



The end

Veni, vidi, vici . . . not really.

The job of Daily Nebraskan editor-in-chief has come to an end for this journalist. As a closing editorial gesture, it seems only fitting to comment now on everything that I may or may not have overlooked.

A number of interested parties have queried me about the best news story of the semester. Instead of citing a particular story, I have decided to comment on each issue that I found to be significant.

* * *

The entire question of student fees, due to its magnitude deserves first mention. It appears to have no immediate solution. Chancellor Zumberge appears not to be in the business of funding student organizations in the future so the fee "question" remains just that.

The most plausible solution would be funding the Nebraska Union operations, the University Health Center, Recreation and Intramurals and the Student Activities Office directly with tuition. Other activities such as the Daily Nebraskan, Union programs and ASUN should be given a two to three year option on the current fee schedule, in hopes that in that period of time each would find an alternate means to financial stability.

In that time, the Daily Nebraskan could fund its own way with advertising revenue (yes Virginia, the Rag has had lots more ads this semester, but it also has had an unprecedented amount of news, too). Union programs should become responsive only to students willing to finance them. This may mean reducing the number of full-time program assistants working with the Union Program Office.

ASUN should creatively and immediately get out of the program business and cease funding of other campus organizations. Then it could concentrate on improving the institution through rigorous and sometimes forceful committee work.

* * *

Aha! . . . The Board of Regents.
What can I say that has not already been said. Well, regents such as the inimitable Robert Prokop,

MD, Ph.D., really don't deserve to be where they now are. Prokop represents more of a threat than a promise to the entire institution. Even disregarding the obviously questionable academic ethics he now professes, Prokop has contradicted himself too much. Administrators now spend so much time watching out for his next unpredictable move that they scarcely have time to run the institution. 'Nuff said about Regent Bob.

The rest of the board, I have to commend for diligence. Overlooking some dubious stands taken by Regents Moylan and Koefoot, the members are indeed committed to the University and its growth. Amen.

* * *

One of the significant items all semester has happened recently. The University Governance Committee is finally presenting its proposed set of by-laws. They were assigned the task nearly a year ago, and the fruits of many long hours of labor are now forthcoming.

One slight drawback. After 12 months of drafting and committee work, they will only be available for public hearing two days, Monday and Tuesday of next week—right in the midst of finals and hour exams for most students. Copies of the draft are still amendable, and input from the whole community is needed.

* * *

The Bert Evans fiasco ranks high in news this semester too. His apparent subjection to harassment by colleagues for no valid academic reason is most regrettable.

The Daily Nebraskan has learned that the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) had a representative sit in on all of the committee hearings concerning the case. The AFT observer's conclusion was that if anyone was in the right, it was Evans, and that his academic work was certainly credible. From the evidence I have, that is an appropriate conclusion.

One big "bravo" also goes to Loyd Fischer of the agricultural economics department for his ability to "tell it like it is." His statements to the press concerning the entire Evans matter were most authentic, and not tainted by any petty gripes or whims. Thanks for being truthful, Loyd Fischer.

* * *

Visitation in the 24-hour sense may be far off for the UNL campus, but a victory was scored this semester surprising lots of people, including students.

Above all, the students who have weathered the storm of imprisonment by the archaic visitation policy for the past five years deserve credit.

Realizing that the construction of "degree factory domiciles" was a mistake in the first place, the regents shouldn't take it out on students. But it looks like that will be happening for the next few years.

And now, a prospectus for the future of the University. Under the tough administrative control of James Zumberge, the quality of UNL academics can only improve. But not until its students open up their minds.

When faced with disagreement, most of the students I dealt with interpreted my disagreement as animosity. When I disagreed with someone, more than likely they ended up hating me one way or another. If this type of narrowmindedness perpetuates itself the way it appears to be now, then the entire concept of freedom will need constant nurturing and attention. Usually it was the extremely opinionated people who could not handle diverse opinion. The very liberal and the very conservative couldn't handle it. Too bad.

* * *

Minus any cynicism, the semester as editor-in-chief of the sixth largest newspaper in the state was profitable. A most talented and cooperative staff paved the way for a great semester, and a fine salute to the end of my five-year academic career.

If I had a college career to do over again, I think I would probably go Greek, try to pull good grades and gun for the meaningless honor of being named an Innocent. Things just aren't the same as when I was a freshman back in 1967.

Barry Pilger

editorial