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Faculty to reconsider grading scale change

by Susie Jenkins
Junior Staff Writer

A petition started by University student leaders has forced the convening of a special Faculty Senate meeting Thursday to discuss the unexpected grading change passed by Faculty Senate (April 9.)

The meeting was initiated by a group of concerned student leaders, according to outgoing ASUN President Dick Schulze.

Several professors have indicated, however, that faculty members may also request reconsideration of the change at the meeting.

Dr. Paul Byerly, student Senate advisor, said he thought the students were very much in line asking for inclusion in University policy decisions.

"Especially with the question of grades, ASUN has been involved in research," he said.

The students circulated the petition signed by 65 faculty members the week before Spring Vacation. Enough signatures were obtained to call a special Faculty Senate meeting Thursday, instead of Tuesday as originally requested by the petitioners.

The grading scale change was approved following the recommendations of an ad hoc committee appointed by Chancellor Clifford Hardin. Professors Frank Dudek, Royce Knapp and Lyle Young recommended that the University add to its existing 4.0 grade scale, grades of 4.5, 3.5, 2.5 and 1.5. The committee was appointed three

weeks before the recommendation was presented to the Faculty Senate.

"We found that depending on the college, 35-48 per cent of University freshmen were on scholastic probation this year," Dr. Knapp said in an interview before vacation.

The committee concluded that such a change would lessen the chances for "C" students to go on scholastic probation.

Schulze said in the April 10 Daily Nebraskan that the grading change was "a slap in the face to what ASUN has worked for all year."

For the past two years Schulze had led student Senate in a drive to secure definite student rights to be incorporated in University policy.

In the ASUN 1967 general elections students passed the Student Bill of Rights written by the Senate Rights committee. In the 1968 elections students voted for and passed the Student Academic Freedom document constructed by the joint student-faculty-administration Academic Freedom committee. The document, whose provisions included the right for students to equitable representation on matters affecting them, will be voted on by the Faculty Senate. If passed, it will be sent to the Board of Regents for inclusion in University policy.

"Everything we worked for for two years was completely overlooked by this one action," Schulze said.

"I really thought we were accomplishing something, but with this, we have been forced to other action."

April 10, the day after the Senate meeting, Schulze called together about 30 student leaders to discuss the role of students in further action.

This group decided to initiate the petition, according to Schulze, which was the first step in organizing the Thursday Senate meeting.

At this meeting, Dr. Byerly will read the Faculty Senate a letter from Craig Dreeszen, who officially succeeds Schulze today as ASUN president. The new ASUN executives and Student Senate will be inaugurated at 4 p.m., and Dreeszen will then ask the new Student Senate to pass a resolution supporting his statement to the Faculty Senate.

Dreeszen's statement will ask the Faculty Senate to "establish a student-faculty committee to undertake continuing evaluation of the grading system and to recommend any needed changes."

Schulze said he expected anything to happen at the Faculty Senate meeting tomorrow.

"We've got to convince the faculty that we should be consulted when such decisions are made," he said.

"The student body must not be passed over when questions like a grading change so directly affect them," he added.



photo by Jim Shaw

Lee White, a University alumnus and present chairman of the Federal Power Commission, addressed the Honors Convocation held Tuesday morning.

Honors convocation . . . White asks honor students to exploit interdependence

by Jan Parks
Senior Staff Writer

The high premium that U.S. citizens place on privacy and individualism is threatened by our increasingly independent society, Lee C. White said at Tuesday's University Honors Convocation.

White, a University alumnus and Federal Power Commission, addressed over 1500 parents, students and faculty who paid tribute to outstanding University scholars by their attendance at the Fortieth annual Honors Convocation.

"Today's newspapers make it clear how dependent U.S. citizens are on each other," White told the audience.

He pointed out that one ramification of this greater interdependence is that "individual motivation seems discouraged and often repressed."

"Individualism, as related to the land, arose on the frontier," White noted, as he contrasted this rugged individualism to today's individualism which "is more related to the human element."

White felt that social welfare programs are a product and respon-

sibility of an increased human element and an interdependent society.

"Some people regard social welfare programs as give away programs," White explained, "but this view is false because uneducated human beings are a wasted national asset."

Exploit interdependence

"We should exploit society's interdependence as successfully as possible," the former advisor to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson advised.

"With all of our cylinders firing the motors of our nation will run smoother," he predicted.

White attributed an increasing tendency to depersonalize the individual in society to the growth of the role of bureaucracy—both governmental and industrial.

I have no qualms about a strong centralized government," he said, but there is a heightened need to guard against infringement of personal privacy.

The magnitude of our population

can spur individualism by encouraging competition, White added.

The existence and success of our competitive system should "whet our appetite for excellence and progress," the speaker said.

Campus progress

Speaking of progress on the University campus, White noted that, "the University community is now more involved with the real world than it was 25 years ago."

White praised the Daily Nebraskan for articles on world affairs—especially the in depth report of the racial situation in Omaha.

The claim that young people are only interested in security is untrue, White stated. Thousands of young people in the Peace Corps indicate a deep strain of idealism in young people, he added.

The speaker emphasized the value of ambition in converting opportunities to realities.

"A major task of today's educators should be to foster ambition in our young people and create a climate conducive to the growth of individualism," White said.

Logemann . . .

'All fraternities capable of improving pledgeship'

by Andy Cunningham
Junior Staff Writer

It is possible for any of the Greek fraternities at the University to implement a program in accordance with the proposed pledge education contract, according to Sid Logemann, President of the Interfraternity Council (IFC).

The contract, based on one in use at Indiana University, will formalize and add an enforcement clause to existing Nebraska IFC policy at Nebraska, Logemann said.

Discussed by a Committee of the Whole at the IFC meeting April 3, the contract will be presented in the form of a motion Wednesday evening.

Provisions of the contract include a guarantee for three and a half hours of undisturbed study time and quiet hours following dinner five nights a week.

Another clause would prohibit all forms of physical hazing, both on and off fraternity premises. Included in the definition of physical hazing are any calisthenics.

There is also a clause requiring the inclusion of history of the University and the Greek system at Nebraska in addition to chapter lore.

The enforcement clause would allow IFC officers to observe a house's pledge education program at any time and also to question its pledges concerning their pledgeship program.

Houses accepting the contract would be entitled to display a certificate indicating their pledge program is IFC-endorsed.

Violations of the contract would prevent its renewal and would bring notification of the nature of the violation to the chapter's national headquarters and to its alumni.

"Enforcement is secondary," Logemann said. "We are not going to have regular inspection teams for all houses."

Logemann explained that the enforcement clause would be used if IFC has received complaints or would require more effort on the part of some houses than others.

Houses opposed to the contract or wanting to be entirely free to formulate their pledge education programs would not have to sign the contract, Logemann said.

Americus Liberator: Longest Shot for the White House admires Abe

by J. L. Schmidt
Night News Editor

Valentine, Neb. — On Oct. 3, 1910, an Italian immigrant mother gave birth to her first son in the new world. She named him Americus Liberator. That was in Eureka No. 40, a small coal mining town eight miles south of Johnstown, Pa.

Today, that Italian baby has grown up to become Americus Liberator, a resident of Valentine, Neb., and a candidate for the presidency of the United States.

I first saw Liberator in downtown Valentine. He looked just like his pictures, attired in a brown hat, blue denim shirt and pants and tall brown boots. I followed him to his home in his '53 Chevy where we first stopped and looked at his white horse, 30-year-old Pard.

Liberator and his wife Peggy and son Tony live in a small, but well cared for stucco home in Valentine. He has done most of the work on the place himself, has even built a stove and chimney. As his wife says, "He can do anything except make pastry."

The filing system of his materials — he receives at least a letter a day — is two clothesline ropes strung from wall to wall below the ceiling level. He clips all matter to the lines with clothes pins. The walls are covered with pictures of Washington and Lincoln and the Last Supper.

Liberator worked in the coal mines as a youth in Pennsylvania and later headed west and worked as a grubber, saddle tramp and horsebreaker. He served as a medic in World War II and has spent the last 38 years in Cherry County.

Why does he seek the presidency?

As a boy, Americus read about Abraham Lincoln, a man of integrity but also a man who would wade into the mud and lift a hog out of trouble. He read and wondered why George Washington fought the British, his own ancestry.

In 1932 he came West and worked at the Boiling Springs Flats, south of Cody, Neb. He said that here a Catholic priest set him straight on reading the Bible, telling him to let his conscience be his guide.

According to Liberator, the message was there . . . it all depends on how you interpret it. He says that he became a non-sectarian rather than a hypocrite. He defends the religious right of all concerned and feels that the answer to most of our troubles can be found in the Bible or the Constitution.

As time wore on he said he began to realize that both parties in the United States seemed to say that they had the best program, but the world seemed to remain in a "hell of a mess." He decided to be realistic and give the American people a choice. "There are a half dozen baskets and the people should be allowed to choose which one they want to put their eggs in," he remarked.

He said a perilous position is being approached because the separation of religion and politics is being lost. Good administration tapered off with Teddy Roosevelt according to Liberator.

He acknowledged the qualifications and capabilities of men like Nixon, but he asks, "where have they left their mark, what have they done? What happened to the last of the self-made men?" Liberator claims that being close to nature has given him the "direct message of God," a necessary in-

gredient for a self-made man.

The Republican ticket carries Liberator's name in the Primary because he voted for Goldwater in the last election and he said he must have some political affiliation to be able to run in the primary. He ran as a Republican in the primary for Sheriff of Cherry County in 1966 and then he ran as a non-partisan write-in candidate for the same office.

"Much of the Constitution has never been utilized to the fullest," according to Liberator and some of the interpretation is still ahead of its time as was Abraham Lincoln in many of his proposals.

As Liberator stated in an article in the Boston Globe, "our current political strife began several administrations ago." Referring to Pres. Johnson he said, "I don't agree with all he's done, but the trouble goes back several administrations. It's not of Mr. Johnson's making, and it would be just as hard for me inheriting it."

During the interview he paused to read some of his latest mail. A letter from a mother whose daughter was a Smith College graduate took his fancy. "I like anybody with a big nose or lousy handwriting," he said.

The question of public debate with the other candidates was raised. He felt that he didn't want a debate, because the people know "what they want in their heart."

"All you have to do is represent your will he said and besides, I like to take things and sleep on them."

Take the Sunday Sermon for example. "Johnson went too church expecting to hear the Gospel of God, and instead look at what he got. That minister could have told him off some other time in some other place." He also mentioned the luncheon at which Eartha Kitt lashed into Lady Bird.

Liberator also referred to his semester of study at Kearney State and said here he realized that education is a shortcut to knowledge. As a former classmate of his in Pennsylvania stated, he was "Not slow to learn, just too devilish to work at it."

He did talk briefly about Vietnam and the race situation. His comments on Vietnam as they appeared in the Boston Globe were, "If I was President there'd be no more messin' around in Vietnam. We'd settle overnight or withdraw." He mentioned that it required only "three and a half years to end the greatest war of our time, and we've been in Vietnam for ten years already."

On the question of race, he relates that he was stopped by a Negro when he was in Lincoln at the Statehouse and this fellow asked him what his stand was. He said he told him that the black man has to eliminate his own "renegades" before the white people can be of any help. If you don't you'll have a situation like "cowboys and Indians." He pointed out that the Toscanini and Marconi of his own ancestry made the Italians famous, not the Al Capone type. He said that the Negro needs more "athletes like Joe Lewis and scientists like George Washington Carver." A garden has to be weeded to harvest the crop you planted," he added.



photo by Dan Ladely

Americus Liberator, Valentine rancher and candidate for the Presidency of the United States, takes time from his campaigning to groom his thirty year old white horse, Pard.