

Tenure quotas unjust Greeks all wet; fire urged

It always has been standard procedure to blame the Legislature for the university's problems with hiring and keeping good faculty members. Salaries are pitifully low, and those faculty members who misjudged the greenness of the university's pasture are quick to find somewhere else to do their scholastic grazing.

Now the NU Board of Regents, for reasons unspecified, has laid itself open to a share of the blame.

At last Saturday's meeting, the board delayed action on NU President D.B. Varner's recommendations that tenure be granted to 154 UNL faculty members and 18 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

The board, it seems, is concerned about the percentage of tenured faculty members, especially at UNL. The regents want to put a ceiling on tenure next year (UNL Chancellor James Zumbege was directed to produce a plan limiting the number of tenured teachers at UNL to 75 per cent of those eligible) and then lower that ceiling for the next several years.

The prospect is that some good faculty members and some equally good prospects will watch the ceiling drop, cry "The sky is falling!" and take off for lands where professors are still a protected species.

A look at the tenure system and its tendency to bestow protected status on an occasional incompetent professor is certainly justified, no matter how vehemently the American Association of University Professors declares tenure to be "of cardinal and central importance to higher education in guaranteeing freedom of inquiry and discussion."

Faculty members are eligible for tenure after they have been employed full time for seven years. Those with tenure cannot be fired without cause. An estimated 73 per cent of UNL's eligible faculty members now have tenure.

But while examining tenure is justified, telling 172 faculty members that they won't be granted it because they don't fit in under a quota plan is not.

Wes Albers

Editor's note: The following is the opinion of Gerald Logan.

Wednesday evening, hundreds of Lincoln motorists were baptized by water and the spirit of mass lunacy. Yes, the fraternity boys and their sorority cohorts once again substantiated the theory that higher education doesn't necessarily produce higher intelligence.

They gathered on 16th St., on fraternity row. Buckets were filled with water; garden hoses were stretched out to the curb. Any passing vehicle became a primary target. There was no discrimination. The young and resilient were caught in the trap; so were the elderly, the businessmen, mothers and children—anyone who assumed that unmolested passage on a Lincoln public street was guaranteed by local ordinance. Unfortunately, fraternity row is an area of dual jurisdiction. The Lincoln police are in charge of the street, and Campus police officers supposedly maintain order on the adjacent property. By the time both agencies coordinate their strategy to curtail the disturbance, the damage is done, the demented humor of the kiddie crowd is gratified.

Water play

Wednesday night, the Lincoln police did arrive approximately an hour after the water play began. Traffic was detoured at the intersection of 16 and Vine Streets. The frat boys were deprived of their play toys. They were foiled this time. . .but they'll return to the curbs as they always do year after year—driven by the insane desire to make their mark upon the skulls of the world, to let all of us in the working business community know that another inconsiderate generation of fraternal mental midgets are destined to appear in our personnel offices.

Wednesday, I received a water spray through my open car window. . .a new twist to a long list of frat boy assaults. For years, I've dodged water balloons, pea-shooters, snowballs, frisbees and footballs. (Four years ago, my wife received a football directly in the side of the head as we drove through campus.)

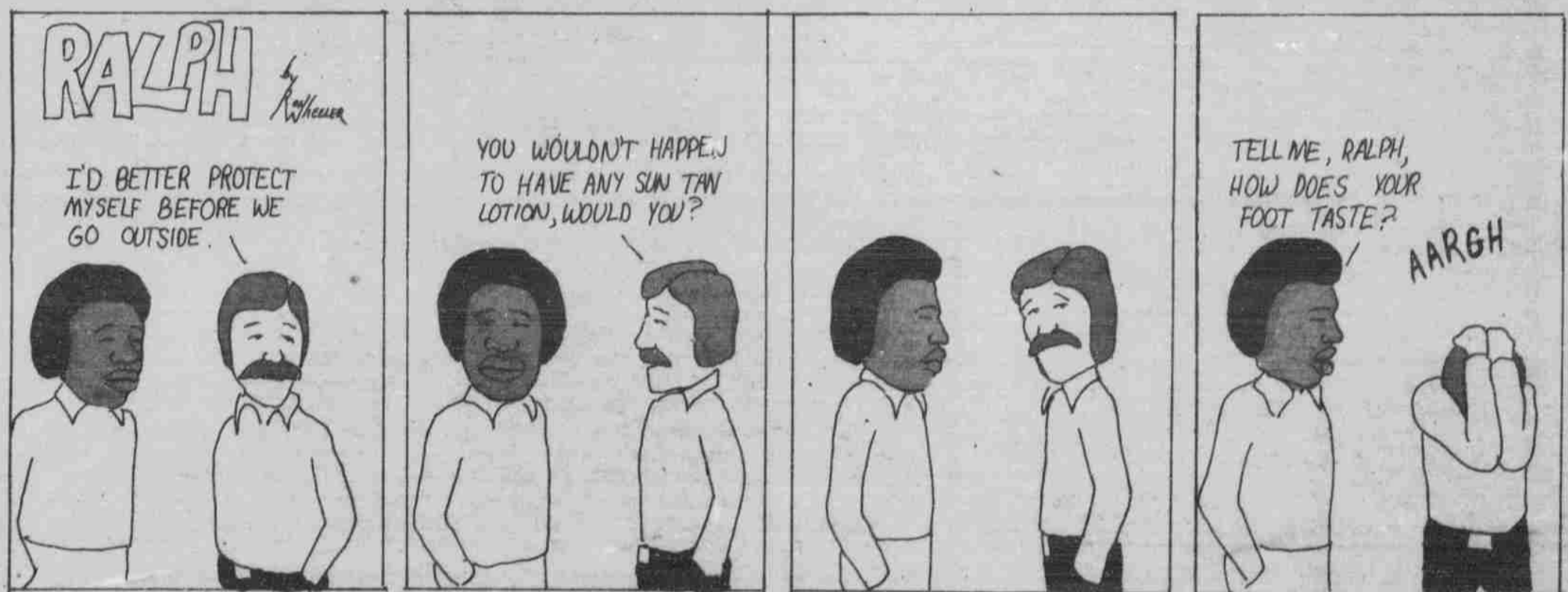
Unfortunately, as it is in most cases, someone will have to die—student or motorist—before punitive action is finally taken. When law enforcement officials have to deal with an elusive offender that escapes into the sanctuary of a fraternity, into the company of a house of fools. . .what can anyone do? Request severe punishment for the whole frat? Close 16th St.?

Human consideration

Personally, I could ask for a little more human consideration, for what it's worth. After all, that unsuspecting recipient of a "harmless" assault could be an elderly gentleman with a weak heart; a bespectacled person who could lose control of his car if he lost his glasses. . .the possibilities for tragedy are many.

guest opinion

There is one solution that could be "fun" and at the same time greatly benefit the entire Lincoln community. And here it is, boys. Control your titters and contain your drool for a second and listen. Why not see how many other fraternity houses you can burn to the ground before the opposition finally gets yours? Now doesn't that sound like fun? Try it.



Student employment troubles begin in college

For a lot of us, May means only bare, tanned maidens and brown, broad-shouldered boys, but for those who are graduating May means—"Where do I get a job?"

Unfortunately, employment prospects are so bad this year that many graduates may be still muttering that question to themselves next year.

Part of the problem, of course, is the economy. But it begins in college.

First, there is the ignorance of the student. The student who cannot tell you the name of the chief of state of Iraq also is uninformed about the employment opportunities in his or her field.

This is compounded by the many advisers who fail to let a student know just how bleak the situation is within his or her major.

A shining exception is the English department, where most advisers will paint you a picture so desolate that, in comparison, Dante's trip through hell looks like a vacation in Miami.

Many departments are not as frank, and the result is masses of students moving lemming—like from one career to another.

For example, a year or so back everyone was going into medicine. What many students were not told was that in 1974 43,000 people applied for admission to 114 medical schools which had openings for 14,763.

There have also been mass migrations of students into business and journalism.

Dean Joseph Pichler of the University of Kansas reports that the business school growth has been 50 per cent higher than that of the rest of the university. At the graduate level, enrollment is up 45 per cent.

U.S. News and World Report stated that

"Nationwide there has been a 15 per cent rise in applications to business schools."

Journalism is just as bad, with "some universities reporting enrollment jumps of 20 per cent or more."

But, of course, the big thing this year is to go into law. Indeed, it seems as if everyone is enrolling in law school.

Now, regardless of what they tell you over at the law school, the American Bar Association reports that 30,000 students will receive law degrees this year while the Labor Department estimates openings for 16,500.

Worse yet is the news that law school applications are increasing while the Labor Department reports that they don't expect the need for lawyers to rise

bruce nelson cynic's corner

above the 16,500 a year during the rest of this decade.

In psychology in 1972, there were 44,000 degrees awarded with the annual need amounting to only 4,300 positions.

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* reports that "areas where supply is expected to exceed demand include chemistry, food science, geology, history, law, life science, meteorology, oceanography, physics, political science and elementary and secondary education."

Now all this may not result in higher unemployment, but it most assuredly will result in a lot of college graduates working in jobs for which they didn't train and maybe don't enjoy.

Cab drivers with B.A.s in history and bartenders with Ph.D.s in philosophy are amusing to all except themselves.

For these people, college will have been a series of false promises and shattered illusions.

This is not, however, to call into question the value of a liberal arts education. It is only to examine the motivations and desires of students. If a student wishes to pursue studies in an overcrowded and impossible field than so be it; if he's forewarned and willing to live with the consequences.

Why-don't-you-be-consistent-department:

—When a man robs a gas station and shoots an attendant, liberals bend over backwards to stress that he was a "product of his environment and caught in a web of forces beyond his control."

Yet these same liberals start pulling their hair out and forget about rehabilitation when a Watergate conspirator gets anything less than 20 years in prison. Isn't it true, though, that H. R. Haldeman is just as much a product of his environment as a black man from the ghetto? If one cannot pull himself up by his own bootstraps, then neither can the other.

—If you walk up to a feminist and say you frown upon abortion, you will get a speech on a-woman-has-a-right-to-her-own-body-etc. The same feminist, however, will look askance at a Playboy foldout even though the playmate is only exercising the right so eloquently expressed earlier.