

Editorials

Commentary

Musical chairs,

ASUN style

Student government cliques are clicking again. Quietly — even secretly — small groups of ASUN senators and executives are formulating slates for the April election.

THE CREATION of parties is the most haphazard, illogical aspect of each year's campaign. Since the executives change annually, there is little or no continuity in party leadership, and

the first clique to claim the party designation of PSA is two steps ahead. (You surely remember PSA. That's where an executive clique flatters dorm independents into accepting candidacies, and then mixes in a few token Greeks. That of course throws the Greeks into turmoil; they don't know whether the PSA Greek candidates are sell-outs or the system's only chance for a voice in Senate.)

BUT, THIS is not the time for students outside Senate to be watching the cliques click. Those dissatisfied with student government should be organizing now.

Especially strong in potential are the thousands of Lincoln students, whose vast electoral power goes continually untapped. With coordinated effort, this silent bloc could virtually elect all of student government.

BUT, THE PACT-MAKERS continue to dominate. And many may prove to be good candidates. Without competition, however, they cannot provide effective student government. (There is some doubt, too, that those cliques will be the best.)

Rather than waiting for ASUN to bungle through another unrepresentative year, the arm-chair politicians should be organizing candidates.

Fred Schmidt . . .

Scapegoat for a mentality

Up close, the Pentagon is not nearly as impressive as its photos. Its pentagonal symmetry needs an aerial view to be fully appreciated. From a passing vehicle on the ground, it looks something like a prison: bleak, foreboding, styleless.

This is the stomping ground for the paper-doll and napalm set, the tangible symbol of the military industrial complex, the target on which Norman Mailer's armies of the night vented their wrath to protest both real and illusory oppression.

TO MILLIONS of others it is evidence of America's manifest destiny, a reassuring safeguard of her rightful role of leadership in the world. The men behind the walls, innocent charity insists, cannot be the diabolical Masters of War whom Bob Dylan castigates. Real life human beings, one is prone to believe, simply aren't so one-sidedly evil or stupid.

The Pueblo incident, however, does not enhance the military's reputation for either empathy or astuteness. Commander Bucher, after experiencing almost all the tortures of Hell during his captivity, has had to return stateside to reach the Ninth Circle.

For Bucher, it seems, has betrayed the sacred trust of the U.S. fighting man; he has displayed gross cowardice under fire, he has returned home without his shield, he has lacked the fortitude and perseverance of such heroes as Nathan Hale, John Wayne, and Paxton Quigley.

THE CODE of Conduct is a six-point series of platitudes so designed that any patriotic robot can follow it to the letter. Commander Bucher broke the code twice.

First of all, he GAVE UP THE SHIP, surrendering while he still had some means of resistance; two Sons of Liberty bean-shooters against the mini-armada of puny yellow-skinned savages.

Secondly, Bucher publicly confessed that his ship had been in North Korean waters, thereby making a statement disloyal to the United States. No lives were lost because of Bucher's actions; eighty-two were saved. No one is suffering from



Pourquoi

... by Randy Reeves

To have a truly open mind, one must even learn to tolerate intolerance.

Last summer in the Senate Office Building's caucus room, there occurred a humorous, yet serious, spectacle. Senator Strom Thurmond (Rep.-So. Car.), notorious for his constitutional states' rights approach to decision-making, was grilling Abe Fortas, equally notorious for alleged defiance of constitutional precepts and state sovereignty.

At stake in the hearing was Senate approval of Fortas' appointment as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

THE ATMOSPHERE was tense as Thurmond doggedly pursued his elaborate interrogation designed to discredit Fortas; the soft-spoken barrister stubbornly insisted that he could not respond to the Senator's inquiry without compromising his juristic prudence.

Neither man was willing to concede a single point to his adversary.

Last week in the Student Union, a devotee of fundamental Christianity was attempting to convince a skeptical Hyde Park audience that his orthodox beliefs are relevant to the lives of confused collegians.

Heated opposition came from a number of non-Christians whose despair has left them with a cynical, frustrated sense of nonbelief. Again, there seemed to be no common ground, no reconciliation.

BOTH EXPERIENCES left me with an uneasy feeling. I wondered how any society could bear the apparent strain without encountering some kind of violent dislocation.

At the Senate hearing, a cloud of custom-imposed formality shrouded the bitterness of the cleavage; at Hyde Park, emotions were less restrained and participants denounced one another in uninhibited fashion.

Yet somehow I couldn't condemn any of the four combatants. Consistent commitment has an inherent attractiveness that makes even the most misled crusader admirable.

SENATOR THURMOND is adamantly committed to strict construction of the Constitution and his life is dedicated to serving that commitment. Justice Fortas has firmly and consistently upheld the sanctity of individual conscience, and he has insisted that freedom is preferable to justice.

The pious young crusader is willing to expose himself to any amount of ridicule while trying to share with others his own deeply-felt religious experience. The disillusioned, despairing radical devotes himself to what he feels is the necessary destruction of an establishment that thrives on hypocrisy and prejudice.

I am struck with the realization that, theoretically at least, herein lies the beauty and the strength of the American political system — in its ability to tolerate, without resort to violence, diversity of opinion.

Allegedly founded on the liberal assumption that conflict is the basic impetus for progress, American democracy not only tolerates but needs both a right and left wing.

IT IS hoped that the presence of radically conservative individuals, such as Senator Thurmond, ensures the maintenance of those aspects of our political tradition that are worth preserving.

Men like Justice Fortas hopefully provide imaginative innovation and constructive criticism that ultimately refines an ever-imperfect system.

The mind of the conservative, guided as it is by the conviction that men are basically responsible and irrational, cannot be expected to admit the value of honest disagreement. Only in a context of continuity and consensus can he feel at ease. His philosophy implicitly rejects tolerance.

The liberal, on the other hand, recognizes the need for contention and strife. He foresees a progressively hybridized society emerging from the never-ending conflict of interests and ideologies. Trusting in man's innate goodness, the genuine liberal assumes the responsibility of tolerance.

AND THE fulfillment of that responsibility, he finds, is no mean feat. He must learn to look upon tight-lipped southern Senators and vociferous religious dogmatists with a degree of understanding and magnanimity that is difficult to attain.

He must frequently evaluate his own attitude toward his conservative opposition, lest he someday find himself cast out of the camp of the New Left and into that of the Old Right.

Standing head

... by George Kaufman

I say, go ahead and burn our flag, cause trouble and chaos on our universities, aid the Viet Cong by your actions, and protest against our men in uniform, but by God don't ever come up to me and call yourself an American because you don't even know what the word means."

—Warren Storms, Letters to Editor, Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 17, 1969.

The year is 1964, and Warren Storms has just been elected President of the United States. The reactionary victory is by 1/1,000 of one percent of the American people and caps a long and enduring drive by Warren up through the ranks of the Independent American Party (IAP), of which he was a charter member when it began on a firm ultra-conservative base in the Midwest in the early 1970's.

True to form, Warren has not changed at all since he made his statement to the editor in 1969 while still a student.

The circumstances of his election were in reaction to widespread rebellion

"So To You

Dissenters

throughout America by students, intellectuals, mothers, liberals and gas meter readers over America's involvement in Viet Nam, which experts say will end soon.

Calling his election a "mandate," President Storms' first action in office is to pass an "Alien and Sedition" act, by which he can unite the country behind the war effort, even though "the end is in sight" and "there is light at the end of the tunnel."

There are now two types of citizens in America — the Americans and the

"Dissenters," or "Prois" as they are referred to. The "Dissenters" are being rounded up and either put in detention camps or deported to North Viet Nam, under the new policy of "If you don't like it, leave it."

Unfortunately, nearly half the members of Congress have been classified as "Dissenters" and more are being uncovered every day by reviewing texts of old speeches, in which the Congressmen have been critical of the war effort.

As President Storms says, "While dissent is a freedom enjoyed in this country, I just wonder how many realize what that freedom has cost in the way of American lives." He points to the fact that Americans should be proud to defend a country in which they enjoy the freedoms of speech and dissent. Just think, he says, what it would be like to live in a country like Russia, where no one may question the government when a policy decision has been made. This speech was greeted by all the members of the John Birch Society, the Minutemen and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, plus the other 13 people left alive in the country.

One prominent senator, just before he was dragged off, questioned the President's policy at a committee meeting.

Sen. — Why can't people disagree in a democracy?
Pres. — They can, and are encouraged to.

Sen. — Then why are they being silenced?

Pres. — Because their disagreements don't agree with government policy.

Sen. — Then anyone can disagree as long as they agree?

Pres. — That is correct, sir.

As they took the senator away, he was heard to be mumbling, "Freedom is Slavery, Love is Hate . . ."

Afterthought: There may be things creeping in this country besides communism.

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.



"And now, ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Garrison, with his bare hands . . . !"

DAILY NEBRASKAN
Second class postage paid at Lincoln, Neb
Telephone: Editor, 473-2228. News 473-2229. Business 473-2230.
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 Isenogle; Managing Editor: Larry Gottschalk; News Editor: Tom Branger; Night News Editor: Kent Compton; Editorial Assistant: Jane Wamser; Assistant News Editor: Andy Wood; Sports Editor: Mark Gordon; Nebraska State Writers: John Dornan, Jim Poderski, Conde Wacker, Russ Feinberg, Bill Sanderson, Sue Schlotterbeck, Ben Perry, Ben Taitou, Joannette Anderson, Rachette Singh; Photographers: Tom LeFebvre, Linda Kennedy, Ellis Hayman; Reporter-Photographers: Ed Adams, John Nottendorfer; Copy Editors: J.L. Schmidt, Jane Wagoner, Phyllis Adkinson, Dave Filler, Sara Schwander, Susan Mead.
Business Staff
Business Manager: Roger Boye; Local Ad Manager: Joel Davis; Production Manager: Randy Ivey; Bookkeeper: Ron Dowling; Secretary: Janet Rostman; Classified Ads: Jean Barr; Subscription Manager: Linda Ulrich; Circulation Manager: Ron Fawcett; Riv' Doran; James Walker; Advertising Representatives: Max Brown, Gary Grisham, Linda Altmann, J. L. Schmidt, Charlotte Walker.