

d.n. soapbox



'Aw, man, jeez...!'
'Hey, it wasn't me!'

Name this smell. Does it make your nostrils tingle or your head spin? Here's a hint. It was typical of the unusual fragrance surrounding the Nebraska Union Thursday. Was it a sewage back up, some freshly spread organic fertilizer or an odor of some other unknown vintage? Your guess is as good as ours—probably better. Only the sniff test will tell.

ralph

by ron wheeler



innocent bystander | Born in fear, quietly dying, no one mourns killer Draft

By Arthur Hoppe

The Draft died quietly in its sleep last week after a lengthy illness. It was 28.

Selective Service Director Byron Pepitone, who had been presiding at the bedside, finally pulled the plug by terminating the Draft's last remaining artificial life support system—the lottery.

The Draft had been in a seriously weakened condition since 1972 when it was deprived of its primary source of energy, young men. Thus, with the termination of the now-meaningless lottery, it simply ceased to function. Of surprise and concern to many was that it had died a natural death.

Admired as a youth

Born in 1948 out of the Cold War by fear, the Draft was widely admired in its youth as a builder of character. Known then as "Universal Military Training," it was viewed as a benevolent scoutmaster who took poor, weak, bewildered youth and instilled in them the manly virtues of strength, order and discipline.

But by the time it reached its prime in the 1960s, no one had a kind word for it. The young had come to excoriate it as a loathsome beast that threatened their very lives. To its old defenders it was now, at best, a necessary evil—an embarrassment like the dog at the other end of the leash.

For it was their creature, this Draft. After all, it was their role to dream up patriotic wars to fight. And it was the duty of the young to fight them. The Draft was their enforcer. But the old, if pressed, would shrug and say that was the way it was and look away and talk of other

things.

The old saw nothing strange in offering a young man the choice between "the honor of serving his country" and going to jail. They never thought forcing a young man to labor cheaply at tasks he hated was forced labor—or that making him serve involuntarily in a cause he despised was involuntary servitude. They talked of other things.

Years took toll

They talked of other things while the Draft imprisoned in the armed services close to five million of their offspring over the years—killing or wounding more than a third of a million of them in the process.

They talked of other things even when the young at last rebelled—rallying and rioting, fleeing and going to jail. "It's the war," said the old. But to the young, the Draft came before the war. If the old wanted a war, that was one thing. But to make the young fight and die in that war...

And so the Draft turned the young against their own country, against their own government, against their own parents. And the wounds still linger.

In the end, the old allowed the Draft to die, not because they thought it immoral or dangerous to democracy, but merely because they no longer needed it. And they still prefer to talk of other things.

No services are scheduled. No flowers requested. No mourners invited. Let the dead bury the dead, say the old.

But, if I were young, I should rise at midnight and go forth to drive a stake through its heart.

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letters to the editor

The Gateway Bank originally was put in the Union as a service to students. With their most recent revision policy, it would seem that the only service they provide is to the stockholders, rather than their customers.

Previous poor public relations on the part of the bank lead me to the very brink of removing my money from their possession, thumbing my nose at the teller and walking out. I resisted then, but I can no longer retain myself.

The earlier experience centered around a well-known "activity" charge. At that time, it was applied only to accounts that were overdrawn. A simple math error one month causes an overdraft in the month and the service charge causes an overdraft in the next month and the problems compound from there.

After talking to a vice-president of the bank, I was assured that my account would be credited for the overdraft charges which had resulted from the compounding. However, the account was never credited to my account. This time the bank started sending checks back plus overdraft charges, plus activity charges.

I can see no just reason for this particular establishment to be allowed to remain on state property in a non-profit university.

Cindy Rink
Jim Rinkler

Funds diverted from Love

This is in reply to the letter of P. J. Canarske, et. al., printed Jan. 21.

Messrs. Caraneky, et. al., seem to be misinformed about the nature of a separate line item in the appropriations bill. Their letter implies that the separate line item of \$50,000 for the Law Library was an additional appropriation which in no way penalized the library budget for the rest of the university.

But the bill, LB1054, Sec. 14(2) 1974 Session Laws, states, "It is the explicit intent of the Legislature that this amount shall be obtained from within the 1973 to 74 continuation base. . . of the internal administrative budget document for the UNL Library."

I read this as an instruction to the university to divert to the Law Library previously appropriated funds in the library budget.

Messrs. Carnarsky, et. al., also argue that the needs of

law students are "clearly distinguishable" from the needs of all other UNL library patrons. I find their verbal distinctions to be without any real difference.

Law students may need access to non-circulating materials at the Law Library, but undergraduates (and the graduate students conveniently overlooked by Carnarsky, et. al.) find themselves in a similar position with respect to the non-circulation material at Love Library. And if you ever tried checking out ten books at Love to do serious research, you will discover that even Love has the

attributes of a non-circulation library.

Finally, we need to distinguish those law students wanting expanded Law Library privileges who make substantial use of non-circulating materials from those who merely want a convenient study hall where they can peruse their own books. How much does it cost to hold the Law Library open those extra hours?

I trust that the above is not "inaccurate and misleading, addressing the emotional issues rather than the facts."

Peter A. D. Murphy

vine st | Student Union's coffee not irregulars | worth its cream and sugar

By Michael Hilligoss

Leonik dropped his empty coffee cup noisily on our corner table in the Harvest Room at the Nebraska Union.

"Hilligoss, do you realize that a second cup of coffee here is going to cost me just as much as the first?" he asked, visibly irritated.

"I agree," I said, "It does get a little annoying to have to pay every time you want a refill."

"It's not just a matter of inconvenience," Leonik pressed, "The whole Union set-up is indicative of the Union management's failure to understand and meet the common, everyday needs of the majority of students at UNL."

Two cups worth

"The matter of free refills for a cup of coffee is minor, but it serves to illustrate my point," he continued. "The Union management obviously does not realize that any good intellectual discussion worth its cream and sugar will last through at least two cups of coffee! The same is true for a good novel, essay, or proper preparation for a class assignment. One cup of coffee just won't do it."

Leonik handed me a brown paper envelope.

"What's this?" I said, opening it carefully.

"Take a look," said Leonik, "It's the VSI's secret report on the cost of two cups of coffee. Undercover agents visited 13 establishments who serve coffee and recorded the total costs of two cups of coffee, tax included."

I have reproduced the basic information below:

THE VSI TWO CUP COFFEE PRICE REPORT			
Establishment	1st cup	2nd cup	Total Cost
Dippy Donuts	21 cents	21 cents	42 cents
HARVEST ROOM	16 cents	16 cents	32 cents
Hilton Hotel	31 cents	free	31 cents

Barrymore's	26 cents	free	26 cents
Hansen's Place	16 cents	10 cents	26 cents
International House			
of Pancakes	26 cents	free	26 cents
Scott's Pancake Shoppe	26 cents	free	26 cents
Burger Chef	21 cents	free	21 cents
Kuhl's Restaurant	21 cents	free	21 cents
Oscar's	21 cents	free	21 cents
Super Sub	21 cents	free	21 cents
Terminal Drug	21 cents	free	21 cents
Mr. "B" Kountry--Kitchen	10 cents	10 cents	20 cents

"You will note," observed Leonik, "That the Harvest Room of the Nebraska Union was found to be the second most expensive place to have two cups of coffee. It was exceeded in cost only by an establishment which (a) provides 24-hour service, (b) provides waitresses, (c) depends on the sale of coffee and donuts for its sole income, and (d) is powered (quite properly) by the profit motive."

"But," I interrupted, "The cost of one cup of coffee is quite a bit lower in the Union. In fact, it's almost the lowest."

"Exactly," responded Leonik. "One cup of coffee is just enough for the fifteen minute coffee breaks of the Union's management and staff!"

I looked down at my empty coffee cup.

"Let me buy," I suggested, "I could use another."

"No thanks," said Leonik. "Let's go downtown for that second cup. Besides, I've just moved my checking account downtown and I need to go by the bank anyway."