

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,

Do you feel frustrated, alone, powerless?

Thousands of students and people in Nebraska know that corporations are destroying their environment by dumping waste materials into the Platte River, they know that faulty products are being produced and sold and they know that women are being paid less for doing the same jobs as men.

They know that these problems exist but feel powerless and frustrated trying to implement effective change in a system that virtually refuses to listen to the individual.

Funds are often insufficient to hire lawyers to defend the individual against discrimination. Insufficient research data and evidence impedes many smaller groups from ever attempting to right the wrongs incurred against them.

Under the direction of Thomas Monaghan, a third-year law student and Deanne Canar, a graduate student in social work. The students at UNL are well under way in organizing a PIRG (Public Interest Research Group) in Lincoln. Their purpose is to educate the people of Nebraska concerning consumer welfare, discrimination, environmental preservation, health, welfare, housing and corporate responsibility and to organize together as an effective vehicle to implement change in these areas.

Presently, their main concern is to obtain sufficient funds to maintain a full-time paid staff and to hire professional lawyers, natural and social scientists and engineers to represent their cases in court by filing suits against corporations and individuals who continue to ignore laws and regulations.

Petitions will be circulated among students at UNL requesting an increase in student fees to help fund PIRG. When a sufficient number have signed, the petition will be taken to the Board of Regents requesting the fee increase.

Joe Highland, who is on Ralph Nader's staff, will speak about forming a PIRG this Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Love Library Auditorium. Highland is advisor to PIRG groups in Iowa, Wisconsin, South Carolina and Rhode Island.

Barb Fischbach

Dear editor,

The article in your Friday edition concerning the illegal placement of McGovern

campaign literature in dorm mailboxes should be of concern to all members of the University community. We of the Youth Coalition for Muskie are more immediately affected by the mailbox-stuffing episode. We want to take this opportunity, since it seems that we will not be allowed to place our candidate's literature in the boxes, to pursue the question of who is responsible for the violation.

Steve Tiwald is responsible for the statewide McGovern organization. He has been active in dorm governance for many years, and he knows the regulations forbid putting "persuasive" literature in dorm mailboxes. Yet his campus organization went ahead with the project.

Mary Kris Jensen is responsible for the university organization. She was the one who ordered the stuffing done. She claims she was ignorant of the dorm regulations. If we buy that, which we don't have to do, we still have to place most of the responsibility on her shoulders.

The final responsibility for this unfortunate incident must lie with the leaders of the McGovern organization, both campus and statewide. It seems to us that Tiwald and Jensen must re-evaluate their entire strategy, because if they persist in such obvious violations of the rules of fair play sooner or later such tactics will backfire.

Now about those dorm residents who were greeted last week by the pamphlets which raised all this controversy. We'd like to save our last word for them: we know exactly how you feel, folks. We think the people who stuffed your mailboxes were treating you like consumers who were to be sold a product, no matter how cynical be the method of selling. We object to that kind of campaigning, and we pledge that the Youth Coalition for Muskie won't ever be guilty of it. We'll always remember to treat you with the respect you deserve.

We think that if our McGovern friends would do the same this would turn out to be a much more meaningful campaign.

Roy Baldwin and Allen Bricker, Youth Coalition for Muskie



bill smitherman

Health Center probe

Two investigations have been recently launched into the operations of the University Health Center. Both the Council on Student Life and the Board of Regents are investigating the center, but for different reasons.

CSL is looking into ways of improving student input into the health service. This is really nothing new and is welcomed by those who believe in consumer input. This includes the administrators at the Health Center.

For the past decade or longer questionnaires have been sent to more than 2,000 students each year to get feelings and ideas on the Health Center. Many changes in service have come from the answers to these questions.

There are also faculty, staff and student councils which advise the center and help to determine the direction of its policies. Also providing input into the center are the health aides who represent the center in campus living units.

The center has been constantly looking for ways to improve its service. CSL proposals will probably be gladly accepted by the center administrators.

A second probe, by the Board of Regents, may or may not be based on honorable grounds. There is a question of motive and intent in the Regents' study.

In his proposal for the study President D. B. Varner mentioned concern over the policies of the center concerning the distribution of contraceptives and contraceptive information.

The question of contraception for students, particularly unmarried ones, is decidedly ticklish politically. Thus it isn't surprising that the Board is concerned over what is happening in this area.

What the investigation will find is that the center here will give contraceptive pills to women students, married or not. There is a set procedure for all women who want birth control pills.

Any woman married or unmarried, is counseled and tested and can get the pill if it is medically advisable. Parents are not involved.

This will probably disturb the Regents. But the policy is reasonable. It is evident that if someone has decided they need contraception it will be best for them to get it if medically advisable.

The matter of birth control for women, all women, should be considered strictly between the woman and her doctor. There is no place for "in loco parentis" in a medical relationship.

The committee investigating the practices of the center is made up of the two doctors on the Board. It will be interesting to see from their findings and suggestions whether they have been motivated by professional ethics or political expediency.

Considered from a professional standpoint the committee can do little more than give the Health Center a commendation for adequate handling of the increased demands of recent years.

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