

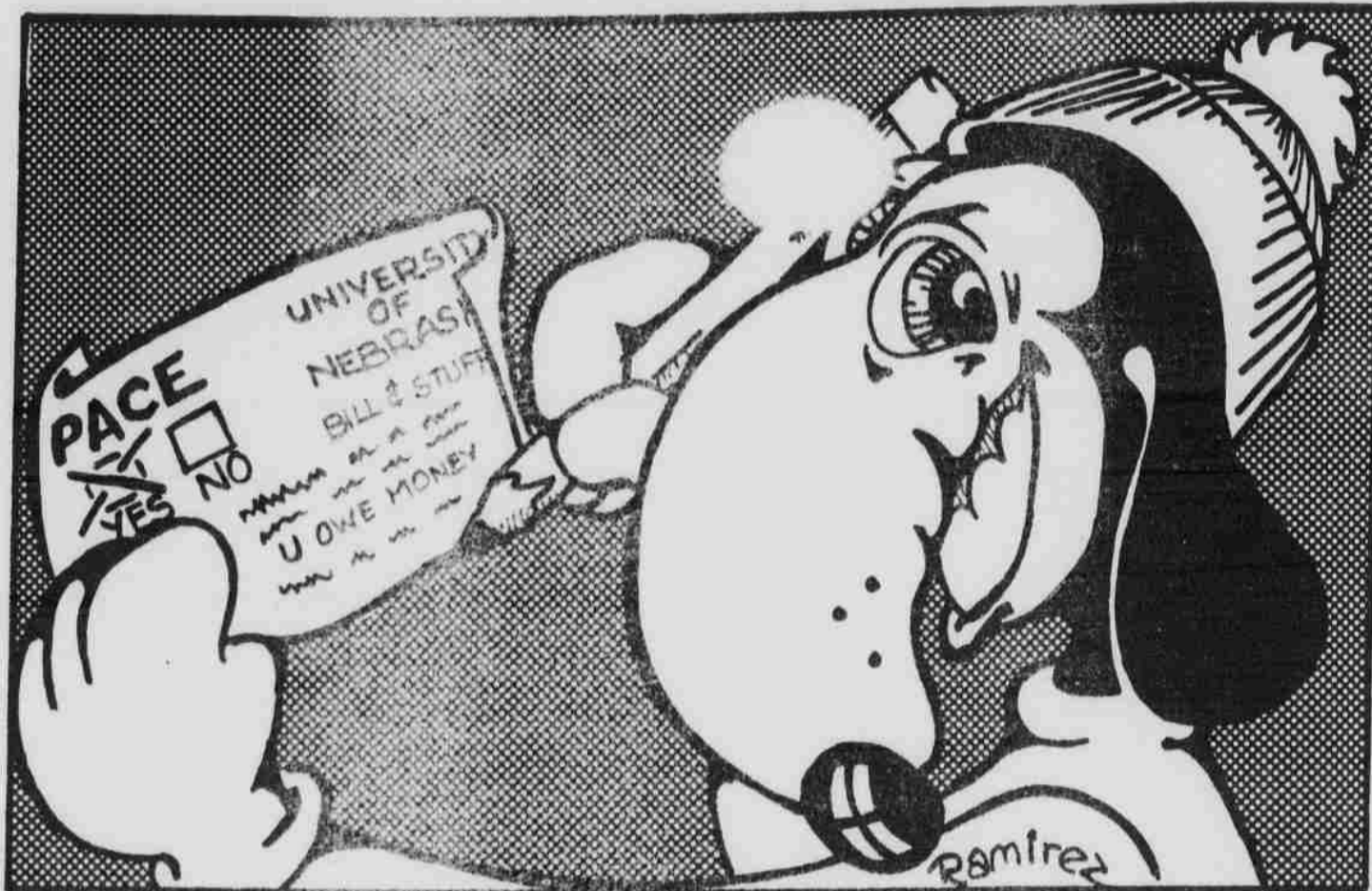
## Back Pace

This is the fifth semester that the Daily Nebraskan has urged students to contribute to PACE. PACE stands for "Program for Active Commitment to Education" and is a low-income scholarship program voluntarily financed by students.

In past years there was talk of students helping other students and of opening avenues so more low-income students could attend the University. This year those statements are still true, but the need is even greater. Federal cutbacks have reduced the financial aid available to students. PACE could make up part of the difference if all UNL students participate. True, the possible \$65,000 that could be raised through PACE won't come close to the \$745,000 cut in federal aid, but it would be a beginning.

There are those who say they cannot afford to give \$3.50 to PACE. In a few cases this may be true. But for the vast majority it is not. How much is \$3.50? It won't buy a pair of pants, a sweater, a hard-bound textbook. It will barely pay for three mixed drinks at local bars.

It seems those are things that could be put aside to help someone go to college.



## Two steps out of the dark

At last the Interfraternity Council (IFC) has taken two steps out of the dark ages of pledge training. The IFC has re-established the pledge education contract and has made an effort to inform pledges of their rights.

By re-establishing the pledge education

contract, the council has tried to insure that pledges will not be harassed by actives. That is the way it should be. Pledges are not slaves or toys, they are people and should be treated as such.

The IFC also acted wisely in acquainting pledges with their rights during Rush Week.

These actions focus the responsibility for enforcing the policies on the IFC. The council's officers must act vigorously to

assure that the houses honor the contract. They also should inform the pledges of how to report violations.

It is hoped that the IFC will not need to enforce the contract. But to hope that some houses will not mistreat pledges is like hoping Israel and the Arabs can live together peacefully.

Michael (O.J.) Nelson

## Marxist reforms prove Allende's tragic flaw

While this columnist joins many others in deploring the violent and untimely death last week of Chilean President Salvador Allende Gossens, it is somewhat more difficult to lament his demise as Chile's leader.

Allende, a physician, squeezed into office in 1970 with a mere 36.2 per cent of the popular vote. The rest went to two other candidates—a moderate and a conservative. While just more than a third of the voters opted for Allende, the world's first freely elected Marxist president interpreted his victory as a miraculous mandate for revolutionary reform.

Although the opposition-controlled congress was able to arrest or impede many of Allende's socialist schemes, the legislators could not prevent him from initiating the basic policies that have, in the past three years, brought chaos and misery to the Chilean people.

Allende's efforts to transform his country into a plebeian paradise have wrought havoc with the previously healthy economy. In 1971, his regime's first year, the cost of living rose 22 per cent. 1972 saw an inflation rate of 163 per cent, and so far this year that rate stands at 300 per cent. The Chicago *Sun-Times* recently reported that chickens were selling for \$5 each.

Deficits replaced surpluses in the budget as production and exports fell and import needs rose. Strikes paralyzed the land as workers' wages failed to keep pace with inflation and increased taxes were levied to finance the regime's social revisionism.

Although elected democratically, the Allende administration made a mockery of the democracy that made its existence possible. Martial law was imposed with frightening frequency to silence demonstrations. Newspapers critical of the regime, such as *El Mercurio* and *Tribuna*, were harassed and hindered economically. By the end of 1972, the administration had

filed more than 120 lawsuits against newspeople and publications. Unfriendly editors were thrown in jail without a trial. Radio and television stations were seized, allegedly for aiding citizen understanding of Allende's point of view.

Thus, like Communist and Socialist governments everywhere, the Allende administration labored under the delusion that it knew more than the people it ruled and was beyond reproach.

Crisis upon crisis prompted repeated purges of the president's cabinet. The endless game of musical ministers, however, was a cruel travesty. It was cosmetic and never indicated compromise on Allende's part.

The coup last week signaled the first break since 1931 in Chile's peaceful tradition of choosing its leaders through the political process. The country has been known, along with Uruguay, as an exception in a continent predisposed to military takeovers.

What happened cannot be viewed, as some assert, as a brutal grab for power by the Chilean armed forces. Instead it was a last resort—a manifestation that Chileans had finally had enough.

john vihstadt  
**different drummer**

There is every reason to believe that once order and calm are restored, Chile will heal itself by making a smooth transition back to democratic civilian rule.

