

Student Senate session opens a can of worms

The two most important events of yesterday's ASUN meeting took place in less than five minutes.

In an open letter, the ASUN executive officers condemned alleged inaccuracies in the Spelts Commission Report on campus unrest last May. While the use of the word "condemn" seems too harsh, the points of the letter cast some doubt as to the accuracy of the Spelts Report. And, if the report is inaccurate on the points that the officers claim, serious questions rise about the report's validity.

The second event, a student senate blunder, took less than one embarrassing minute of silence. Student Senator Bruce Wimmer introduced a motion calling for an audit of ASUN, Union and Student Activity funds by an independent firm. The motion died for lack of a second.

There is much to criticize in Wimmer's approach. Student Senators arrived at the meeting to unexpectedly find representatives from several newspapers, as well as reporters from several newspapers. Wimmer went to the trouble of arranging to have State Senator Clifton Batchelder at the meeting as well as distributing press releases printed on his personalized stationery.

Yet, with his penchant for secrecy, he failed to discuss the motion with his fellow senators before the meeting. Even the senator he had persuaded to second his motion left the meeting before the motion reached the floor. Confronted by these eccentric antics, the senators responded with silence.

This was unfortunate, for the motion should have been seconded and discussed even though it seemed doomed to defeat. The books of ASUN are open and, because of this, many senators thought there was no need for an audit.

However, an audit is probably inevitable and Senator Batchelder has vowed to do everything in his power to cause one. The damage to come will occur as many people will infer that because the Student Senators refused to discuss an audit they therefore feared one.

So, by failing to call for an audit themselves, the Student Senate has given the likes of Wimmer and Batchelder a foothold to force one.

Calendar merits praise

As our university grows in size and population it becomes increasingly difficult to be aware of all campus events. Many small organizations suffer from inadequate advertising budgets and the result has been fractionalized and insufficient promotion of many speakers, films and programs.

The calendar on the opposite page is the brainchild of a joint meeting between the Union Program Council and the Council on Student Life. Published monthly, the calendar will give a complete view of campus events.

Thanks are due to Jim Gordon of the Program Council who worked out the mechanics for this fine idea and to Doug Scott for the layout and artwork on the posters. It is suggested that you remove the calendar from the "Nebraskan" and keep it for reference during the month.

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The Old Man and the Sea

Our man hoppe

Give it back to the Israelites

by ARTHUR HOPPE

Jerusalem — One of the more interesting questions about Israel that may cause World War III is: Who owns it?

THE ISRAELIS have got it. But the Arabs claim it theirs because they were here first. So, to get a little international peace around here, I decided to engage in a title search.

Taking along my Israeli friend, Mordecai Shalom, we looked up Dr. Nachman Avigad, the distinguished archeologist from the Hebrew University. We found Dr. Avigad a stocky, cheery gentleman in a straw hat, happily digging away in a vacant lot in the old walled city. Who, we put it to him, was here first?

WELL, SAID DR. AVIGAD, the top level was "Arab rubble," left over from the Jordanian occupation before the '67 wjr.

Then they were here first, I said. And I told Mordecai to notify King Hussein of his good fortune.

"I think he's busy," said Mordecai. "Anyway, it was the Jewish Quarter under British rule before 1943."

THE BRITISH? I said I was

sure they'd be pleased to start up an empire again.

"They captured it," said Mordecai, "from the Turks in 1917..."

Take a cablegram to Ankara, I said.

... who took it from the Saracens in the 16th century."

THE SARACENS? While I was trying to think of how to get in touch with the Saracens, Dr. Avigad was pointing out the ruins of a well preserved wall from the Crusader Period (1099-1187). ("Notify NATO," I whispered to Mordecai.)

While Dr. Avigad had found little from the Moslem Era of the Seventh to Eleventh Centuries ("Get word to Mecca, Mordecai!"), he'd unearthed a fine Byzantine (335-630) bath with pipes, tubs and fire-heated water. ("Take a letter to Byzantium, Mordecai!")

UNDERNEATH that, said the Professor, he'd found part of a wall from the days of Roman rule at the time of Christ. ("Imagine, Mordecai, the Italian flag flying once again over Israel!")

"DON'T FORGET," said Mordecai, shuddering slightly, "the Romans took it from the Maccabees, who revolted against the Seleucids, who took

it from the Israelites after it had been destroyed by the Babylonians, who..."

I told Mordecai to shut up as I was getting a headache. "And there," said Dr. Avigad, pointing 40 feet down into his excavation, "we reached bed rock and found that wall seven meters thick."

At last we'd gotten down to bedrock! And who, I asked excitedly, had built this first evidence of having been here first?

"The Israelites," said Dr. Avigad, "in the Seventh Century B.C."

Mordecai was triumphant. Wait, I said cautiously, whom did the Israelites get the bedrock from?

"KING DAVID bought the land from the Canaanites," said Dr. Avigad. But under pressure, he had to admit the deed had somehow been misplaced.

Unfortunately, I haven't been able to find any Canaanites to come take over their property. I told Mordecai dispiritedly that all our hard work hasn't proved a thing.

"NONSENSE, it proves that Israel," he said with an Israeli grin, "belongs to who's got it."