Book, and Senior Keys are advances during the last four years which have been accomplished through the "We Seek" method.

BUT, thank heaven for people like Senator Spangler for who give ASUN a good kick in the posterior.

Too often the "We Seek" method can deteriorate into no action, then forgetfulness and finally the original idea is lost forever until some brave soul takes it again.

Perhaps a case in point would be the

implementation of the Bill of Rights.

For all the students knew, the Bill of Rights was at a complete stalemate.

And yet there were several very important questions to be answered. Which of the housing amendments, Article 5b or the SDS-backed amendment, apparently conflicting, should actually be in the Constitution. Secondly, what is actually being done with the Bill of Rights?

The Nebraskan feels the students have a right to the answers to these questions. And it WAS Senator Spangler who finally got these questions out into the open. And it WAS Senator Spangler who is prodding ASUN executives into action toward implementation.

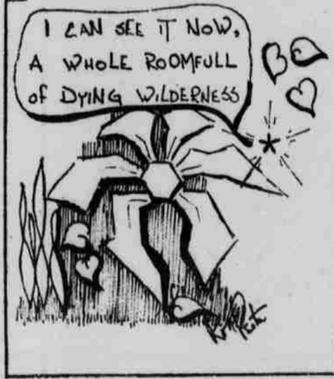
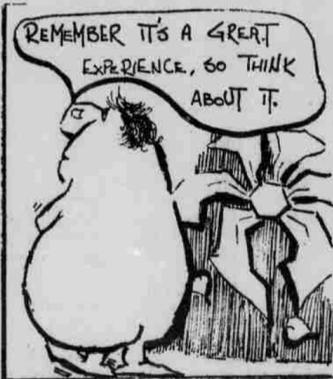
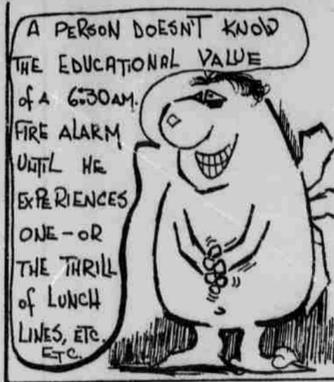
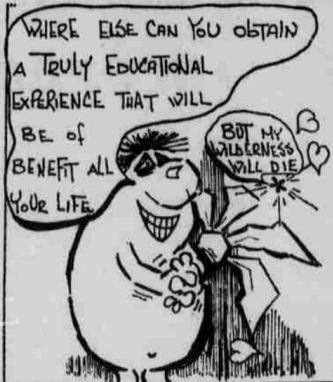
But the Bill of Rights is not the only case. It was also Senator Spangler, in addition to Senator Phil Bowen, who are getting the question of Vietnam out to the students so that they might make a wise decision on the issue.

And we are sure that these will not be the last instances. If the Regents renege on their promise to put the housing policy into effect when financially possible, Senator Spangler will probably be out in front leading the fight to get it implemented.

Again let us state that we are not always in agreement with the manner in which Senator Spangler would attempt to accomplish an end.

The Nebraskan feels that prolonged demonstrations or violence will accomplish little, and should only be used as a last resort to a very serious suppression of rights.

But it is individuals like Al Spangler who continue to keep organizations like ASUN on their toes. And active.



Between the Lines

By Dave Buntain

University Greeks are learning at long last how elusive the Invisible Shield really is.

Forced into the role of what perennial bad guy, Deacy, the fraternity and sorority systems have thrown themselves against the unseen, unassailable barrier: the Campaign For Deferred Rush.

And at the fore of this invisible Campaign are those protectors of students, Dean Gardoll and his Office of Student Affairs.

It is not difficult to surmise that the movement for deferred rush originated in the Office of the Dean to Student Affairs, though the Dean himself flatly denies this charge. Yet, he cannot deny that Administrative control over the Greek system centers in his office and that to be successful such a movement would need his blessing.

INVISIBLE SUPPORTERS

What is difficult to understand is why these invisible proponents of deferred rush have chosen to remain silent in the face of the strong arguments — both logical and ethical — that have been presented in favor of the present system. Indeed, Daily Nebraskan has been unable to discover a single person—Greek, alum or administrator—who is willing to speak out against the present rush system in specific terms.

Such secrecy has had three major effects on those who are sincerely interested in the Greek system.

FIRST, it has placed both IFC and Panhellenic at a definite disadvantage in preparing their objective reports on the merits of the deferred and early rush systems. No one can be certain whether the Campaign is one against early rush or one in favor of deferred rush. Nor can they ascertain which issues particularly bother the Campaigners and the Regents.

GUESS WORK

As a result, the IFC and Panhellenic reports are largely guesswork which attempt to anticipate the major areas of concern. This deception — whether intentional or not—has greatly impaired the ability of the two groups to present a meaningful analysis of the rush systems.

SECOND, the secrecy of the Campaign has forced those interested in the rush question to deal in speculation and rumor. They have been crushed by the persistency of reports from "informed sources" that deferred rush is imminent, especially since no strong criticisms of the present system have been heard.

They have also come to place considerable stock in one report, which has been confirmed by a Housing official and several leading Lincoln businessmen, that the Chancellor has ordered the Regents to institute deferred rush because his daughter was so happy with deferred rush at Kansas.

As long as the deferred rush advocates remain in hiding, shocking reports such as this one must carry more than a little weight.

FINALLY, the deferred rush secrecy has kept the fraternity alumni largely in the dark about what is going on. While part of the blame for this lies at the feet of IFC, it seems inexcusable that the Dean of Student Affairs has not sought to discuss the problem at length with alumni of the houses involved.

In the light of the heavily-documented argumentation offered by both Panhellenic and IFC on the rush question and the unwillingness of deferred rush proponents to communicate, it would seem impossible that the Regents could choose in favor of deferred rush.

Yet, as University students are well aware, the impossible has a way of occurring regularly around here.

Should the Regents rule in favor of deferred rush and the Invisible Shield, this toothpaste will leave a bad taste in a lot of mouths.

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Presidential Message

(Editor's Note: The following is the full text of the ASUN executives' Wednesday statement on the status of the Bill of Rights.)

The purposes of the statement are: to answer questions concerning the status of the Bill of Rights; to clear up any misunderstandings that might have resulted from incorrect or incomplete information and to discharge the responsibilities of keeping the student population informed on the plans and progress of important affairs.

On April 12, 1967 students raised seventeen amendments to the ASUN Constitution. The first 16 amendments, called the Bill of Rights, were initiated by a two-thirds majority vote of the ASUN Senate. The 17th was placed on the ballot by petition. At the time, all 17 amendments have met the necessary amendment procedures as stated in Section 1-4 of Article X of the ASUN Constitution.

However, let me emphasize that these procedures are necessary conditions for amending but they are not sufficient conditions. The preamble of the ASUN Constitution states, "We, the students of the University of Nebraska, with the consent of the Board of Regents, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution for the administration of student government."

REGENTS CONTROL

Article II of this constitution defines the powers of ASUN as subject to the University regulations as established by the Board of Regents, and Subsection A, Section C of Article VII states "Nothing herein is to be construed as limiting or supplanting any of rights, privileges, immunities, or obligations of each student under the rules and regulations of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents."

It is explicitly clear then, that amendments to the ASUN Constitution are not final, nor do they have official sanction within the University community until they have been approved by the Board of Regents. The answer to the question of the status of the Bill of Rights cannot be a simple "Yes they are amendments" or "No they are not amendments."

LEGALESE

A word of caution: let's not become so tangled up in the legal, official or constitutional status of the "Bill of Rights" that we forget or neglect the purpose this endeavour. Its purpose was not to be an exercise of constitutional law.

Its purpose was not to bring about a confrontation with the Regents.

The purpose of the Bill of Rights was to affirm and define those conditions of the University environment necessary for the development of the student as an individual and as a responsible citizen of society.

The Bill of Rights was an attempt on the part of the students to stimulate and improve the educational atmosphere of the University.

FREE INQUIRY

This document was based on the educational principles that free inquiry and free expression are essential attributes of a community of scholars, that students should be encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgement and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth and that people learn through living, through the process of integrating their thoughts with their actions, through testing their values against those of a community, through a capacity to act.

Implementation of the Bill of Rights has become the responsibility of the executive branch of ASUN. Acknowledgement of the educational conditions stated in the Bill of Rights which already exists and establishment of those conditions as University policy which do not exist, are necessary conditions of implementation.

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We are more concerned with whether or not the conditions essential to education exist on our campus than we are with the exact wording of policy statements that might provide for them.

COOPERATION

Necessarily, high priority has been given to cooperative efforts of students, faculty, administrators and Board of Regents as a means for making those changes within the community that we feel are important.

On Sept. 11, we presented the ASUN amendments to the Regents for discussion. The Regents expressed concern about the wording and interpretations of some of the amendments.

Their reaction to the purpose of the Bill of Rights and the conditions it outlined was very positive.

They stated that many conditions outlined in the Bill of Rights already exist. There was some disagreement about the wording of some amendments.

It was suggested by the Regents that a committee of students, faculty and administrators formulate University policy statements dealing with these issues. The ASUN executives have decided to pursue this suggestion.

AGREEMENT

There is a general agreement within the University community about the basic issues. This approach will result in policy statements that would be more than just ASUN amendments.

As a result of a meeting this afternoon with Chancellor Clifford Hardin, a six-man committee was established which will report directly to the Chancellor. The committee will be composed of two students, two administrators and two faculty members. Its task will be to formulate a statement of those conditions which should exist in our University, a statement which will have the support of the entire University community.

RATIFICATION ROUTE

The product of this committee will go to the Board of Regents, the Faculty Senate and through ASUN Senate to the student body. If those bodies endorse it, this statement will become all-University policy, as well as being ASUN amendments.

The ASUN executives are interested in establishing these conditions as University policy. We do not feel that student, nor faculty nor administrators should formulate policy in isolation.

As we stated in March of 1967, "The new student will not merely try to destroy one power arrangement for the personal satisfaction of setting up his own in its place.

An irresponsibly-run student controlled university is just as wrong as an irresponsibly-run administration controlled university. We have to realize that the task of creating a better University is a task that can only be won by working together."

Our statement of position on the Bill of Rights further stated, "We realize and honestly admit the implementation of the Bill of Rights will be accomplished when the University community recognizes the Bill of Rights. We are prepared to work with the entire University community as it exists."

Our approach was outlined last spring. Students who grumble and protest about the University's inadequacies should be prepared to pay the price in time and initiative required to improve that University.

CAMPUS OPINION

Dear Editor:

I write in regard to your objective and clearheaded essay regarding a possible FM station for NU. It stirred me to give an opinion on two points.

First it would seem that the condemnation of the proposed station by the Nebraska chapter of the NAB gives us all the more reason to seek a student-oriented radio voice. Anyone who would still be of the opinion that commercial radio is a public service is deluding himself; worthwhile music programming—in short, the whole bag—are absolutely secondary in nature (See any issue of "Broadcasting" especially the editorial page).

Whatever sort of annoying nonsense they wish to throw out may be their business (no pun intended), but when the broadcasting monopoly attempts to crassly squash all competition regardless of its nature we must definitely oppose them.

Second, the reaction of the Administration to the broadcaster's resolution is hardly a surprise. It cannot be denied that the industry has the political power to dictate its desires; whether it has been pulling strings in this case, I can only speculate.

At any rate, the FM station is (for Nebraska) a new idea and the powers-that-be have taken the usual "let's push it under the carpet and maybe it will go away" attitude. I assume that other "negative voice" on campus would be the "Daily Nebraskan" which, as everyone knows, is run by Communists and quotes Mao-think instead of dutifully reporting Dean Ross' speeches to local ladies aids. How un-Nebraskan it would be to have such a voice!

Or is it really the case that the broadcast industry and the Administration have unwittingly joined hands because they're scared to death that someone may actually listen to a little ten-watt student voice?

L. E. Baudler

Dear Editor:

I will start out by admitting that when I wrote this letter, I was ready to argue in a physical way with Mr. or Miss Cater Chamblee, whoever the person may be.

Scott Smith