

# Editorials

## Commentary

### Grass law smoldering

A few narrowminded state legislators is traditional.

Several narrowminded senators could be expected.

But 40 of them is just plain out of sight.

OUR BELOVED Unicameral has passed through first reading a bill which would suspend a college student convicted of possession of marijuana.

Those enrolled in state colleges are already equally punishable under law with other Nebraskans. But the state legislators seem to feel that students need extra reminders not to commit no-no's.

ON THE SURFACE 30-day suspension would not seem all that fatal. But there is absurdity in forcing a student, perhaps

on probation for a first conviction of possession, to withdraw from classes for a month.

Suspension for a month can mean failure for the entire semester. And if you're a male, it may mean a cozy bunk in U.S. Army barracks.

BEYOND THESE considerations, there is the fact that the Unicameral is in effect legislating against a specific group, depriving a convicted student of something it would not deprive a non-college possessor of—marijuana.

The bill also intervenes into school administrative matters, a poor policy to establish and strengthen. University officials are retained to carry out, with due process, such matters. Forty more would-be educators are not needed.

IF THE UNICAMERAL is intent on passing selective legislation, it should consider figuring a way to get better legislators, not students who fit their personal ideas of morality.



"REMEMBER, WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER."

# Hope for a Vietnam peace -- Russian help

by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak  
Washington —Despite the deadlock now blocking all progress at the Vietnam peace talks in Paris, the mood both in the Nixon administration and along diplomatic row here is anything but

gloomy, for a most interesting reason: help from Moscow.

Reports have leaked out from time to time the past few months that the Soviet Union gave the U.S. vital help at tense stages of the negotiations that led up to the Oct. 31 bombing halt and breaking the deadlock over the shape of the negotiating table in mid-January.

BUT THE full extent of that assistance has never been documented. Nor has the expectation within the new Administration that Moscow fully intends to continue if not increase its role as intermediary at Paris.

The Moscow line is becoming visible among Soviet and other Communist diplomats in Washington in their effusive praise for Richard M. Nixon — who, before his nomination for President last summer, was viewed in Moscow as the devil incarnate.

This strange love affair between the Kremlin and President Nixon, then, is one of the main reasons that, despite total Communist intransigence at Paris last Thursday, U.S. policymakers are counting on a negotiating break-through within six to eight weeks.

Soviet policy in the Vietnam war has been shrouded for years. Some U.S. diplomats have insisted that Moscow wanted the war to end out of fear that protracted fighting would enhance Chinese Communist influence in Southeast Asia.

The opposite view, held by foreign policy hardliners, claims that Moscow, benefiting from the U.S. discomfiture in Vietnam, long ago could have ended the war by stopping supplies of war materiel to Hanoi.

SINCE October, the weight of evidence favors the first analysis. It was the Russians, for example, who came up with the answers to the two most perplexing questions at the Paris talks: what kind of a commitment Hanoi should make in return for a complete halt to the bombing and the shape of the negotiating table in the old Majestic Hotel in Paris.

Soviet officials privately informed U.S. diplomats in Moscow in early October exactly what Hanoi would concede as a response to the bombing

halt. In January, intervention by Soviet diplomats in Paris, acting as a result of inside information from Moscow, fixed the shape of the table.

SINCE THEN, there have been a number of smaller indications of Russian desires to end the war, none of which Moscow is eager to advertise. But coupled with the effusive Soviet reaction to Mr. Nixon's first two weeks in office, they strongly hint that the Kremlin is hyperactive behind the scenes to prevent a breakdown of the Paris talks from interfering with Moscow's objectives regarding the Middle East and arms control, higher on the current Soviet priority list than Vietnam.

The Moscow press is now filled with pro-Nixon stories, depicting the new President as a man of peace. Treatment of Mr. Nixon's inaugural speech and his first press conference last week was nothing short of euphoric. One Communist diplomat describes the current Moscow line as heaping more praise on Mr. Nixon than any President since Franklin Roosevelt.

THIS LEAVES in doubt how much Moscow can actually influence Ho Chi Minh, the North Vietnamese patriarch who has shown over two decades a notorious independence of foreign pressures by friend and enemy alike. Intelligence reports from Hanoi show beyond question that Soviet influence is higher in Hanoi today than at any time since large-scale fighting started in Vietnam. Conversely, the influence of Communist China is now at a low ebb in Hanoi.

Accordingly, the backstage mediation by Moscow to help produce a settlement in Paris is viewed here as likely to have a continuing influence on Hanoi. Hardheaded diplomats, while ruling out any quick breakthrough, are hopeful that within six to eight weeks the present deadlock will begin to yield.

If it does not, President Nixon will be forced to try to break the deadlock by other means — possibly military re-escalation. Once that happens, the careful, behind-the-scenes work by the Soviet Union, coupled with its buildup of Mr. Nixon as a man of peace, will collapse. That is a development Moscow wants to avoid at all cost.

(c) 1969, Publishers-Hall Syndicate

# Notebook

by Larry Grossman

Soon after the Nebraska Legislature passed Senator Karpainter's bill calling for the permanent expulsion of students found in possession of marijuana from all State public institutions of higher education, the exodus of young people began. By year's end over two hundred Nebraskans had gone into exile.

I recently interviewed several of these exiles in the refugee camps which have been their homes since leaving Nebraska. My travels took me to Council Bluffs, Iowa; Marysville, Kansas; Julesburg, Colorado; Torrington, Wyoming; and Aberdeen, South Dakota. Everywhere I met students who had fled Nebraska before being expelled from state colleges and universities.

THE PLIGHT of the exiles was summed up in a conversation I had with two former students in Council Bluffs. It was a cold afternoon and three of us were sitting on a sandbar on the east side of the Missouri River. The two boys were looking wistfully across at the spires of Omaha, silhouetted in gold in the light of the setting sun.

We sat silently until one turned to me and said with a voice filled with emotion, "That's my home over there and I can never go back." Unable to hold back the tears, he buried his head in the sand.

Although similar scenes were common in all the border camps, many of the refugees seemed happy in their new homes and said that the decision to leave Nebraska was the right one. A 21 year old man told me that he had been thinking about leaving the State for a long time but had been persuaded to stay by his priest.

Unable to live under a governmental system which threatened his basic right to smoke, he decided on a life of exile and made the 120 mile journey north to South Dakota in his old Ford.

OTHER student exiles were not so happy. One told me that he was sorry he had left Nebraska but if he went back his patriotic father would turn him into the highway patrol. He regrets having left home but feels he can never honorably return.

Life for the refugees has been made easier by the number of committees set up by concerned citizens in South Dakota, Iowa, Wyoming, and the other bordering states. These committees help the exiles find housing, jobs, and if so desired, barbers. They also assist them in applying for state's residence status.

Many of those helping the refugees were themselves forced into exile during Prohibition. One prominent Coloradan involved in the resettlement work, Mr. Jack "Bootleg" Daniels, was forced out of Nebraska in the early Thirties because of the "gin games" he played in his bathtub. He established himself in Julesburg, and over the years prospered from selling supplies to visiting Nebraska teenagers.

DESPITE SUCH aid, many of the student exiles long to return home. One group has appealed for assistance to the United Nations Committee on Refugees but have been told that the matter is strictly a domestic affair of Nebraska over which the international body has no jurisdiction.

Most of the exiles feel that someday the Nebraska law will be changed and they will be welcomed home as heroes. The majority of them are young, literate, and represent some of the finest minds produced in our state. Yet because of the irreconcilable conflict between law and human nature, they have been forced to leave their ancestral homes. They are pawns caught in a cruel game of human chess.

# CAMPUS OPINION

Dear Editor:  
A bill which should interest every student at this university was introduced into the U.S. Senate January 22, by Senator Mark Hatfield. It calls for recruitment of a volunteer army and an end to conscription within six months of the date of its passage into law.

The eight sponsors, six Democrats and two Republicans, include Senators McGovern and Goldwater. President Nixon condemned the present Selective Service System in a radio speech last October. He favors establishing a voluntary recruitment system — only he would put this off until the war is resolved.

The Daily Nebraskan is solely a student publication, independent of the University of Nebraska's administration, faculty and student government. Opinion expressed on the editorial page is that only of the Nebraskan's editorial staff.

## DAILY NEBRASKAN

Second class postage paid at Lincoln, Neb.  
Telephone: Editor, 473-2388, News 472-2389, Business 472-2390.  
Subscription rates are \$4 per semester or \$8 per academic year.  
Published Monday Wednesday Thursday and Friday during the school year except during vacations.  
Editorial Staff  
Editor: Ed Inoué; Managing Editor: Lynn Gotschalk; News Editor: Jim Evinger; Night News Editor: Kent Cochran; Editorial Assistant: June Wagener; Assistant News Editor: Andy Wood; Sports Editor: Mark Gordon; Nebraskan Staff Writers: John Dvorak, Jim Federsen, Connie Winkler, Susan Jenkins, Bill Smitherman, Sue Schlichtemeyer, Sue Petty, Ben Talbot, Jonette Ackerman, Bachitar Singh; Photographers: Dan Ladely, Linda Kennedy, Mike Hyman; Reporter-Photographers: Ed Anson, John Nollenhorst; Copy Editors: J.L. Schmidt, Joan Wagoner, Phyllis Adkisson, Dave Filipi, Sara Schneider.  
Business Staff  
Business Manager: Roger Boye; Local Ad Manager: Joel Davis; Production Manager: Randy Irey; Bookkeeper: Ron Bowlin; Secretary: Janet Rostman; Classified Ads: John Baer; Subscription Manager: Linda Ulrich; Circulation Managers: Ron Pavolka, Rick Doran, James Stelzer; Advertising Representatives: Meg Brown, Gary Gresham, Linda Robinson, J. L. Schmidt, Fritz Shoemaker, Charlotte Walker.

Selective conscription is regarded by these politicians, various journalists and military men as involuntary servitude, contrary to the basic precepts of America. It is, they say, unfair, outdated, inefficient and expensive. Even Carl Curtis has spoken publicly in favor of a volunteer force.

FOR THOSE plagued by fears about a sudden need for great numbers of men, the Senate Bill 503 would still require men to be registered from ages 18 to 26, thus identifying the national manpower pool in the event that the President could pass an emergency act through Congress re-instituting the draft.

However, Hatfield points out that the bill would also build up the Ready Reserve and National Guard — the two traditional sources of emergency manpower.

The extended debate over whether or not we should abolish the draft is drawing to a close. The time has come to discuss when it shall be done, and what we may yet do.

I WOULD LIKE to propose the following items to speed the passage of Senate Bill 503:

1. Petitions of support for the bill from individuals and groups, addressed to Congressmen and the President.
2. Requests to local boards and the state headquarters here in Lincoln to stop issuing induction orders and for personnel resignations.
3. Utilization of all rights of appeal under Selective Service regulations, thus slowing the SS to an inoperative level.
4. Active counseling to delay and stop inductions.
5. A massive draft card turn-in on the campus shortly before debate on the bill is to begin.
6. A petition to the President requesting amnesty for all imprisoned or facing prosecution under current S.S. laws.

Sincerely,  
John Dietz

# Peering at movies

by Rodney Powell

Is there a "film generation" coming of age in Nebraska?

The national press is filled with articles proclaiming a film renaissance — Saturday Review's annual film issue was on "The Now Movie." The astonishing success of "The Graduate" was attributed to the growing awareness of film as an art form among college students. What about Nebraska?

That hallowed institution, the Wednesday evening Union Film Society series, is Nebraska's chief claim to (in Richard Nixon's mellifluous phrase) "a piece of the action."

IT HAS even been mentioned in the New York Times as the series with the highest attendance in the nation. Its apparent success, however, is very deceptive; Nebraskans for the most part don't even understand movies, let alone "art films."

One of the principal problems is the film selection process. According to Tom Lonquist, next year's chairman, the committee prepares lists from film catalogues and from suggestions by interested parties. A tentative list is then drawn up, which is discussed with a wide variety of Lincolniters before the final list is drawn up.

Although this would appear to insure a representative list, the final effect has been to get a list devoid of any apparent goals — a grab bag of films, chosen indiscriminately.

EVEN WHEN the final list has been chosen there is no guarantee that all the films will be shown. Thus both "Battle of Algiers" and "Belle de Jour" were withdrawn by the distributor because of possible commercial bookings later in the year.

Lonquist recognizes the difficulties, particularly when the Series is run as an adjunct to the Union; committee members are usually interested in films, but unfortunately that does not guarantee any knowledge.

Thus those ultimately responsible for the selection must rely on others rather than basing the selections on a sound knowledge of films.

The selections themselves are not so bad — any series that presents two Godard's, Bergman's "Persona" and the delightful "Crazy Quilt" is good. The problem is more with Lincoln itself; there are simply no other outlets for recent films.

THE NEBRASKA Theatre, sometimes specializes in three-day wonders—"The Stranger" and the "Two of Us" are two examples from the past year. Thus the film society, rather than concentrating on films which are worth seeing but do not get wide distribution, must become, in effect, the only foreign film outlet in Lincoln.

And this tends to deaden the audience's responses; (For University students who feel themselves "culturally-deprived") it's more like going to the biweekly worship service.

"This is Art, this is Art" they cry, and then fall for sentimental slop like "The Cranes are Flying," which, it seemed to me, was the audience's favorite among last year's films.

THE POOR attendance at most films in the Sheldon series demonstrates that there is really not much of an audience in Lincoln for older films (Renoir's influential "The Rules of the Game" was almost as sparsely attended as Ken Ichakawa's unforgettable "Fire on the Plains," or else that no one knows they're being presented.)

This year's weekend film series at the Union has been abominable, but Lonquist promises that next year's will have more quality. If it does, and the Sheldon series continues at the high level of the past two years, there should be plenty of good older films available. The main question is, once again, is there an audience?

I really don't think so. Without a good commercial outlet, which makes films worth seeing continuously available, a good audience just will not develop. And of course no commercial theater is going to take chances without an audience already available.

THE AUDIENCE now is full of faddists — those who know it's in to talk about film as the art form of our time, but who really are just being self-indulgent by calling works which they respond to sentimentally "art." (Pauline Kael's essay in the February Harper's brilliantly dissects this unhealthy phenomena.) The film series is good, indeed indispensable, but it finally means nothing as long as the audience goes to receive their biweekly dose of culture.

Those who bring these films into Lincoln are struggling valiantly to serve this apparently large, but actually almost non-existent, audience. There may be an Underground film festival this spring; there is talk of reviving the High Camp film festival, and more lecturers and documentaries may be brought in.

But according to this year's chairman, Mary McClymont, attendance at the Wednesday series has been down. While Nebraskans congratulate themselves on their growing awareness and prattle about film as art, the audience somehow trickles away. "And so we beat on, boats against the current borne back ceaselessly into the past..."



"We need off-shore drilling so that you people can drive your cars to the beaches and enjoy them!"