

**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

**Another display**

In the cold, Wednesday afternoon rain about 4,000 people marched from the University campus to the Capitol in support of the National Vietnam Moratorium.

The rain began to fall harder on that October day in 1969 as the names of 350 Nebraska war dead were read to the silent crowd.

The Moratorium was "a very splendid success," according to a Daily Nebraskan editorial. "The day was, without a doubt, the greatest peace outpouring and mass display of thoughtful reflection in the history of Lincoln and the University."

It was the biggest display at the Capitol since a visit by Pres. Eisenhower in the early 1950's. It was a splendidly successful display, a display that shattered all previous attendance records, a display that prompted some of the most righteous oratory since William Jennings Bryan.

Eight months before that splendidly successful Moratorium, two co-eds were playing cops and robbers with cap pistols across the Nebraska Union lounge from where about 200 students were sitting on the floor listening to a Hyde Park discussion on the relevancy of religion.

After one speaker stepped down, a tall, thin, short-haired and serious-looking student took the stand. He said the government was trying to exert the power of telling him when to kill and what was right and wrong. "The government does not have that right," he said quietly.

Then he simply announced he would burn his draft card. He did. He invited anyone else to join him who wanted to. Nobody did.

The student, Larry Zink, is now in a federal prison. Most of the leaders of the magnificent 1969 display are still around campus, some as students and some not. Some of them are planning another Moratorium for today. They are trying to build up another splendidly successful display. Instead of reading the names of the 408 Nebraska Vietnam dead they plan to get 408 people to play dead in front of the Capitol.

The Vietnam War is just not a very popular issue any more, so the display is not likely to shatter attendance records this year.

That's probably a good thing. It means there won't be a cheap way to get the war off our consciences this year.

So maybe more of us will be forced to make the kind of personal decision about war that Larry Zink made.

Steve Strasser

**Go Little Red**

In the land of Big Red, intramural sports and recreation have long taken a backseat position to varsity athletics. And this occurs despite the fact that only a small percentage of students participate in inter-collegiate sports.

However, progress is now being made to upgrade intramural sports and recreation for students.

The Department of Recreation and Intramurals has been completely revamped for this school year with new personnel, a new location, new equipment and facilities, and a fresh outlook on its purpose and potential. "We're going to have to prove ourselves, and I think we can," said Dan Stellar, the new director of the department.

The optimistic Stellar, who was previously dean of Student Affairs at Doane College, is especially interested in increasing student participation in intramurals and recreation. Stellar's approach makes sense since the department's programs are for students and are subsidized by student fees.

To reach more students, the department is increasing its emphasis this year on non-competitive sports and recreational activity such as skiing and canoeing.

One of the biggest problems of the department in the past has been a shortage of facilities. However, two new recreational areas now under construction should give a big boost to the University's intramural and recreation programs. The new sports area will include tennis and basketball courts, intramural football fields and putting greens.

It appears that intramurals and recreation are finally getting the attention they deserve. After all, sandlot sports and recreation are probably more important to students than a number one football team.

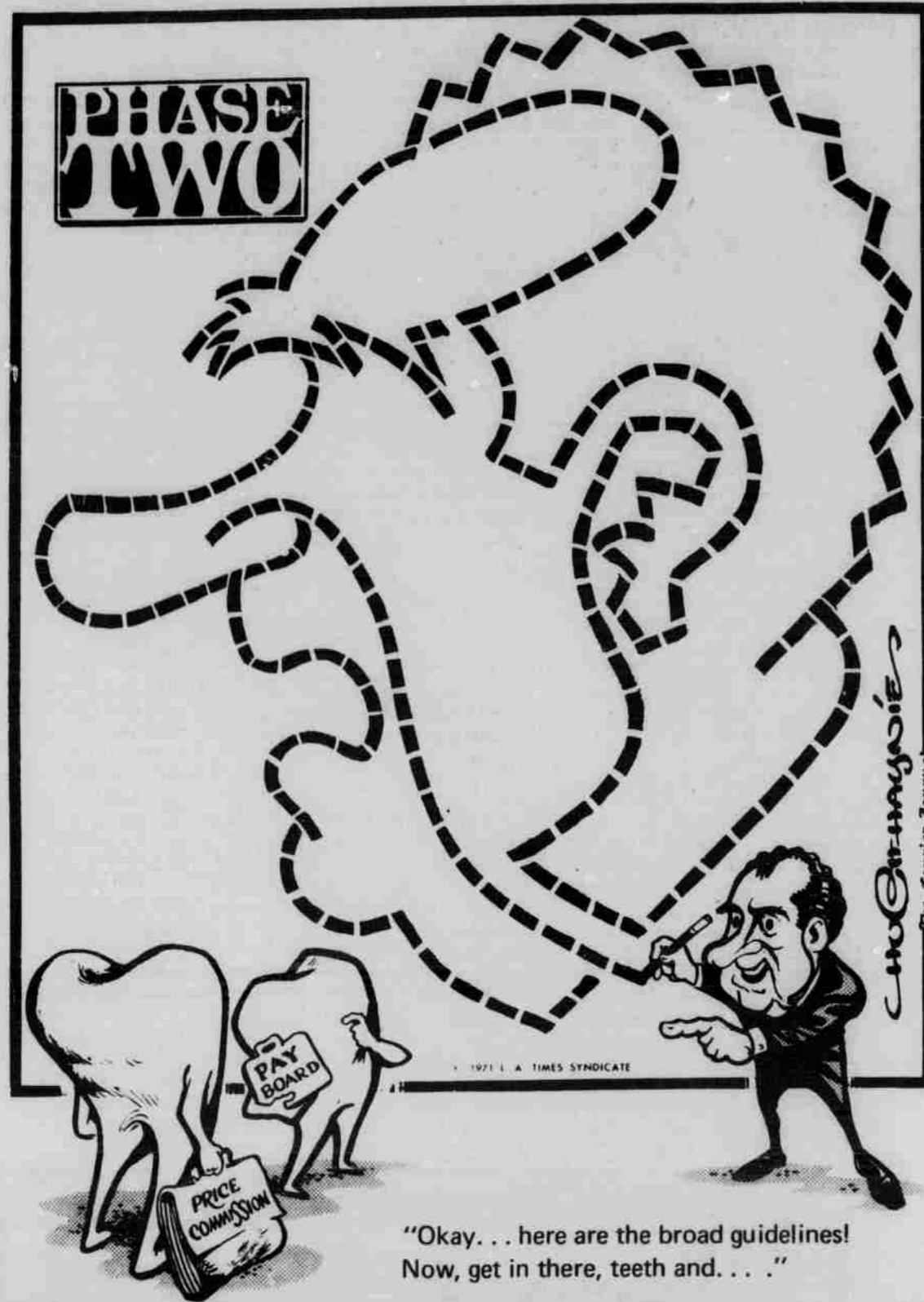
Gary Seacrest

**THE DAILY NEBRASKAN**

Telephones: editor: 472-2588, news: 472-2589, advertising: 472-2590. Second class postage rates paid at Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Daily Nebraskan is a student publication, independent of the University of Nebraska's administration, faculty and student government.

Address: The Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508.



"Okay... here are the broad guidelines! Now, get in there, teeth and..."

**LETTERS to the NEBRASKAN**

Brevity in letters is requested and the Daily Nebraskan reserves the right to condense letters. All letters must be accompanied by writer's true name but may be submitted for publication under a pen name or initials. However, letters will be printed under a pen name or initials at the editor's discretion.

Dear editor,

A misguided criticism of the "Time Out" conference on human sexuality was reported last week, in *The Daily Nebraskan* and elsewhere. That was the criticism that the conference lacked balance.

To show that criticism to be misguided, I think one shouldn't argue that the conference was balanced; in fact, one needn't say anything about the conference at all. The "lacked-balance" criticism is misguided, not because it is a sensible predicate wrongly applied (as if one had called a daisy a rhododendron), but because it is hard to see how there could ever by any point to such a criticism (as if Julius Caesar had been said to be a prime number).

In many cases it is foolish to talk about balance. For example, if McGovern speaks, do we need a Hruska to answer him, for the sake of balance? If Bill Buckley speaks, should we bring McGovern back, again so that we shall not "lack balance"? If Kate Millett speaks, should we also bring Norman Mailer to reply, so that no one is led astray?

Frequently "balance" is not an appropriate or necessary goal. For example, if the Nebraska Symposium on Motivation one year chooses as a special topic Freudian-psychoanalytic conceptions of motivation, do we need a few anti-Freudians, a behaviorist, and an anti-Freudian fundamentalist Christian on the program for the sake of balance? The central aim in organizing such a conference or symposium should

probably be one of creating a stimulating and illuminating exchange of ideas, and not "balance."

The concern for balance increases directly with one's distrust of the ability of an audience to make responsible (and critical) judgments of its own about what it has heard. If for example one thought that college audiences believed everything they were told, one would have to be very concerned about balance. If one believed that such audiences were perfectly capable of making autonomous intellectual judgments, one would need to be concerned hardly at all.

It makes no sense to speak of "balance" for any presentation that does not involve advocacy in the ordinary sense. For example, if a speaker advocates stricter enforcement of anti-abortion laws, a speaker who opposed his view might be said to "balance" his presentation. But if Alan Bell says only 20 per cent of male homosexuals correspond to the stereotype of homosexual effeminacy, how would that view be "balanced"? And how would one "balance" a sociological or personal description of what female homosexual life is like? With a denunciation of homosexuality?

Judgements concerning balance, unlike other value judgements, are directly relative to either personal or contemporary opinion. This is because "balance" or lack thereof is judged relative to one's conception of what the issues are, of where the middle between opposed sides lies, and of which views are dubious or controversial and hence in

need of being answered. If in 1920 Nebraska students had invited pro-evolutionary speakers to appear, William Jennings Bryan, the Board of Regents, and high administrative officials as well might have decried the event as "unbalanced" unless there was also a Biblical scholar present to balance the speaker with a denunciation.

I conclude that one who called a conference unbalanced simply reveals his own personal value standards, and very little else.

Dear editor,

Gary Seacrest registered his official indignation in Monday's *Daily Nebraskan* at the way state politicians are playing political football with the University. May I submit that they would have much less chance if students would stop trying to play games with it themselves.

When ASUN refrains from interfering in national, state and cultural politics, (i.e.: action and stands on national issues; association with and financial support of NSA; the Time-Out Conference, which was by no stretch of the imagination objective; the World in Revolution Conference, which promises more of the same); "outsiders" will be less inclined to interfere with us.

There is a principle called jurisdiction which is roughly translated "Mind your own business." When ASUN exceeds its own jurisdiction as it has, turnabout is fair play and I must say they asked for it.

Mary Cannon



bill smitherman

**United we stand**

A true merger between the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, UNO and the NU Medical Center is far from reality.

As it stands now, this institution is a paper university composed of three competing schools.

This is not the way planners expected the merger to develop, but the events have been predictable to some degree. We need only to look at the problems forming a real union from the 13 American colonies to get some idea of how difficult it is to combine independent power structures.

Each member of a union, logically enough, starts by looking out for his own interests. But, though this is the usual course of affairs, such an independent attitude must be charged if a united country or a united university is to become great.

Fortunately, the phase of selfishness seems to be coming to an end here. It looks like a long process, but at least the change has started.

The most important ingredient for making the merger work, according to President D. B. Varner, is attitude. If the three institutions of the university view one another with mistrust, as enemies, making the merger work will be nearly impossible.

And it is important that the merger work. If it doesn't, the students and citizens of Nebraska will be the victims. Citizens will have to pay for three mediocre institutions rather than one good one and students will get only a mediocre education.

But, the indications that the merger has an increasingly better chance are many. One of the most important is that by next fall all three institutions will have new chancellors.

This statement is not to condemn any present chancellor, but new men should be able to more easily consider the problems of a university system as well as an individual campus.

Another bright spot for the merger is President Varner. He is dedicated to making the merger real and will work to provide effective and creative leadership.

Another help is the Regents' decision to move system-wide administrative offices away from the UNL administration building. It is not unusual that Omaha administrators have suspected that system-wide administrators might favor the campus they have the most contact with. The move of offices should help allay this fear.

Friday Varner suggested to the Regents that some graduate programs might be moved from UNL to UNO or to the Medical

Center. In interviews he has said he also feels that some Omaha programs should be expanded to Lincoln.

This is also an important step toward making the merger work. This is especially true in the case of a college which would have its administration on one campus with classes taught in both Lincoln and Omaha.

A college administered in this way could not help but quickly establish a university-wide perspective.

This kind of expansion between campuses could work as well in undergraduate sequences as it could for graduate programs. It is evident that many new approaches and ideas like this one will be necessary to make the University of Nebraska really come together.

Another useful idea comes from UNL library director John Heussman who is working to establish a university-wide library system. More ideas are needed and they seem to be coming.

It may be necessary to try many methods before a combination is found to produce an effective merger. Many attempts are bound to fail. But, it is possible to imagine, before too long, a University of Nebraska which exists in more than the statute books.



jeffrey hart

**TV news twisters**

Until now it has been difficult to prove, finally and convincingly and to everyone's satisfaction, that the major TV networks are politically biased. Vice President Agnew and Daniel Patrick Moynihan charge bias. Nonsense, reply Walter Cronkite, Fred Friendly, and Frank Stanton.

Well, the argument is now over. In "The News Twisters," by Edith Efron, the case is made with convincing statistics that CBS, ABC, and NBC exhibit overwhelming political bias of a liberal-left character, and that all three networks, furthermore, have flagrantly violated the Fairness Doctrine of the Federal Communications Commission.

Miss Efron notes that a great deal of "for" and "against" opinion is broadcast by the TV news shows. The opinion can be given in a forthright editorial way by the reporters themselves, but usually it comes from candidates, from participants in the event being reported, from bystanders or the man-in-the-street, or through such vaguely specified attributions as "most students felt that..."

For her statistical test Miss Efron chose the last 60 days of the 1968 Presidential campaign. In addition to the campaign itself, she chose a number of clear-cut issues: the bombing halt, the Viet Cong, black militants, the white middle class, liberals, conservatives, demonstrators, and violent radicals. She tape recorded the 7 P.M. news shows of CBS, NBC, and ABC, transcribed the tapes, and isolated all "for" and "against" opinion on the issues selected. Then she did a word count.

Hold onto your hat. The three networks had a field day with Richard Nixon. On ABC listeners heard 7,493 words against him, 869 for him; NBC provided about the same proportions; CBS was even worse, if you can imagine it: 5,300 words against and 320 for.

Miss Efron's conclusion is inescapable: "All three networks clearly tried to defeat Mr. Nixon in his campaign for the Presidency of the United States."

Similarly revealing statistics turn up on the other issues. On the bombing-halt, ABC put out 904 words for, 165 against; CBS, 407 words for and 36 against; NBC, 814 words for and 147 against. On issue after issue the selection of opinion was comparably slanted.

"On the basis of these descriptive statistics," writes Miss Efron, "it is clear that network coverage tends to be strongly biased in favor of the Democratic-liberal-left axis of opinion...The networks actively slanted their opinion coverage against U. S. policy on the Vietnam war. The networks actively slanted their opinion coverage in favor of the black militants and against the white middle-class majority." They "largely evaded the issue of violent radicals."

The only question remaining now is: When is the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) going to step in? The First Amendment, which allows printed journalism to be as biased as it likes, does not apply here. The Fairness Doctrine explicitly prohibits bias in broadcast news. In this monopoly going to be allowed to abuse its power with impunity? If the FCC does not act now, need Congress stand idly by?

**UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE**

**LOCATIONS:** UNION, NEBRASKA HALL, & EAST CAMPUS

**Testimony by women who have suffered the consequences of restrictive abortion laws**

**ABORTION RAP** \$3.95

**Stereo 8 Tracks**

NOW FOR ONLY **\$2.99**

1630 "P" St.

James Taylor, Carole King, Santana, Cat Stevens, Mud Slide Slim, Tapestry, Abraxas, Tea for the Tillerman and many others

30-day guarantee against Sound defects

**Vid-A-Comm Systems, Inc.**

your local SONY retailer at 1630 P.

**The official CORNHUSKER POLL SHOWS THAT:**

1. You would rather have a hard bound yearbook.  
2. You want color in your yearbook.  
3. You would like to see more names and more familiar faces in your yearbook.

So, the 1972 Cornhuskers will be hard bound, contain color, and include lots of names and faces.

We would like to make it as simple as possible for you to buy a yearbook now. Clip the coupon.

WRITE A CHECK FOR \$7.50 TO: "1972 CORNHUSKER"

1972 CORNHUSKER ROOM 344 NEBRASKA UNION U OF NEBRASKA LINCOLN, NEBR. 68508

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

INCLUDE \$1.00 FOR MAILING, OR PICK UP YOUR BOOK MAY 7, 1972 IN THE UNION SO. CONFERENCE RM.