

'For you I die . . .'

An assistant principal at Beecher District High School in Flint, Mich., found a solution to society's failure to achieve racial harmony. Four years after becoming a teacher, Paul Cabell Jr. left only a note explaining why he chose to take his own life.

On the last day of Cabell's life, Feb. 24, he expressed great dismay concerning the situation in which he found himself. In his words, "I am weary of trying to bring insensitive trainers, also known as teachers, a curriculum—old or new—which does not attack the major problems of socialization of students and parents too busy making a living to live and understand together. It is more than a one-man job." Cabell's colleagues described him as a dedicated

teacher and school administrator. He was in charge of student discipline at Beecher High. Beecher District High School has 1,000 pupils, 65 per cent of them white.

Cabell, on the day of his death, was attempting to deal with clashes between white and black students. Even on Feb. 24, there were some incidents marring the peace at Beecher High.

In his note to the Beecher community, Cabell continued: "I am a leader, but I can not march alone. To all those black students who worked hard at bringing sense to the errant and foolish brothers and sisters at Beecher, thanks for your efforts, I appreciated them." "To the white students, I commend you for keeping your cool as long as you did. Tolerance and patience be yours forever."

"To the vast majority of black students who did not take a stand, but let a few hotheads and several others turn your mind away from what it's all about, I say it is for you that I die."

"I die to emphasize to you and all minority people who ever dreamed to be free that it can only come through working together. It seems to me there is no other way for me to get your attention."

Paul L. Cabell Jr. has become a martyr. He has become a symbol for many people, oppressed and free, so that all may one day be free.

Anyone hearing of the story of the life and death of Paul L. Cabell Jr. must be in some way touched. At one time or another, everyone is made aware of man's inhumanity to man.

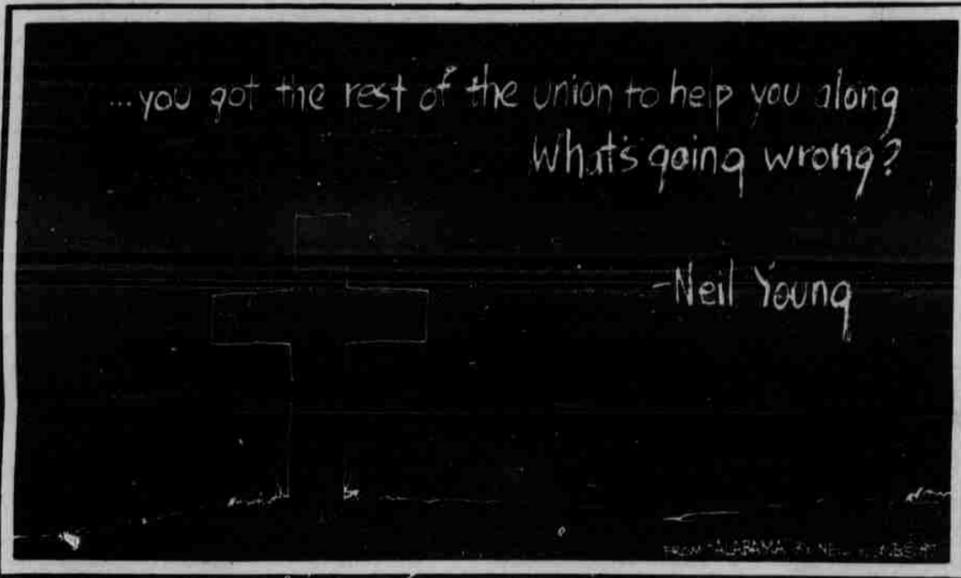
The inhumanity that surrounded Cabell was too great for him to bear. It became his cross.

For the moment, we may hope that the death of Paul L. Cabell Jr. becomes a symbol in the hearts of many, a symbol to make people realize their blind prejudices and discard them.

Just as Martin Luther King, Paul L. Cabell Jr. had a dream. It is up to every individual to help that dream come true.

Barry Pilger

editorial



The 1972 student government elections ought to set a record for disinterest and apathy among the students. A whole two dozen people showed up Tuesday night at a widely-publicized ASUN presidential candidate debate at Schramm Hall.

People are past being fed up with student government, and are sitting back in mute acquiescence, laboring under the convenient but erroneous assumption that things cannot get any better, so why try?

This year can be termed a watershed year. How people choose to exercise the franchise will set the stage for campus government to come.

What confronts us now are very real issues and profound questions of scope and structure of student government itself. I speak of the proposed new ASUN constitution. It is in part a measure of ASUN's current ineffectiveness and snobbish parochiality that few people have even heard of a new constitution, much less know what is in it.

In essence, the present 35 senate seats would be reduced to a smaller body of 15, with executive offices to be abolished. The chairperson would be hand-picked from among the 15. The size reduction would make things more manageable and efficient, but there is a threat of tyranny, as ASUN presidential candidate Steve Christensen recently pointed out. If this is the point, why not simplify things further and reduce to 10 or 5, or even install a solitary dictator? Are we not sacrificing representativeness and diversity of opinion when we lower the number of elected representatives? Furthermore, 15 would make it far easier for one political party to dominate, with only eight needed for a majority.

Also to be considered is the absence of separation of powers among the three

branches of government with this new constitution. The judicial branch is a creature of the chairperson, members of the Student Court being appointed by him alone. The executive and legislative branches end up virtually synonymous, with the chairperson exercising stranglehold control over task forces and committees, and the board itself wielding enormous influence over the Council on Student Life (CSL).

Equally significant is that the chairperson is to be elected from among the original group of 15. Gone would be the accountability and checks and balances that go along with letting the University community, itself, decide who should be their president.

This chosen one could easily set him/her self up as a virtual dictator, violating the will of the people and beholden to no one except the 14 other people who elected him/her.

The All University Party (AUP) has endorsed the proposed new constitution without qualification. The document reeks of the influence of its presidential candidate, Roy Baldwin. Adding support are Bruce Beecher and his Student Cause Party. Bill Schwartzkopf's Concerned Students Party has yet to make up its mind. The only group to come out against the constitution is the Student Interest Party (SIP), lead by ASUN Senator Steve Christensen.

Also on the ballot is the Nebraska Public Interest Research Group (NEBPIRG) proposition, allowing for the creation and initially forced funding of a Naderesque public advocacy group financed by a fee of \$1.50 per student per semester. As the wording on the ballot states, the student automatically would fork over the money at tuition time, and four weeks into the semester would have to trudge over to the

administration building to obtain a refund if he did not wish to participate.

Now NEBPIRG is all very well for the people who want it, but a person who does not wish to subsidize yet another item should not have to pay for it in the first place, much less go through the hassle of getting a refund. While all four presidential candidates favor NEBPIRG in principle, only candidate Christensen has come out for funding a la PACE, with the original choice left up to the individual student.

So where finally, do the candidates stack up?

For president, the obvious choice is Steve Christensen, whose background, integrity, and courageous stands against the proposed constitution and mandatory student NEBPIRG funding, for voluntary ASUN fees and polling places in the dorms, place him far above the others.

For first vice president, Sam Brower is both the most likable and most accomplished of the group. Running on the SC ticket, he serves this year with dedication on the Inter-Fraternity Council and the ASUN Legislative Liaison Committee.

For second vice president, Doug Voegler would serve as a valuable voice for conservative and moderate students. His past work with the Regents' Committee on PACE, as a World in Revolution Steering Committee member, and as new UPC Talks and Topics Committee chairman establish him as an industrious and exceptionally well-qualified person. Voegler is opposed to the new constitution.

It is evident that if we carefully consider each candidate and issue on the individual qualifications, merits, and implications involved, the real winners March 22 will be a group that has not won in a long, long time—we, the student body.

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vihstadt
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