

Outstanding Nebraskans . . .

With Pleasure

Too often today individuals are ready with a quick negative criticism of others and too slow in recognizing and expressing thanks for a job well done.

Today the Daily Nebraskan salutes two individuals at the University. Dr. Campbell R. McConnell and Al Spangler, who we feel have contributed substantially to the growth of the University academic community.

If the award were given merely on past recognition and committee memberships, Dr. McConnell would surely be deserving of the honor. He was named a Regent's Professor of Economics, is a member of the Student Academic Freedom Committee, which is working toward implementation of the Student Bill of Rights and of the committee on the Centennial College. He was also honored with the University of Nebraska distinguished teaching award.

Merely by his active membership on the Student Academic Freedom Committee and the Centennial College Committee, Dr. McConnell has indicated his ever-present interest in students.

But Dr. McConnell is not known just on this campus. He is the author of a textbook which is one of the most widely used basic economics books in the United States that has also been translated into Portuguese and Spanish.

To many students Dr. McConnell is known as the man on the tube for he lectures via closed circuit TV to some 600 sophomore-level economics students. But never is his office door closed to the inquiring student.

In the classroom, Dr. McConnell radiates enthusiasm for his subject—ultimately brightening a subject that many students would otherwise consider meaningless at this time in their career. And he is never afraid to tackle a question asked by any student. He may have to stop and think about the question for a few minutes and if he doesn't come up with an adequate answer, he readily admits that he doesn't know the answer. But one can always be sure that he will come back the next class period with the correct answer.

Dr. McConnell truly makes learning an exciting experience and not a drudgery—a quality that makes him an Out-

standing Nebraskan to us and in the eyes of his students.

★ ★ ★  
If one were to award the Outstanding Nebraskan student, by the number of offices and positions held, Al Spangler might be the last person at the University to receive the award.

But that is not how the award is determined. Spangler has provided the University with more than could ever be shown in a few offices or committees.

He is an ideal—an ideal that is typified by the well-informed, interested and active person. But Spangler is more for he has contributed a spirit—many times of controversy—that has kept University students alive and thinking.

As the Nebraskan said in an editorial earlier this year:

"University students have completely divorced themselves from the outside world. Ask most students and one would believe that there really is no outside world . . . Instead they are bound up in a world of quizzes and tests, facts and figures, dates and parties."

And yet these same students—many of whom think that parking, football tickets and traffic are the main problems of the ASUN Senate—are supposed to become the leaders of tomorrow. And it is unlikely that any of them would have had an adequate interest in the world affairs of today to make an intelligent decision tomorrow—had it not been for Spangler engaging them in these questions.

Without Spangler in the Senate it might be doubted that the questions of academic freedom, Vietnam and the draft would have ever more than skimmed the surface of student minds.

Although the Daily Nebraskan has not always agreed with Spangler's judgments, it does recognize his ability to—sometimes forcibly—prod students outside of their own little University community.

For his ability to make University students more aware of the world around them, the Daily Nebraskan today recognizes Spangler as an Outstanding Nebraskan.



THIS IS REAL AMERICAN EAGLE, ITS LEFT WING HAS BEEN REMOVED. NOW, IF ONLY IT DIDN'T FLY IN CIRCLES....



By DAN DICKMEYER

With Dow Chemical and other war related industries cleaning up on the Vietnam (ahem) conflict, it wasn't much of a surprise when I saw in the Sunday paper that the toy industry likewise was heeding its patriotic duty.

The toy soldier has long been an important part of our culture. Some child psychologists would say that in make believe skirmishes the child is "acting out" his aggression while others claim the soldier leads to putting less emphasis on the importance of life.

Regardless of any such make believe controversies (which serve the purpose of letting psychologists act out their own aggression against each other) the child will be able to decide for himself this Christmas. For, lo and behold, the toy industry brings us—the talking soldier. Yes folks, step right up and pull his dog tag, and GI Joe croaks out the latest "war talk."

One can imagine all sorts of Christmas eve debates between the GI and his new dovish owner on the merits of the Vietnam war. Pull the chair . . . scrak . . . "the fact is we're there" . . . pull the chair . . . scrak . . . oops censored . . . Well they couldn't screen out all the latest war slang. After all it's realism they're after.

Oh, joy of all joys to the world, though, the delight on that holy of holiest Christmas mornings when from the stillness of the living room, lighted only by the warmth of a Christmas tree, comes the sound of Peace on Earth . . . scrak . . . "Kill" . . . scrak . . . "the Cong." Fiendish laughter follows.

And for one of those toys that break the day after Christmas, who can resist giving their child the authentic replica

of the M-16 rifle—so popular in Vietnam. The kid's bound to be on your nerves after 14 days of Christmas vacation anyway. So why not send him down to the basement with his M-16. It usually happens on about the third use. Pow—a five year old war casualty.

★ ★ ★

The writer of Sunday's article didn't mention the latest toy sweeping the market—the Little Brother doll which contains, according to Time magazine, all the natural parts of the (blush) normal male. I would assume one of two things from this: 1) In Lincoln, where sex is equated with pornography, the dolls are banned or 2) the writer of the article could not prove she was old enough to see one in the raw.

If number 2 is the case it will be another reason to get a fake I.D., girls. I suspect, however, that number 1 is the case and possibly it's just as well that these sexually complete dolls do not take over the market.

It's not difficult to imagine what would have happened had Barbie and Ken been so endowed. Think of the financial loss to the doll clothing industry from making topless swimming suits for Barbie. And one can imagine a little girl marching Barbie up to the altar in a somewhat loosely fitted wedding dress. "Do you, Barbie, take this man, Ken, to be your lawful wedded husband," the little girls would say.

And Barbie, looking unabashedly upward at the little girl, "Good grief, does it look like I have any choice?"

At least that's how it would happen in Lincoln, land of the un-endowed dolls.

Left of Right?

"Since I have come to equate your effort with the Daily Worker, and your staff with members of the Red Guard . . ."

When one nears the end of his term of office, he begins to review his editorship and evaluate it. Letters, such as the one quoted in the opening paragraph, perhaps give some indication of what kind of a job one has done. But then again perhaps they do not for the letters have come from both the Right and the Left.

And if one were to count the number of letters favorable to the editor he would be lucky if he could find one. Perhaps that too is a compliment for an editor that has not raised some controversy surely has not done his job well.

During the past semester which has included such important issues as the Student Bill of Rights, housing, coed visiting, Vietnam, the draft, deferred rush and many, many others, this editor has often found himself at odds editorially with other University students.

Though this editor may disagree with others on some issues, he has never meant his criticism as a personal attack. And he would hope there would be

those who have disagreed with his editorial opinions.

Nevertheless, this criticism has hopefully stirred up some thoughts in University students so they might make intelligent decisions—agree with the editor or not.

But perhaps the most under-rated and least recognized individuals on the newspaper are those who have actually done the hardest work. To these people one must attribute any accomplishments which one has achieved.

One cannot express enough appreciation for the guidance and leadership shown by my senior staff members, Cheryl Tritt, Jack Todd, Glenn Friendt and Mark Gordon, and to my editorial assistant, Julie Morris.

These are the people with the titles, but the real praise for endurance must go to each of the copy editors and reporters for their long hours of sometimes unappreciated work and skill.

Mistakes have been made. There is every reason to believe that my successors have profited by these mistakes and that the Daily Nebraskan can and will continue its significance at the University.

CAMPUS OPINION: C'mon, Guys, You Can't Be Real

Dear Editor:

I was extremely disturbed about the article appearing in the Daily Nebraskan concerning the window displays about Santa Claus at Sellsack Quadrangle. The Patriotic Student, it's too bad he doesn't have the red-blooded American bravery to have his name printed, showed his immaturity by labeling the Sellsack room occupants in question as "campus Commies, subversives, and questionables."

Everyone in our country has the right to his own beliefs as long as they do not interfere with the lives of those around him. Once his or her ideals become a threat to our peaceful co-existence then it is our duty to right that wrong through peaceful means.

In the author's definition of "subversive work of Communist origin," I was shocked by his disregard for the personal ideals and beliefs of those whom he condemned. If we are to regress to such an extent as to condemn others and judge them without due process of the law then we are no better than the Nazis, Communists and ancient Romans who crucified those who expressed beliefs and ideals other than their own.

I, for one, question the intelligence of considering Santa as "sacred and a God-given heritage." Not only are we instilling ridiculous beliefs into our children (i.e. Santa and the Easter bunny) but we are also making those less naive than we believe in something in opposition to our theological ideals. "Thou shalt have no God before me . . ." including sacred Santas.

With the Christmas season upon us, we should look towards it as a time of great joy for the new wonders bestowed upon us. Let us thank our parents who go to a great expense in order to procure gifts for us in remembrance of the Kings of the Orient and their gifts of praise and adoration.

Much to our societies' displeasure Christmas is a time of worship and of far greater importance than the office parties, floor parties and other forms of materialistic enjoyment. Spiritual enjoyment has not gone from Christmas but only from those who observe it.

Yes, it may be un-American to call Santa a troll and post warrants for his death but is he really a necessity in the coming holidays?

John Mann

Dear Editor:

This letter is in regard to a Campus Opinion letter of December 13.

An anonymous writer made some remarks concerning his (or her) dislike of seeing "Santa Claus Is A Troll" in bold letters on my Sellsack Quadrangle window. I am more than somewhat offended, if not slandered by those remarks.

First, I would like to dispel some of Patriotic Student's doubts. I did not cheer loudly at Dick Gregory; I was repulsed. Nor did I cheer loudly at Joan Baez; I wouldn't walk across the street to hear her complain about how bad life is treating her. No, I do not cheer for such people: I have pride.

I also have some doubts as to whether Santa Claus is one of the "truths" that have made our country great.

I would like to point out that a troll is nothing more than a supernatural being, a wanderer. And indeed, Santa Clause must wander on Christmas Eve; he hasn't missed me yet.

I hope that I haven't made a mistake in writing this letter, as perhaps Patriotic Student was in actuality making some subtle, satirical comments about such things as to which I am ignorant. Or perhaps his letter, just as

the sign in my window, was intended only to be a bit of comic relief. Nevertheless, whether it was in jest or not, I could not tolerate being referred to as a bearded, rabble-rousing Communist.

Steven D. Bartos

Government Failure

Dear Editor:

I believe the majority of students at NU have a common feeling that their student government is giving them lousy service. They look at Daily Nebraskan headlines and find ASUN has passed another controversial resolution, but find little evidence of progress toward the solution to problems of direct concern to them as students.

Students are wondering why their senators presume to speak for their constituents on such issues as napalm, General Hershey's stupid directives, and the drafting of Steve Abbott. The problems they want ASUN to deal with are parking, student football tickets, traffic, Union and recreational facilities, University regulations, and academic standards and procedures, probably in that order. However, if work is being done on these problems they hear little about it, and good work is being done on some of these issues, since these issues have been relegated to the background while resolution after resolution from the radical Left is being debated.

The press is not to be blamed for concentrating their coverage on the sensational topics that ASUN deals with, rather, the Student Senate, itself, should be blamed for allocating too much of its resources to these issues and not acting on the direct concerns of the students.

Al Spangler has succeeded in tying up the Senate on

issues and questions which are designed for purposes of sensationalism and aimed at the sabotage of the establishment (without care as to which establishment) in addition to whatever bearing they have to student concern.

I am not saying these issues are outside of the Senate's legitimate concern. But the fact that they have become the major concern of ASUN is a subject of concern by the student body.

As a student senator, I am trying to find the issues which the student body as a whole desires ASUN to deal with, and I am open to suggestions as to what these issues are and how the Senate might deal with them. I would suggest that the students start making known to their senators their feelings and desires along these lines.

Tom Greer

(The Nebraskan reserves the right to condense letters. Unsigned letters will not be printed.)

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