

## Toss the rascals out!

"The first vice president (of ASUN) shall have the following powers: ...to remove, by decree, any member of the senate upon three unexcused absences." -ASUN Constitution, Article VII, Section 2.

Friday the Daily Nebraskan reported that eight ASUN senators have accumulated three or more unexcused absences. The senators are Jane Bunting, Rob Christofferson, Karl Cochrane, Todd Patterson, Steve Shaneyfelt, Ruth Spencer, Laurie Stiebler and Brian Waid.

ASUN First Vice President Mark Hoeger says it is up to him to decide what action will be taken against those persons, but the ASUN constitution proves the decision is a simple one—remove the eight from office.

The constitution leaves little room for doubt that removal is the answer. Although it says the first vice president shall "have the power" to remove, the intent of the phrase "have the power" is clear. It means "must." The same phrase is used to describe all

the duties demanded of the executives.

If Hoeger is to uphold the ASUN constitution as he vowed to do when he took the oath of office, he must remove all eight of the senators.

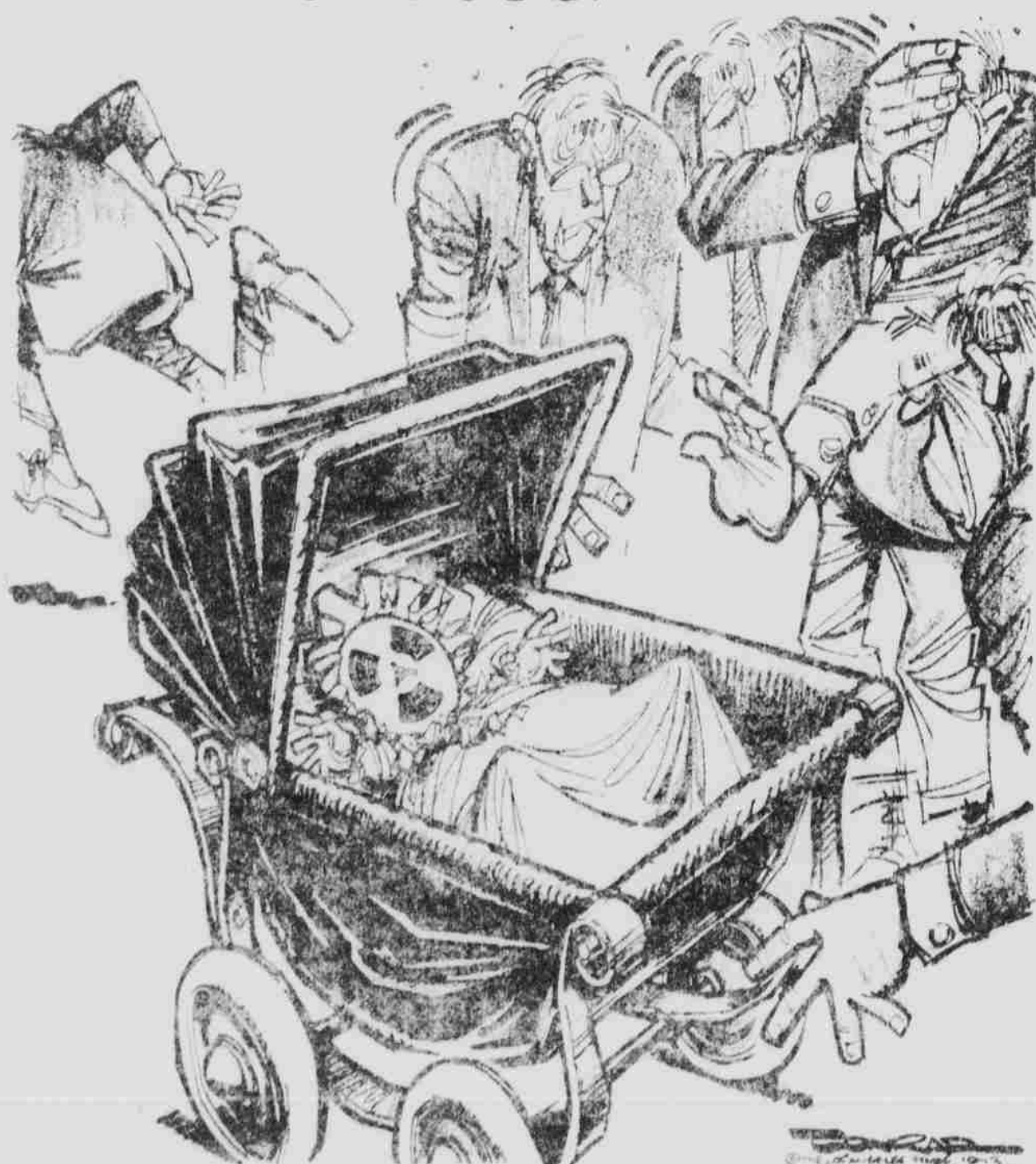
But there might be reasons behind his reluctance to do so. Hoeger was elected with the "Get off Your Apathy" slate—so were seven of the eight senators who have not been fulfilling their obligations. It is interesting that the same persons who admonished the student body to start caring now seem not to care either.

Hoeger also might be afraid of creating political enemies. Some student politicians say he is considering an ASUN presidential bid this spring.

But no matter what the reason, Hoeger must get off his apathy and remove the eight from office. An administration is judged by its record; one of the categories examined is how well it upheld the constitution.

Michael (O.J.) Nelson

### ROSE MARY'S BABY



Distributed by Los Angeles Times SYNDICATE

## to the editor

Dear editor,

It is unfortunate that many students have regarded the interview with ASUN President Ann Henry (Daily Nebraskan, Nov. 7) as further evidence of ASUN's inability to accomplish anything.

When interviewed about ASUN's effect on campus, Henry seemed to be at a loss as to its accomplishments. Further, when questioned if there had been any change in ASUN, Henry replied that currently things were stagnant.

Such is not the case.

In an attempt to provide legal counsel to students, ASUN has instituted the students' lawyer program. The format of the PACE portion of the tuition statement was changed. ASUN has supported the Law

College's improvement of their minority recruitment program.

Individuals from ASUN and RHA have filed suit against the university over visitation and alcohol policies. Budget appropriations were handled responsibly and expediently (completed in October this year, January last year). And ASUN has established a liaison program with living units on campus to provide for optimum student input.

The senate is interested currently in academic quality, student evaluation of faculty, the intercampus bussing problem, the library situation, UNL Infant and Child Care Center support, the Associated Student Coop, the parking problem, the university's role in the environment and much more. Action is being taken in the senate's meeting and through its committees.

Inactive? Do nothing?  
Not at all.

Doug Johnson

## Use the system; rebuke awaits you

The past week has given us our first opportunity to view the reaction of the Board of Regents and the UNL administration toward the join Residence Hall Association-ASUN law suit. And the reaction has been far from constructive or encouraging.

UNL Chancellor James Zumberge, in an address to the ASUN senate Wednesday evening, applauded the lawsuit as an effort by students to work through the system to gain redress for their grievances.

But at the same time, he cautioned students, "if the lawsuit fails, it will close the door for awhile." This suggests that the Regents would not consider any liberalization of dormitory policies in the foreseeable future, if the court ruled in their favor. A student asked Zumberge if this should be considered revenge.

## john michael o'shea distant thunder

The chancellor was not able to give a satisfactory response. It seemed he was trying to implant the rejection of future attempts as a foregone conclusion in the minds of student leaders. This left Zumberge praising students for working within the system and yet asking them to patiently endure while the Regents punish them for working within the system.

The chancellor also cast doubt on the legitimacy of student government and its apparent lack of a representative power base, implying that some of the regents may believe "student government is not representative of the student body."

Unfortunately, Zumberge is right again, and this tends to cast doubt on any ASUN effort to make changes from within the system.

Students at this university have been quite patient. They have tried to find avenues of change from within the system. But it seems that their alternatives are being narrowed drastically.

If the Board of Regents refuses to give elected student representatives the consideration their offices demand, they are doing little more than forcing students to bypass their representatives and consider new methods.

The abandonment of what will not work and the adoption of methods that may—would Zumberge, consider this revolution or evolution?

In what was billed as a dialogue between Regent Ed Schwartzkopf and dorm residents, it became painfully evident how far apart regent and student concerns are. The dialogue was transformed into a fiery debate with Schwartzkopf, in effect, challenging the students to change their minds.

The meeting saw Schwartzkopf parrying questions of self-determination and student rights with comments like, "Why would you want to study with her in your room?" and "I always sleep with the bedroom door open."

For all the open-minded listening that took place there could have been two tape recorders, both set on "play."

But if these Wednesday night meetings left cause for concern, the concerns seemed realized at the regents' Student Advisory Board meeting.

The regents made little effort to disguise their displeasure over the court action by students. When the meeting began, two regents refused to discuss any matters relating to the residence halls (including capital construction) because of the litigation.

It does not seem that the regents share Zumberge's applause for this student effort to work "within the system," nor do they seem pleased when student leaders do attempt to represent real student concerns.

The dangerous motif of this brief history is an extremely low level of consideration shown student needs and concerns by the regents.

Much of the fault lies with the elected leaders themselves. If they continue to tolerate this type of treatment from regents or administrators they should be prepared to be ignored and bypassed as a channel for change.

If our existing structure of representation is to become effective, the leaders must demand the consideration their offices deserve. And if this consideration is not received, they must be prepared to respond forcefully and decisively, or accept the consequences of their bastardization of student trust.

But more central than the milquetoast approach of student government are the actions of the regents (the approval of the students' lawyer notwithstanding), which seem to prove the futility of working through channels. The question of self-determination for residence hall visitation and liquor has become nonnegotiable—not by students, but by the regents.

Zumberge made a candid and potentially prophetic statement when he said, "It always takes a crisis for us to get our heads on straight."

The apparent attitudes and action of the Board of Regents seem daily to be paving a straight and less-avoidable path toward that conflict.

It is too bad it will take a crisis.