Yes, Virginia, fear of freedom exists

Yes, Virginia, there is a Newman Grove, Neb., and the Lincoln Police Department did vote Dec. 1 to burn the book Jaws because of the nasty language it contains.

Your little friends may tell you, Virginia, that such things happen only in science fiction novels, but don’t you believe them, sweetie.

The Newman Grove school board members believe they can be seen and their children and because the book Jaws contains the nasty language if they allow Jaws to remain in their high school library.

What they are blind to, Virginia, is the fact that their action—not their removal of the book, but their vote to burn it—is a denial of their own rights.

Whether or not the book is burned, the children of Newman Grove will get to read Jaws if their parents allow. The library’s copy is not the only one.

Burning a book is only a symbolic action. But it can be a frightening one.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Newman Grove. As long as there are people who fear freedom there will be Newman Groves.

...*

We notice that one of the Athletic Dept.’s money saving measures for the Fiesta Bowl trip is cutting meal allowances for everyone except players from $20 to $18 a day.

Eighty dollars a day? Is the cost of living in Arizona that much higher than it is here, or is it done to keep coaches and other members of the Cornhusker retinue to eat steak three times a day?

Most students would wall at the thought of having to pay $6 a meal for a football. The football coaches and roadies probably would blanch, too, if the money were coming out of their pockets.

Rebecca Brite

to the editor

Dear editor,

For the seventh time in seven years, the Cornhuskers are involved in a bowl game. For the seventh time in seven years, the Athletic Dept, does not have enough money to bring the University Marching Band to the game in a worthy way. In fact, seven times in seven years the band directors, Fought and Smiler, act as if the Athletic Dept. "owes it to them" to include them on the bowl trip.

Although the band is to be commended for its performance this year, and for its contribution to fan entertainment at football games, we find it especially irritating that the band directors, Fought and Smiler, act as if the Athletic Dept. "owes it to them" to include them on the bowl trip.

Smiler is quoted (with reference to the band’s finding alternative financing), "If we do it once, they’ll expect us to do it again." It seems that this is the exact attitude taken by the band directors with respect to past bowl-trip financers of the Athletic Dept.

The NU Board of Regents has authorized the Athletic Dept. to take 55 varsity players on the Fiesta Bowl trip. That means that 30 to 40 players will be left behind. If anyone deserves to make the trip, it is these players. They put in three and one-half to four hours a day, just like everyone else.

Thanks to the NCAA, they are not allowed to even make up for home losses. Without these "scout team" behemoths, it is doubtful that the Huskers would have had such a successful season.

The decision to leave these players behind, as members of the football team, we find it particularly disturbing that leaders of the band feel that the regents are the ones to blame for this. Even more disturbing is the fact that in the past, regents (all gainfully employed with relatively normal income) have consistently voted to reward themselves for a successful season by including themselves and their families in the bowl game contingent (expenses paid, of course), while some of our teammates are cut out.

In reference to Larry Stunkel’s Friday “On Record column, his statements are utterly ridiculous. Does he really believe Bob Devaney should miss a Big 8 meeting and rearrange his schedule just to question a part-time sports reporter? Come on.

In conclusion, we support the band in its efforts to go to the Fiesta Bowl. We do not believe the band members or Board of Regents should be excluded from the bowl trip. We are simply against going at the expense of our teammates.

Sign this letter as individuals, and not as representatives of the Athletic Dept. because we are 55 UNL football players and associates.)

Editor’s note: The point: Larry Stunkel’s column was not what Devaney should have missed a Big 8 meeting, but that if he had to be out of town when news about the band was to be released, someone in the Athletic Dept. should have been made aware and should have been put on the release. Stunkel, by the way, is not a “part-time” reporter. He is the Daily Nebraska’s full-time sports editor, and puts in far more than three and one-half to four hours a day on his job while also carrying class hours.

Vanity instead of politics

Dear editor,

I have not yet seen a performance of The Crucible at Howell Theatre, but it is no doubt a excellent. A point I would like to make is not about the play, but about a certain actor who plays Willy Loman, the salesman.

For those students who are not familiar with the actor, I would like to take the time to fill them in. He is Del Gustafson, a columnist for the Daily Nebraska and president of the UNL chapter of Young Americans for Freedom.

Gustafson seems to be the kind of person who will not become the public enemy number one by referring to his column in last Friday’s Daily Nebraska. He took almost half of a 45-line column to make a plug for himself.

I thought the column was intended to present a point of view—primarily political, although Gustafson is trying to make the column by making it a personal release for his vanity.

Maybe Gustafson’s vanity caused him to think his acting ability is superior to his writing ability. Maybe he just thought people would enjoy reading about his personal successes (7). I, for one, did not enjoy it.

A bit of my personal attitudes would lead me to think that Gustafson has no ideas. I would enjoy reading about his personal successes (7). I, for one, did not enjoy it.

The whole truth

Dear editor,

Our government was created by the people for our protection and our economic security. Citizens are entitled to know how all public officials, elected or otherwise, are carrying out their particular duties.

We (the people) want to know the whole truth involving the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Dept., the Lincoln Police Dept., and the Nebraska State Patrol and other departments that are involved, connected with the Sherrill Lewis and Elvis Chilates incidents.

Since Sherrill Lewis was shot to death, we have been told at least a dozen different versions of what happened that awful night. Ron Lahniers and Merle Karrncorp have told more than twice as many lies as ever came out of Carter has pile.

There have been constant unnecessary police harassments of blacks to try and trigger the black community into some violent reaction.

This is one example of the many blocks which have been thrown before us in our struggle for truth and justice. But we have kept on pursuing the truth.

The petition drive that’s being conducted now all around the state of Nebraska is one of the last hope. We need to band together more tightly than ever before, not for Sherrill Lewis’ sake, but because of him and for yourself and your loved ones.

If we fail, we know the outcome for our lives will be disastrous, unrest and paranoia. The truth must be brought out. All the stories, truths and covers must be stopped.

This time it was the lives of two black men which were taken, under very questionable circumstances, but if we lose this battle to call for a grand jury, we will be granting our lives as a price to kill—“...and the next person might not be a black.”

So let’s say it another way, because that is the only way we can achieve our goal. We need to get enough signatures to have a grand jury called to conduct an investigation to the total truth will be known.

Charolotte Walker, number of Justice for Lewis Committee