

Editorials

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

Commentary

Faculty Senate negates voice

The Student Academic Freedom report and especially one important principle encompassed by it were grounded this week before they even became airborne.

One of the basic clauses in the statement says that students should have equitable participation in University policy making decisions which affect students' lives.

Tuesday the University (Faculty) Senate by a 2-1 ratio revamped the University's grading system.

The move came as a complete surprise to students as no one knew that such a change was being considered let alone ready to be enacted.

No report of the study which promoted the change was sent to the Student Senate and the matter was never discussed during faculty meetings attended by students. For example the subject was never aired in the Student Academic Freedom committee the Faculty Senate Liaison Committee or the Student Affairs Committee.

The grading system is definitely an issue which affects students' lives and it is inexcusable that the Administration and faculty did not confer with students before adopting changes in the grading system.

Faculty members have reasoned that the "oversight" was unintentional and that the urgency of the situation required immediate attention as a large percentage of freshmen students are on scholastic probation and upperclassmen's averages are on the downward.

The urgency of the matter should have made it all the more imperative that the Administration contact students about the problem. Since students—not the Administration or faculty—are the ones who will be directly and immediately affected by

the change they should have been notified of their perilous circumstances. Also, students obviously would have invaluable sources during a study on the grade situation.

The grading method the Faculty Senate adopted is not the issue, however, but rather the fact that the students were denied any representation or voice in the decision to alter the system.

Although legally the Faculty Senate has the power to change the grading system, it still remains their decision is unrepresentative of the University community and should be reconsidered.

Student leaders also feel that the Faculty Senate's decision must be reconsidered. They are circulating a petition among the faculty attempting to schedule a special session of the Senate for April 23.

At this time these students hope to address the Senate and present alternatives to its decision and strongly urge its faculty members to reconsider their action.

These students are to be commended for their efforts to correct the situation through every available channel. The Faculty Senate in turn must respond to these attempts by reconsidering their hasty action.

If students are denied participation in such an important decision as the grading system, they obviously do not have the strong voice many would like to believe — and this is cause for great concern.

Students have worked too long to reach the ears of the Administration and Faculty Senate to allow their efforts to be negated by one ill-advised vote. They shouldn't allow it—and they won't.

A brainstorm loses its fire

Last semester a brainstorm descended upon the University.

After the air had cleared it appeared Nebraska might initiate a totally new concept in education—a Residential College.

When and if the Residential College is incorporated it will make Nebraska one of the leading Universities in this area of education.

The Residential College at first would be geared toward 200-300 selected freshmen. These students and faculty members would share a dormitory unit for living quarters and for classes.

These students would pursue the same program of study in such areas as the humanities, social sciences and the physical and biological sciences.

The experimental college is an attempt to get away from rote learning and to make education a more meaningful experience.

Plans on the program progressed rapidly until second semester. In fact some originators of the program believed the college could be established by next fall if the Residential College Committee (composed of faculty, students and administrators) formulated definite plans immediately.

The Committee in December also asked Chancellor Hardin to appoint a "master" to organize

the College by next fall. He was never appointed.

Then the Committee drafted its first plan for the Residential College about six weeks ago and sent it to Vice Chancellor Merk Hobson's office for revision and approval.

And there it has collected dust for over a month.

It is understandable that the vice chancellor is overburdened and his time severely limited. Perhaps then he should step down from his position as chairman of the Residential College Committee and turn it over to someone who has time to devote to the project.

It appears now that too much time has been wasted to have the College ready for next fall. The first draft hasn't even been approved and faculty must be hired, brochures and catalogues processed, programs planned and facilities readied.

Professor Robert Knoll, a member of the Residential College Committee has estimated that 15 to 20 per cent of the students would be interested in participating in a residential college. This number is significant enough to warrant more attention to the project than has been given in recent weeks. The Committee's proposals for the program should be completed soon to insure a Residential College at least by the year 2000.

Cheryl Tritt

John Reiser

GOP gleanings

One week ago today, a Nebraska write-in campaign for Nelson Rockefeller was announced by John Mason, a Lincoln attorney and former City Councilman.

Last Saturday, a Lou Harris poll was released showing the present Republican front-runner, Richard Nixon, trailing all three Democrats—Kennedy, McCarthy and Humphrey.

The urgency of the effort announced by Mason should be clear to every Republican. If the trend shown in the polls continues, as I expect it will, it is altogether possible that Nixon will not emerge from the G.O.P. National Convention with the nomination he covets.

For all their allegiance to Nixon, delegates to the convention will still be looking for a winner and will choose someone else, if the polls make it absolutely clear that they must.

Thus, it becomes very important that Rockefeller make a respectable showing in a state which is conceded to be Nixon's territory. Your help is needed.

This is to be entirely a grass-roots effort. There are no large squadrons of professional politicians involved, so the committee must seek volunteer help, much of it from this campus, where Phil Bowen, immediate past president of the Y.R.'s, will head the effort.

People are needed to pass the word that Nebraskans will have a choice in 1968, to put up signs, to distribute bumper stickers, to man the telephones.

If you are willing to help, contact Phil Bowen or send a postcard to me with your name, address and phone number. I need not tell you that time is very short, so respond during the Easter break. The address is 3791 "D" Street, Lincoln.

Other comments:

Omaha Mayor A. V. Sorensen has predicted he won't be elected as a delegate-at-large to the Republican National Convention.

I hope the Mayor won't mind my urging you to prove him wrong, by casting your vote for him on May 14th. He is one of Nebraska's finest public servants and he deserves your support. (Anyway, Mayor, you've got my vote.)

I'll bet no other department in the University can match the political involvement of the College of Law this year.

Students James Davis, James DeMars, David Hill, Mark Plattner, Selwyn Hesse, Bryce Bartu and John Doyle join professors Wallace Rudolph and Richard Broude in seeking election as delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

Law students James A. Gallant (also college coordinator for the Rockefeller effort) and J. James Waldron (also a State Senator) seek spots as alternates from the third district to the Republican National Convention.

Many students are active in campaigns for Presidential hopefuls. Dan Wherry heads Nebraska's "Youth for Nixon" group. Others promote McCarthy, Nixon, Rockefeller, Kennedy — almost everyone but Wallace. I can't leave out Bill Harding, who is completing a term as secretary of the state Young Republicans.

Campus Opinion

Dear Editor:

Many thanks to the Nebraska Union for giving us the opportunity to hear the Chicago Little Symphony last Sunday evening. This fine orchestra gave wholly delightful performances of works ranging from J. C. Bach's "Sinfonia in B Flat Major" to Igor Stravinsky's "Danses Concertantes." As a member of the large and appreciative audience, I wondered only why the Union Ballroom was not filled to capacity for such superb entertainment. We should invite this orchestra to return as soon as possible next year.

Let us hope that the Nebraska Union will continue to give us as varied and enjoyable programs in the arts as we have been fortunate to experience during the past year.

A. Robin Bowers

Dear Editor:

The Negro is not asking for much. He is asking only for equal opportunity. Equal opportunity has been offered to relatively few Negroes in the past. Higher education can do much to change this situation by educating the deserving Negro.

You can help bring about this change. If you agree that closing the "educational gap" is one way towards peaceable settlement of racial problems, send ten dollars or more to the college or university of your choice. Label your contribution, "Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund." The school administration will see that it used appropriately to help a Negro obtain a college education. This change in educational status in training Negro leaders—will do much to stimulate subsequent social change. Mail in your dollars today.

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Joseph Alsop

Growing lack of enemy ammunition

South Vietnam — It is like the Sherlock Holmes mystery of the dog that did not bark. This crowded, busy LZ (loading zone), a hive of feverish, vulnerable activity, as the headquarters of all the fierce, swift power of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, sent to relieve Khe Sanh.

The target, then, is rich. All about it, too, are high, gnarled peaks where one may be certain North Vietnamese forward observers now lurk, and the place is within easy range of the North Vietnamese big guns, dug deep into caves across the Laos border at Coroc. Yet from early morning until late afternoon, LZ Stud has as yet received only a single badly aimed 130-mm shell.

Despite all that has been written about infernos of incoming artillery, moreover, precisely the same mystery (and a very nice mystery it is) has hung over Khe Sanh, not to mention the long string of almost equally vulnerable Marine bases, linked by the totally vulnerable Route 9, that runs eastward along the DMZ.

In the 10 weeks from Jan. 21 through March 30, Khe Sanh actually received an average of less than 192 artillery rounds a day, and Route 9 and the other bases took a daily average of less than a third the number of rounds turned on Khe Sanh.

To give a simple measure, a single U.S. division, the hard-fighting 1st Infantry, commonly fires 3,000 rounds a day, and in tight spots, Big Red One's artillery has reached the rate of more than 3,000 rounds an hour. Yet the North Vietnamese artillery tubes are there — no doubt about it — so the mystery is, in effect, why the dog has barked so very, very rarely.

There can be no real doubt about the answer. The North Vietnamese commanders are neither lunatic nor incompetent. Hence, the first part of the real agony of Khe Sanh must have been the agony of Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap and his subordinates, with all their powerful artillery laboriously put in place, with concentrated targets so temptingly exposed them, but with not nearly enough ammunition stocks to maintain a serious rate of fire.

There were three reasons, obviously, for this strange state of affairs, which must have been so excruciating for Giap. The first and most basic was certainly the grim constrictor of all the enemy supply lines by our northern bombing. The second reason,

perhaps, was a higher logistical priority accorded to providing more advanced weapons for enemy units all over South Vietnam in preparation for the Tet offensive.

As for the third reason, it leads into the second part of the real agony of Khe Sanh. In the three months since the new year, our air effort around Khe Sanh perimeter has caused just under 5,000 secondary explosions, which always mean ammunition lost to bombing — plus nearly 2,000 observable secondary fires, which also means bad trouble for some sort. Here, one must add, rather than in the body count by the Khe Sanh defenders is the best real measure of the toll taken of the besiegers of Khe Sanh.

It is gruesome, but it is only realistic to note that it is infinitely easier to damage a human body than to touch off a bombing of ammo. One can only admire the uncomplaining endurance of the North Vietnamese soldiers who really did experience infernos of incoming of every sort, from our artillery to the brutal B52 strikes that often kill by mere concussion, starting heavy internal hemorrhages even if no slight flesh wound is inflicted.

What the true enemy toll at Khe Sanh may have been, it is terrible to guess. The siege of Con Thien (which caused another homeside panic six months ago, remember?) was broken in two short weeks, mainly by B52 strikes on the three regiments of the North Vietnamese 324-B Division that had surrounded the position. In 14 days, those regiments are now known to have suffered 3,000 serious casualties.

At Con Thien, to be sure, the besiegers were in rather open ground, hard to dig into, whereas at Khe Sanh they were able to tunnel deep into the mountain sides. Yet there are other measures. At Lang Vei, for instance, a North Vietnamese master sergeant and assistant platoon leader from the 66th Regiment of the 304th Division chose to defect to our side.

This man reported that his regiment had been twice decimated, once by a B-52 strike that caught the outfit in the open while moving up toward Khe Sanh, and once again in the earlier fight at Khe Sanh village. That was when the full siege was beginning. Later reports of fearful enemy losses have come from the Bru tribespeople who used to live and hunt in the Khe Sanh region and had to flee to the siege.

Dan Looker

And they built many large cities

"Let no man take away our liberties . . . let's preserve our freedom to kill."—Pat Paulsen on firearms restrictions.

"The gap between the median income of white and Negro workers had been widening since 1951. In 1964 automation was wiping out some 40,000 unskilled and semi-skilled jobs a week. . . ."

The rate of unemployment among Negroes ran twice that among whites. None of these acute problems was essentially touched by the Civil Rights bill (of 1964) . . . —The Strange Career of Jim Crow by C. Van Woodward.

The word this week is INADEQUATE and that's going to be it for quite a while. When it comes to the problems in our cities—President Johnson, Congress, Robert Kennedy, Eugene McCarthy, and the American liberals are inadequate.

President Johnson has let his domestic programs stagnate, has lost control of Congress, and let the war drag on until a dangerously late hour.

Both Kennedy and McCarthy have not said enough about civil rights programs. Now that Johnson is no longer in the race and is apparently working toward a negotiated settlement in Vietnam, we are entitled to hear more from both men on urban problems. Neither of them can now use Johnson or Vietnam as a scapegoat for the cause of their campaigns.

The liberals, including campus activists, have also proved to be somewhat disappointing to those who are genuinely concerned about human rights.

Most of them are just as "fashion-conscious" as other people. Four or five years ago it was fashionable to be involved in civil rights demonstrations. These days it is the vogue to wear a McCarthy button.

The causes of the liberals are vital but liberal support for them is sporadic.

The campus liberals verbally support civil rights. But where were they this week when a group of students picketed the Lincoln Board of Realtors for their stand against open housing? Where have they been for years when organizations such as People-to-People and Nebraska International Association try to make foreign students (many of whom are African Negroes) feel welcome here?

There was a ray of hope for civil rights supporters when McCarthy appeared in Lincoln this week. He said at a breakfast Thursday morning that the emphasis of the presidential campaign is shifting. In the new spirit of the campaign he was more specific on his urban policies.

At a press conference the day before, McCarthy had recommended building housing projects for the poor in the circumferential areas of cities—the areas where industry is now locating. This would be a step toward breaking up the ghettos. It is also one of the most fundamental differences between his policies and those of Kennedy.

Kennedy has stressed bringing industry into the ghetto, which is a policy in direct opposition to McCarthy's. Kennedy's solution has the advantage of being easier to implement and of being a more rapid solution at a time when speed is of the utmost importance.

Yet, McCarthy's program appears to be more idealistic and it is the final step which must not be avoided—breaking up the ghetto.

Both Kennedy and McCarthy are men who would return the nation to the course which Johnson's Vietnam policy tragically delayed. And there is no question that either would be better than Nixon. But they will need to be more specific.

Next week I will outline what needs to be done—and it is amazing how little either candidate has said about this. The following week, after attempting to decipher Kennedy's and McCarthy's urban programs and after evaluating their past records, and their probable abilities to implement them—I will make an endorsement.