

Editorial

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Class abuse probed

Athletes must excel in classes, too

The Intercollegiate Athletic Committee has completed an investigation into possible abuses of summer classes by student-athletes — and the review process apparently didn't go down like clockwork.

The committee will report its findings to the Faculty Senate Dec. 8.

The committee is looking at two classes in particular: Healthy Lifestyles, a three-credit-hour sophomore-level course; and a senior-level, independent-study course dealing with sports psychology, also worth three credit hours.

Legendary stories have circulated around campus for years about athletes taking classes that require no work. But in this case, the classes appear to be worthwhile. As football coach Tom Osborne pointed out, both classes could benefit athletes because they deal with such topics as nutrition and stress management.

One of the disturbing things uncovered in the investigation was the way in which the classes were publicized. More than 90 percent of the students in both courses were athletes, so it is clear that other students were not informed of the availability of the classes.

But there also was a lack of communication within the investigation itself.

The investigation began in the summer, but Osborne said that neither he nor other Nebraska athletic department officials were aware of the investigation until recently.

It seems unlikely that a thorough investigation could be completed without the assis-

tance of Osborne and other athletic officials. If the committee wishes to do a complete investigation it should meet with athletic officials, determine the problem and then suggest possible solutions.

Athletes deserve the chance to succeed also as students. There are too many stories of athletes like Kevin Ross, a basketball player who graduated from Creighton University and could barely read.

Two years ago, the NCAA devised Proposition 48, a rule that required incoming athletes to attain certain scores on their ACT or SAT to be eligible to play collegiate sports. Schools that allow athletes to take "cream-puff" courses to keep their eligibility would be defeating the purpose of the rule; that is, to make sure that athletes receive a strong education.

The Lincoln Journal-Star quoted Roger Grooters, the director of academic programs for the athletic department, as saying that a "significant number" of football players had academic problems last season. To correct this problem, the athletic department should increase the number of academic advisers for athletes, which it already has begun to do, and restrict players who are having academic trouble from both practicing and competing in their sport until their academic troubles have been resolved. Taking "easy" classes is not the answer.

There is no evidence to suggest that the courses in question were set up to help athletes remain eligible, but if any evidence is uncovered by the committee, strong action should be taken.



Conservatives need unity

'Born again' support for Robertson could weaken Republicans

Robertson needs devoted followers." Thus reads the lead headline on the October edition of the "UNL Good News: A Conservative Christian Newsletter." The accompanying story addresses the fact that Pat Robertson could make quite a decent showing in his bid for the Republican presidential nomination if everyone in America who identifies with "born again" Christianity will get behind his campaign. I have no doubt that this is true. I also have no doubt that, for a variety of reasons, millions of voters who so identify have little interest in supporting Robertson for president. I know of at least two in my house.

James
Sennett



Robertson represents the latest and most ambitious effort of the so-called "New Religious Right." Not content with backing borderline devotees like Ronald Reagan, these crusaders have decided that it is time to put one who is wholly and unswervingly their own in power. The dream is an admirable one, fully in keeping with the spirit of democracy, even if it is unrealistic and even a bit quixotic. However, there is good reason to believe that the Robertson campaign will actually be detrimental to the goals of the religious right, even while purporting to represent its finest hour.

This political alliance defies definite description. However, certain facts are apparent, and they make postulating a high and a low goal of the movement defensible. It is safe to say

that the new religious right has the high goal of establishing a government strongly grounded in a distinctive moral outlook, one that is dedicated to the traditional values of the Judeo-Christian heritage. This high goal also includes a full slate of policies that reflect moderate to extreme political conservatism. But there is a low goal, which is to not lose any of the ground gained during the Reagan administration.

The alleged "softening" of Surgeon General C. Everett Koop and a pending arms control agreement notwithstanding, America is a lot more the way these people want it to be than it was before the Reagan years. If the religious right can't accomplish its high goal of putting its own candidate on Pennsylvania Avenue, they will at least want to make sure that someone is elected who will secure the low goal and continue to move the country — slowly but surely — toward the high goal. In short, the primary concern for these people should be that the Reagan agenda be maintained.

Well, it's wake-up-and-smell-the-coffee time. Pat Robertson will not be the next president of the United States. He will not even be the next Republican nominee for president. His campaign is more symbolic than serious. The support he garners will be surprising (frightening?), but it will not be decisive.

And here lies a subtle danger. Robertson's campaign will be significant in one very important way. It will split the Reagan coalition. The religious right was a very important element of the unified effort that put Reagan in the White House twice. While this component is not strong enough to put a person in all by itself, it will play a vital role in who is finally nominated and elected.

Arguably, the one Republican

candidate who could most effectively carry on the Reagan agenda is Robert Dole. I think it is beyond doubt that he could do so better than George Bush. The "wimp factor" is more than campaign rhetoric. Bush does not have the chutzpah to go toe to toe with Congress the way Reagan does. Dole alone has the political clout, the steely-eyed glance and the very subtle mean streak that will be required to "stay the course." In many ways Dole could be considered even more of a conservative than Reagan — and certainly more than Bush.

But here is the rub. Dole will not win the Republican nomination without the support of the religious right. The retreat of this element to its own special-interest candidate will give Bush just the edge he needs to secure the nomination. Barring any scandals, the wide Republican field will steadily narrow to a battle between the two big boys. If Robertson holds out until the convention he will sacrifice the low goal on the altar of the high goal. He will not be nominated, but neither will Dole. Bush will be given the nod.

But George Bush is more beatable in a national election than Dole, and even if he is elected, he will not be able to keep the tight reins that Reagan has established. The conservative tapestry, so carefully woven over eight years of charismatic leadership, will unravel quickly under this man, who has spent most of his political career in low-profile positions.

Pat Robertson wants to be president. Millions of Americans want Pat Robertson to be president. But the move is ill-timed and potentially disastrous. To paraphrase Inspector Clouseau, "Patrick, now is not the time."

Sennett is a graduate student in philosophy and campus minister with College-Career Christian Fellowship.

Letters

Writer missed the best song on the tape

After reading Charles Lieurance's review of the Broadside tape, I was upset that Who is the School?, an apparently improvisational band that I consider more emotional and creative than some of the tape's material, was not even listed as one of the 11 bands

on the tape. Evan Eisentrager's percussion piece was also unfortunately omitted from mention.

Mark Krause
freshman
art

Hamilton's defense of abortion selfish

Nanciana Hamilton's response (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 30) to James Sennett's column on Jessica McClure is not the first pro-abortion letter I have ever read. However, it may be the most offensively selfish defense of abortion ever to be printed.

Hamilton's argument totally ignores the rights of the unborn child, which are also at issue. I fail to see by any stretch of morality, logic or simple common sense how one can place a person's social or economic convenience over another's pre-eminent right to life.

Furthermore, I cannot believe that by carrying a baby to term, it necessarily follows that the mother's "life is destroyed by any resulting stigma, ostracism and ridicule." I would rather be stigmatized for not aborting an undesirable pregnancy than for

committing legalized murder. Besides, less than 3 percent of abortions in this country are performed in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother.

If you want a 100 percent effective form of birth control, Hamilton, I suggest you and/or your husband have yourselves fixed. That way all interests involved would be protected. You need not further fear having your lifestyle disrupted and no future life would be threatened with extinction. It takes a different kind of strength and determination to keep a baby than the kind you speak of to destroy it. It is called unselfish motherly love. Your own mother evidently had it.

Mark Ludwig
junior
law

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