

Spangler—Philosopher, Spokesman, Activist

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Transition hampered by confusion and student indecision earmark the University of today, according to Al Spangler, this semester's Outstanding Nebraskan selection.

"Nebraska is undergoing an important transitional period. A re-adjustment in the distribution of power is necessitated but presently there is confusion as to how this will be accomplished," Spangler said, expanding his statement in an interview.

The ASUN senator said that students want an equal voice with administrators and faculty in important university decisions which they don't have now.

The Bill of Rights; University committees comprised of students, faculty and administrators, and the revamping of the University judicial system are positive steps in the direction of power transition, he said.

Optimistic in his appraisal of the University's progress, Spangler cites the strides which are presently being made here in the area of educational reform, such as the Centennial College.

'IN SPITE OF'
Referring to the need for educational reform, he said "one becomes educated in spite of our system, not because of it."

The American educational system has gone too long unchallenged, he said, and the time has come to experiment with new ideas similar to the Centennial College.

"College currently is a job training center that conditions people to fit into slots," he continued, "There is a definite need for change."

Spangler enumerated three reforms which he thinks would enhance the educational system: living-learning units, abolition of the grading system and abolition of group requirements.

Clarifying his position, he said that from personal experience he has gained a much greater educational value from individual contact with people than from the large lecture situation and thinks the individual basis best.

Abdicating the necessity of grades on the grounds that they inhibit people, graduate assistant in philosophy also said that grades should not be the motivation for learning, rather the desire to learn should be the motivation.

AUTHORITARIAN NATURE
Spangler also finds fault with the authoritarian nature of the present educational system: "what the professor says is right." He thinks greater interaction between faculty and student in the classroom situation is necessary.

"Probably this is the most important resolution IDA has passed. Much of IDA's future success depends on whether we can reach a satisfactory agreement with the administration."

"This resolution is significant because it defines the duty of the student assistant, and also (to a certain extent) the role of an AWS representative."

"Reform could be accomplished more effectively if administrators, faculty and students worked together but student action in this area is probably the most conservative element at work," he said.

Spangler's rationale for student conservatism revolves around the students' indecisive nature: they do not want to make decisions and the present system does not encourage such action on their part.

However, student involvement has increased markedly in the past few years, he said, and the rise in student action coincides with the civil rights movement.

ANALAGOUS
"With the rise of the civil rights movement, students suddenly discovered that the situation of the American Negro was somewhat analogous to the situation of the American university student," he explained. "Things weren't what they were supposed to be for either of the two groups."

Besides the civil rights movement and student power movement, students have shown involvement by their interest in the Vietnam War, he said. Spangler, involved in the anti-war movement for the last four years, believes that many people are being needlessly killed in the name of American self-interest when no such interest exists.

"War protestors have spent a great amount of time and energy working for the end of the war but they meet constant frustration as the war continues to expand," he said. "The political left is splintering and becoming visibly frustrated."

According to Spangler, the frustration syndrome has spawned talk of revolution among many radicals as the only means to constructive change. Spangler terms such ideas "ridiculous."

However, he said, there is, as of now, no clear method of change and no one seems to have any suggestions as to how to effect constructive change to improve our domestic and foreign situation.

REASONS
Spangler lists the reasons behind the lack of thought and solutions in these crucial areas as twofold: people find it hard to identify with anything that is not closely related to them; and people think in short range rather than in long range terms.

Illustrating his point Spangler cited Senate's Vietnam Week, by saying "there should have been more than the 900 people who showed interest in the Vietnam referendum when you realize we have a student body of 18,000."

Spangler served as committee chairman for the Vietnam Week.

The ASUN Senator stated

he would never again conduct a program such as Vietnam Week because it was too expensive in time and money for the relative number of people that are effected.

Qualifying his statement, Spangler said he thought the idea was good but the format wrong.

LITTLE INTERACTION
"Students failed to respond largely because Vietnam Week was too much like a lecture series," he stated. "There was little interaction between students and speakers."

He suggested that if another program of this type was inaugurated the speakers should be taken to the living units in order to facilitate group interaction on a smaller scale.

Spangler admitted that Vietnam Week was a failure and said the irony lay in the fact that he was involved in politics: "I intensely dislike any organizational type of activity. I find political rhetoric very unattractive."

Spangler served as a member of the Student Conduct committee, which drafted the Student Bill of Rights, ASUN Executive Committee.

On Dec. 6 Spangler introduced a resolution in Senate recommending the Regents ban military recruiters on campus until Selective Service head General Lewis Hershey rescinded his directive concerning the draft status of student protestors against the Vietnam war and the draft.

That resolution, which passed Senate 25-3, was later considerably modified in a special session of Senate on Dec. 10.

Spangler said he was surprised that the resolution was changed after it had passed so strongly in Senate. He attributed the sudden change of attitude by senators to self-doubt when

their constituents.

The Senator explained that at the introduction of the resolution most of the senators were against it. After discussion they understood its purpose and backed it.

However, the senators lost confidence in themselves when confronted by

some dissent and instead of trying to educate their constituents in the matter they merely acquiesced, Spangler said.

"I introduced the resolution to eliminate danger. I felt that the military was intruding into University affairs," he said. "When on campus the military should

operate under our terms."

Speaking about the University as a whole the Outstanding Nebraskan stated he was very optimistic about it, saying that the "University" may not have a lot of name people but it also does not have a lot of problems. Academically this is a good place."



OUTSTANDING NEBRASKAN . . . Al Spangler confers with Cater Chamblee.

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Plunging through a third semester of existence, the Inter-Dormitory Association Council passed four major resolutions, dealing directly or indirectly with the member dormitories of IDA.

Brian Ridenour, IDA president, said that new officers for the insuing year will be selected at the beginning of second semester.

This chart gives the subject matter of the resolutions, a brief explanation of the resolution, and a statement by Ridenour.

Subject	Explanation	President's Statement
Deferred Rush	A resolution, presented to the Board of Regents which supports ASUN's opposition to the imposition of deferred rush on the Greek system.	"This resolution was passed because of IDA's belief in the individual should be free to choose his own residence, and to prevent split loyalties in the dorm."
Discrimination	This act forbids this act forbids discrimination based on creed, national origin, or sex by IDA, the member dormitories, or any organized dormitory groups.	"This act is of a preventative nature, not to halt a wide spread practice, but orientated toward preventing a discriminatory situation from arising."
Open Houses	This resolution presented to the Office of Student Affairs, expressed IDA's disapproval of an attempted change in open house policy.	"Probably this is the most important resolution IDA has passed. Much of IDA's future success depends on whether we can reach a satisfactory agreement with the administration."
AWS	A resolution stating that the role of student assistants in the dormitory should be to counsel students, not police them. It recommends to AWS that AWS investigate the student assistant's duty of enforcing AWS rules.	"This resolution is significant because it defines the duty of the student assistant, and also (to a certain extent) the role of an AWS representative."

Registration For European Tour

Students interested in the European trip next summer sponsored by the Nebraska Union Trips and Tours Committee may sign-up now in the Union Program office. The \$405 fee includes train fare to Chicago and airplane fare to London.

All participants must leave June 12. No supervision will be provided after the group reaches Europe. Students must be prepared to return to the United States August 26.

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