

## guest opinion | Fuzzy patriotism could be epitaph of white America

By Jason Justice

In my opinion, Niedfelt, Geisenhagen and the "Patriotic Student" (Daily Nebraskan authors of two editorials, "Blacks Too Complaining" and "Love it or Leave it", respectively) represent their loyalty to an American lie.

Niedfelt has said, "Blacks are too complaining." It is my opinion that we are not complaining and demanding enough. Niedfelt's editorial cites that he too is fighting for freedom and equality in his university environment. Tell me, Niedfelt, is your form of freedom and equality the same form that Blacks have in mind today? If you're honest with yourself, I speculate that you will say no to this question. We as Blacks are striving on a much larger and broader definition and scale of freedom and equality.

In reference to the Declaration of Independence, we are demanding that the American government practice what it preaches. As the Declaration of Independence states, and I quote, "We hold these truths to be self evident, that All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

We will continue to demand that the American government (the people) fully recognize what is said in the Declaration of Independence, and if any government fails to acknowledge and fully practice the rights of equality, and the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, not leave the country, (Niedfelt and other devoted students for patriotism.)

The problem with America is that there are too many narrow-minded, prejudiced and egotistical people, and it

is these people who keep America from living up to its true creed.

The weight of 200 years of unjust treatment is held in the feet of a black giant, who symbolizes freedom and equality. He has one foot lifted today, and he has stood on that one foot for 200 years. He grows tired even now. He will soon put his foot down, it may be softly, or it may be in a devastating rage, in which consequences will be complete and total destruction of those ideas and people which breed suppression.

Therefore, suppressors in America, abolish your attitudes and practice the creeds which America was supposed to be built upon, or the downfall of a nation will be the topic of your obituary.

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# d.n. soapbox

ralph by ron wheeler

## rarefied air | 'Show' closes to rave reviews after run

By Dick Piersol

State Sen. George Syas of Omaha was reported last week as saying the current session of the Legislature was the worst he had experienced. Syas has been in the Legislature longer than even he probably cares to remember, and the frustrations of a state senator are legion.

This is the first legislative session I have seen first hand, and I think it is possible that this session is probably no worse than many others. I think it was fairly entertaining. It certainly shattered any illusions I had about how a state senator behaves.

Some examples are in order.

One witnesses Sen. Jack Mills of Big Springs insisting that the Studebaker was the only possible choice for the official Nebraska Bicentennial auto.

There were Sidney Sen. Robert Clark's impersonations of Omaha Sen. Glenn Goodrich speaking—his arms atwitter like a Balinese dancer's.

Naturally, in any gathering almost entirely male, bathroom humor is inevitable.

W.C. doubles as recording studio

Lincoln Evening Journal reporter Don Pieper discovered one senator using a stall in the legislative water closet as a recording studio—he was taping his constituents' newsletter.

Then there is the venerable Omaha senator who practically begs to be presiding officer when Lt. Gov. Gerald Whelan is absent. He is sometimes stranded in the chair to his bladder's point of no return.

I am convinced senators are mostly disappointed actors or impressionists. Irish Sen. Eugene Mahoney of Omaha does a phenomenal Sen. Loran Schmit of Bellwood with his choppy second generation German accent.

The statehouse reporters delight in copying Blair Sen. Walter George who sounds suspiciously like Henry Kissinger.

More than once the names of Perry Mason and Sen. John Cavanaugh of Omaha were invoked in the same breath.

Not having Syas' experience, I couldn't be sure that Ralston Sen. Gerald Koch was kidding when he introduced an amendment to the university budget bill requiring that if the university were to receive state tax money to maintain the sports complex, they had to schedule Creighton and the University of Nebraska at Omaha in basketball.

The Gene and Ernie Show

Some of the best performances occurred when the Gene and Ernie, (Omahans Mahoney and Chambers) show was in progress. During debate on the state aid to private schools issue, Chambers played the Moorish infidel to

Mahoney's Monsignor. Mahoney lifted some of his oratory directly from the Mass, ("it is fitting and just, etc.).

Chamber's mimeographed handouts, distributed almost daily, are, when they don't show the kind of hate mail he gets, often humorous with a touch of pathos. He composed a Black's retort to Little Black Sambo about a little redneck kid and his family entitled Little Cracker Peckerwood.

Quiet, unassuming, diligent Omaha Sen. Warren Swigart got a lot of laughs with his puns on Sen. Douglas Bereuter of Utica, (be right or don't be at all.)

But Swigart's masterstroke came at Chambers' expense.

Chambers was arguing earnestly, sorry, against the downtown educational center. He accused other Omaha senators of following Mahoney's lead like timid rabbits. Swigart calmly left his seat and hopped down the aisle to confer with Mahoney, probably for his ration of leafy vegetables. The senators howled and even Chambers smiled, his steamrolling train of thought briefly interrupted.

The final passage of the Omaha downtown continuing education center caught me a bit off guard. I had a bet with an Omaha World-Herald reporter that it didn't have the votes. The bill passed by two. The reporter remarked, "You should know better than to think Mahoney doesn't have his rabbits in line."

## letters to the editor

Perhaps the April Fool's Day edition of the Daily Nebraskan was an appropriate vehicle for the opinion expressed by Paul Morrison. There can only be respect for a person who fights for what he believes. This does not excuse us, however, from our duty to render all possible assistance to one so hopelessly lost in his struggle to discover reality.

During the past few years, ASUN Senate has been a dying organization, wallowing in the apathy of students who no longer recognize this body as their voice in campus affairs. As election results show, student fees are supporting a powerless exercise in government. Power can be derived in a democracy, only from the consent of the governed and over 90 per cent of those governed on this campus could care less.

Mr. Morrison's effort then has been sadly channeled in the wrong direction. He should have followed the Greek efforts by attempting to arouse increased support for student government. The Greeks have succeeded in providing unity and the leadership necessary to begin the revival of ASUN Senate as a viable institution.

The challenge now is for the rest of the students to pull their heads out (of the clouds, of course) and support the student government they are paying for. Otherwise their fate will be a submission to the will of those of us who care to do something. See you at the polls in '77.

Tom Howard

### Bigger fiasco

Upon hearing the outcome of the executive elections, with the Greek slate sweeping all three positions, I heard

the rumors of the "crumbling of ASUN" under inexperienced hands. I heard that, with their inexperience, the candidates could ruin the organization. I shared this viewpoint at first. Having talked to two of the executives, though, I feel that any lack of experience they have will be easily made up for by their intelligence, concern and interest to learn.

Paul Morrison's underlying concern for ASUN Senate, expressed by his effort to overturn the election, is only serving to make the organization appear to be a bigger fiasco than it ever was.

Joe Grant

### Hess and unions

Your excellent reporting of my remarks while visiting the campus contained one point which requires modification. The story says that I object to being called a liberal because liberals are identified with unions and war and that I oppose both.

I oppose war; I do not oppose unions. My criticism of unions is, actually, criticism of the geriatric leadership of the AFL-CIO which seems to be more interested in amicable contract relations with management than in the real, long-range interests of the rank-and-file. The clannish leadership of many unions today actually discourages and openly fights against democratic control of the union by the people who, I believe, should fully control union activities—the rank-and-file of the working people.

As to my criticism of liberals: the main criticism is that liberals believe in the practice and the most obvious forms of social elitism, they support top-down government and have been chiefly responsible for the imperial presidency, and for the social welfare mess, as well as for the saddest episodes of Cold War, such as the horror in Indo-China.

I also would ascribe to liberal social planners the collapsing structure of a public education system, which,

rather than transmitting knowledge, even the basic ones of reading and writing, has twiddled away its strength in a long, sorry attempt at social indoctrination.

Again, let me repeat. I absolutely support the right of working people and, indeed, all people to organize on their own behalf.

Karl Hess

### Ralph and old people

When Ron Wheeler draws Blacks, Chicano's or other minorities, there's an outrage.

When Ralph makes fun of red-necks, there's noise. When farmers are portrayed as corny, it is pointed out that they grow the food. If the Greeks get slandered (God forbid) there are threats.

But if old people get thrown in the garbage, there is silence. It is amazing how something that affects the rich or poor, black or white, and happens to everyone is greeted with such apathy and made fun of.

Oh well, I guess everyone knows why we keep old people around—for laughs.

Bill Oakley

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