



THE

AFCON

SENTINEL



Volume IV, Number 1

A Quarterly of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska

March 17, 2000

AFCON OFFICERS

Spencer Davis
President

Dwayne Ball
President-Elect

Mel Krutz
Past President

Peggy Williams
Secretary

Cathi McMurtry
Treasurer

David Moshman
Policy Coordinator

Tom Black
Newsletter Editor

Purpose:

To promote academic freedom, defined as intellectual freedom in educational and research contexts. This includes freedoms of belief and expression and access to information and ideas.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—Spencer Davis

Academic Freedom and “Culture Shock”

Recently PBS broadcast the first installment of a four-part series entitled “Culture Shock.” The first episode, bound to arouse viewers and reflecting the title of the series, was “Born to Trouble: ‘Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.’” A good portion of the ninety-minute episode focused on the objections of some students and parents at McClintock High School, Tempe, Arizona, to the frequent appearance of the “n” word in the novel. A workshop with a Twain scholar did nothing—at least nothing the viewer could see—to change the convictions of angry students and parents. Putting Twain in the context of his time or providing biographical evidence that Twain was no racist had no influence. The sight of angry, uninformed parents attacking responsible scholars is disturbing, but also thought-provoking. As a teacher I am trained to believe that I prefer a scholarly nuanced, contextualized understanding of a text to presentism, but why should others? Is it prudent, or even honest, to make the case for contextualized understanding in a case as difficult as Twain’s? I also began to wonder how a youngster could ever understand a work that a parent vehemently rejected.

Assigning an alternative reading and allowing students to be absent from classes that discuss controversial material is a legitimate compromise, but it evades some fundamental issues. The first issue is the claim, whether by teachers, administrators, or school boards, that learning to study and analyze controversial works and ideas is a necessary part of education.

A second issue is the degree to which education should require students to study difficult texts and develop capacities to understand subtle, ambiguous, complex language. Not so long ago a Harvard professor complained that Henry James was unteachable to today’s students. Those of us who suffered through James’s short stories that used to be part of every American literature survey may not feel much sympathy for Professor Birkerts. But a curriculum purged of texts with challenging prose would be inadequate. What level of comprehension should be attained, and what is a teacher free to expect of students?

Perhaps such questions are tangential to academic freedom, but they come to mind upon viewing the first episode of “Culture Shock.” I hope the other episodes are as thought-provoking.

Upcoming Events

Academic Freedom Coalition Of Nebraska

Board Meetings, April 8, May 13, and June 10
Gere Library, 56th and Normal, Lincoln
10 AM

MINUTES of the AFCON Board of Directors

December 11, 1999—Executive Committee: Secretary Williams presented the November minutes which were approved as amended. Treasurer McMurtry submitted a report showing a balance of \$2,170.97, representing both the AFCON and Survey funds.

A letter will be sent to each individual and organizational member requesting renewal of membership and payment of errant dues.

Krutz announced that Marcia Goff, of the *Seward Independent*, is the new representative to AFCON from the Nebraska Press Association.

President Davis reported that Carol MacDaniels resigned as the NELAC representative to AFCON. Peggy Williams took her place.

Krutz will speak on "Current Nebraska Censorship Issues" at the February meeting of the Nebraska State Reading Conference.

As part of its 2000 planning, the Board formed five committees: 1) Higher Education, 2) Primary and Secondary Education, 3) First Amendment, 4) Policy, and 5) Communications. They are to report to the AFCON Board no less frequently than every third month. Committee membership shall consist of AFCON Board members with other members as approved.

Duties of the Higher Education, Primary and Secondary Education, and the First Amendment Committees: to survey the state of Nebraska for threats to academic freedom within their area, to build contacts in their area of representation and the legislature, and to propose action to the AFCON Board or policy committee as appropriate.

Policy Committee duties: to take immediate action when appropriate on issues conveyed to it from the other committees.

Duties of the Communication Committee: to educate the public on academic freedom issues using whatever means necessary.

The Board approved spending no more than \$300.00 to create and maintain a website for the year 2000.

President Davis will seek outside funds for creating and maintaining the website.

The Board decided to meet monthly as a full board except in August.

January 9, 2000—AFCON Board: Secretary Williams presented the December minutes which were approved as amended. Treasurer McMurtry reported a balance of \$2,058.54, representing both the AFCON and Survey funds.

President Davis reported that Lofthus will mail the surveys (on challenges to and censorship of educational materials) to 500-700 teachers, administrators, and librarians by the end of the month.

The AFCON Board approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the full board meet monthly except in August.

The Board approved a committee system developed by the Executive Committee (see AFCON minutes for December 11, 1999) with these changes: replace the word Primary with the word Elementary in the title of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee; replace the words First Amendment with the words Libraries and Public Media in the title of the First Amendment Committee; the Board shall appoint the Committee Chairs for renewable one-year terms or as needed. The Board approved that committee membership consist of Board members, other members, and any interested individuals.

The Board made the following committee assignments: 1) Higher Education members Bob Haller, Dwayne Ball, Spencer Davis, and Laurie Thomas Lee; 2) Elementary and Secondary Education Chair Linda Beckstead with members Cathi McMurtry and Peggy Williams; 3) Libraries and Public Media Chair Donna Jurena with member Cathi McMurtry; 4) Policy Chair Dave Moshman (AFCON Policy Coordinator) with member Dwayne Ball; 5) Communications Chair Tom Black (AFCON Newsletter Editor) with member Mel Krutz.

The Board added the duty of organizing AFCON representation at appropri-

ate conventions and other venues to the Communications Committee.

Moshman distributed a "Sexuality and Academic Freedom" statement, the "UNL Academic Senate Resolution on Fetal Tissue Research," and the J.A. McShane letter on this matter. The Board endorsed the UNL "Academic Freedom Resolution."

Moshman provided information on a UNL sexual harassment case and on Rinehard and his research on Human remains.

The ACLU-N Bill of Rights Dinner will be in the spring.

February 12, 2000—AFCON Board: The December and January minutes were approved unanimously. Treasurer McMurtry reported a balance of 2,069.73, including the AFCON organizational fund of \$704.73 and the Survey fund of \$1,365.00.

Moshman solicited comments on the draft of a possible AFCON policy regarding "Sexuality and Academic Freedom" which he has presented. The Board will formally consider the draft at its March meeting.

Discussion followed on two bills introduced in the Unicameral on fetal tissue research. LB 1405, if passed, would ban all fetal tissue research. LB 1417, if passed, would require information on all medical research to be submitted upon request to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Unicameral.

The AFCON Board adopted the position that "AFCON is opposed to LB 1417 as drafted while approving the right of citizens to information on publicly funded research."

Lincoln High and Lincoln Southeast students faced administrative scrutiny for carrying copies of an underground newspaper. Moshman will discuss issues related to the underground paper with the administrations of the schools.

Black requested material for the next AFCON *Sentinel*.

Krutz mentioned that the Freedom of Student Expression bill again did not get out of the Unicameral committee.

What is a *mandatum* and other important questions

By Bob Haller

The recent announcement that Catholic teachers of theological subjects were to seek a *mandatum* from the local bishop has aroused interest in the press and in such venues as the “Chronicle of Higher Education” because of the threats to academic freedom such a policy seems to promise. The announcement comes as no surprise to those whose predisposition is to believe that the Vatican and particularly the head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the brilliant but repressive Cardinal Ratzinger, are eager to sanction theologians, out of a fear of their waywardness. It is also no surprise that the Jesuits, the most intellectual of Catholic orders who run twenty-eight institutions of higher learning in the United States, were quick to protest. The Jesuit double tradition of loyalty to the Pope and intellectual preeminence leads naturally to their resentment of ecclesiastical interference. I have never met a Jesuit who will acknowledge his intellectual inferiority except to another Jesuit.

There are two reasons for AFCON to be interested in this move. First, two institutions in our state would come under the decree: Creighton University and St. Mary’s College. And second, the nature of the freedom issues raised sheds some interesting light on the problems of intellectual freedom. Creighton and St Mary’s would fight outside interference with their freedom on both religious and educational grounds. But the opportunity to secure the formal blessing of the local Bishop and therefore of the religious community to which the institutions are affiliated could be positively attractive. Would UNO or UNL reject a legislative affirmation that they give excellent support to democracy and to the good of our state? Would Doane or Wesleyan reject a resolution from the local judiciary of the UCC or UMC, praising their contributions to their faith communities?

Let me state what are the facts of this case to indicate where the difficulties with the current move might lie. Let me note first that the document under consideration is the statement of the U.S. Catholic Conference, the Bishops of this country, reacting to a requirement from Rome that theologians at Catholic institutions seek a *mandatum* from the local ordinary. The USCC document goes to Rome for its approval, and will then be returned to the U.S. Bishops to work out how it will operate in practice. These procedures will take at least five years. So there is no immediate threat to anyone. But what is notable in this document is the degree to which it goes beyond the requirements of the Roman decree it responds to. That decree covered only institutions which grant theological degrees that are valid within the Catholic Church itself. In other words, the Church is acting as an accrediting agency for its internal purposes, much as the ABA might accredit law schools or the CPA’s School of Accounting. But the U.S. Bishops have extended the decree to all institutions claiming to be Catholic. Creighton and St. Mary’s are thus to be covered as well.

What is further notable is the lengths to which the USCC

document goes to deny that it constitutes a threat to academic freedom. It does not forbid the teaching of any doctrine; rather it forbids the representation of doctrines as official teachings of the Catholic Church when they are not so. It imposes the obligation of obtaining the *mandatum* on the Professor, and it declares that the *mandatum* remains in effect until removed, even if the Professor moves to another diocese. It contains explicit acknowledgement that, notwithstanding the *mandatum*, the Professor’s teaching is his or her own and not simply the parroting of the approved opinions of the Church. It locates the importance of the *mandatum* in the community of believers. From all these points of view it seems quite benign and positive.

The dangers of course would occur only when a local ordinary with a high opinion of his own intellectual capacities and a manifest zeal to use whatever sanctions are available to him to control those in his jurisdiction is put in the position of supplying the *mandatum*. The Nebraska bishop who best fits this description is in Lincoln, while Creighton and St Mary’s are in Omaha, where the Archbishop and his staff can be trusted to recognize how blessed they are to have these two institutions in the community.

But the dangers of the requirement do not stop there. Catholic institutions in the U.S. have over the past decades attempted to separate themselves from actual control by the hierarchy. To qualify for federal and state aid and grants, they must show themselves not to be religious institutions, and most of these institutions have done so. If now some members of their faculty must obtain permission of a Bishop in order to teach their specialties, these institutions will be open to lawsuits alleging that they have disqualified themselves for public aid. That is a risk which the Church and the institutions of higher learning would be hesitant to make, and it may come into consideration when the actual procedures are put into effect, lessening the dangers to academic freedom.

As both a Catholic and a professor with a strong commitment to academic freedom, the prospect of this new condition is intriguing. It has a further interest for me as a Medievalist. Students come to Medieval classes convinced that the Catholic Church has always been eager to prosecute those who depart from its narrow dogmatic formulations. I try sometimes to convince them otherwise by explaining, first, that the university as an institution arose in the Middle Ages, in the very bosom of the Church, with its version of academic freedom at the core, and that the examples of prelates condemning the heresies of professors are precisely proof of the staunch principles of intellectual freedom at the core of the Church and the university. Those modern members of the hierarchy who want to impose such conditions miss the point of the Church’s history.

The essence of the first universities was their collegiate structure and their intellectual method. The structure was the self-governing college, modeled (Continued on page 4.)

(Continued from page 3.) on other independent voluntary groupings of persons equal in principle but assigned a variety of privileges within the group. Student-clerks strove to achieve Bachelor status qualifying them to debate the professors, or Masters status allowing them to teach, or Doctoral status putting them into the major public disputes. The intellectual method was the exposition and extension of authoritative texts by appropriate methods, whether those of the arts, or logic, or law. "Theology" was itself an invention of the university, building on its forerunners (Abelard, Peter Lombard) who had collected and systematized the dogmatic statements of the Church Fathers and subjected them to the tests of consistency and non-contradiction. What created the equivalent of modern academic freedom was the jealously-guarded independence of the colleges, their reserving to themselves the right to appoint faculty, set curriculum, and award privileges, because they alone understood the methods of intellectual work. It was quickly and widely understood that this independence was essential to the operation of the university. In the 13th century, for instance, important dogmatic and jurisdictional disputes were referred to the university for settlement as equivalent matters of legal importance are referred in our country to the Supreme Court, with the knowledge that the authorities could be trusted to be unbiased, exhaustive and authoritative. This independence was protected by the fact that members of colleges at universities were exempt from prosecution under civil law and that the degrees and privileges within the college were unique to it.

Some of the well-known instances of alleged interference by outside authorities in censoring the teaching of professors are in fact demonstrations that universities were free from outside sanctions. The Condemnations of Bishop Tempier

of Paris in 1271, for instance, arose in conditions of rivalry within the Sorbonne, primarily between the Friars (who included St. Thomas Aquinas and Roger Bacon) and the secular clergy. As each side went to Bishop Tempier to complain of its rivals, they attempted to arouse his outrage and sympathy by accusing their opponents of heterodox teachings. The Bishop eagerly copied down each of these alleged heresies and removed the professors who were allegedly supporting them (including St Thomas Aquinas, who died trying to return to his native Aquino, in disgrace.)

I cannot cite a specific proof, but I think it is safe to say that Popes and Bishops who knew what a treasure had grown up in their midst had no desire to meddle where they were incompetent. Only when professors themselves refused to accept the outcome of their internal procedures and appealed to the authorities did they lose their independence. Modern Church officials, misreading the past, and with an insufficient appreciation of how much more valuable to the faith and the Church is education as against indoctrination, make the mistake of attempting to control an institution which is by its very nature independent.

Academic freedom does not have as an operating principle that every idea is equal. It says that the disciplines judge the quality of ideas and their advocates by standards recognized within the profession., We lose our independence as a profession when we go to outside authorities to settle our disputes. So long as we are "bound to each other (which is what the Latin *collegium* means)" we are strong enough to resist inappropriate outside interference. We should therefore express our solidarity with our colleagues at Creighton and St. Mary's and hope that the Archdiocese of Omaha will not endanger the independence and stature of the institutions within its jurisdiction.

REQUEST FOR NEWS FOR FUTURE ISSUES

The editor of the AFCON SENTINEL invites all AFCON individual and organizational members to send news about academic freedom issues or challenges in Nebraska or editorial comments for inclusion in this newsletter.

Due date for submissions to the June 16, 2000, issue is due May 29, 2000.

Send to Tom Black, 610 West Park, West Point NE 68788-1624 or tb35925@navix.net

FOR SALE BY AFCON

Send orders to Mel Krutz, 2625 Bluff Road, Seward, NE 68434-9801

T-shirts with a Paul Fell "banned books" design; Sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL; \$15.00. Packaging and postage: \$2.00 each.

Note cards with a Paul Fell design; \$1.50; four for \$5.00. Packaging and postage: \$0.75 per packet.

Reader's Theatre Script of a TANGLED ISSUE: Student Freedom of Expression. \$10.00 buys the rights to produce and duplicate. Packaging and postage: \$2.00 each.

AFCON SPEAKER'S BUREAU (As of November 1999)

Dwayne Ball: "Threats to Academic Freedom at Universities"
3120 Jasper Ct., Lincoln, NE 68516
dball@alltel.net

Linda Beckstead: "Freedom of Student Press Issues"
3919 Davenport, Omaha, NE 68131
becksteadl@aol.com

John Bender: "The Nebraska Student Freedom of Expression Bill"
3609 S. 20 St., Lincoln, NE 68508
jbender@unl.edu

Spencer Davis: "Academic Freedom on the College Campus" and "Principles of Academic Freedom"
512 Laurel Circle, Bellevue, NE 68005
sdavis@bobcat.peru.edu or ssdavis@uswest.net

Bob Haller: "Money Talks: Ideas in the Political Process" and "Religion, Intellectual Freedom, and the University"
4000 S. 56th St., 393C, Lincoln, NE 68506
rhaller1@unl.edu

Jeff Lofthus: "Surveying Censorship in Nebraska"
1220 Hayes Ave., Norfolk, NE 68701
jlofthus@pluggers.esu8.k12.ne.us

Mel Krutz: "So, When the Supreme Court Says Yes to Censorship, What Do You Say, Dear?" and "Current Nebraska Censorship Issues and Why They Matter"
2625 Bluff Rd., Seward, NE 68434
mel34938@navix.net (soon to be mel@alltel.net)

Carol MacDaniels: "Street Language and Student Writing"
4740 Grassridge Rd., Lincoln, NE 68512
cmaddani@unl.edu

David Moshman: "Nature and Purpose of Academic Freedom;" "General Principles of Academic Freedom;" "AFCON Policies;" "Intellectual and First Amendment Rights of Adolescents;" "Intellectual and First Amendment Rights of Students;" and "Intellectual Freedom and Intellectual Development"
1901 Pepper Ave., Lincoln, NE 68502
dmoshman1@unl.edu

Presentation of the Readers' Theatre production of A Tangled Web: Student Freedom of Expression (a cast of adults and students)

Resolution in Support of the Principle of Academic Freedom in the Conduct of University Research (Approved by the UNL Academic Senate, December 7, 1999; Endorsed by AFCON on January 8, 2000)

WHEREAS researchers at the University of Nebraska Medical Center have been using fetal tissues in research that may contribute to finding ways of curing or preventing a variety of neurodestructive diseases, and such research has been conducted in full compliance with applicable federal regulations and institutional guidelines; and

WHEREAS several elected public officials have recently called for the University of Nebraska to halt this research, with some suggesting that the Nebraska Legislature should cut funding for the University unless it stops research using fetal tissue; and

WHEREAS the public statements of these state political leaders imply that they believe the use of fetal tissue in research promotes abortions; and

WHEREAS the use of fetal tissue in medical research is separate from the issue of abortion, an issue about which reasonable people, including members of this body, may hold differing opinions; and

WHEREAS the Board of Regents Bylaws 4.2 states explicitly that the principle of academic freedom is vital to preserving the integrity of the University's intellectual enterprise, and to fulfilling its charge to serve the people of Nebraska and the common good through research and scholarship, teaching, and learning, extension work and public service; and

(Continued on page 6.)

UNL Academic Senate in Support of Academic Freedom

(Continued from page 5.)

WHEREAS the protections of academic freedom constitute a guarantee to the citizens of the state that the University's programs of instruction and research shall not be compromised, nor shall its faculty be forced to abandon their search for the truth, by being made subject to a particular political or ideological perspective; and

WHEREAS the statements by politicians opposing the medical center research constitute a threat to the principle and guarantees of academic freedom, and the rights of University of Nebraska faculty members to exercise academic freedom in their conduct of research;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Academic Senate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln reaffirms its commitment to the principle of academic freedom, endorses President Smith's November 30 letter to Governor Johanns, and declares its support for the academic freedom of all researchers at the University of Nebraska, including those currently under fire at the Medical Center, and we commend all those who have spoken out in defense of the principle of academic freedom, which lies at the heart of our educational and intellectual enterprise.

(Signed by Gail F Latta, Professor and Academic Senate President, University Libraries, UN-L.)

VOLUNTEERS INVITED TO SERVE ON ONE OF FIVE AFCON COMMITTEES

Recently the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON) established five committees to better fulfill its purpose to support application of the First Amendment in academic contexts; to educate Nebraskans about the meaning and value of intellectual freedom; to assist those who are confronted with censorship, indoctrination, or suppression of ideas; and to act as liaison among groups that support academic freedom. Committees will report to the AFCON Board no less than once every three months.

- 1) Higher Education: to survey the state of Nebraska for threats to academic freedom in the state's colleges and universities, to build contacts with the Legislature, and to propose action to the AFCON Board or Policy Committee as appropriate.
- 2) Elementary and Secondary Education: to survey the state of Nebraska for threats to academic freedom in the state's pre-K-12 public schools, to build contacts with the Legislature, and to propose action to the AFCON Board or Policy Committee as appropriate.
- 3) Libraries and Public Media: to survey the state of Nebraska for threats to academic freedom in the public libraries and in the public print and audio/video media, to build contacts with the Legislature, and to propose action to the AFCON Board or Policy Committee as appropriate.
- 4) Policy: to formulate policies used as guidelines by the Board in making its decisions to fulfill its purposes or to take immediate action when appropriate on issues conveyed to it by the Board of the other committees.
- 5) Communications: to educate the public on academic freedom issues using whatever means necessary and to organize AFCON representation at appropriate conventions and other venues.

The Board needs three to four AFCON members or interested non-members to serve on these committees. If anyone is interested send name, address, telephone number or e-mail address, and committee preference to President Spencer Davis, 512 Laurel Circle, Bellevue NE 68005; e-mail ssdavis@uswest.net or sdavis@bobcat.peru.edu

The Honorable Michael Johanns, Governor of Nebraska
 The Honorable Doug Kristensen, Speaker of the Unicameral
 The Honorable Don Stenberg, Attorney General of Nebraska

Gentlemen:

We, the undersigned UNL professors and recipients of UNL's James A. Lake Academic Freedom Award, regard the present threats to the University of Nebraska Medical Center's fetal tissue research as perhaps the gravest threat to academic freedom at the University of Nebraska in memory. Because the proposals for "discussion" (as reported in the November 30, 1999, "Lincoln Journal Star" and in other relevant articles there and in the "Omaha World Herald") include threats from State legislatures to cut University funding, the matter is much more serious than a simple call for dialogue involving the political leadership of the state and of the university.

The research in question is funded by some of the most prestigious public and private research institutions in the country, including the National Institute of Health. It is similar to research being pursued at Columbia, Harvard, Northwestern, and a variety of other institutions that are among the nation's most distinguished. Before funding, such research has to pass muster with panels of experts in medical ethics at several levels, including those of the funding agencies. The use of fetal tissue in research, under prevailing ethical rules, in no way encourages or rewards abortion—which is, under present Supreme Court decisions legal in any case. No woman is invited, much less paid, to terminate a pregnancy to supply the tissue. No physician is rewarded for it. The terminations take place for reasons wholly unrelated to the medical research. No one has presented an iota of evidence that the use of such tissue leads to additional terminations of pregnancy. It is difficult for us to see how the use of fetal tissue in such circumstances differs in kind from the use of other non-viable tissue for research and healing purposes.

Though we recognize that some religious groups take serious exception to the practice of abortion, we ask them to recognize abortion is not what is in question here. What is at issue is the right to research. The current attack on academic freedom threatens research toward solutions to the fierce problems posed by Parkinson's, Alzheimer's,

AIDS, multiple sclerosis, and a variety of other ailments. If this attack succeeds, it will make other politically motivated attacks more likely.

In its bylaws the University of Nebraska sets out procedures both for the guaranteeing of academic freedom and for the discovery of academic abuse. Our procedures for the discovery and disciplining of professional misconduct are available for use by anyone who wishes to place a charge of that nature against any of our professors. Those procedures have the force of statute and contract for members of the university faculty and administration. If political officials have an issue with the ethical character of any activity being pursued at the university, they should use the procedures that are in place for the handling of such issues in a legal and responsible way.

It is a dangerous exercise of political power to threaten the whole university or any one of its sites with punitive budget cuts based on such volatile issues as are present in this case. Doing so in our judgment is inconsistent with the responsibility to conduct a public university. Academic freedom, Professor Lake said, is the price society pays for the better tomorrow we are confident will spring from discovery of better knowledge. In our judgment, the attacks currently directed at ongoing research at the NU Medical Center seriously undermine that promise; they will lead to a more general climate which will inhibit the fundamental research of other scholars in this and other areas.

We urge you to reconsider your position.

Sincerely,

J.A. McShane (English)

For the following: Wallace Peterson (Economics, Emeritus,) Mary Beck (Animal Science,) David Moshman (Educational Psychology,) Linda Pratt (English,) Campbell McConnell (Economics, Emeritus,) James Cole (psychology,) Dermot Coyne (Horticulture,) Paul Olson (English,) R. Burt Maxcy (Food Science and Technology, Emeritus.)

(The UNL Academic Freedom Award is named for James A. Lake, Sr., the late distinguished UNL Professor of Law. The award represents the most prestigious recognition the UNL faculty can bestow on one if its members.)

The AFCON Board of Directors invites the representatives of its several organizational members to send calendars of events to the editor of this newsletter. You have an opportunity to highlight events important to your organizations for all AFCON members to see and perhaps attend. Send your upcoming events to Tom Black, 610 West Park, West Point, NE 68788-1624 or e-mail him at tb35925@navix.net

AFCON

515 North Thomas Avenue
Oakland, NE 68045.

Mailing
Address
Label

ACADEMIC FREEDOM COALITION OF NEBRASKA

HELP AFCON PROMOTE ACADEMIC FREEDOM

As a member of AFCON, you can help us

- ◆ support applications of the First Amendment in academic contexts, including elementary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, and libraries.
- ◆ educate Nebraskans about the meaning and value of intellectual freedom, intellectual diversity, mutual respect, open communication, and uninhibited pursuit of knowledge, including the role of these ideals in academic contexts and in democratic self-government.
- ◆ assist students, teachers, librarians, and researchers confronted with censorship, indoctrination, or suppression of ideas.
- ◆ act as liaison among groups in Nebraska that support academic freedom.

MEMBERSHIP (To become a member, send dues, organization or individual name, address, and phone number to Cathi McMurtry, 515 N. Thomas Avenue, Oakland, NE 68045)

Organizational Membership (\$100) entitles the organization to one seat on the AFCON Board and one vote in the election of officers and at the annual meeting, provides newsletter subscription for the board member to share with the organization's information director and reduced rates to AFCON conferences for its members.

Individual Membership (\$10) provides newsletter subscription, eligibility for office and for chairing standing committees, reduced rates for AFCON conferences, and one vote at annual meetings.

Student Membership (\$5) entitles full-time students to the same privileges as provided by the Individual Membership.

**AFCON ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS, PLEASE DUPLICATE THIS NEWSLETTER FOR YOUR MEMBERS.
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND AFTER YOU HAVE READ IT.
ENCOURAGE HIM OR HER TO JOIN AFCON**