



bill smitherman
Big Red Conspiracy

In a year relatively free of campus disruptions perhaps the largest campus disturbance of them all is on the way.

"This thing will be almost impossible to stop," an NU official commented. "We'll probably just have to weather out the storm."

Reports from local and national law enforcement agencies show that the so-called "Big Red Conspiracy," which has been organizing for almost a year, will act soon. Although the conspiracy is broadly based it is primarily directed against the young.

Photographs show the leader of the conspiracy as a portly, jovial looking man with a flowing white beard. This unusual looking man is known to authorities as "Big Red" or "Nick the Saint".

Although information on the backing of the conspiracy is not conclusive there has been much speculation that it is financed with Communist money.

This contention is strengthened by Nick's usual garb, a red suit.

It is obvious the conspiracy is well financed though. Nick has become known for his generosity and has gained a degree of popularity with many people. However, periodic warnings are issued that this man is dangerous.

Headquarters for the conspiracy is thought to be located somewhere in northern Canada. Field agents and agitators are sometimes cleverly disguised as elves.

A recent statement by the directory of the

Federal Bureau of Inconsistency asks citizens to be on the look-out for Nick and any suspicious looking elves. The conspirators are often in the company of reindeer.

The Bureau advises that anyone seeing these people should take no action themselves but contact their nearest law enforcement agency.

It is possible Nick may have once been a chimney sweep. He has been implicated in several cases of breaking and entering through chimneys.

The Bureau suggests that citizens with chimneys keep the home fire burning.

NU officials say they have felt a definite shift in student attitudes as the date of disruption comes near. Some feel that disruptions are unavoidable.

"This fellow Nickolas must have a persuasive line," one official said. "I've heard him called 'Father Christmas'. It sounds like the Mafia to me."

In a last ditch effort to turn students' minds from disruption, final examinations have been scheduled to coincide with the days of solidarity, so called. But even this drastic measure may be too late.

If the conspiracy does gain a significant foothold at UNL, officials feel they may have to take the unprecedented step of closing the campus. An official speculated that the campus could be closed from December 23 into mid-January.

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LETTERS TO THE NEBRASKAN

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Dear editor,
According to the Dec. 2 issue of *The Daily Nebraskan* the Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) plan to oppose efforts by the Nebraska Public Interest Research Group (NEPIRG) "to obtain student fee subsidies."

First let me state that PIRG is a young organization, open to all suggestions, and not yet formulized in any way, including proposed funding. However, PIRG wishes to clarify for Mr. Cannon, the YAF and for all students the arguments for organizing with a campus base and student funding.

Concerning the money question raised by YAF, the University will not "subsidize" PIRG--the student fee assessment would be voluntary. Further, the student base is advantageous for the proximity to already existing tools of research, the opportunity to make education more relevant (already some students are receiving credit for work with PIRG) and the chance for students to channel their idealism to constructive and effective work with the community.

Several points concerning the YAF article:

--PIRG will not be a "political group" or a "lobbying bloc." PIRG instead will be dedicated to non-partisan objective research and analysis and to effect change through established channels using the expertise of a paid professional staff.

--In no way will PIRG "deny the individuality of students." PIRG will rely on

student individuality--their individual skills and opinions will be invaluable.

--PIRG realizes the danger pointed out by Mr. Cannon that certain persons could through PIRG "antagonize public opinion against education," and when PIRG formally incorporates, we will attempt to insure that this will not happen.

PIRG thanks YAF for their interest and concern and would welcome an invitation from them or any other campus or community group to present our proposals in more detail.

Chris McGiffert
NEPIRG member
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Dear editor,
In your Dec. 3 issue you had an article about the draft which stated that after the draft board's decision is mailed to a registrant he will have 15 days to seek change by his state appeals board. This is not entirely correct.

After a person has appeared before his board the board decides whether he should be reclassified. If he is reclassified they will send him a "Notice of Classification" and he will have

15 days, from the date it was mailed, to appeal to the state appeal board.

However, if the board decides that the information given by the registrant does not warrant reclassification, they will simply send him a letter telling him that. By the time he receives this letter it will be too late to appeal to the state board.

If a registrant wants to make sure that he will be able to appeal to the state board he should at the time he is requesting an appearance before his local board, request that, if the board decides not to reclassify him he be given an opportunity to appear before the state board.

Another error in the article was where it stated that when appearing before the local board a registrant is allowed to bring three witnesses and that each witness is given 15 minutes to speak.

Actually a total of 15 minutes is allotted for all three to speak. The board is given the option to extend the time if they feel it is necessary.

Tom Paulson
Lincoln Draft
Information Service


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