

Law School woes

For the past 15 or 20 years, at least, Nebraska has been decrying the loss of its young people and its talented people. One of the goals of Governor Tiemann's Administration (and probably his predecessors also) has been to keep young people in the state by increasing job opportunities. It seems inconsistent, therefore, that the state administration, the Legislature, the Regents and the University administration are doing little or nothing to better provide for an institution which DOES keep young, talented people in Nebraska.

I refer to the University of Nebraska Law School. In the past decade, the law school has tripled its enrollment. But in those ten years, the school has added only one member to its faculty and still occupies the same old building. In 1969, the law school could have admitted 300 qualified students from its 600 applicants. In the end, 163 freshmen were admitted to the overcrowded and understaffed school. In the overall University, the student-teacher ratio for freshmen is 20 to 1 and in the graduate schools 12 to 1. But in the law school the ration is 23 to 1. Some classes have as many as 90 students and a public address system must be used. Library space is so limited that the school has trouble meeting National Bar Association standards for seating space for students. This is the situation in the law school which supplies greater Nebraska with 80 per cent of its lawyers.

Obviously it is difficult for the law school to maintain the standards of a good law school with the high student-teacher ratio, overflowing library and generally poor facilities. While law schools at other midwestern universities are planning new plants, the NU law school is cluttered with materials for improvising on the improvisations of the remodeling job of 1948. The building needs of the University seem infinite and a new law college is in future plans. The question is, when will the Legislature appropriate enough money to meet this need. And in the meantime, what are the state's attorneys doing to speed up the process?

University budgets in the past two biennia have been far below the University's needs. But people in a key position to affect the Legislature's appropriation for the law college have not done enough. The Nebraska Bar Association has done far too little to aid the institution which provides new members for its profession. The bar association should be lobbying for more appropriations, and possibly raising funds to supplement those appropriations.

Both the Nebraska Bar Association and the Lincoln Bar Association have taken steps toward helping the law college. Each has appointed a committee to investigate the possibility of building a law complex from tax funds which would house the law college, Nebraska judiciary and combine the University law library with the state law library now in the Capitol. These committees are free agents, in a sense, and will probably approach all the governmental bodies involved in order to get a maximum of money and cooperation. The success of their investigation is important to the University and the state. The Nebraska Law College will not attract and keep young people in the state if it cannot maintain high standards.

Jim Pedersen



University Law School

"LAW AND ORDER?"

Times are changing? Bruce Cochrane

Occasionally, in political circles, motions are introduced, that, due to the craftiness of their wording and the techniques used in presenting them, appear to be one thing when they are, in reality something entirely different.

This type of motion, with its vague wording and oblique references, is used to obtain legislation on matters the introducer feels are best not talked about. Matters that, if argued on their own merits, would stand little chance of being written into legislation.

This week in the Council of Student Life Ed Icenogle introduced a resolution so blatantly obvious and dishonest that I not only scoff at his abilities as a politician, but I seriously wonder about his right to sit on so a responsible body as the C.S.L.

His resolution would enjoin University organizations or administrative officers from collecting monetary fines or interfering in the expenditure of personal finances and other resources of an individual, and also the collective monies voluntarily contributed to organizations. It also enjoins them from probating the rights of groups or organizations recognized by ASUN, CSL, or the Board of Regents. Among these rights is the right of peaceful assembly for any purpose. It further enjoins restricting the right of free solicitation of new members.

Now I will not contend that I cannot be seduced, but I would like to think I am not easily tricked. This resolution says,

when it is examined, that I.F.C., recognized by the Board of Regents as the regulating board of the fraternities, cannot discipline a fraternity for violating state laws, University or IFC policies. They cannot prevent fraternities from conducting dirty rush, nor can they discipline any violation of the new pledge contract. This document strives to protect the pledges' rights during initiation periods.

What makes Icenogle's action particularly damning is the pending IFC action against his own fraternity for violation of the pledge contract. For him to use his position on the CSL in this manner shows a distinct lack of integrity.

To me, it is reprehensible that a man who less than a year ago spoke out for a strong pledge contract would turn around and strike at it in this manner.

I can see only one reason he

would act this way, and that is to strike a crippling blow at the Greek system itself. I feel while pretending to act for his own house that if the Greek system is to prosper, enlightening of pledge programs, improving Rush procedures and the elimination of old style hell weeks are necessary. For these things to occur, IFC must have the right to punish violaters and to remove this right is to abandon any hope of progressive reform within the system.

Icenogle may well believe that if he can stymie these reforms he can throttle the system, but I contend that if over two thousand men voluntarily choose to affiliate they have the right to live with their system. They also have the right to improve their system and if Icenogle believes he can place himself above the wishes of these two thousand men his conceit is beyond any in my experience.

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