



National SDS leader . . .

## Davidson talks on class oppression

by John Dvorak  
Nebraskan Staff Writer

Look at this floor — pretty snazzy, remarked one of the leaders of SDS. "Look what they got out of the sweat of the workers whose kids probably can't even go to school here."

Carl Davidson was pointing to the finely-finished floor of the Nebraska Union Centennial Room, and he was speaking about oppression to a crowd of several hundred. "If you want to know what's really going on, study the history of the

oppressed," said Davidson, one of three interorganizational secretaries of the SDS, a position equivalent to the presidency.

The former teaching assistant at the University of Nebraska went on to demand an end to the oppression of blacks, Chicanos, Indians, women and the working class.

The average working man in the United States brings home about \$89 a week after taxes, he said. That figure is going down.

Members of the working class, who make up about 80 per cent of the labor force, are those who work for a wage and are directly or indirectly related to production.

"The working people should be the ones who control the state and make the decisions, Davidson continued. They don't.

Problems start in the high schools, where the track system tends to discriminate against the poor.

"In the high school where I went," Davidson began, "We had three tracks — commercial, general and academic.

A small percentage of students entered the academic track, which prepared them for college. The blacks were often thrown into the general classification and the women into the commercial.

"What the track system does is

guarantee that certain people won't even have the option to get to a university," said the founder of NU's first SDS chapter. "The general track often means drafting into the military."

Davidson, as well as the SDS, demands an end to expulsions and flunking in high schools.

"Too often, he said, principals pick the troublemakers, mostly black, and badge them and make them so miserable they will either drop out or provoke suspension.

Davidson went on to talk about oppression in colleges. The moustached Penn State graduate is now a columnist for the "The Guardian," a radical weekly in New York City. He also serves as the leader of the Revolutionary Youth Movement-2, which recently announced its opposition to the more militant Weatherman faction of SDS.

One of the things Davidson and the SDS demand is, ultimately, free education.

"The working man provides the resources for the wealthy of the country," he said. "Therefore the wealthy ought to pay for the education of the working man's sons and daughters."

Even after students are admitted to universities, they are often oppressed by not being shown a true perspective of the subjects they are studying.

"We want a real understanding, a real perspective," Davidson said. "For instance, anti-communism is continually preached, mostly for the purpose of making sure the present government structure will continue."

He also rapped the lack of perspective in Vietnam studies.

"We ought to have some true courses on Vietnam," he remarked. "Most of the knowledge today about Vietnam doesn't come from the classroom, in fact classes often give a different story all together."

Davidson calls for an unlimited ad-

mission of minority students into colleges and universities.

"The open admissions struggle is a struggle against white supremacy," he said. "Opponents say if all high school graduates are admitted standards will be lowered, but these standards are based on white supremacy."

Women, too, are oppressed in many ways, Davidson said.

"We demand an end to all forms of male supremacy and an end to the inequality of women," he said.

Women are hampered by the double standards of rules on college campuses, he pointed out.

In addition, women are channeled into occupations where they are subservient to men, he said. Women are encouraged to be nurses, not doctors. Women are encouraged to be secretaries, not executives.

"Women ought to have control over their own bodies," Davidson said.

"They should have the right to free and legal abortion and ready access to all birth control information. They also should have the right to have children, whether they are married or not."

While talking about the racism of the Vietnam war, he took time to rap President Richard M. Nixon's policy of Vietnamization.

The President is attempting to shift the brunt of the fighting to the South Vietnamese, he said. What the United States is just trying to do is change the color of the corpses.

The source of the problem is the force in the United States that makes decisions affecting peoples' lives — the bourgeoisie.

The bourgeoisie constitutes a very small number of people in the United States, perhaps 30,000, Davidson said. Those who play a leading role in making national policy number about 99 families or so.

"This is a small number of people, but a very powerful group," he said.

"When we talk about the enemy, those are the ones we talk about."



Dr. William Birenbaum who spoke to a Time Out audience

## Most students are 'powerless'

by Carol Anderson  
Nebraskan Staff Writer

Student power is no problem at the University of Nebraska because most students are powerless and not eager to raise an issue, according to Dr. William Birenbaum, president of Staten Island Community College.

Birenbaum, who says he "stands for disruption," and describes himself as a refugee from Iowa, spoke Tuesday in connection with Time Out on the topic of reform in higher education.

Most students don't have the vaguest idea of how a university is run, he told a Union audience. "So your arguments are stupid and easily knocked down by shrewd people like me."

Students passively accept programmed education and are eager for further programming "be it corporate or military — someplace conditioned and comforted where they won't be activated," he added.

### Criticized

Birenbaum also criticized universities for transporting the medieval monastery concept of education into modern times. Universities try to remain aloof from the larger issues of the day by dissociating thought and action, according to Birenbaum.

The Vietnam moratorium and the University's Centennial College are examples of efforts to breach this wall, he continued, "but these are looked on as subversive to the system."

He compared the relationship of the university to its students with the relationship of a major industry to its plant workers.

"Your president will never stand up and tell you the purpose of this place is tyranny — that the purpose of the university is to sell diplomas," he added.

The university exercises this tyranny, he said, by slotting 6,000 years of knowledge into fields of study called "shafts." If a student raises an issue such as Vietnam or racism, he is told the issue is not appropriate to the "shaft" and that "he is being prepared to cope with problems like that later," Birenbaum said.

Educational success is measured by how far a student can sink into one of these academic "shafts" and "trouble really starts when students want to shift shafts," he said.

### Controls

Controls on the shaft system that complete the wall, are admissions policies, grades, tenure and promotion and the credit hour requirements, Birenbaum said. Who and what gets taught are political decisions and "academic freedom exists only in

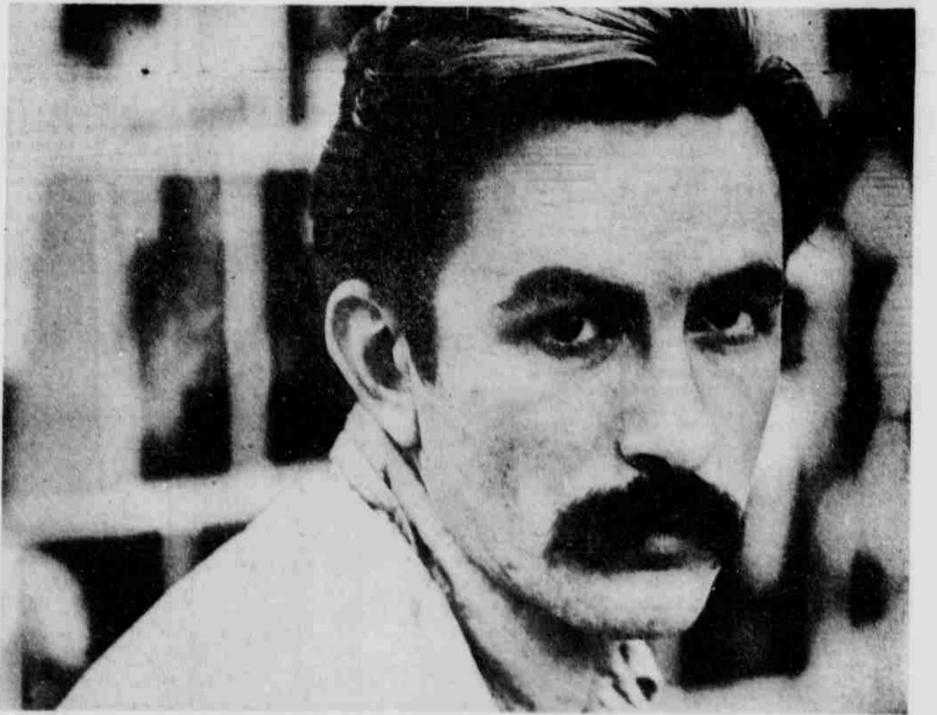
people's heads," according to the college president.

Birenbaum was fired two years ago from his job as president of Long Island University after a two-week student strike. He said he still believes it is possible to work for reform within the establishment.

As an example of the wall between the university and the world, Birenbaum cited the relationship of the University of Nebraska to Lincoln's black community.

The wall can be broken down, he said, by practical learning experiences with the outer world. For instance, he said, architecture students at Columbia University can't get a degree without working in Harlem.

He termed the practice of delaying practical experience such as student teaching until late in one's college career "an absurdity."



Carl Davidson

## Four students named to advise on the draft

Four University students are among 14 young Nebraskans appointed to a Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) to the State Director of Selective Service, according to Dennis Hetherington, chairman of the advisory committee.

Besides Hetherington, the NU appointees are John M. Bronson, ASUN Vice President Brent Skinner and IDA President Teresa Sledge.

Youth advisory committees have been set up in all states by President Nixon and former national Selective Service Director Gen. Lewis Hershey, who "felt a definite need to establish better communications with young people in regard to Selective Service," Nebraska Selective Service Director Lee Liggett said Tuesday.

Liggett said the new youth advisory committee will study the current system and recommend any necessary changes. Each committee will report to its state selective service director, he said. Recommendations to the President will be sent from a national convention of YAC delegates early next year.

Nebraska committee members were appointed on the recommendation of state labor, agricultural and educational leaders to get a broad cross-section of Nebraska youth, Liggett added.

Besides representatives from the University of Nebraska, there are appointees from state colleges, church-affiliated colleges, state vocational training schools and from agriculture and labor. Two young women and a representative of a minority group are also serving on the committee, he said.

The committee held its first meeting Friday, when subcommittees were formed to study the present deferment system and two alternatives, the volunteer army and universal conscription, according to Hetherington.

"We are looking for ideas and suggestions," said Hetherington. "but I won't even listen to gripes. We need concrete suggestions."

The committee hopes to report to Liggett sometime in December, Hetherington said.

## NYU black power authority to advocate human renewal

The Malone Community Center will bring one of the nation's foremost experts on urban and racial affairs to Lincoln next month.

Dr. Nathan Wright, professor of Urban Affairs and Afro-American studies at the University of New York at Albany, will speak on Nov. 19th at 8 p.m. at St. Paul Methodist Church.

Wright is the author of a series of books including Black Power and Urban Unrest, Let's Work Together, Ready to Riot and What Black Educators are Saying. He is the nation's leading exponent of the theory that "cities are people."

The black professor opposes what he calls "the prevailing uncivilized government assumption that cities are

either physical fabric or some nebulous social structures."

"Any fool who has gone to school knows that cities are people. If we are to have urban renewal, we must concentrate in many different ways upon human renewal," Dr. Wright said.

Wright, who wears African robes, said "I am against revolution in any form, but it should be clear on the other hand, that if we are to survive as a nation, we must have immediate and precipitous regeneration." He also believes that black scholars must be brought to the fore as the nation's best and currently unused resource for the rebuilding of every aspect of urban life.

### News short

Advisors for freshmen and transfer students in Teachers College are now posted outside Dr. N. F. Thorpe's office, 103 Teachers College.

The Senior Editor of Look magazine has said, "Wright has a better grasp of the implications of Black Power and of the present direction of the freedom movement than any other intellectual I have been able to find."

A former clergyman, Wright holds six university conferred degrees, including one honorary doctorate of Laws and two degrees from Harvard.

The Malone Community Center is also sponsoring a "Negro History Week" in February. The program will include black art, drama, music, literature and dance.

Tickets for Wright's speech are \$1.50. They may be purchased or ordered by mail from the Malone Community Center.

## Some landlords will not sign non-discrimination pledge

Signed, non-discrimination agreements have been received by the University Housing office for only 674 of the more than one thousand off-campus approved housing units.

Of the 1,658 agreements mailed to landlords by Sept. 19, NU received no response for 281 units and refusals to sign for another 103 units as of Oct. 28, according to Housing Director Ely Meyerson.

Landlords who did not sign the pledge are being removed from the list of approved off-campus housing, he said.

According to NU housing regulations, sophomores not living on campus or with relatives must reside in specially approved off-campus housing. Juniors and seniors not residing on campus or with relatives may live in generally approved off-campus housing.

"We are continually going through the lists of approved off-campus rental units," Meyerson said. "Our concern is not only the failure to sign discriminatory agreements, but for

any factor that might impair the approved status of the rental unit."

Students found to be living in housing that is unapproved for any reason are requested by letter to move.

The agreements state that landlords will not discriminate because of race when renting to students. Signed pledges are only one of many qualifications for approved housing units.

Last year was the first time that non-discrimination agreements were incorporated into the housing policy agreements.

Many landlords either refused to sign the agreement last year or simply did not respond. However the University did not take any action against those students who did not move from unapproved housing last year since the policy was new.

"The University considers it (living in unapproved housing) a violation of standards," Meyerson said. However no decision has been made as to what sanctions to impose on students refusing to move from unapproved housing.

Meyerson said the policy decision would be made "very soon, probably in a couple of weeks."

## ActionLine will begin next week

The Daily Nebraskan will start a campus action line column beginning next week. The Daily Nebraskan will answer any question, within reason, about students and the University. The newspaper reserves the right not to publish every inquiry.