

Don Wesley

UNL education quality: mediocre or excellent

"Nebraska is a normal, healthy, uninteresting sort of place and so is its university. (There) the most popular specialties are the same as at any other mediocre land grant university. They are, in order: education, business administration, and engineering." (From *College Confidential* by Lawrence Handel.)

"The University of Nebraska is No. 1 in football—and vice versa. And that just about tells the story, for sports are a more integral part of student life at Lincoln than nearly anywhere in the nation."

"Besides the phys ed department, however the Uni-

paved paradise

versity of Nebraska's scholastic offerings are mediocre at best. Students admit that the school might not be so hot, but are quick to point out that it is easy. Mired in the state school syndrome of large classes, so-so teachers, and uninterested students, chances for improvement here appear dim in the near future."

"Apolitical overall, the students rarely give their elders cause for concern. As one student said, commenting on the first signs of decay for the still strong Greeks, "It takes a while for things to happen here." If you're not a dyed-in-the-wood football maniac, cross Nebraska off your list of prospective colleges." (From *The Insiders' Guide to the Colleges* by *The Yale Daily News*.)

As someone associated with the university, these excerpts may amuse, upset or not affect you. Certainly such critical commentary on the quality of UNL is not uncommon. Then again, praise for the quality of our university is also not uncommon.

An Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Committee report asserted that, "there does not appear to be any substantial evidence to support a contention that at the present time undergraduate instruction at UNL is inferior to that at other comparable institutions. There is, instead, ample evidence to the contrary. In fact, while several kinds of indications do not support the assumption that UNL is failing in its attempt to provide quality undergraduate education, it is possible to document the lamentable position of this university on various indicators of research (outside funding received, grants submitted, etc.)."

Darn! Some more criticism snuck in with the compliments for UNL. Nevertheless, concerning undergraduate education at UNL, from some the descriptive word for UNL is mediocre, but from others the message is quality. Who is right?

Only UNL students know for sure. For they are the people who are most involved and affected by the quality of undergraduate instruction at UNL. Yet students are not playing a major role in recent efforts to evaluate and, possibly, improve undergraduate education at UNL. It is UNL students who should be raising the question of quality and demanding that action be taken to improve educational quality where necessary.

One attitude which needs further development at UNL is that students are consumers of education. Students attend the university to receive an education. They pay for it and "consume" it as they would any other "product" that they buy. As consumers of education, students have the right to demand a quality product. They have the right to have their opinions heard and their questions answered in their efforts to acquire a quality education. Students share responsibility for the present quality of instruction at UNL. And it is students who must decide whether their education is mediocre or good. UNL can be No. 1 in more than football.

Arthur Hoppe

Jimmy sprinkles human rights into homemade recipe

Good morning, housewives and other shut-ins. It's time for another chapter of "Just Plains Folks" — the heartwarming story of one man's humble efforts to make this old world a little bit better place in which to live by

innocent bystander

eliminating war, poverty, despotism, sin and White House limousines.

As we join up with Just Plain Jimmy today, he's pattering about the kitchen, whipping up some more Just Plain Old Homemade Foreign Policy.

Helping him are his attractive wife, Just Plain Rosalynn, his cute little daughter, Just Plain Amy, and a couple of dozen other members of his Just Plain Family.

Jimmy: Well, now, I've gone and sprinkled human

ralph



In conclusion, I believe our student representatives are not enforcing the rules they themselves have established. Such actions ultimately result in embarrassing court cases on which student apathy feeds. Please don't let these errors continue if you want the regents, faculty, and most of all the students to have faith in student body representatives.

I Care

letters

Representatives' duties

The holding of elections seems to present problems every year.

In 1977, the Student Court was indecisive and late in hearing a court case which led to the postponement of elections on March 16, 1977. As a result of the courts ineffectiveness, candidates' campaigns went unrewarded for close to one month, students enthusiasm was stunted, and most of all student fees were wasted. The question enters my mind: are student representatives fulfilling their duties?

The result of the Student Court case wherein ASUN's actions since December 1, 1976 being declared void immediately comes to mind. The student body representatives were proven to have not fulfilled their duties. The cause of this mishap was the result of the ASUN body not adhering to the rules set down in its constitution. I believe the light has been turned on and there is a need for change right now. Is that needed change coming about?

There is a group of students who organized the SUN party and had sweeping success despite the meager 10 percent (approximately) voter turnout. The SUN party along with several other candidates worked hard to bring the issues themselves to the students. I was glad to see the elections go smoothly, but I have been appalled by our student representatives again seemingly showing themselves to be inefficient.

Once again the basic mistake was not following the rules which had been set up by the student representatives themselves. It is my belief that if you make a set of rules, or a constitution for that matter, you should be prepared to enforce and abide by those rules.

Prior to the elections and most notable the day of the elections, (April 13), several candidates' signs could be seen in bathrooms, dormitory walls and doors, in classrooms, and generally everywhere one looked. The rule which the candidates were to follow read, "In University buildings, election poster and sign distribution must be limited to bulletin boards. Election materials are not permitted on walls or other surfaces not designated as bulletin boards. Chalking or painting of buildings or use of classroom blackboards is prohibited." Yet, another example, involves the SUN party having a booth near the sight of balloting. Campaign regulations stated, "Persons engaged in active campaigning and candidate campaign material must not be located within 100 feet of election booths on election day."

The Student Court will only hear the latter complaint. My question is why are some rules being allowed to be broken this year without any penalty. Does this mean that candidates can put up signs all over campus next year without any fear of penalty?

Leftist speakers

While it is natural for Letelier's fans to question the FBI documents on which Evans and Novak based part of their column, may I suggest that we are not necessarily to place more confidence in the understandably partial accounts of his widow, in the partisan editorials of the *Washington Post*, or in such inveterate axe-grinders as the *Nebraskans for Peace*?

Contrary to Professor Erlich's assertion, no charges have yet been disproven, and certainly none is disproven in his article. Perhaps the assassination was undertaken by right-wing, anti-Castro organizations; perhaps by left-wing Chilean groups desiring to disrupt our relationship with Chile. Only the ideologically committed, the storm troopers of the left and the right, will embrace either possibility before all the facts are in.

Underlying this dispute, however, is a more important question. Why is it that the speakers brought to campus, with the uncertain exception of Vincent Bugliosi, have been on the left side of the spectrum? Surely there might have been space for at least one dissident conservative in all that hodge-podge of fist-waving feminists and activist lawyers! I would hope that the Talks and Topics Committee might reflect on this inequity while contemplating next year's schedule.

Robert D. Stock

Questions welcome

The Talks and Topics Committee of the Union Program Council welcomes questions regarding our speakers' program such as those posed in advertisements paid for by Young Americans for Freedom, and Donald Orton's letter to the editor (April 13). These questions provide us the opportunity to again reclarify our position and our procedures concerning our programs.

This past year, the Talks and Topics Committee presented six speakers during its regular series, plus the October Symposium on Power and Conspiracy in America. In addition, the committee has cooperated with several campus and community organizations to bring a variety of other presentations throughout the year.

All decisions regarding Talks & Topics programs are made by the Talks & Topics Committee. Membership on the Committee is open to all UNL students, and weekly meetings (Tuesdays, 5:00 p.m., Nebraska Union) are open to any interested person. The committee welcomes all

input regarding speakers' programs at UNL. Persons with specific questions or suggestions regarding the programs are encouraged to attend the Talks and Topics meetings.

Jay Yost

Union Program Council Talks & Topics Chairman

rights all over the detente. What do you think?

Amy: Mmmm, I just love human rights, Daddy.

Jimmy: Most people do, dear. All right, shall we try our hand at a little Homemade Middle East Policy?

Amy (clapping her hands): Oh, Daddy, that sounds like oodles of fun!

Butter both sides

Jimmy (rumpling her hair): You can help. First we butter up both sides and then... Should I throw in a Palestinian homeland?

Rosalynn: Everyone likes homelands, dear.

Jimmy: You're right. What about defensible borders, though?

Amy: Gosh, Daddy, do some folks like indefensible borders?

Jimmy: Good thinking, Amy. Now here's a PLO handshake, just to be polite, and... Should I toss in some suggested solutions?

Rosalynn: With both sides buttered up, it couldn't hurt. And if you don't, who will?

Jimmy: That's true. There. Now...

(The faithful family retainer, Just Plain Jody, bursts

in, looking worried.)

Laughing at policy

Jody: Bad news, Just Plain Jimmy. All the thousands and thousands of professional foreign policy makers in buildings and newspapers all over Washington are laughing at your Just Plain Old Homemade Middle East Policy.

Jimmy: What don't they like about it?

Jody: They say for 30 years they've been turning out an attractively packaged, gleaming, flawless, tough, professional Middle East Policy and you amateurs ought to leave such things up to them.

Jimmy: How's theirs been doing?

Jody: Well, it exploded all over the place four times and, at the moment, both sides are as far apart as ever.

Jimmy (humming cheerfully as he resumes stirring): Tell me, Amy, what else do you think we ought to throw in?

Well, tune in again, friends. And meantime, remember this old Just Plains Folks saying: "Homemade's a sight messier'n store-bought; but that don't make it any harder to swallow."

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