

editorial

Grade standards: omens of entrance requirements?

The College of Business Administration soon will be sending letters to some business students that will be less eagerly received than tuition statements.

Dean Gary Schwendimann said that any major who entered the college after June, 1977 and has a cumulative GPA below 2.0 will be given until the end of the semester to raise his GPA to a 2.5. If these students don't make the grade, they will be asked to transfer to another college.

Last year's warnings about CBA curtailing enrollment have come true. Due to a necessary budget expenditure cut for 1978-79 and the lack of enough teachers and resources, CBA has had to draw the line.

But CBA isn't the only UNL college suffering from overcrowding.

Several UNL colleges — among them Engineering, not to mention numerous departments — are bracing themselves for a surplus of students next semester. And as a result, students are going to have to brace themselves for the colleges' bracing efforts.

A vicious circle?

You bet, and that's exactly how to describe the conditions that have created the dilemma we are now facing. There are simply too many students and not enough teachers and resources to educate them.

This vicious circle began years ago, when you and I most likely

were still struggling over that junior high math course.

UNL budget increases could not — or did not — keep up with the numbers of new students enrolling each semester. Unfortunately, this is a fact which is best realized after it has happened. Unfortunately this fact is being realized.

Just this semester we have seen the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation require letters of academic intent from students before allowing them into upper-class courses.

CBA is drawing the line at a 2.5 GPA and holding fast to it.

The Engineering College is not going to let incoming freshmen with low ACT or SAT scores take any

courses within the college until that student has established a 2.0.

What to do about this madly whirling circle? Where will it end?

Hopefully with a policy that will allow UNL to be the center for learning and knowledge that it is meant to be.

These minimum standards that have been cropping up at UNL the past few months should tell us something more than the obvious fact that UNL budgets just aren't big enough to handle the demand.

Maybe the time has come for UNL to do something about the "non-college material" students who are putting a drain on those students and professors of serious academic intent.

If meetings held behind closed doors, curiosity rises

A closed meeting by any government agency brings to mind the central question: Why? When such a meeting is held by the student government, the curiosity intensifies.

The ASUN Special Topics Committee held such a meeting last Friday about the current YAF-NUPIRG controversy.

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After hearing public testimony from YAF and NUPIRG, the committee voted 4-4 to go into executive session to hear possibly damaging testimony from Don Macke, NUPIRG president.

Macke requested the committee hold the closed session.

"It was a special request to the committee," Macke said. "I had things I wanted to say in private."

The meeting was closed under guidelines established by the Council on Student Life. The guidelines require that closing of the meeting be approved by a majority vote of the body holding the meeting (in this case, the ASUN subcommittee) and that

the meeting deal with "personal problems of any individual or group whose rights may have been threatened by publicity."

ASUN president Ken Marienau explained the reason for holding the executive session:

"Don Macke had pertinent information to be heard, for his own personal protection he did not want to give testimony in public session which might be damaging to him if it was published."

Marienau said the private testimony will aid the committee with their investigation.

"To put it very simply, when Don was testifying in open session, he gave some facts that were relevant, but did not make anything like a charge or strong charge," Marienau said.

Marienau said he believed Macke had provided stronger testimony in the private session, although he was not at the private meeting.

Macke said his private testimony dealt with three speculative, circumstantial points dealing with YAF's activities.

Macke said he discussed harm to a specific NUPIRG program, targeting by the national YAF organization and the motivation by the YAF attack on NUPIRG. He did not elaborate further.

Although this is the first time Marienau could remember a closed session being held

by ASUN, he said similar action was considered last year.

He also said he would not hesitate to use closed meetings in the future if a closed meeting is necessary to protect a person.

"The whole idea (of a closed meeting) leaves a bad taste in people's mouths," Marienau said. "But you have to be able to guard something from the press which would have legal liability and be damaging to other people's character."

An increased usage of private, closed meetings by ASUN would be a major error in that organization's efforts to increase its credibility and services to the student body.

The primary way students find out about issues is through the press. Very few

non-members attend ASUN senate meetings, so any information filtered to the student body must come through the press. Closing a meeting to the public in effect prevents students from knowledge of their government's actions.

ASUN cannot afford to develop the image of being a closed society which operates primarily behind closed doors. Investigations such as the current YAF/NUPIRG inquiry are a definite step forward for ASUN. But even the U.S. Senate and House eventually open their major investigations to the public, i.e. Watergate and the Korean investigation.

ASUN should follow this precedent, as complete public exposure of the facts gathered in an investigation is necessary to clear the air of innuendo and suspicion.

letters to the editor

There are a few misconceptions about the Women's Resource Center which I would like to clear up. First of all, the reasons for banning the distribution of the Gazette *did not* center around anyone's abortion stand, and I believe this has been stated several times before. The reasons for the ban are:

1) the donations to the Gazette, collected in a jar placed in the WRC, were being ripped off;

2) a shortage of space in WRC;

3) and the bylaws of WRC state that only material specifically related to women's issues shall be distributed in the center.

Secondly, the Women's Resource Center is *not* pro-abortion, it is pro-choice, and there is a difference.

If a woman comes into WRC and wants information on any of these subjects, it is given to her with no questions asked.

There is a wealth of information on a variety of subjects of interest to women and men in the WRC library and vertical files.

WRC is a place where women and men can go for support in dealing with many of the hassles that face us all.

I've talked to the various people who work there and I've looked through their material, which is available to all. WRC is open to all!

I am wondering where Sue Kouma (*Daily Nebraskan*, April 9) got her informa-

tion. Has she ever been to WRC? I suggest that she and all others who share her misconceptions about the center talk to the people who work there, go through their material and find out what the Women's Resource Center is all about!

Joni Martineau Day
Senior, Natural Resources major

Music, please

Has anyone on the *Daily Nebraskan* staff ever considered reviewing something other than television shows and current movies? I am speaking in particular about the many university-produced concerts and recitals available every week from the School of Music. Additionally, many School of Music-sponsored guest artists, many of world renown, appear at low or no cost to students. Yet these events warrant no space in the *Nebraskan* other than a small blurb on the day of the event, or at most a place in the "Face the Music" slot.

Perhaps a weekly review of some School-sponsored concert would bring knowledge of these fine events to more students and rectify this apathy.

Steve Wengel
Freshman, pre-med major

More on Page 5

