

opinion

Mary McGrory

Carter takes the mound, but balks

During Easter, Washington was quiet. Congress went off for what used to be called the Easter recess and is now known as a "District Work Period"—which some, nonetheless, spend in China. The President went to Georgia to renew his roots, and perhaps walk in the piney woods to sneak a look at his polls.

Flattery has gotten him everywhere. His rating has gone off the boards. The American people, who didn't even know who he was a year ago, have lost their heads over him. One poll shows him at 80 per cent approval rating. And what has he done? He walked down Pennsylvania Avenue on Inauguration Day. He wore a sweater on television.

He retired the trumpeters and the limousine fleet. He went on a radio call-in show with Walter Cronkite and got a girl in Maryland a government job. He went to Clinton, Mass., and told the people they were absolutely marvelous and his food bills are high, too. The crowd went wild.

washington winds

He sent Congress a reorganization bill. It won't cost any jobs or save any money. Congress said, hey, wait a minute, what does it do? What's it going to do?

Carter said, none of your business, sign here. Congress tugged its forelock and said, "Yes, sir." Carter didn't tell Congress it was wonderful. He said he was going to cut out 16 dams in their home districts. They said you can't do that. And he said, just for that, I'm going to study 14 more for extinction.

Carter's polls went up another few notches.

Ballet, opera

Carter went to the ballet, the opera, the theater. He caused a treehouse to be built for his daughter Amy. He told Congress he was going to reorganize the entire energy situation.

Congress said, how? He said, watch for the grand opening on April 20.

He announced he was going to sell his yacht.

He sent Cyrus Vance off to negotiate a new era in peace. Vance got to Moscow, opened his briefcase and put his offer on the table. Leonid Brezhnev gave him a couple of hours to get out of town.

ralph



Student Court reverses itself in ASUN decision

I think it is time that something accurate be said about the recent Student Court hearing concerning the validity of the actions of the 1976-77 ASUN Senate.

The petitioners alleged that all actions taken since Dec. 15, 1976, by the Senate were invalid. The basis for this contention was the supposed lack of a quorum on that date. The requirement of the quorum was given to the

present at the meetings.

The Student Court then went on to "reconsider" the first quorum requirement and to reverse itself and change the requirement to be "2/3s of the current seated members who are presently serving on the Senate." This reconsideration allowed the Senate which had 24 members recognized by the Court to meet and validate the appointments of 11 senators to fill the Senate to its authorized capacity.

This whole affair was interpreted by the *Daily Nebraskan* and other concerned students as making the ASUN Senate look like it operated unauthorized.

In reality the interpretation should be analogous with one's own driver's license. The bottom line of your driver's license says "not valid unless signed." The signing of your name to the driver's license does not have any relation to your qualifications as a driver, i.e. that you passed your examination or that you passed your sight test, or that you reached the age as required by law, it merely makes the license invalid until it is signed.

Thus the signature validates an invalid piece of paper. On the other hand, if you did not pass the written examination, or the eye examination, but still received the piece of paper, then your signature could not validate it, because the license would be null and void. If all other qualifications of a driver's license are met, then the form of signing it makes it valid.

The same was true of the 1976-77 Senate, its actions were not deemed null and void by the Student Court,

guest opinion

Senate by the Student Court on Dec. 6, 1976. This opinion stated that the correct quorum was 2/3s of 35 or 24 senators, regardless of the number of vacancies in the Senate due to resignations or removal by the Senate. This opinion was based on a court decision decided in the state of Florida, 109 years ago.

On March 30, 1977 the Student Court ruled that the appointments of senators to fill vacancies in the Senate, an action taken on Dec. 15, 1976 was invalid because the Senate did not comply with the Student Court's definition of a quorum. As a consequence of the invalidity of the appointment, all subsequent action was therefore invalid, although at all times after that date the Senate met and transacted business with at least 24 senators

Exposing MECA as the group it is

We wish to congratulate Scott Whitcomb for his brilliant expose published in Monday's *Daily Nebraskan*. Whitcomb alone was able to cut through the fog created by TNE and the Faction and lay bare the real source of political subversion on this campus... MECA.

At great danger to his person and his sobriety, Whitcomb ventured into the dark, underworld of Harry's Wonderbar. Cleverly discovering a MECA meeting, he hid himself at the back of the bar to watch the proceedings unobserved. Disguised as a long-haired, bearded, blue-jeaned conservative, he gathered the facts, just the facts.

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Not wishing to tip his hand, Whitcomb carefully remained out of earshot of the meeting. Several MECA members threatened to talk with Whitcomb, but he skillfully eluded these attempts to color his opinion with discussion. Preferring instead to rely on a carefully cultivated source in Michigan, Whitcomb pioneered the use of "long-distance" journalism as he raked up a scurrilous bit of muck in the university garden, exposing MECA for what it really was. Whitcomb's efforts uncovered a tangled web of conspiracy and intrigue.

Covered tracks well

But, the subversives had covered their tracks well. So well that even Whitcomb failed to uncover information of vital importance to university security. We shudder as we relate what we have come to know as "The Plan".

Noting that students in MECA "were not able to participate in the regular channels of student government," Whitcomb failed to recognize a grander scheme. Through its control of campus elections, MECA planned to further clog those "channels" with (gasp) mercenary turkeys from Nebraska's hinterlands. Fortunately MECA failed in this scheme thanks to the ever vigilant Faction who beat them to it.

Having failed in this selfish power grab, MECA devised a more fiendish plot.

The Hit-men of MECA planned to infiltrate and take control of the university, by silently stealing through the underground campus steam tunnels, and then coming up in the Nebraska Union and taking the Union and Frank Kuhn as hostage.

Extravagant demands

Certain MECA demands would have to be met before the hostage and building would be released. Extravagant demands such as: student fee funding for MECA, an office for MECA in the Union, the resignation of Prof. Hiram Hedgehog to be replaced by MECA's man J&J Rubberclutch, complete amnesty for MECA members and War of 1812 military deserters, establishment of a DMZ (DeMECANization Zone) on campus, and finally and most importantly, long sought B.A. degrees for certain influential MECA members.

This plan was abandoned when MECA realized that even if all went well and the Union was successfully seized, no one would want it back and then they'd be stuck with it.

MECA is so powerful, this monolithic group was able to field not one, not two, but three losing parties in last year's ASUN election. MECA indeed finds "strength in diversity".

The *Daily Nebraskan* has fearlessly revealed the tip of a dirty iceberg and we only hope that it will continue its quest to find the truth. For who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of MECA. But, on the other hand, does anybody really care?

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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.

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