

# Centennial's worth is proven

In the discussion that surrounds the possible demise of Centennial College, the original purpose of the project has been overlooked.

Centennial College, or more formally the Centennial Education Program (CEP), was chartered in 1969, the centennial year of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The original students for the program were hand-picked, but in succeeding years, entry has been based on random selection. Although the intellectual energy and enthusiasm of some students has been high, Centennial has never been an elitist entity.

The unique opportunity for independent study, either in groups or on a one-to-one basis, with respected university faculty members has exhilarated some students, while scarcely moving others.

The freedom of choice in project topics has seen students involved in political science studies, social work, American Indian culture and language study, as well as more traditional science, humanities and social science disciplines.

In its earlier, more activist days—when issues and not fads held the attention of the campus—the Centennial community was a more visible force in university circles of debate and action.

The political reticence of recent years has had its effect on all students, and those at Centennial are no different. Yet the program has continued to provide a hassle-free outlet for self-directed study and an interesting living environment. Recruiting measures recently have been tried. The Centennial program, begun during the days of campus activism, has been taking steps to bring itself into a different campus era.

Despite the challenges of the past few years, and the problems Centennial faces internally, it has continued to meet its original three academic objectives as far as many of its students are concerned.

Those objectives, articulated by former senior Fellow Ted Beck in the March 8, 1972 issue of the Daily Nebraskan, are to help students think critically, for students to communicate effectively

(of more importance now than in 1972, no doubt) and that students should develop a full range of intellectual and cultural interests.

There are students who make less than adequate use of the possibilities offered at Centennial. Yet the effectiveness of the program can not be judged by those students; one does not judge any other program in the university solely on the students who choose to ignore it.

It would seem then that Centennial has proved its worth to the students and to the university community. Perhaps the voice of support from the university is called for, rather than vague reassurances that leave the Centennial community unassured and wary.

Centennial deserves a round of encouragement, not to be swept away as a victim of "financial necessity."

Vince Boucher

# d.n. soapbox

## word unheard | Apostle of dying liberalism struggling against extinction

By Del Gustafson

Hubert Humphrey, Minnesota's walking monologue, recently decided that it was high time he informed the American voters of the true meaning of the "anti-Washington" issue in the 1976 presidential campaign.

Quoth the Hump: "Anyone who attacks Washington is using the code word for Black and the poor and those who live in cities. . . The only institution which can help these people is the federal government, and an attack on the programs emanating from Washington—food stamps, for example—is an attack upon the people who benefit from food stamps."

Now if Mr. Humphrey's contention is that those attacking Washington are in fact attacking Blacks, then the Blacks of America are surely a most masochistic lot. Analysis of voting returns in the primaries indicate that Black support is going largely to Jimmy Carter. Carter prides himself on his anti-Washingtonism (as well as his Ultrabright smile and self-proclaimed honesty.)

So why has the anti-Washington theme become so prominent in the campaign? Watergate explains part of the popular disenchantment with Washington, buy only

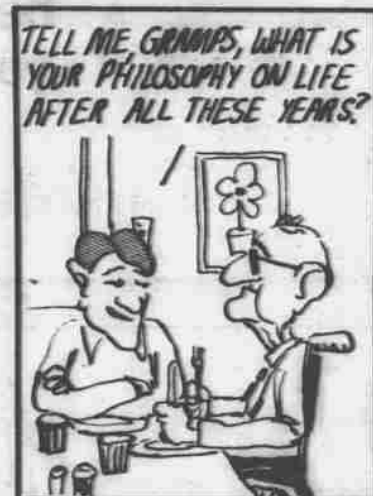
part. Even more fundamental is the growing realization that federal social welfare programs, designed to help the needy by such well-meaning men as Mr. Humphrey, do not perform their intended function.

They succeed admirably, however, in increasing taxes, inflating the currency, and creating a powerful class of bureaucrats whose average annual income outdistances the income of the average private worker by \$4,000.

Fanatics do not forsake the faith easily, and Mr. Humphrey still trumpets the joys of federal economic planning. In pursuit of the totalitarian vision, Mr. Humphrey has proposed a bill creating a federal planning agency to save the American economy. Such socialist schemes of salvation have done a great deal to make Britain the equalitarian paradise it is today—the rich are poor, the middle class is poor, and the workers are on strike.

Mr. Humphrey's absurd charge that anti-Washington is anti-Black is the cant of a desperate man, who is watching the public repudiation of all he has represented over the past years. Like the vanishing buffalo, he deserves one's pity.

### ralph by ron wheeler



The Daily Nebraskan welcomes letters to the editor and guest opinions. Choices of material published will be based on timeliness and originality. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name, but may be published under a pen name if requested. Guest opinions should be typed, triple-spaced, on nonerasable paper. They should be accompanied by the author's name, class standing and major, or occupation. All material submitted to these pages is subject to editing and condensation, and cannot be returned to the writer.

## guest opinion | Students' doubt in ASUN boosted Greek's 'campaign'

By Dennis Martin

I was amazed at what occurred Wednesday, March 17, the ASUN election day, and what has happened since that unforgettable day.

It all began when I noticed a definite increase of voters from Greek houses. Proudly displaying their Greek letter jackets and trying to be inconspicuous about the pieces of paper in their hands, they marched to the Nebraska Union poll.

Then I received a telephone call at 3 a.m. Thursday, March 18, notifying me of my victory and that of the Greek slate. Having drunk a considerable amount of tequila, I was in a very angry condition when a Daily Nebraskan staffer asked me for my reaction. All I could muster was "no comment."

I made it home and got little sleep, thanks to around 16-odd phone calls I received before 10:30 a.m.

Friends and associates continue to congratulate me on my victory. I usually comment that it wasn't a victory. I hardly know Bill Mueller, and I have neither seen nor met Paula Haeder.

Now we three are supposed to develop an executive relationship and make ASUN Senate a working organization next year. Neither Bill nor Paula have any experience in the ASUN Senate, which is not that bad (in fact, it may be beneficial), but both have little experience in the university system or operations. I am not sure I appreciate being placed in a position to be asked by the other executives everything from what the Associated Student Services is to how the Council on Student Life operates.

And what is the reaction of the rest of the students? One upset off-campus student ripped my Greek T-shirt to pieces while I was wearing it. At McDonald's I was recognized by a student as a candidate who ran in the

ASUN elections. My friends congratulate me and at the same time condemn me for being on the Greek slate. People I do not know ask me who Bill Mueller is and why I ran with him. The truth is I did not run with Mueller. I supported my fellow candidates on the New Student Coalition ticket.

Special thanks for my success and demise go to:

- 1) Al Eveland and another Greek (who later claimed no allegiance to the Greek slate, according to one of my opponents for second vice-president) for telling me the truth. When they asked if they could endorse me, they indicated the slate would be submitted only to Greek house presidents. I was not aware that the presidents would be encouraged to give the slate to all members and then particularly require everyone to vote.
- 2) A fraternity president who declared his support of the New Student Coalition and then pushed members of his house to the polls to vote for the Greek slate.
- 3) The Daily Nebraskan, which gave the Greek slate tremendous election day coverage and probably helped influence noncommitted Greeks to vote for the slate.
- 4) The age-old organization rumored to have made the Greek slate possible. Thanks again, TNE.

But my greatest disappointment is that many students did not think it worthwhile to vote because the ASUN Senate "never does anything." That was the greatest asset a Greek slate could ever hope to have.

We can all be assured the world (or even the university) will not end because of what happened. And don't worry, it is rumored that a Greek slate already is being planned for next year's election.

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