

Editorials

Commentary

Pledge to progress

When the Interfraternity Council meets tonight it can shape up the sad state of pledge training.

The Greek representatives, by approving the revised pledge education construction, can speed progressive pledge training.

They can. But will they?

SOME HOUSES will have difficulty accepting the new contract, even though it is basically the same as last year's. They realize that the revisions are aimed at making the contract enforceable and at eliminating loopholes.

Any fraternity voting against the contract — no matter what grandiose excuses are made — will actually be admitting to the humiliating and degrading nature of its pledge program.

And if the IFC defeats the contract it will be discrediting and shaming the entire Greek system.

The IFC representatives must no longer sanctify mental and physical hazing; they must halt the entrenchment of the archaic institution that has no place on the campus.

AND THIS MUST be done immediately: the college men of today are realizing that such activities have no place in modern education.

The fraternities, likewise, will have no place unless they are ready to progress and contribute to the education of their members.

Fraternity association can be and should be valuable. The pledge education contract will be a strong first step in insuring this value.

Ed Icenogle

Want to go to a bar?

Casey's, Myron's and the Grill won't be the same when Gov. Niemann signs LB167, making 20 the majority age.

And, hopefully, Nebraska won't be the same, either.

Perhaps, the state's sage citizenry will now realize that adulthood is not a matter of age, but of maturity. And they may even extend the suffrage to 20-year-olds.

If all the 20-year-olds are nice, then maybe even the 19-year-olds will be given their rights, too.

And before you know it, all young adults will be treated just like real, full-fledged human beings.

Thank you, Unicameral. Maybe if you don't call us immature, we won't call you senile.

Ed Icenogle

DAILY NEBRASKAN

Second class postage paid at Lincoln, Neb. Telephone Editor: 473-2328. News: 473-2329. Business: 473-2326. Subscriptions: 473-2327. Classified Ads: 473-2328. Published Monday through Friday during the school year except during vacations.

Editorial Staff

Editor: Ed Icenogle. Managing Editor: Lynn Gottschalk. News Editor: Jim Wagner. Night News Editor: Ron Cocks. Editorial Assistant: John Wagoner. Assistant News Editor: Andy Wood. Sports Editor: Mark Gordon. Nebraska Staff Writers: John Dvorak, Jim Pedersen, Cynthia Winkler, Susan, Jessica Hill, Smitherman, Sue Schliemann, Sue Potts, Ben Talbot, Joanne Akerman, Baccatar Singh, Photographers: Dan Ladely, Linda Kennedy, Mike Hayden, Reporter-Photographers: Ed Kinn, John Nollendorf, Copy Editors: J. Schmidt, Joan Wagoner, Phyllis Adkinson, Dave Pitt, Sara Schwander, Susan Mandl.

Business Staff

Business Manager: Roger Boye. Local Ad Manager: Joel Davis. Production Manager: Randy Ivey. Bookkeeper: Ron Bowlin. Secretary: Janet Bowman. Classified Ads: Joan Bauer. Subscription Manager: Linda Ulrich. Circulation Manager: Ron Pavlica. Rick Doran, James Reiser. Advertising Representatives: Max Brown, Gary Grabquist, Linda Ribbons, A. L. Schmidt, Charlotte Walker.

THE SILENT MAJORITY



Plight of the cynical idealist

De profundis

... by Fred Schmidt

One of the strangest paradoxes of our generation of students is our penchant for both high idealism and extreme cynicism. But a simple analysis of our situation demonstrates that such a paradox is virtually inevitable.

We get our ideals from our "elders," those in command who, after bestowing us with a grab bag of platitudes (contrary to popular opinion, a platitude is NOT a hairy duck) not only refuse to help realize those ideals, but actually oppose efforts to do so.

The pain is enhanced whenever there is real hope of any ideals being achieved; invariably, it seems, the highest hopes are plummeted to the lowest depths of despair. For example, think back a year, to March, 1968. Our hopes were never higher, life was beautiful, a struggle to be sure, but a worthy one.

A YOUNG MAN named Ben Braddock — "The Graduate" — came to town, and suddenly we had a myth to plead our case. Students became the "in" group, with a monopoly on morality, and the "Establishment" showed signs of being jolted. Tuesday, March 12, laid the foundation of realizing an impossible dream: Eugene McCarthy's showing in New Hampshire breathed a new spirit into the most complaisant of students.

The following day, Malcolm Boyd visited NU (already a flood of McCarthy buttons had hit the campus) and passionately championed the exorcism of such demons as war, poverty, and racism. And he was optimistic: rumor had it Robert Kennedy would run for President!

On Thursday, March 28, Kennedy himself came to NU, looking like a cross between Christ and

Ringo Starr, saying nothing new but emitting a beautiful vitality that defied all cynicism. And finally, on Sunday, March 31, old Lyndon Baines threw in the towel and the aroma of power was in our nostrils.

Our hopes were short-lived. Within a week of LBJ's announcement Martin Luther King, the personification of *charitas*, was murdered. By the end of summer, Robert Kennedy, too, was safely stowed in Arlington, inspiring great eulogies and little action, while Eugene McCarthy was disgracefully hounded out of the political arena by those who claimed to be his friends.

THE CAMPAIGN, as James Thomas Jackson so aptly noted, was left to "an anti-hero, a nonentity and an unknowledgeable bastard..." and it really didn't matter any more.

We had almost made it to the top of the hill with our Sisyphus' stone; no wonder cynicism set in when, as usual, the stone rolled back down over us. Solutions? We can try dynamiting the hill and take ourselves with it. Or we can keep pushing, remembering that each time the stone rolls back it wears away a little of the hill. But, despite our valid cynicism, we must not continue as we have the past few months, contented to sit at the base of the hill, using the stone as shade from the sun.

The Daily Nebraskan is solely a student-operated newspaper independent of editorial control by student government, administration and faculty. The opinion expressed on this page is that of the Nebraskan's editorial page staff.

Campus opinion...a ROTC case, a compliment

Dear Edit:

Recent criticisms of ROTC programs on university campuses and the discrediting of ROTC at some major universities has moved me to reflect about these programs and their meanings and implications for higher education in general, and our University in particular.

There are, I believe, several reasons why the multipurpose universities such as Nebraska should continue and even strengthen their programs of officer training for all branches of the armed services.

I believe that this nation will be required for many years to maintain large military forces. They will consist mostly of civilians serving short terms as draftees unless the current move to "professionalize" the forces takes form and solves the problem rather quickly.

I AM against this move because I believe we should all share equally as citizens in the planned defense of our country. I don't believe in creating another massive bureaucracy. Already, seasoned Congressmen and Senators are warning us on this issue. Current bureaucracies are self-seeking, self-perpetuating and wield altogether too much power over us. They even overwhelm the Congress and the President at times.

Therefore, I believe in a selective service system based on a lottery that places each of us at some point of time in training and responsibility in the armed forces regardless of education, birth, or economic status. Most of the men in the armed forces will be civilians being trained for 2 or 3 years and then returning to civilian status.

I should like to think that the leaders of these men could continue to come from our universities as voluntary men who took the time and pains to learn some basic military training and committed themselves to such leadership while they were undergraduates in our universities.

These officers, with the exception of those who choose to continue, are primarily oriented to civilian society with its freedoms, rights to criticize, and personal commitments to privacy of thought, religion, family life, and community.

I PREFER to have this type of military leader work with my son, my grandson, and my students when they enter the armed forces. They are far less likely to injure the dignity, the personality, or threaten to harm a draftee than are some of the professionals: have known.

The leaders from universities will not surrender their own

personalities to "the system;" in fact, as I lived through it in World War II, I had the feeling that I was actually fighting the Navy system at times in order to do my job. As a civilian, and a former ROTC student, and later as Navy Officer, I felt that I was more compassionate and considerate of the men I commanded than were some of the "trade school crowd" from Annapolis.

I did not feel that the Navy was threatened when an enlisted man criticized me or the system, because I fully expected to return to the civilian life.

So, I believe in getting future officers from our multi-purpose universities in a voluntary manner, because I believe they are more democratic, less system-oriented, more adaptable, and as the evidence bore out in World War II, more apt to accept technical and military change.

THERE IS still another reason why I believe in retaining ROTC on our campus. I like the obvious pride of our young men who are in officer training. They are just as committed as is the athlete, the musician, or the drama student — all of whom surrender to discipline and order for group achievement.

They are more self-reliant and more inner-directed, I believe, than some who

criticize them. I have never met one who liked war, believed in killing, or threatened to kill or destroy that which he could not rationally change. Some of us developed guilt feelings about the killing we had to do to preserve this nation in the last World War. None that I know ever want to repeat the experience.

Yet, some of the critics of ROTC believe that we who went through it actually were motivated to approve of, and even to like, death and destruction.

IT SEEMS to me that those who now have grown beards and long hair could be accused of losing their identity and selfhood because they want to be like others. I don't believe this, but it makes as much sense as believing that a man loses his identity when he puts on the uniform of his country and says he will risk his life to defend the nation in time of war.

As I see it, Harvard and Yale have actually "copped out" because they do not want to participate in the education of future military leaders. They are delimiting the scope of their services and duties to the nation. However, I don't think they will turn back any federal money for research that might have implications for radar, atomic weaponry, etc.

There are other reasons that I believe we should offer ROTC on our campus. The nation needs more officers than the Academies can produce. Moreover, for some who wish to make a career in the armed forces, it is another professional choice. I dislike the idea of our University's limiting the opportunities for future leadership in our nation.

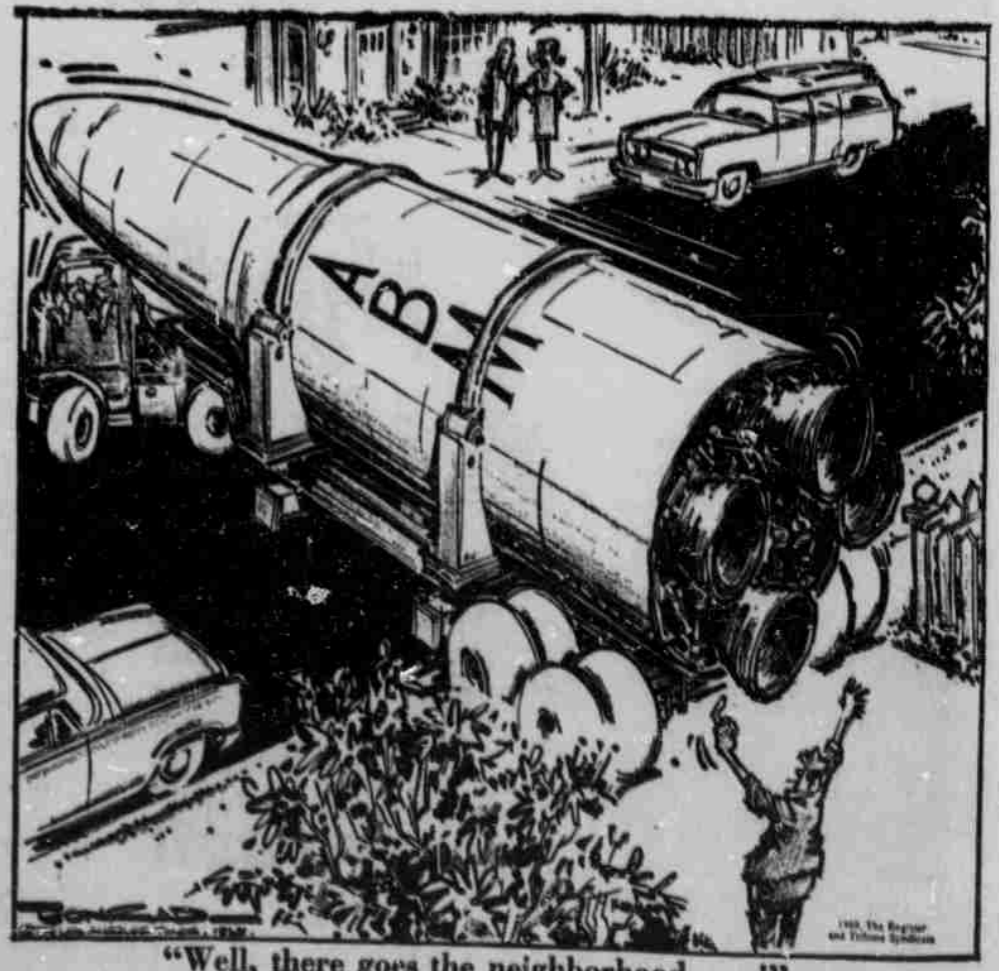
THE RECORD is clear, too, that many blacks and other minority students gain opportunities for military leadership as a result of ROTC training in public University programs. The selective Ivy League colleges and service Academies have never produced sufficient minority groups officers to work with minority groups in the armed services.

We will not settle the issue of ROTC on the University of Nebraska campus by demonstrations, debates, or arguments. I believe we should make suggestions for its improvement and development in line with the nation's developments and our current problems.

Our Professors in Officer Training would probably welcome any suggestions from serious people on how to make their programs better and make the candidates better citizens and officers. Some of the critics might be surprised at the

changes they could make if they tried it that way. And we must always remember the program is voluntary. No one is forced to be a military leader.

Royce Knapp  
Professor of History and  
Philosophy of Education



by Mickey Brazeal . . .

Doing George in

Oh, let's write another Perversion Play — half pathos and half *foub'e-en-tre* — and all the ladies clubs from neighboring villages will charter buses to come in and commune.

One of the girls can smoke a big cigar, so the audience will know which is which. And if things get unGodly dull, she can make the other girl . . . who plays with dolls . . . eat the big cigar. Nobody could miss that.

But we ought to have a Socially Significant Message. Something we can be bitter and cynical about to keep people talking when the characters get thin. I mean, eating one another's cigars, and drinking one-another's bath water, and twisting the heads off of one another's dollies are entertainment enough for anybody — and God knows they're easy enough to think up.

BUT IF we leave out Social Significance, then there's no excuse for introducing the third member (Get it, "member"? ) of the little twisted triangle. And you can't have a Perversion Play without one of those.

One thing more. When the jeers on the leads get a little strained, we'll introduce some totally irrelevant, Oscar Wilde-type jokes. Like: "Of course we shoot people we don't like! You send them to the House of Lords — what's the differences."

Maybe we'll even put in a totally irrelevant character, to deliver them. Oh, it can't miss.

It has. It does. Gay Gibson is Mercy Croft, a character and a caricature, and one of them well done. The caricature is silly-ass social consciousness, as manifest in a drab "Dear Abby" kind of broadcaster. (Get it? "Broadcaster"? )

She's having the soap opera sob-Sister George run down by a ten ton truck, to publicize Road Safety Week (and because the ratings were slipping). She gets lines like ". . . we simply cannot tolerate this kind of behavior. It's things like this which make people resent paying more for their wireless licenses." And she tries to say "It's still in the planning stage," three times in two acts — you know the type.

BUT THE meat of the role is the ruthless lady lesbian, also in Mercy Croft, bartering bodies from above for the sheer joy of handling them. And here, Miss Gibson has a problem.

She's a bit too much the lady to be the lesbian — she's got the voice down but she hasn't got the moves. The caresses she steals in Act II are about as erotic as a rheumatic pushing pennies in a parking meter.

Laura Ursdeviciz, as Sister George, is almost too good at the manly mechanics of lesbianism — so skilled in the devices of the role that one attends to her performance rather than to her character, though that may be the fault of the play.

Miss Bowman, as, I swear to you, "Childie McNaught", is every bit as real as she's allowed to be. And Madame Xenia (Fran DeGeorge) is every bit as unreal as she's required to be.

THE HARSHTEST critics of any production at Howells are its light crew, at the curtain calls. They bring up the lights and fade them out, trying to get in the traditional three exposures before the audience stops applauding and meanders away.

Saturday's curtain call was almost a strobe light; two flashes for maybe twenty seconds. And it didn't leave many people clapping in the dark.

Campus opinion  
Academic freedom  
and the program

Dear Sir:

May I respond to Ed Icenogle's tirade opposing the study of ROTC subjects on our campus?

If it is unsuitable to utilize college campuses for the study of the tools of the defense of our nation (namely ROTC), how long will you permit on campus the study of the tools of the defense of our streets and homes (namely criminology and law enforcement techniques)?

Is there really much difference? Would you prohibit the 60-odd Lincoln policemen from receiving credit for the instruction they are now receiving in the interests of law enforcement on a community scale?

If you are really "hung up" on academic freedom, whatever that is, wouldn't it be more appropriate for you to "thump the tub" for any courses which might help preserve society?

Is ROTC less academic than football, or perhaps fly-tying?

It is difficult for me to accept you as an honest proponent of any "freedom" while you are so vehemently eager to prohibit someone else's pursuits.

It seems to me that we could be more appreciative of the efforts of those who are preparing to defend, if need be, the freedoms which allow newspaper editors to engage in such bellicose verbosity.

Thank you,  
M. L. Potter