

opinion/editorial

Plan would neutralize student voice

A committee established by the NU Board of Regents to study the membership and appointment process of the UNL Publications Board has recommended, among other things, that the ASUN senate no longer be empowered to appoint students to the board.

The Publications Board is the supervisory body for the Daily Nebraskan. The committee was formed in response to the handling of James Coe's May 1 letter received at the Daily Nebraskan office.

This editorial is in no way intended to discuss or reach judgments concerning that letter or its handling, and response to those points would likely be considered irrelevant.

We are, however, deeply concerned about the nature of this newspaper's supervisory board and the methods used to select its members.

The regents, who will consider the committee recommendation at their next meeting, passed a resolution forming the committee and expressing a desire that Publications Board positions be insulated from campus political bodies. The regents also recommended that the chancellor take a more active role in the final approval of board members.

The nominees will be selected by the student advisory councils of each of the academic

colleges. Some advisory councils are not elected bodies, meaning that students appointed by their dean will recommend students to the chancellor.

While it might have been the intent of the committee to separate the pub board from campus politics, we believe it failed, and perhaps has recommended creation of a greater evil.

In times of controversy, which really are the only times anyone cares much about the pub board's student membership, the selections will be highly political, but it will be a different kind of politics.

The ASUN Senate conducts its business in public. Student advisory councils, especially those appointed by college deans, do not have to. Thus, it is possible that the form of politics involved in some future selections would be similar to a caucus of a very select few.

The committee has recommended, in effect, that student members of the pub board be appointed by the campus elite, some of whom were appointed by deans, and that the chancellor have final say anyway.

The committee, in an effort to insulate the Daily Nebraskan from harmless, public campus politics, has invited entry of the power politics of departments seeking the regents' good graces. It has paved the way for a truly elitist Publications

Board, which could be expected to select editors who toe the line of political desires.

The greatest harm of this plan is not to the Daily Nebraskan. Rather, the student body, which had some say in who would represent it on the pub board, is the real loser. Those wanting a student newspaper responsible to student interests have lost to those wanting a student paper responsive to departmental and administrative interests.

The change was unnecessary, if we are to judge from Monday evening's selection of next semester's Daily Nebraskan editor.

The regents and the committee they formed to comply with their wishes apparently saw some evil in the appointments last spring of ASUN's two biggest executives to the pub board.

Yet both were on the board Monday evening, when two students involved in campus politics sought the position of editor. Neither received a vote, not even from those former student government officers.

The Daily Nebraskan is a resilient organization, because it has a voice that is extremely difficult to take away. The student body, on the other hand, will find it harder and harder to bounce back if the regents continue to give it less and less of a voice, especially in selecting its own representatives.

Rape films masked by tacit approval

Violence against women comes in many forms, some subtle, some overt.

A young woman is running through the woods, pursued by an unseen assailant. She runs awkwardly, looking behind her, making short cries. She's wearing high heels. Predictably she falls. Her assailant is upon her.

headrick

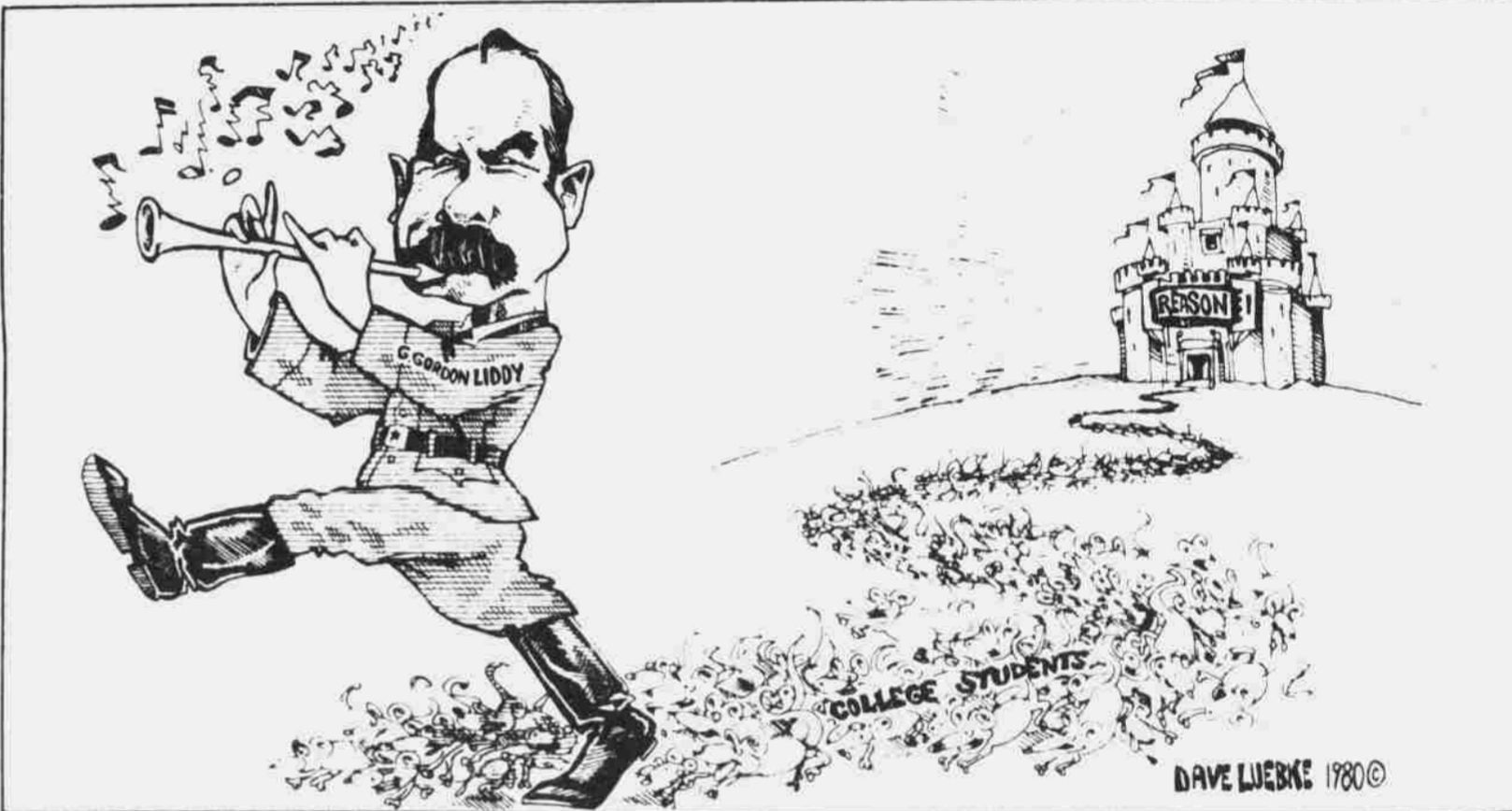
Growing up in the 1950s this was a common scenario. The horror film was a popular motif during that decade. Again in this decade there is a revitalization of the horror show. From the cheaper grade-Bs, to some finely-crafted cinematic wonders, the actors are different but the theme's the same. Often the violence against the female victim is masked in erotic overtones. The mixture of sex and violence is a sure box-office bet.

Edward Donnerstein is one psychologist who has been studying the effects of pornography on behavior. He is now teaching at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He said his four years of studies have shown that continually portraying women as victims does increase aggression against them.

Donnerstein said the current rash of violent films usually portrays independent women being attacked.

This suggests a strong message: Women who are alone are in danger. It serves as a subliminal warning for women to be less independent and reinforces the notions of female dependence on men for protection. *He Knows You're Alone* is possibly the most blatant example of this. The commercial says that when a woman is alone the night before her wedding He, It, Whatever comes for her.

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Sen. Hatch's wage plan examined

If you agree with Sen. Orrin Hatch that the rising minimum wage has priced teen-agers out of the labor market, you'll find it hard to resist his solution.

The Utah Republican says he will introduce legislation to permit employers bound by the minimum-wage law to hire teen-agers at 75 percent of the adult minimum.

The result, he predicts, will be to render teen-agers more employable and reduce youth joblessness.

The proposal will be opposed by labor unions, liberals and blacks. Why?

william raspberry

Are these liberals opposed to doing something concrete about youth unemployment that is threatening the cities? Can blacks argue that it is better for a youngster to be unemployed at \$3.35 (the minimum wage beginning next January) than to be employed at \$2.50? Is labor trying to save jobs for union members, shutting out teen-agers? What are the arguments against the youth differential?

Some of the arguments are fairly obvious, and Hatch proposes to meet some of them. One objection, for instance, is that employers will hire teen-agers at 75 percent of adult wages then replace them when they turn 20. Another is the fear that fathers will lose their jobs to their own sons.

Hatch would require payment of the full minimum wage after a six-month training period, or when the worker reaches age 20. Meanwhile, the youngsters will have had the chance to prove themselves.

Presumably employers would find it more economical to keep experienced workers than to keep training new ones.

Meanwhile, there were all these formerly jobless youngsters now going to work every day.

That is, if Hatch's assumption that the minimum wage causes unemployment is correct. The problem is, nobody

can demonstrate that it is correct, and a good many economists and labor experts argue that it isn't.

Even Hatch seems to have his doubts.

"Everyone knows," he said in a recent interview, "that when the minimum wage goes up to \$3.35 an hour, thousands—no, hundreds of thousands—of kids will lose their jobs because businesses just aren't going to pay that much for young people who are only worth \$2.50 an hour."

How's that again? There are "hundreds of thousands" of youngsters already employed at \$3.10 and they are going to be laid off when the minimum wage goes up by a quarter an hour? Even when their replacements would have to be paid \$3.35 by the time they became fully trained.

Sorry, senator, it doesn't compute. The sub-minimum would do nothing for the youngsters already employed. Nor is it likely to do much for their jobless counterparts if employers know that, after six months, they'll have to get the full minimum.

The only way it could work, it seems to me, is for the difference in pay to be permanent. And that would produce either of two results, neither of them terribly reassuring. Either the 20-year-olds would be laid off and their jobs given to 17-year-olds, or two groups of employees, at the same age, equally experienced, would do the same job at different pay.

Still the Hatch proposal might be worth patching up—if the minimum wage causes youth joblessness.

A number of people who have examined the problem think the causes lie elsewhere: the jobs available to teen-agers are in the suburbs, while most jobless teen-agers are in the inner cities, and a number of employers simply don't want black, inner-city youngsters around.

I suppose you could fix the second problem by setting pay scales low enough. But then the kid becomes a more attractive employee than his own father, causing more problems.

I don't doubt the senator's good intentions, but maybe he'd better hatch up another scheme.

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