

## Student regent

A proposal to add a student to the membership of the NU Board of Regents is currently stalled in the Unicameral's Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee. The measure deserves committee approval so that it can be advanced to the floor of the Legislature for consideration.

LB323, introduced by State Sen. Richard Marvel of Hastings, calls for a constitutional amendment to be submitted to Nebraska voters. If approved, the amendment would add a student position to the current eight-member Board of Regents. This ninth seat could be held by as many as three full-time NU students, under the provisions of Marvel's bill.

At a public committee hearing on LB323 last week, Marvel testified that the existence of a student regent would "encourage students to work within the institution." A student regent would give other regents "a point of view which may not be there" now, Marvel correctly pointed out.

ASUN second vice president Michele Gagne, in her testimony before the committee last week, stated the most important reason

for implementing the student regent idea. "Major (Board of Regents) decisions are not made in public meeting," she said. She explained that the student advisory board which currently confers with regents prior to their monthly meetings has little influence on the regents because the advisory board doesn't "have access to information." Hopefully, the regents would find it more difficult to act without informing NU's student population if there was a student regent in their midst.

Theoretically, a student regent would guarantee that NU students, who are the primary consumers of the University's "product," would be represented in the policy-making processes of the institution. Indeed, they would be participants in decision making.

Some Nebraskans fear that students are trying to take over the University administration and that the student regent proposal is the first step in that direction. Student proponents of LB323 never have made any statements which would support such fears. Several students have said that the first priority concern of any student regent should be the improvement of the quality of University teaching—hardly a revolutionary idea. Campus and student life issues also are seen as possible major concerns of a student

regent and it is obvious that a student would have more first hand knowledge of dormitory rules, tuition policies and other student matters than does the current membership of the Board of Regents.

Nebraska Wesleyan University (NWU) now has student membership on its governing board. In the view of many NWU students, as well as some administrators, the "student governor" has increased rapport between students and the governing board at that school.

The NU Board of Regents currently is composed of individuals who have little or no direct contact with the campus environment or the student population at the University. As Marvel has pointed out, the regents are "not present consumers of education." Their professional commitments simply do not allow individual regents much time for interaction with students. A yearly dinner with the UNL Innocents and Mortar Boards obviously does not fulfill the regents' need for contact with students.

LB323 should be advanced to the floor. And the Unicameral should then approve the measure for a citizens' referendum. University students deserve the chance for better and more direct representation on the Board of Regents.

Tom Lansworth

## God created man, solitaire and politicians

With today's politicians constantly in the limelight (more preferably they should be in our headlights, so we could keep on driving), it is amazing that no one before me has written a piece explaining the origins of politicians. Below, in simple question and answer form, are those origins.

### Why did God create man?

Before there was anything else, there was God. God was alone. For a while He entertained Himself by inventing and playing double solitaire, but this soon bored Him. So God created the universe and mankind to be His playthings.

Previously, God has had problems with angels who were a bit too smart for His own good. He therefore created Man so that Man was dumb. Man was not smart enough to get in His hair.

Man was also dumb enough to be fun to watch.

God was quite a buffoon and trickster. He appeared to man in all sorts of forms and disguises. (Incidentally, God appeared to Moses as a burning bush on October 31, 2000 B.C. We have commemorated this day ever since as Halloween.)

God was not a bad sort. He created Man so that Man's main purpose in life was to make love. (After all, God so loved the world that He made His only Son and where do sons come from?)

## bob russell horse sense

However, God and Man were soon in trouble. The devil, the angel God created before He was smart enough to create dumb creatures, started enticing Man and leading Man on false paths. After the devil's chicanery, Man thought that he too was smart. So God ended up with a creature who was dumb and arrogant at the same time.

How did all this nonsense lead to politicians?

After watching Man as both a dumb and arrogant creature, God started enjoying himself again. He let the devil go on with his handiwork and created two fundamental laws of the universe.

Law one: As a man is dumber, so shall he be more arrogant in direct proportion to the square of his dumbness.

Law two: As a man is arrogant, so shall his wind-baggedness and belligerence increase in direct proportion to the cube to his arrogance. With no further explanation, we can see that politicians are simply the dumbest and most arrogant men on earth.

When did God pull off his biggest trick?

The one known as God's Son is His biggest trick. His Son is the greatest politician in all history. He offered the people both love and fire. Nevertheless, He gained more constituents than any other politician in either ancient or recent history. However, toward the end of his career, He went beyond His limits and His constituents crucified Him. These days we have less crude methods for getting politicians out of office.

Of late, politicians have offered their constituents love or fire, but not both (with less short-range success than God's Son). The major politician in our country today has had only limited success with fire.

Is there no hope for having decent politicians?

There is only slight hope. There are some rare individuals who do not conform to God's two fundamental laws completely. A few men are somewhat intelligent and extremely arrogant at the same time.

We should search out these men to be our politicians. Unfortunately, this law can also vary in the opposite way, that is, some men's dumbness is way out of proportion with their arrogance. (In our own state, for example, we have Sen. Roman Hruska.)

What do these new and profound insights into politics say about the upcoming ASUN elections?

Unfortunately for the student body we have had more than our share of Roman Hruskas in student government. (This includes the quality of mediocrity, although I have yet to derive the empirical relation between arrogance, belligerence, dumbness and mediocrity.)

This election looks like a re-run (re-runs being in vogue in America these days—this tendency commonly referred to as conservatism) of past elections. The only hope the voters have is if they can get a friend or relative elected to office, they too can get in on all the goodies (although the ASUN goodies are not bounteous, this fact perhaps accounting for the out of proportion dumbness of ASUN people).

What can an intelligent person do about politicians?

About all an intelligent person can do is sit back and enjoy the fun (as our Greater Example does). Admittedly, politicians get out of hand quite often, insofar as they promote looting, pillaging, death and other things. The only answer here is prayer, offering God better entertainment than he is already getting from the politicians.

## Greeks want dialogue, not cheap potshots

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by Ken Cobb

It has become popular in recent years to malign Greek systems about various campuses and to predict their immediate downfall. Too often the tremendous by-products offered to a college by a strong Greek system are ignored by those who are not a part of it. Yet nationwide membership continues to grow steadily at between five and eight per cent a year, and there are good reasons for this.

Quite simply, I believe that the average Greek gets more out of the University because he puts more into it. The opportunity in a house to know many people closely, to lead, to get involved, and to develop one's self-potential exists to an extent that is more difficult to achieve in other living units. The sense of identity provided by the group has had a positive effect on many lives; nationwide a Greek student is more likely to obtain a degree than his non-Greek counterpart.

At UNL, Greeks participate in intramurals, University activities, and even vote in campus elections in greater proportion to the total student population. The impact is unmistakable. For instance, how many people know that 72 per cent of the U.S. Congress consists of former Greeks, that 80 per cent of the presidents of the 500 largest American corporations were once fraternity members, or that 90 per cent of alumni contributions to UNL come from former members of the houses here?

Man non-members like to perceive the system as consisting merely of "Freddie Fraternity Rat" and "Susie Sorority." If this type of stereotyping was ever true at all, it belonged to a different era than the 1970's. Outside of some overzealous younger members who overdo the Greek identity bit, on this campus it is usually impossible to tell who is a Greek and who isn't, which is as it should be.

## suggestion box

The discrimination question is being overdone at this time. There is still room for much improvement, but several of UNL fraternities have actively sought to pledge blacks in the last year, which represents a marked change since 1969. When minority group students decide to join, an evergrowing portion of the houses will await them with open arms.

Physical hazing almost has been and should be totally eliminated from the system, although some verbal fun-poking is directed at new members in every spirited peer group. Most of the fraternities have replaced hell weeks with house work projects, campus speakers and other projects.

At its best, the Greek house can be a dynamic learning environment for the people-oriented individual. The system isn't for everybody and does not claim to be, but it is a vitally important living alternative on any rounded university campus. All too often, however, the most ardent supporters of campus freedom would like to deny the Greeks' right to exist, as if the houses represented some sort of threat to the other students. Perhaps in this area we need more meaningful dialogue and fewer cheap shots.