

Power of faculty senate

Barry Felga

At last week's Faculty Senate meeting the chairman entertained year end reports from a host of Faculty Senate Committees, including Calendar and Examinations, Grading and Appeals, Publications Committee, Honors Convocation Committee, and committee on Scholastic Appeals.

There were only around 100 professors at this meeting. Of some significance then is the fact that some very interesting proposals were decided upon by this obviously small share of eligible voters in the Senate.

Approved by the Senate was a recommendation from the Senate Grading Committee which extended the drop period for all courses (excluding laboratory courses) from the present four weeks to eight weeks. Proponents of the measure argued that this would give the student more time to assess his own progress in the course and enable him to determine his own ability to complete the course in good standing. A minority of those in attendance argued that this would take up class space that could be assigned to more serious students who from the start plan to finish a course. The proposal finally passed in favor of those professors who would encourage a cafeteria-style educational process in which the student shops around for classes with greatest meaning to his college education. On the final vote the recommendation passed with only a hand vote needed.

A major point to be made here is that many such excellent changes in the academic scene at the University can and will be implemented by such small numbers of professors in Faculty Senate. What is needed now to procure changes is to insure that active students occupy positions on the Faculty Senate Committees from whence these proposals come. Faculty Committees listen to student's, but only if the student is vocal. Many issues such as the modification and development of pass/fail privileges, grade reports, independent study, development of undergraduate seminar courses, the offering of courses requested by small or large numbers of students, possible accreditation of Free University courses, credit for work in the community, and credit for active participation in student government can be developed in committee and implemented by the same small number of professors who last week expanded the drop deadline and totally revamped the 1972-73 academic calendar.

Needed to study and implement these desirable changes are students willing to be vocal in the committees to which ASUN has appointed them, and a number of students to lobby with their faculty urging them to attend Senate meetings when these committee recommendations will be voted upon. With only slightly over 50 professors needed to pass any issue at the average Faculty Senate meeting surely we can attain the quality in student life so often only dreamed of.

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Two on women's rights

Dear editor,
I am writing this letter in reference to your report on the findings of the Women's Rights Committee on May 12. The absence of women in the high faculty positions and their abundance in clerical positions is no indication of any caste system. The fact that some women have reached the position of department head shows that it is possible for a woman to attain a high position.

Many women are working only until they get married or

pregnant so they have a higher turnover rate and therefore it is more efficient to have them in less vital positions where their absence would not affect any function of the University. Also more women are trained for clerical positions so it is logical that most of these jobs are filled by women.

If a woman does want to get ahead she can. Women compose 51 per cent of this country's population but because of the number occupied with being housewives and raising children or who are only temporary work until marriage, it is

unreasonable to assume a large percentage of important jobs should be occupied by women. A Male

Dear editor,
With regard to the report of the Women's Rights committee (reported Wednesday): Women's lib has a valid point, but let's not go overboard in our wild desire to "do something" about it. Among other things, the group is apt to lose credibility if it makes hasty statements, of which the newspaper report, at least, was full.

However, since the trend seems to be toward going overboard anyway, let me make my own contribution to the general hysteria: Leftist Liberation. Let me make myself perfectly clear. Have you ever noticed how very few left-handed desks there are around here? Ever considered the subtle discrimination against people who can't take decent notes or listen well, thanks to kinks in their necks? Or the irreparable injury to self-confidence every time someone uses a word like "sinister", "gauche", or "dexterous", or even "right" meaning correct? Check the Latin or French derivations for the first three. How about a "left-handed compliment"? Or worst of all, imagine the identity problem people like me have in being known as "left-handed right-wingers"—in other words, as "leftist-rightists"! We are tired of hearing that "Right is right". Leftists of the world, unite! We have nothing to lose but our stiff necks.

Sincerely,
Mary Cannon

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PPT goes to Congress

WASHINGTON, D. C. (CPS)—Describing the People's Peace Treaty as "a positive statement in a time of despair, alienation and divisiveness," seven members of the House of Representatives have asked that it be declared the "sense of Congress."

The seven, Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.), Herman Badillo (D-N.Y.), Ronald Dellums (D-Cal.), Parren Mitchell (D-Md.), Shirley Chisholm (D-N.Y.), John Conyers (D-Mi.), and William Clay (D-Mo.), told their colleagues that the treaty "pledges that our government will take the necessary steps to terminate our involvement in Indochina in a sage, equitable and expedient manner."

Congresswoman Abzug introduced the treaty to the House on April 29. She announced the move at a joint press conference held with peace treaty organizers on April 28.

Robert Greenblatt, national coordinator for the Peace Treaty,

told newsmen that Tuesday night the Detroit Common Council adopted the Treaty upon the recommendation of Common Council Chairman Mel Ravitz.

He also announced that the names of the first 50,000 signers of the treaty will be read on the steps of the Capitol and entered into the Congressional Record.

The treaty will be introduced into the city councils of Pueblo, Colo., and Cleveland, Ohio next week, and action is now pending before the Madison, Wisc. city council.

According to Frank Greer, another coordinator of the Treaty, it has been endorsed by "more than 330 student body presidents and college newspaper editors, 40 student senates and governments and in 25 campus referenda."

He noted, "many more are scheduled during the following weeks."

A new plan for higher education

COLUMBUS, Ohio (CPS) — Ohio Gov. John J. Gilligan introduced a bill in the Ohio General Assembly that would permit students and faculty to be appointed to university boards of trustees.

The governor revealed his proposal to a group of Ohio college newspaper editors he had assembled for a discussion of the new "Ohio Plan" for higher education.

"Students and faculty should have a say on their boards of trustees,"

the governor stressed. "They are not just recipients or consumers of a product; they are involved. And, if they are going to be stockholders, they should be allowed to help make the decisions."

A similar bill was introduced in the Ohio Senate earlier this year but was later withdrawn for re-writing. Introduced as Senate Bill 45, the earlier measure did not clearly define the words "student" and "faculty" and left many other concepts open to question.

Turning to the financial plight of higher education in Ohio, Gilligan said the state now ranks 50th in state aid to higher education.

Painting a bleak picture for future higher education financing, Gilligan offered responses to criticism of his "Ohio Plan," which proposes students pay back their state subsidies after graduation.

Critics of the plan say that if students have to pay back state aid, so should inmates of penal institutions, welfare recipients or grade and high school students.

If passed, the "Ohio Plan" would require students at four-year institutions to pay back around \$3500 after graduation starting when the individual has an annual income of \$7500. Yearly payments would start at \$50 and would rise up the scale proportional to income.

Payments would be deferred during years when the student might serve in the Peace Corps, VISTA or the armed forces. Housewives with no annual income would not be required to pay nor would students at two-year institutions. Also, out-of-state students would have their payments reduced by increased amount of out-of-state tuition charges.

Gilligan said 35 state legislatures and 25 governors have written his office asking for copies of the "Ohio Plan". He added, "being new, the "Ohio Plan" scares the daylight out of a lot of people. But with the terrible state of higher education in Ohio, the critics will have to tell me what the alternative is."

You may be eating a chemical lunch

BUFFALO, N. Y. (CPS)—If you are eating your lunch while reading this, stop a minute and look at what's on your fork. Do you know what's really in that tasty morsel? Lots of vitamins, maybe, or minerals or maybe proteins?

Probably not.

IN FACT, unless you are reading this deep in the North Woods, the number of nutrients in that tidbit probably are far outnumbered by added chemicals.

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has little control over the chemicals in your food. Ralph Nader's Study Group Report on the FDA by James S. Turner, points out that even if the FDA were highly efficient, well staffed and independent of industry pressures (all of which it is not, as Turner's report emphasizes), the job of policing America's food is beyond comprehension.

Perhaps we can begin to understand the enormity of the problem by just looking at one category of chemicals—pesticide residues.

FIRST OF ALL there are plenty of pesticides to keep the FDA's checkers jumping. The Department of Agriculture register files show more than 45,000 individual pesticide product formulations made of 900 separate pesticide chemicals.

To further reassure you, the Turner Report notes that between July 1, 1963 and June 30, 1966, only 0.7 per cent of the 25,000,000 shipments of produce entering interstate commerce were inspected; and by the FDA's own statistics, during this three year period, at least 75,000 interstate shipments had residues in excess of tolerances but went undetected.

The extent of this "excess of tolerances" was graphically shown at Senate Sub-committee Hearings in 1969, when the United Farm Workers Union, led by Cesar Chavez, presented a laboratory report of a sample of grapes taken from a Washington, D. C. grocery store. The report showed residues of Aldrin (a chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticide) at 180 times the human tolerance level.

REMEMBER, this is just for one of the types of chemicals in our food. The inspections and controls on the thousands of others are just as lax.

The food industry is big business, in fact it is the largest retail industry in America, with sales last year of \$125 billion. And they spent a whopping 18 per cent of that (\$22 billion) on advertising to convince us that their over-processed, non-nutritious,

chemical-loaded product is not only attractive, tasty, but nutritious and health-building as well.

But don't forget the chemical industry. After all, they sell the pesticides and herbicides and the preservatives and texturizers and flavor-increasers ad infinitum, to the tune of additional billions yearly (pesticide sales alone totaled over \$2 billion last year).

THE INDUSTRY-FDA policy is to go ahead and use anything until it is proven unsafe.

Just by setting "tolerance levels" the FDA is admitting these substances are harmful. But their reasoning is that you are only ingesting minute amounts of these substances and such low levels probably won't hurt you. This theory is frightening because it ignores the real danger of cumulative effects over a long period of time. A large proportion of these thousands of additives are stored in the body—different substances have affinities for different organs and tissues with potentially disastrous results over a period of time. For example, suppose 10 units or more of a substance was known to cause cancer, but for economic reasons the industry desires to use it in food. The FDA might set a "tolerance level" of 0.1 units as allowable since it is a thousand times less than the carcinogenic dosage, but if it appears in a wide variety of food items, and several of these are eaten each day, it doesn't take a math major to realize that within a few months the critical 10 units would accumulate.

In light of this, the real tragedy is the FDA's actual method of determining tolerance level, which is 50 per cent of the amount that produces an observable effect on animals in laboratory tests.

A REPORT issued in 1969 by the joint legislative committee on public health, chaired by State Senator Norman F. Lent, cited a 1968 study of persons who died from cirrhosis of the liver, cancer and hypertension contained concentrations of DDT and related compounds at levels two to three times higher than those in a controlled group.

A typical analysis of today's ice cream is given by William Longgood in his book, *The Poisons in Your Food*:

"Piperonal is used in place of vanilla; this is a chemical used to treat lice. Diethyl glucol (and propylene glycol) a cheap chemical, used as an emulsifier instead of eggs; diethyl glucol is the same

chemical used in anti-freeze and paint removers. Butyraldehyde is used in nut-flavored ice cream; it is one of the ingredients in rubber cement. Amyl acetate is used for its banana flavor; it also is used as an oil paint solvent. Ethyl acetate is used to give ice cream a pineapple flavor; it is also used as a cleaner for leather and textiles and its vapors have been known to cause chronic lung, liver and heart disease.

The FDA permits, in addition to those listed above, the chemicals sodium carboxy methylcellulose, disodium phosphates, tetra sodium pyrophosphate, polysorbate 80 and dioctyl sulfosuccinate. "Most of these additives are used as 'stabilizers' and emulsifiers." Stabilizers make ice cream smooth; emulsifiers make it stiff so it can retain air—most ice cream today contains as much air as it does ice cream."

SOME of the more important chemicals to watch for on the labels are:

MONOSODIUM GLUTAMATE (MSG)—a widely used flavor enhancer. Has been shown to cause brain damage in mice and monkeys.

SACCHARIN—a coal-tar derivative, used as an artificial sweetener. Two tests have shown unusually high incidence of unusual combinations of cancers in test rats.

CYCLAMATES—sodium or calcium salts of cyclamic acid, used as an artificial sweetener. The FDA modified its restrictions and today industry is quietly slipping them back into foods and beverages. Cyclamates are implicated in the occurrence of lung, ovarian, kidney, bladder, skin and uterine tumors in test animals; also linked to phocomelia (deformities in embryos) of chicken eggs.

NITRATES and NITRATES—used in fertilizers and the curing and coloring of ham, corned beef, hot dogs, sausage, etc. These chemicals can combine with amino acids in the stomach to produce nitrosamines which are among the most potent known carcinogenesis.

SULFUR DIOXIDE—a preservative for raisins and dried fruit (and a chief component of air pollution).

BHA and BHT—widely used food preservatives. **BENZOATE OF SODA** (sodium benzoate)—used as a preservative in most "soda pop" beverages and currently singled out for "high-level review" at the FDA.

A little sentiment

by CONNIE WINKLER
Managing editor

These words were written about an earlier Nebraskan staff. They still apply today.

In a world where intellectualism is cold, where cool means no emotion, where maturity means repression of feeling, it is difficult to write warm, emotional, feeling words.

The Daily Nebraskan is not just an activity. It could not survive if personal glory or passing power were its only rewards. Because of the time demanded, because of the rigorous efforts to approximate professionalism, the Nebraskan exacts a toll from those who staff it. Because of this commitment demanded of all, staff members develop a unique pride and respect in fellow staffers.

Because of this pride, because of this toll, there is in

the Daily Nebraskan a real sense of community, a "bigger than all of us" feeling. This feeling comes not from the individual people who change every semester, but from the type of people who are willing to care so deeply every semester.

When a student looks at the Nebraskan he may see print, pictures and thoughts, but it truly wears the imprint of all who care, all who staff it.

To list deserving names would be meaningless. They know.

No more sentiment to disturb an unemotional day. Just an old thought from a someone who must have been a journalist.

"... and my staff, they comfort me."