

opinion/editorial

Yelling incident and destroyed reports leave questions

Last week reports were filed by a University Police officer and a student security supervisor at the UNL Police Department. The reports claimed that NU Regent Kermit Wagner of Schuyler yelled at them for no reason Saturday, Sept. 9, before the football game, accusing them of not doing their job.

The officer identified Wagner from a group of Daily Nebraskan photos as the man who yelled at them.

After a police check of the license number, it was confirmed that the car was registered to Wagner.

Regent Wagner denied the incident occurred and said it must have been a case of mistaken identity.

The reports were supposed to go to UNL chancellor Roy Young, according to Robert Lovitt, assistant Vice Chancellor for Business and Fi-

nance. Copies had been received by Police Chief Gail Gade and Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance Miles Tommeraaen.

Friday it was learned that the two reports were destroyed on Tuesday, according to Lovitt. Tommeraaen admits to destroying the reports, Gade never kept a copy and Young never saw the reports.

Why were only two copies made? That is not usual practice for the university. And why did Gade not keep a copy to back up what his officer said?

Wagner, when confronted in person in Schuyler Thursday evening, again denied the incident happened and said the report was the result of mistaken identity.

He refused to answer simple questions. When asked about the photo

identification and the license check, Wagner refused to comment. He refused to say if someone else was driving his car. He also refused to say if he was in the parking lot where the incident occurred and he even refused to say if he was at the football game.

Wagner was not returning reporters' phone calls. Messages were left for him at his home and business in Schuyler, at Regent's Hall and with his CPA with whom Wagner had an appointment Thursday afternoon. His CPA confirmed that he had gotten the message. This was the reason he was contacted in person in Schuyler. Wagner also dodged questions with his no comment replies.

Then it was learned the regent left for Europe.

Wagner's timing is convenient. The Daily Nebraskan considered the police report newsworthy, but the follow-ups were written because of how Wagner and administration officials handled themselves.

Wagner's refusal to answer questions raises heavy suspicions. The license plates check out, so who was driving? A twin-brother?

If Wagner admitted he lost his temper, there would be no reason for a follow-up, but he didn't.

The fact that Wagner yelled at security officers is bad enough. It shows that he was not conducting himself in a manner worthy of a public official. But his refusal to answer simple questions demonstrates that Wagner's integrity is in question.

And that's a question that needs an answer.

Speechwriter Fallows loses every day struggle with routine

Two years ago, one of the reasons I had positive feelings about Jimmy Carter was his hiring of James Fallows for speechwriting. As a contributor to several national magazines, Fallow's reporting and analysis reflected the social idealism of a questioning rather than a settled-in liberal.

Two years and thousands of anonymous words later, Fallows is leaving the president. Although he has thought about Jimmy Carter—they are kindly notions, free of any parting-shot venom or inside dope—what is more fascinating about Fallows is his introspection about his own two years near the high command.

In-box routine

"It's a daily struggle," he says, "to keep my mind from becoming 'routinized.' It's a struggle I think I've lost. It's so easy to stop fighting, and just come in every morning to do what's in the in-box. This is the crisis of the times—keeping the large institutions from turning us into zombies."

Fallows will not be carried out comatose, but he does confess that much of his original zip has drained.

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Colman McCarthy

He was well-regarded among journalists, and when he went to the White House I had no sense of his going over to be willingly mugged by "the other side." In power or out, Fallows would side with candor and decency.



MECA 'faction' adopts motto—don't get mad, get even

History abounds with rebel groups who liberated their peoples from the yoke of oppression. Colonial America had the Minutemen; World War II France had the Underground; and UNL has MECA.

Even now, the Monday Evening Club Amended is on the verge of attaining power, just as the Minutemen and French did. MECA's five-year plan is to seek out new forms of life and civilization at UNL (if there are any), to explore the strange new world of the steam tunnels, and to boldly go where no man has gone before: Regent's Hall.

Like its predecessors, MECA disdains negotiated surrender, but seeks total control of UNL from within. MECA has infiltrated the highest—or lowest—levels of student government by placing members in ASUN, RHA, UPC, the Student Court, the Nebraska Union Staff and the Innocents Society. Even the Board of Regents boasts of at least one MECA member.

Infiltration policies

Indeed, MECA's infiltration has already shaped UNL policies. Last year the University Task Force on Student Fees closed its meetings to the public the same week

MECA closed its minutes. And was the person who ordered the MECA Constitution be forever secret the same person who keeps dragging the Regents into their permanently secret executive sessions?

michael gibson

But UNL has problems in copying MECA's professional subversion. Last week, for example, a Daily Nebraskan reporter had no trouble uncovering a campus police report concerning a high UNL official. However, only a week earlier, when MECA kidnapped another reporter and drove her to New Orleans even she didn't know she had been kidnapped.

Obviously I had to investigate. At 11:30 p.m. Wednesday I slunk up to the secret entrance to MECA's infamous smoke-filled front room in Harry's Wonderbar.

Forced torture

The knife wielding president forced me to repeat the Greek alphabet backwards

three times while a match burned in my hand (you should see what we do to non-members!)

I then watched in awe as he quelled a coup de etat, appointed an ambassador to England, and announced the acquisition of title to a new Omaha skyscraper.

It was then that our Sicilian Chief of Assassinations and Terminations reported on MECA's latest military operation: the successful sabotaging of the first three weeks of school. Construction of several parking lots had been delayed, ousting 500 students from their spaces, class registration lines had been stretched from Teacher's College to Broyhill Fountain, and long distance phone service in the residence halls were disrupted for a week.

Ransom demands

The ransom demanded was enormous: rescheduling of Nebraska's expected bowl game to Final Exam Week, a \$1.50 per credit hour increase in tuition and construction of a \$25 million domed football stadium for UNL's Lincoln Airport campus.

Unfortunately, the administration refused to cooperate because they thought

everything was going normally. Not only that, they mistook the ransom note for the minutes of the last Regents' meeting.

Although the plan failed, MECA members decided not to get mad—just even. Another WARGASM has already been scheduled to retrain our MECAnized infantry in military maneuvers so realistic that casualty rates of 100 percent are expected.

Card section demise

Yes, some people still smirk at MECA, unaware of the wrath and terror of its power. Few know that the football card section met its fate after angering MECA: fewer still realize that the Lincoln Police felt compelled to provide a full police escort for MECA's May Day march on the State Capital.

And some condemn MECA for its subversive tactics, its outlandish protests against the ridiculous bureaucratic problems most students complacently accept and its constant rebellion against the parental wisdom of the Regents.

Then again, as Thomas Jefferson said, perhaps "A little rebellion now and then is a good thing."

letters

I am trying to locate my natural mother and am in hopes that one of your readers will be able to help me. Her married name is Amelia Moore. I was born May 31, 1926 and adopted July 3, 1926 by Albert and Rachal Peterson.

Arlene Lynch
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'Childish' regents

It's good to know that the campus police are on the ball, doing their job and not brown nosing the regents. It's too bad that one of our regents acted like a child towards the campus police. One can only conclude that some of our regents act like children and should be treated as such.

Charlie Grossimon

Totally insane

This letter is a response to the Sept. 13 opinion of C. M. Max Dalrymple. I have read many funny, stupid and insane editorials, but Mr. Dalrymple's letter takes the prize for all three.

I am not defending the CIA, but simply pointing out that Max Dalrymple seems to be a little disturbed or maybe totally insane. I would bet Mr. Dalrymple sits around all day in a locked room so the CIA won't grab him.

I must remember that even people like C. M. Max Dalrymple are entitled to their opinion, no matter how idiotic.

J.R. Muir