



# The Daily Nebraskan

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1968

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

VOL. 92, NO. 49

## Nader blasts safety practices

by John Dvorak  
Nebraskan Staff Writer

Seat belts, Senator Carl T. Curtis, dental X-rays, Volkswagens and big business all fell under the wrath of consumer crusader Ralph Nader in his Thursday afternoon speech.

Speaking with deadly seriousness to a nearly full Union Ballroom, Nader criticized corporations for bilking the average consumer out of his hard earned money and sometimes his life.

**TALKING ABOUT** air and water pollution, Nader cracked one of his rare smiles saying that the Buffalo River is so polluted with petroleum and oils that it is classified officially as a fire hazard.

For starters, Nader talked about deceptive merchandising — a national plague practiced by many companies.

"Customers buying on time from Montgomery Ward pay for credit life insurance, and until recently hardly anyone knew it," Nader said.

**"PRODUCT PACKAGING** is also deceptive," Nader said. "You can't get at the product and you don't know anything about its weight or condition."

In the above cases, consumers are victimized by voluntary consumption of a product. Involuntary consumption is more dangerous.

The simple act of having your teeth X-rayed can be extremely harmful, Nader said.

"In many cases, during such X-rays, people are receiving 90 percent more radiation than they need," he said. Increased and unnecessary exposure is the result of old, poorly maintained machines or untrained technicians.

**RADIATION DANGERS** from color television, micro-wave ovens, more atomic testing stations are on the rise. He predicted heightening radiation exposure could be tempting catastrophe if something is not soon done.

Nader's first love is automobile safety. "If cars were perfect, equipped with every possible safety device, there would be no crashes," Nader said.

The Harvard graduate's book in 1965, "Unsafe at Any Speed,"

charged that Detroit auto makers were building "death traps that kill 50,000 people annually." The lawyers efforts culminated with the passage of the Traffic Safety Act, which set standards for all new motor vehicles.

**EACH VEHICLE** accident is actually composed of two collisions, Nader said, the first and the second.

"The car goes out of control for some reason and smashes into a tree," Nader explained. That is the first. The second collision is between the occupant and the car. The first collision doesn't necessarily kill, he added, but the second may mean a driver's impalement on the steering wheel, or a gillotining in the windshield or a smashed skull from a sharp dashboard.

**"Two thousand years ago, Socrates said that sharp things penetrate human skin easier than flat, dull things. It took the auto people 2,000 years to do something about it."**

**NOW THE** steering column collapses instead of the rib cage, he pointed out. Windshields have also been improved. Better door latches prevent occupants from being ejected from the vehicle upon impact.

Seat belts however are another story. Their mandatory inclusion in all autos was mostly the result of Nader's efforts.

The auto industry has designed seat belts perfectly so people do not want to use them, he charged. "Their cumbersome design was on purpose so that auto makers could prove their point — people don't want to wear seat belts," he said.

**"THE AIR** pillow is the coming thing," he said. This mechanism would inflate a fraction of a second after impact, thus shielding all occupants of the car from injury. It would then almost immediately deflate.

Seatbelts are a nuisance, he admitted. The air pillow would be invisible when not needed but would be completely effective when needed.

Nader suggested a number of developments which could be implemented to make cars less bloody. In his biting satire, he goaded car manufacturers for dragging their feet on such developments.

**"WE COULD** have steam engines for cars, which would equal internal combustion engines in performance but would be nearly silent and emit 99 percent less pollution, in about two years," Nader said. But corporations are not motivated towards that development.

Car interiors could be made softer, safer and fire resistant, he said. Much improvement has been made, but dashboards could be made safer, and tiny sharp objects like clothes hooks could be changed.

The nation's number one critic of automobiles doesn't own a car of his own. He does recommend a large, solidly built sedan. Compact cars and small foreign vehicles are deathtraps. The Volkswagen is the most dangerous car on the road, he said.

**HE ALSO** took the opportunity to chide Nebraska representatives and senators for their resistance to new laws, such as Omaha Representative Glenn Cunningham's initial aversion to Nader's safety efforts. The remarks were greeted with a sharp burst of applause from the student dominate crowd.

One can look at advertisements and analyze them, he said. They emphasized emotion, power, luxury and sexual illusions. Ads want "to stir the animal, according to Nader.

**"WHAT KIND** of mentality thought these up?" he questioned. Some advertisements describe the car's driver as feeling like a human cannonball. Other ads want prospective drivers to look at a car as a fulfillment of a wish.

Car names also demonstrate the point. Cougar . . . Wildcat . . . Cobra . . . Maurader. "The definition of a maurader is one who pillages and lays waste to the country side," Nader commented to a roar of laughter.



Attacking seat belts, X-rays and big business, Ralph Nader addresses a Nebraska Union audience.

## Nebraskan interviews to be conducted Dec. 20

Interviews for editorial positions on the second semester Daily Nebraskan will be Dec. 20, according to Prof. Jack Botts, chairman of the Board of Student Publications. Applications for the positions of editor, news editor, managing editor and business manager will be accepted until Friday at 5 p. m. in Room 51, Nebraska Union.

**ACCORDING TO** Botts, the four editorial positions will be filled at that time. Individual interviewing times will be scheduled by the Board, composed of three student and three faculty members.

Monthly salaries are editor \$175, news editor \$150, managing editor \$150 and business manager \$165.

The four Daily Nebraskan staffers selected by the Pub Board will choose the other members of the staff, according to Botts.

**APPLICATIONS FOR** those jobs will be accepted until the end of dead week and selection will be made before the start of the second semester.

Applications will be accepted for Nebraskan staff writers, copy editors, photographers, night news editor, editorial page assistant, advertising salesmen, assistant night news editor, advertising production, subscription, circulation, national advertising manager, bookkeeper, and local advertising manager.

**SALARIES FOR** those positions are variable, from 40 to \$80 per month.

The Daily Nebraskan will have three more issues this semester: Monday, Wednesday and a Christmas issue Friday. Publication will not resume until the first week of the second semester.

## Election changes predicted

Blatantly imbalanced representation in the 1968-69 ASUN Student Senate is forcing senate reapportionment, according to Senator Dave Bingham.

"The Senate definitely wants that group reapportioned," Bingham said Thursday. "In fact, members of the reapportionment committee (including Bingham), have thrown out the possibility that the present system should even be considered."

Bingham said that now the representation is greatly imbalanced. Farmhouse fraternity, Chi Omega sorority and the Harper-Schramm-Smith dormitory complex each have four student senators, and Beta Theta Pi fraternity has three. On the other hand, the Abel-Sandoz dormitory complex has no representative, and the Pound-Cather-WRA complex has one, Bingham said.

**"WE ON THE** committee favor the division of Senate districts by living unit," he said. "We have contacted several universities, and are now considering three proposals to recommend to Student Senate."

The proposals are: —The election of all student senators on an at-large basis. Bingham said that committee member Mike Shonsey advocates this possibility after discussion with schools at a National Student Association (NSA) convention.

—Election of senators on a strictly living unit district basis. Both on and off-campus areas would be districted, Bingham said.

—Election by a combination of districting by college, living unit



Dave Bingham

districts, and a set number of at-large delegates. "I personally favor this method," Bingham said. "A combination of these three methods would cut down the chances for block-voting in dorms and fraternity houses."

**HE EMPHASIZED** that the committee had reached no conclusions, however.

Bingham said the only approval needed for the redistricting would be the support of Student Senate.

"The committee's proposal should be ready in late February or March, before the spring ASUN elections," he said. "The Senate for next year will be elected by the new method."

Bingham theorized that doing away with strictly college-proportioned elections would place more emphasis on the college advisory boards.

"These boards are potentially very useful, and if they work more with Student Senate, this could take some of the tension off the Senators and put more responsibility on the advisory boards," he said.

**BINGHAM SAID** that the Inter-Dormitory Association (IDA) wanted to include the question of reapportionment in ASUN's Government Bill 24, whose provisions are now being discussed by the newly-created Student Academic Committee. The bill advocates complete student control of all non-academic areas of the University which concern the student.

"But Committee Chairman Bill Chaloupka convinced the IDA that the reapportionment question would be better off by itself," he said.

The Reapportionment Committee is now composed of five student senators and two other students. Chairman Chaloupka is interested in enlarging the committee to enable the group to do more research, Bingham said.

## Logemann: Greeks train men to fit traditional roles

by Jim Pedersen  
Nebraskan Staff Writer

The greatest fault of the fraternity system is that it trains individuals to fall into a traditional role, Sid Logemann said Wednesday in comments to the Interfraternity Council.

Logemann gave the short address on the accomplishments and future of the fraternity system at the University immediately following the IFC's election of Joe Voberil of Delta Upsilon to replace him as president of the organization.

**"WE MUST** all work together to develop real leaders and imaginative thinkers," he added.

According to Logemann, the IFC in the past year has encouraged foreign students to go through rush, suggested that houses participate in live-ins, and urged houses to host after-dinner speakers.

"All these programs are educational," he said. "Educating our members will make or break the fraternity system."

"Through education, we can arrest our greatest drawbacks: conservatism and tradition."



Joe Voberil

Logemann continued. "Through education we can aid in integrating the fraternity system and control drinking just for the sake of drinking."

**LOGEMANN** added that with a system of positive, forward education, the fraternity system can be proud of its role on the University campus.

"Although we have probably ac-

complished more in improving the system than any previous IFC," he said, "we have not significantly affected the University."

"I am not sure we can survive on this campus. I think we can improve on our adequacy on campus, but is that relevant?"

Logemann outlined three accomplishments of the IFC during his term as president.

**—WITH THE** aid of the University Regents, IFC reported on deferred rush.

—Critically evaluated pledge training.

—Eliminated many of the negative aspects of pledge training through the pledge contract.

"The pledge education contract is an embarrassing necessity," Logemann added.

There are still about five houses which continue to use non-progressive pledge training programs, according to Logemann. These houses cannot be ignored, however, because they might drag the entire system down.

"The pledge education contract is the only feasible way to solve this problem," he said. "It will probably take several years."

**"LOSING THE** contract through a violation now is not terribly important to a house, but it should be important next year during rush week," Logemann continued.

According to Logemann, IFC has failed to visit houses frequently enough to examine pledge training programs.

"IFC visitations need to be held more often," he said. "Pledges are still winding up in hospitals and hell weeks still exist."

Logemann criticized the IFC representatives for failing to work effectively for the fraternity system.

**"WE ALL** begin with the idea of strengthening the fraternity system," he added, "but all of a sudden the executive committee is

about five steps ahead of the individual houses."

Logemann said that it is a problem of information and that all representatives need to work to close the gap between each house and the IFC.



SDS joined the Marines Thursday afternoon. An informal questioning session in the Union between the Marine recruiters and about 25 observers was attended by SDS members and ex-Marines. The demonstration was ended with several observers rendering a chorus of "Alice's Restraunt," an Arlo Gunthrey social commentary on the draft.