

Great Scott

NU President D.B. Varner has been called one of the state's most formidable politicians. Gov. J.J. Exon, riding an unprecedented first term popularity wave, must be one of the others. Now it appears that the two, buttressed by their political allies, are moving toward a confrontation.

The battle concerns the defunct Hiram Scott College campus in Scottsbluff. Exon vetoed a legislative proposal last spring that would have allowed the University to acquire the campus. When the bill first was presented, the Board of Regents proposed that the campus, if acquired, be used for rural health, agriculture and continuing education programs.

Now Varner is on the campaign trail, calling for acceptance of the gift campus. Varner has said the University needs to place more emphasis on agriculture and on solving rural health problems and he seems to think Hiram Scott is the place to do it.

His recommendations differ from those of a special legislative study committee. In a report issued Sept. 28, the committee said the acquisition of the property is not warranted by the scope and significance of the programs currently proposed for the campus. It also said the programs planned for the defunct liberal arts college could be undertaken at existing institutions of higher learning.

One member of that committee, Board of Regents Chairman Robert Koefoot, has urged the University to follow the recommendations. Koefoot has said he favors the proposed

acquisition, but thinks it best the University not act contrary to the study committee's dictates.

Varner's motives in pushing for the acquisition of the college are laudable. It seems he is trying to better the image of the University in the eyes of Panhandle residents, something which is sorely needed. But the result of acquiring the campus would be like tying a millstone around the University's neck.

As Exon noted in his veto message, the campus would be a gift to the University but would cost millions of dollars to staff and operate. One cannot help but wonder how disposed the Legislature would be to financing another campus at a time when enrollment at UNL and other educational institutions is dropping.

The Board of Regents are empowered to accept the campus without legislative approval. But while the board voted unanimously last spring to accept the gift, it should reconsider doing so. The legislative study committee has said "no," the Governor has given the project a "thumbs down" and Western Nebraska residents of towns who have private or community colleges have opposed the idea, fearing a new campus will siphon potential students from their schools.

To accept the campus would be a mistake. It would create bad feelings, strain an already inadequate University budget and in the future could become an expensive shrine to short-sightedness.

Michael (C.J.) Nelson

Ron's rhythm route pregnant with risks

Candice Kisse, a 23-year-old unwed mother-to-be, is planning to file a paternity suit against California Gov. Ronald Reagan. She's charging him with misguided paternalism.

The wrath of Miss Kisse, a curvaceous blonde, stems from Reagan's unique method of birth control which he prescribes for all young people prior to marriage.

The best method of birth control, Reagan says, is just "shaking your head."

"Wow!" says Miss Kisse in the affidavit she's preparing. "When I heard of The Ronald Reagan Birth Control Method, I really dug it."

"So when Freddie—that's the boyfriend, Fred J. Crumm—comes to pick me up, right away I start shaking my head. Up, down, up, down."

"What are you doing that for?" says Freddie. "I haven't asked you anything yet."

"I'm just taking precautions," says I, "in case you do."

"Well, for some reason, that gets Freddie all excited and the next thing I know we're up at his place."

arthur hoppe
innocent
bystander

"Are you sure you've taken all the proper precautions?" says Freddie, who is not only a perfect gentleman but wishes to remain a bachelor.

"I don't know," I say. "The Governor's instructions weren't too clear." So to be doubly positive I begin shaking my head sideways. Back and forth, back and forth.

"Now you change your mind?" says Freddie, getting mad.

"No," I say, "but a girl can't be too safe."

"Could you hold your head still a minute?" he says.

"Not on your life," says I.

"Well, Freddie never calls me again. And four weeks later there I am, in the doctor's office. 'Doc,' says I nervously, 'am I ...'"

And he shakes his head. Up, down, up, down.

"I can't be," says I. "I did that, just like the Governor said."

"Better you should learn karate," says the Doc. "Ladies have been shaking their heads for a million years with, at best, only mixed results."

"So I'm suing. What gripes me is I hear the Governor, when he was a bachelor in Hollywood, never even tried shaking his head once."

"And there he is, going around prescribing a historically unsound, clinically unproven, personally untested method of birth control. It just shows you that politicians should stick to what they know—politics."

"If they start talking morality instead, take precautions. Shake your head. Back and forth, back and forth, back and forth ..."

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