

Strunk receives formal reprimand from board

By Mary Kay Wayman

The UNL Publications Board Thursday night voted 7-0 to formally reprimand Daily Nebraskan Editor-in-chief Harry Allen Strunk for a "serious breach of journalistic ethics" in his admitted plagiarism of a Time magazine article.

daily nebraskan

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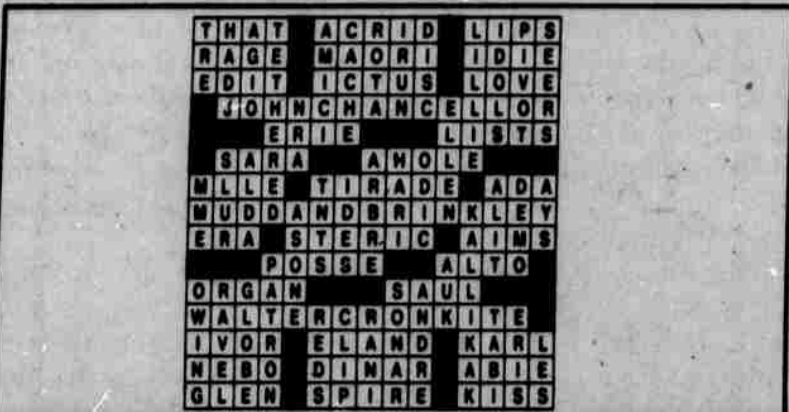
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The board discussed possible actions in closed session for almost two hours after holding a public hearing at which 15 people testified.

In the letter of reprimand, which will be sent to Strunk later this week, the board said Strunk had "done great damage to the image and credibility of the newspaper" as well as himself and charged Strunk with the responsibility of restoring that credibility.

"The Publications Board touched upon the severity of what has happened," Strunk said. "It'll be the newspaper's objective in the future to restore any credibility which may have been lost through my actions."

Board member John Kreuscher said Strunk's reprimand was "very heavy and very serious."

"Firing would have been far too much," Kreuscher said. Four of those who testified earlier said Strunk should be fired.

More vengeance

Reading the outlined letter of reprimand, Daily Nebraskan professional adviser and board member Don Walton said, "In the light of your status as a student, any further disciplinary action would be more vengeance than justice."

"Any further serious breach of ethics will constitute grounds for immediate dismissal," Walton said in the seven-point letter.

Strunk said the plagiarism was "one person's mistake." "I hope any perceived credibility loss by the readership would be in the editor's actions and in no way carry over to the conduct of the staff," he said.

Room 216 of the Nebraska Union was filled with spectators for the public hearing. Of the fifteen who testified, nine favored some disciplinary action other than dismissal and two had no suggestions.

Tom Prentiss, journalism major, said Strunk's plagiarism "was worse than a crime, it was a blunder." But Prentiss said he didn't think Strunk should be fired.

Student before newspaper

"Remember, it's a student newspaper and I think we should always put the student before the newspaper," Prentiss said.

Kathryn Haugstatter, Daily Nebraskan reporter, said she spoke as a former teacher in saying Strunk should not be dismissed.

"This is a learning institution and I think he's learned," she said.

Brad Munn, of the Chancellor's office, speaking "as a reader of the Daily Nebraskan," said he was concerned about the penalty fitting the crime. Students make errors, he said. Some action should be taken but Strunk should not be fired, Munn said.

Eric Johnson, graduate mathematics student, said he didn't yet have the impression that Strunk had "come clean."

"There will be a loss of readers," he said.

Brent Bohlke, English department instructor, said he had no recommendations to make to the board. Bohlke, who wrote a guest editorial chastising Strunk's plagiarism, said he only wanted to clarify that he spoke only for himself, not for the English department.

Committee denies regent's request

The Legislature's Appropriations Committee denied a request by NU Board of Regents member Robert Prokop when it voted not to allocate state funds for the hiring of a professional staff for the board.

During Appropriations Committee hearings on the NU budget, Prokop appeared before the committee asking them to allocate money so the regents could hire a staff. He said that without a staff he was unable to determine whether the university needed a 15 percent increase.

The committee had previously decided to word the appropriations bill to clarify that university employees

are also employees of the regents. Regents therefore also could use university personnel as personal staff members.

However, upon reconsideration, the senators voted unanimously to strike the wording out of the bill.

Sen. Donald Dworak of Columbus said he did not feel the Legislature should have to appropriate funds for that purpose.

"They want us to take the responsibility and not themselves," Dworak said.

Since the regents decide where university money is to be spent, Dworak said they could also decide whether they wish to hire a staff.

UNL educator says crime rate will rise

America faces an increase in crime in the future, warns a UNL social scientist who sees citizens from all classes competing more and more strenuously for increasingly scarce resources.

Chris W. Eskridge, assistant professor of criminal justice, points to an increase in illegal activities as a consequence of America's descent from its peak of economic power to a nation with a limited-growth economy.

Eskridge's assessment of future crime appears in "The Futures of Crime in America: An Economic Perspective," which is a chapter in a new book, "Crime and the Economy."

The book, edited by Kevin N. Wright of the University of Tennessee, will be published this summer by Oelgeschlager, Gunn and Hain, Inc.

"The U.S. is one of the most, if not the most, resource dependent nation in the world," Eskridge wrote. "It will therefore feel a lack of resources more severely than any other nation as resources become increasingly scarce."

Eskridge said economic stagnation, on top of increasing urbanization, will tend to decrease the value placed upon involvement in legal activities as a means of achieving economic rewards.

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