

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The power of hope

As Christmas draws near it is a good time to take a look at what is happening on earth.

One's first impression is one of horror. The morning newspaper is full of murders, crime, injustices and wars. The constant barrage of bad news on the front page tends to make people shrug and ask: "But what can we do?"

Arthur Hoppe, a columnist for the **San Francisco Chronicle** has a one-word answer to this question: "Hope."

"I know it has a Pollyanna ring," Hoppe said recently. "But, by God, there is hope! There is not only a joy in it, but, I think, a tremendous importance."

Of course, hope alone won't radically change the world. But hope has a special importance for this 20th century world of ours. For a world without hope could easily destroy itself by nuclear war, over-population or pollution.

But is there any cause for hope in our world? The past few months demonstrates that there is.

President Nixon, who built his career on anti-Communism, plans to visit Peking and Moscow for important summit talks. Communist China finally entered the United Nations. Significant limitations on nuclear arms appear to be in the works. And the Vietnam war is slowly ending.

These events show that the Cold War, which has threatened the world with nuclear annihilation, is rapidly thawing. In this there is hope.

Domestically there is also cause for hope. Racial troubles have ebbed since the turbulent 1960's. The country is still troubled by pollution, crowded courts, inhumane prison conditions, the economy and injustices toward many minorities. But at least we're now talking and starting to do something about these problems.

Many people have said the country's main advocates of hope are its young people. Undoubtedly, America's youth has made a deep impression on the country's conscience through its protests on Vietnam and the injustices at home.

But the country can not afford to wait for its young people to assume positions of power before we have hope of making the world better. America's youth needs to pass the precious gift of hope to Americans of all ages now.

Lobby for visitation

A liberalized coed visitation plan for campus residence halls, a long sought-after goal of University students, is nearing reality. But there remains one more obstacle for a new coed visitation policy.

A new coed visitation proposal, drawn up by a Board of Regents' ad hoc committee, is scheduled to be sent out for parental approval Jan. 19.

To make sure the proposed plan is adopted, students should lobby in favor of it over the interim break. A favorable vote by the parents would be a big victory for the concept of student self-determination, which received a major setback when the Regents decided Saturday to suspend certain student-fee funded programs.

Goodbye Bill

Bill Smitherman's by-line has appeared in **The Daily Nebraskan** hundreds of times since he began writing for the newspaper in 1968. Bill, who graduates this semester to enter the Navy, ends his career on this newspaper today with a page one story on married students and his regular column on this page.

It has been quite a career. During his seven semesters on the newspaper, Bill has demonstrated his versatile talents by being a reporter, news editor, copy editor, columnist and entertainment reviewer. He has seen the newspaper grow in stature. And he has been an important part of the newspaper's growth and success.

It is a sad day for **The Daily Nebraskan** because Bill Smitherman is leaving us. But he is leaving us a good tradition of journalism to follow.

Gary Seacrest



bill smitherman

The memories of time

This will be a short column, but today I was wondering how many sheets of paper I've put through this typewriter. My last day of working here brings up the old memories and reflections.

There are a number of inches in old **Daily Nebraskans** with my by-line, but they don't really tell the story. More goes into any paper than print can ever show.

But my typewriter has been good and it's only broken down a couple of times. The staff has never quit. Even when the paper was closed down, the staff bounced back to cover President Nixon last January or the student strike in May, 1970.

Many dedicated people have stained the keys of this machine. The keys are faded and ink stained now, but as the machine shows signs of age, the

newspaper gets younger. It's one of the paradoxes of time that static things grow old and dynamic ones stay young.

But it's not bad to look back. It sometimes helps to put the time in perspective and give a person a sense of where he is going.

Seven semesters ago, when I was a green staff member, the paper was well written, but it was radical. **The Daily Nebraskan** contained more opinion than fact and everyone knew it.

But years of fingers across these keys have seen the words change. The paper has moved from radical opinion to real news and it has been a fine metamorphosis to see.

Now we are in a time when student activities of all kinds are continually under fire. And there is at least one example to counter the attacks.

The growth and change of **The Daily Nebraskan** has shown that students can control their own affairs and do a good job of it. There are bound to be a few failures, but the successes outweigh them.

I've been proud to be able to see the **Nebraskan** transformation from close up.

There have been many people involved and memories to last a lifetime. I have learned and grown from almost every staff member and friend I have known. A list of names would be pointless. The people know who they are.

Perhaps it's fitting to end a valedictory with a benediction.

So, I will wish change for the better to the university of the seventies. And, the best of luck to all those with whom I have shared this typewriter.

GUEST Opinion

steve fowler

Can we trust the Regents with fees?

Steve Fowler is president of ASUN.

During the recent controversies on student fees, the question has been raised "Are elected student representatives responsible enough to allocate student fees?" It seems time that someone asked the question "Is the Board of Regents responsible enough to be trusted with student fees?" An answer to this question might best be found by analyzing the actions at last Saturday's Regents meeting.

At this meeting, the Board debated the selection of architects for University buildings. The debate seemed to center upon who was getting more architectural contracts, Lincoln or Omaha firms. It was not until the Board retreated from public view into executive session that the matter was resolved. Does it make sense to have men who are so concerned about patronage ruling on priorities for the student union? (One hopeful outcome of the debate was Regent Moylan admitting that maybe he didn't have a conscience.)

In other action, the Board authorized salary increases for the football coaches that ranged from 5.5 per cent to 14 per cent. Not only do these seem inequitable when compared to the other pay raises for state employees but these raises appear to be in direct contradiction to President Nixon's program of economic restraint. Should men who would act against the wishes of the President of the United States be trusted with appropriations for the campus newspaper?

Finally, there is the matter of Regent Koefoot's anti-fee resolution. It appears that Koefoot's goal is to remove controversy from the University because it can sometimes prove embarrassing for the Board of Regents. Koefoot does not seem to understand that controversy is essential to the academic community as well as a necessary element in any free society.

It is significant that the opposition to the Time-Out Conference on Human Sexuality and the Birth Control Handbook was almost totally from outside the University community. This is most obvious in the case of the handbook.

Over 8,000 copies of the book have been distributed on campus since last spring. Many University administrators and the distributors of the books

stated that they had not heard of any complaints about the book until the matter was brought before the Regents at the November meeting. A survey in Cather Hall, where books had been distributed to all residents, indicated that only five percent of the students objected to the distribution of the booklets.

The Regents seem to be establishing themselves and outstate opinion as the judges of what is appropriate to be discussed at the University. The Board seems all too willing to sacrifice academic freedoms for political ambitions. Could one allow men such as these to decide which speakers should be allowed on campus?

If last Saturday's meeting is any indication, it seems a student would be a fool to trust the Board of Regents with his student fees.

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