

It's what you don't know that hurts

Sometimes, despite things I've said to the contrary, it seems it would be better if faculty members would stay in their cage.

Take history associate professor John Braeman, for instance. Braeman, in the letter printed below, takes the students to task for having allowed an unrepresentative and irresponsible management control this newspaper, while students continue to support it from student funds. If any of these charges were right, Braeman might have a point.

LET'S START WITH unrepresentative. We're representing right now a large segment of the student body who have never been represented before. Our "turn" is only for one semester, and this position is open to any student on this campus who wants to take the time to work for it.

The charge "unrepresentative" is a wee bit absurd anyway. Since when is a newspaper charged with being "representative." What we are responsible for is the truth, be it majority opinion or the opinion of a single individual.

The financial status of the newspaper at this time is such that we are nearly able to support ourselves without student funds. Even under the present arrangement we get twice as much of our revenue from advertising as from student funds.

AS FOR RESPONSIBILITY, perhaps Braeman would be happier if we returned to the old policy of printing news of fraternity parties on page one. For a group of young reporters and editors, however, we feel that both our spot and depth news is being covered at an unprecedented level of responsibility.

In reality, it is now the faculty of which Braeman is a member which controls this newspaper. If the machinery can be found by which this newspaper could really be student-run, we are all for it. Having it run by ASUN, however, would mean that the largest and most powerful student organization would no longer be subject to criticism by the newspaper, a situation that would obviously be detrimental to the University as a whole.

The time has come when we can no longer resist the old challenge: if you really think this newspaper could be operated by majority opinion, Mr. Braeman, we'd like to see you try it some time.

We are professional journalists, doing a job. Mr. Braeman is an amateur critic who forgot to do his homework before he fired off his comments.

Dear Sir:

I was amused to read in the November 20th issue that Mr. Jack Todd, after these many months of raving and ranting about student power, is highly indignant when the question arises of Student Senate control over student publications. And I was even more amused to find him taking refuge in the credo of that bourgeois liberalism he so condemns: freedom of the press.

Unfortunately, Mr. Todd's analogies are wholly false. The Lincoln Journal or the Omaha World-Herald are privately owned, and their readers are free to buy it or not. But the Daily Nebraskan is supported by student fees, and no student has any say as to whether or not his money should go for its support.

Mr. Todd candidly — and correctly — concedes that his editorial "could hardly be written if (the) Senate controlled this newspaper." What is appalling to me has been the apathy of the student body in supinely tolerating a student newspaper that is so grossly unrepresentative of the overwhelming majority of the people who pay its bills. Let one of the first demands of that student activism which Mr. Todd otherwise so extolls be for an end to control of the Daily Nebraskan by its unrepresentative and irresponsible management.

Sincerely,
John Braeman
Associate Professor of History

At least half of the students on this campus think ASUN is a drag. It's not beer and it's not movies and it's not even stimulating discussions. But right now it is doing something that is probably going to affect every student who ever goes through here. It might not be a bad idea, therefore, to pay some attention and find out what's going on.

At this point, it looks like senate will approve Government Bill No. 24. This will mean vastly increased powers for the senate, and in reality vastly increased powers for each student.

THE HANG-UP will come with the administration and the Student Affairs Committee. After ASUN passes this bill calling for control over rules-making, student fees and maybe even student publications, the bill will move into a committee.

This is the critical stage. Senate will instruct the committee to review the resolution and implement it. The administration will, in effect, ask for a committee to talk the bill to death, as it did the SAF document. Our call is for the first kind of committee, a committee that will check out the legal implications of the bill and help set up the machinery for its implementation, but will not attempt to keep Senate from controlling women's hours or student fees.

The issue at stake here is simple. Students will already have defined their rights. They are not asking for a committee to further debate what student rights are.

Therefore, the student negotiators on this committee should walk out at the first hint that the administration wants to worm its way around the bill. Senate will have approved it. Since it concerns student affairs, little else needs to be done.

IT IS AT THIS point the Senate will need your support. What they are asking is that you have the right to control your own affairs. You have only to accept that right to make it impossible for in loco parents to continue in any form at this University.

To demonstrate our support of this bill, we are ready to go along with student control of campus publications. We do not feel election of the editor by the staff or by a general plebiscite would be a situation conducive to professionalism.

We do feel, however, that an all-student publications board is the only fair and logical way for student publications to be run.

We hope that certain other organizations such as AWS and IDA will take the same steps. Until the organizations on this campus quit fighting one another, we can never have the power to govern ourselves. AWS's typically reactionary decision to ignore any Senate attempt to take over its powers is the action of a woman scorned: an immature, conservative display of selfishness on the part of a few women in power.

What is happening in ASUN, with student support, will become history as the glorious revolution, University of Nebraska, 1968.

Jack Todd



The Jeffersonian Airplane

Editorials

Commentary

Larry Grossman . . .

Shoot-Out at Deadwood Corral

I attended my first Student Senate meeting Wednesday. Most of the senators were in shirt sleeves, indicating that they were settled down to do some hard work. The group contained a sprinkling of radicals, straights, Freds, and sorority girls.

The meeting was called to order and the minutes read in an incomprehensible tone. The first order of business was an informal address by newly appointed University President Joseph Soshnik. He appeared relaxed and smiling

as he delivered some general remarks on the University and student policies. Mr. Soshnik joked and sounded good. I began to think that maybe we had our own Edmund Muskie who was interested in talking with the students. Halfway through his talk, though, Mr. Soshnik was still presenting introductory remarks.

The faces of the senators began to glaze over with the stoic appearance one sees in a freshman zoology lecture section at 4:15 on a Friday

afternoon. Mr. Soshnik finished his talk by tacking a conclusion onto his introduction. The body of his talk wandered into a forest of cliches and was permanently lost.

The Senate turned its attention to the main order of business. A motion was introduced which gives supreme power over student affairs to the Senate. An hour of tiring debate followed. The Senators were sapped of their energy like people suffering from slow tropical diseases. At six

o'clock, a weary chairman called for a motion for adjournment. Nothing had been accomplished in the two hour session.

NEBRASKANS ARE noted for their longevity and undoubtedly members of the Student Senate live the longest because of their placid, inactive existences. Occasionally, however, one reads that a senator has topped from that most fatal of diseases . . . boredom.

Inside report . . .

Great Society transformed—Nixon style

by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

WASHINGTON — A confidential blueprint now being drafted by Rep. Melvin Laird of Wisconsin warns in somber terms that President-elect Nixon cannot come close to balancing the Federal budget until his third year in office.

This blueprint being drafted by Laird, the most influential and powerful Republican in the House, amounts to a five-year legislative plan. Helped by staff experts on the House Appropriations Committee, Laird is preparing it in extensive consultations with Mr. Nixon.

WHEN COMPLETED, the Laird memorandum will dramatize one hard fact: the incoming Republican administration can have no real leverage on Federal programs its first year and only a little the second. It will have to wait until its third year to stamp its own unique imprint on Federal programs and the budget.

Thus, Mr. Nixon is being warned that promises for sudden program and budget innovations can't be fulfilled. It is essential, the Laird study suggests, that the new President's State of the Union, budget, and economic messages be geared not to an impossible pledge for immediate major changes, but to a long period of gradual change.

skeptical about long-range planning of any kind.

BUT LAIRD has the evidence on his side. His study shows that the Johnson administration underestimated the cost of public assistance grants to the states by \$1.1 billion in the present fiscal year, ending June 30.

To correct that error, a supplemental appropriation was passed this fall. Furthermore, Laird, senior Republican on the House Health and Welfare Appropriations Subcommittee, estimates that public assistance will go up by \$2 billion in fiscal year 1970, the first full year of the Nixon administration.

Laird calculates that the Nixon administration can halt this rapid spiraling of "welfare" payments only bit by bit. His proposal: switch

from outright welfare grants to a work-incentive program, as Mr. Nixon promised in many campaign speeches. Even that will take time.

THE LAIRD STUDY also proposes a slow approach to another major fiscal change long backed by Republicans — bloc grants to the states from Federal tax revenue, without restrictions.

Laird will propose a two-step move toward bloc grants, starting modestly with payouts from Washington limited to single broad categories such as education.

Only after this would there be outright bloc grants.

IT IS ON defense spending that the Laird study is most pessimistic. Even after the Vietnam war with most of the U.S. force brought home — which won't happen under the most optimistic conditions until well into next year — the "peace dividend" won't be

anywhere close to the \$30 billion now being spent on Vietnam. Rebuilding dangerously depleted defense stockpiles, reinforcing U.S. troops in Europe, and building an anti-ballistic missile system will cut the savings to no more than \$10-12 billion and perhaps less.

Thus, savings from the war will scarcely be a windfall to the incoming Nixon administration, even assuming that the Paris peace talks actually produce peace.

Although Laird isn't saying so publicly, these built-in expenditures strongly indicate that Mr. Nixon may have to ask Congress to keep the emergency 10 percent surtax at least another six months beyond the automatic expiration date of June 30.

THE SURTAX, passed this year after ferocious political warfare between President Johnson and Congress, brings in \$12 billion a year. Laird is telling Mr. Nixon that, barring a serious second-quarter economic downturn next spring, the tax may have to be retained.

This conceivably could lead to the spectacle of Mr. Nixon, who comes into office with a pledge to reduce spending and taxes, battling the Democratic-controlled Congress to retain an unpopular tax.

That's just the point of Laird's study. Mr. Nixon will be running the tail end of the Johnson administration, not the front end of a Nixon administration. That's why Laird talks of a five-year plan to transform the Great Society into Nixon-style Republicanism.

Our man Hoppe . . .

Let's take our marbles home

by Arthur Hoppe

Herewith is another unwritten chapter from that unpublished work, "A History of the World, 1950 to 1999." Its title: "Victory in Asia."

The early refusals of the Saigon government to take part in the Paris peace talks — and its obdurate lack of cooperation when at last it was forced to the negotiating table — caused a subtle shift of public opinion in the United States.

"**UNGRATEFUL WRETCHES,**" was the kindest remark. "After all we've sacrificed for their freedom and independence."

"Let's pick up our marbles and go home," cried the Doves.

"Let's blow the whole lousy country to bits," cried the Hawks.

"**HOLD ON,**" said the President. "A great nation like us cannot act out of spite nor out of rage. But I think I have a solution."

So he called a meeting of the National Security Council. "Gentlemen," he said, "What does a great nation like us do when another country threatens the peace? What did we do in Japan, in Germany, in the Dominican Republic?"

"Why," said the Secretary of State, "we sent a huge army to occupy them and bring them to their knees."

"**EXACTLY,**" said the President with a smile. "And who now threatens the peace in Southeast Asia?"

"South Vietnam, sir. But . . . Good heavens!"

"Just a minute, sir," said the Defense Secretary, bewildered. "We can't send a huge army to occupy them and bring them to their knees, because . . . Well, because . . . I mean our huge army's already there."

"**THAT,**" SAID THE President beaming. "just shows our foresight."

It was, of course, the shortest war in American history. It was over before Life or Time could hit the streets with a 12-page supplement on "The Corrupt, War-Mad Saigon Generals."

It was over before the hit tune — "Let Bygones be Bygone (I'm Off to Capture Saigon)" — reached the Top Ten.

IT WAS OVER before the Pentagon could revise its war maps showing "Enemy-held Territory."

South Vietnamese troops, who'd never showed much interest in getting killed, happily surrendered in droves. And U.S. troops, no longer having any allies to defend, happily took ship for home.

So peace came at last to Vietnam. And all factions in the U.S. were delighted with the outcome.

"**WE ALWAYS SAID** that withdrawing was the only answer," said the Doves happily. "And now we have."

"We always said that we could lick those sawed-off gooks," said the Hawks happily. "And now we have."

"We always said we could win a land war in Asia," said the Military happily, "if we just picked the right enemy."

Of course, the world was somewhat confused. But the President gave assurance that there was no change in American foreign policy.

"The United States stands ready to fight for the freedom and independence of any people anywhere," he said, "as long as they do what they're told."

Chronicle Features

John Dietz

NU graduates silently sound

The silence of the 1968-69 winter and the following years at NU was neither one of death nor apathy. While students throughout the country revolted and uselessly flung their energies against an ill-defined "Establishment", NU students watched and listened and learned.

Refusing to be caught up in self-destructing movements about them, the 18,000 at NU held firm to their quiet lives. Perhaps they felt the revolutionary spirit even more deeply, but it was a secret consciously buried. They knew patience then would be rewarded with significant victory later.

AS THEY HAD expected, harassed employers across the country began turning to NU graduates. They found Nebraska graduates to be calm, level-headed young people capable of taking orders, making and administering decisions. They could be groomed for power positions. They would work, as directed, quietly and efficiently.

Poverty, pain, hunger, prejudice and war still continued, but the 18,000 withheld personal involvement, sensing their approaching power positions.

Bright-eyed graduates of other schools fell behind. Records of old demonstrations caught up with some. More often they tried too early to effect large-scale change. Sometimes a slip of the tongue, perhaps only in passing reference to a disgraced former leader, betrayed them. Time after time the NU graduate with a clean record moved ahead.

IN TIME THIS elite group tasted its first real power, that of hiring and promotion. They often personally preferred the bright ideas of a man with some revolutionary background, yet circumstances forbid them the option of promotion. They chose, rather, conservative graduates who would not cause undue attention or challenge their own carefully attained positions.

Today those NU graduates control many of this nation's top governmental and industrial posts. **POVERTY, PAIN, HUNGER, PREJUDICE, WAR.** And revolutionaries are still with us, but it is expected that at any moment the leaders of our class will declare the Revolution has arrived, to the utter dismay of everyone.

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