

d.n. soapbox

ralph by ron wheeler



letters to the editor

I was infuriated over Regent Simmons' remark, "Students are children and we ought to treat them like children." (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 16) At 23, I do not consider myself a child, although I am a student. Perhaps Simmons would like to know why I don't consider myself a child. The reasons are:

I am of the age to be held legally responsible for my action.

I am of the age to vote and I am a registered voter.

I am of age to drink in any bar.

I am of age to get married without parental consent.

I work part-time to support myself while I attend classes at UNL.

I've paid federal and state taxes for three years.

I own a car and pay for its upkeep.

Thus, if Simmons thinks that I'm going to pay \$1,500 for a dorm room and not have what I want to drink there or who I want to visit me when I want them to visit me, he is looking at the world through rose-colored glasses.

An outraged child

... and fight wars

To the Regents:

As Executive Council of the Student Veterans Organization at UNL, we must comment on your last meeting if in truth, the reporting we recieved was accurate.

vine st | Union vote analysis helps irregulars | VSI design grad strategy

By Michael Hilligoss

I joined my contacts at a large table in the Nebraska Union's Harvest Room. Yossarian, for once, appeared sober. (I can't help but think that Leonik is a good influence on him. I only hope that coercing Yossarian to wear a T-shirt proclaiming "Coffee Drinkers Are Better Lovers!" isn't pushing it too hard.)

Leonik poured a round of coffee refills from his Thermos.

"What's the word?" I asked.

"Cream and sugar," mumbled Yossarian, under his breath.

"The faculty vote," said Leonik.

"The vote on collective bargaining?" I asked. "Does that interest the VSI?"

"We've been watching the move toward unionization for some time," he replied. "Thought we might pick up some tips on what *not* to do when we finally get enough strength to press for the unionization of graduate teaching assistants."

"Well," I asked, "did you learn anything?"

"We've just a preliminary analysis," said Leonik, "but you're welcome to see it." He handed me a freshly typed report:

THE FACULTY UNION VOTE—VSI ANALYSIS

(1) Loss on the unionization vote was not serious. A faculty with an 80 per cent tenure level already has a union in almost everything but name. A move toward unionization would be much more risky for TAs. We don't have tenure to fall back on if we speak out against

Spaces needed to park kids

The current crisis over size and financing of university day care centers is a reminder that education includes a lot more than books and registration forms.

Twenty-five years ago, students probably would have laughed at the idea of a day care center being needed.

Yet married students and single parent students, both of traditional college age and slightly older, are no longer a rarity on college campuses.

Quality day care is not only a problem on campuses, but a concern of low income parents everywhere. In a world where achievement on the job becomes more and more valued for both sexes, the need for day care can only increase.

At their limits, UNL child care centers can serve about 70 children. That number is not adequate and the need will not diminish.

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The problem seems to be a combination of low priority on the university campus and correspondingly low financing measures.

The university should be indebted to the three churches, St. Marks-on-the-campus, First Plymouth and Commonplace, that offer space for the day care centers.

UNL has not done all that it could. To provide day care, at minimal expense, to students who need it, the university immediately should study the extent of day care requests received by the current centers. If daily calls for openings are a reflection of that need, then the university can not ignore it any longer.

Once a study has been completed, administrators should begin to explore how it can reshape priorities and provide child care as it is warranted.

For many students, this would be just as invaluable a service as on-campus concerts, health center coverage or expanded athletic sites.

Planning for human services has been neglected by society for years and finally is being remedied through the efforts of professional planners. It is not inconceivable that in the future, the university might require a similar type of permanent planning assistance.

Bricks and asphalt planning do not become any less important. It's just that some students have to park their kids as well as their cars.

Vince Boucher

We would like to express our thanks on behalf of the approximately 1,600 veterans enrolled at UNL for your delightful classification of university students (which also includes the veterans) as children.

It is with heartfelt gratitude to find out that we veterans who devoted part of our childish lives to such childish pursuits as the ten year-plus Southeast Asia war games, in accordance with past national policy, still are considered immature children.

Our conscience is eased to know that we are not responsible for our actions in the Far East "exercise," that all the truly adult, mature decisions are made by such wise and mature gentlemen as yourselves. We shudder to think that we student veterans, along with our fellow non-veteran classmates might possibly have the power to make such an all encompassing decision of such extreme national, state and moral importance as to whether or not to take (Gasp!) alcoholic beverages into "our" rooms.

Thank you again for protecting us and our fellow classmates from ourselves.

SVO Executive Council
Bruce L. Drake, president

What's Schwartzkopf's benefit?

Regent Edward Schwartzkopf keeps asking what the unique benefits are of having liquor in the dormitories. I'd like to know what the unique benefit of having Ed Schwartzkopf as a regent is. Most likely, the answer to both questions is the same—nothing, really.

As pointed out in last Monday's editorial (Feb. 10) the regents, except for Kenmit Hansen, simply ignore their own definition of the "Student in the Academic Community." The definition, in part, says rules and regulations should "seek the best possible reconciliation

between personal freedom and necessary order." Noting that the regents, as a whole, seem to ignore their own directives, definitions and guidelines at will to suit their own expectations, whatever they may be, the situation seems clear that a little "civil disobedience" is in order. In a covert type of manner, of course.

Bruce McMorris

Threats to Walden laughable

In response to the Kappa Sigma Fraternity's "Letter to the Editor" concerning Ray Walden's observations of "Fiery Monday."

Because we don't wish to incur the wrath of a certain fraternity's legal council, we will choose our words carefully, despite a rational discussion with the Kappa Sigma president.

It is a fact that Walden received several threatening, obscene, juvenile—almost to the point of being humorous—telephone calls last Friday in regard to his letter. But not wishing or being able to afford a libel suit (F. Lee Bailey is tied up with Patty Hearst anyway) we will mention that it is, of course, possible that these calls came from irate senior citizens from Madonna Home. The ridiculous, and hardly believable, threat of legal action reminds us of grade school days when you regularly heard threats of "if you do, you'll have to pay the doctor bills." But then if Walden takes this newest development with the same seriousness which he afforded the phone calls, it should make for a good laugh.

Dave Hardy, Mark Young, Dave Waskowiak

Gustafson's position paradoxical

Mr. Del Gustafson in his "Word Unheard" column (Feb. 18) bemoaned the attempt to bring unionization to UNL faculty members. He believes that "learning is properly a cooperative venture... (and that)... only the college campus which attains a commonality of interests can succeed in the pursuit of the common good, Truth."

Does it not seem paradoxical that Mr. Gustafson, a free-enterprise enthusiast, came to learn of "Truth, through a cooperative venture" and a "commonality of interests?"

Does it not seem paradoxical that competition, so dear to Mr. Gustafson in other spheres, would produce "discord... in a unionized college?"

Does it not seem paradoxical that Mr. Gustafson, who has ridiculed "commonality of interests" quite regularly, should suddenly embrace it at the appearance of Lady Learning?

Come, come Mr. Gustafson. If free enterprise and resulting competition is the "truth," which you would like us to believe, is it capable of division? Perhaps there are truths, not "Truth," eh, Mr. Gustafson?

Bruce Nelson

ASUN Senate a farce

I see that the ASUN elections are fast approaching and also that the same old garbage about "student interests" is being exposed again.

Basically, the ASUN Senate has no power. So why don't the people concerned come down from their lofty aspirations and admit the foolishness and absurdity of their actions in "play-acting" government.

Let's all face reality and abolish ASUN Senate and save ourselves some fee money, a lot of aggravation, and deflate the arrogant egos of many of our leaders in student government. ASUN Senate is a farce, let's all face up to it and end the madness of the facade of power.

Jackie Knight