



THE

# AFCON

SENTINEL



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A Quarterly of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska

December 21, 2002

## AFCON OFFICERS

Linda Beckstead  
President

Laurie Lee  
President-Elect

Dwayne Ball  
Past President

David Kubicek  
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—Linda Beckstead

It was spring 1974 and as a sixth grader at Birchcrest Elementary, I planned to make a difference in the political climate of my school although I had no particular expertise to achieve my goal. I staged a singular sit-down strike when the music teacher required us to perform a solo in front of our classmates. I was terrified of singing away from a crowd or my bathtub and preferred being sent to the principal than submit to the humiliation of revealing a crackly, wimpy voice.

My next move was a petition to remove this teacher from the building, and although I secured at least twenty-five signatures, I lost my bid to purchase an ad in the local paper for a new music teacher.

The rumblings of feminism inspired my final effort and I single-handedly challenged the sixth grade boys in my class to a softball game against the girls. As an adult, I can easily see now what I didn't know then: boys had been playing Little League since their spindly child-arms could muster an oversized t-ball bat. Little girls were still playing Barbies when the boys advanced to hitting a softball thrown by a kindly coach. And finally when the

boys were perfecting their steal and slide, most of the girls in my class were learning how to backward skate. What I didn't see at age twelve was that the girls' chance of winning that softball game was doomed from the start. And we did lose. There was no Hollywood ending. We neither brought in surprise homeruns nor outplayed them in the field. The entire experiment was a failure, but what I do remember is the challenge of the entire project. And although the loss was ultimately humbling, for the thirty or so kids who played that day, it was momentous.

Since those early years, I continue to take action to initiate change rather than sit along the sidelines and grumble about inequities. But what I've learned since sixth grade is that the voice of many is more often heard than a voice of one, and that it's better to act with wisdom and thoughtfulness than react impulsively.

Part of that lesson became reality when members of AFCON came to my rescue through a letter writing campaign and personal calls of support when my students challenged an administrative decision to remove three articles  
(Continued to page 3.)

## Upcoming Events

AFCON Board Meetings: January 11, February 8, March 8, 2003  
Loren Eiseley Library, 1530 Superior, Lincoln, Nebraska; 10 AM

## Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings—David Kubicek

**September 14, 2002**—The Board approved the July minutes (Dave Kubicek) and received the treasury report (Cathi McMurtry) showing a balance of \$1,797.28.

President Linda Beckstead for Mel Krutz asked for dates of organizational events where the AFCON information table can be set.

David Moshman, Policy Coordinator, introduced several discussions.

\*\*The gay-straight alliance at Norfolk High prevailed in its attempts to be treated like any other school club, but instead of extending privileges of the other clubs to the alliance, the school restricted the privileges of all the clubs.

\*\*An update on the Seward teacher who was reassigned for criticizing administrative policy.

\*\*A report on the Lincoln teacher with 31 years of experience accused of not knowing what was happening in her classroom when two five-year-olds were caught in sexual activities under a blanket. The administration recommended her firing.

\*\*A report of a former Park Middle School administrator who resigned in February and later surrendered his certificate amid allegations of sexual harassment.

\*\*Two-letters-to-the-editor—one from Kathy Wilmot, State Board of Education member, criticizing material on the National Education Association's Web site urging teachers to teach tolerance in the wake of the September 11 attacks and one from NSEA President Duane Obermier in rebuttal. Moshman felt it was an inappropriate way for a School Board member to criticize a teachers' organization.

\*\*The UN-L budget cuts, though not affecting programs yet, could lead to program cuts without input from faculty.

\*\*Using federal funds provided by the Department of Education's Safe and Drug Free School program, students can be taught how to spy on classmates and turn them in to local

police in West Virginia. The purpose of this program is purported to "prevent hate crimes," but there are concerns that it is a direct threat to First Amendment freedoms of religion and speech.

\*\*The Third Circuit Court overturned the Children's Internet Protection Act.

\*\*The Ninth Circuit's Court of Appeals ruled that the University of California at Santa Barbara did not violate the constitutional rights of a graduate student when it rejected his master's thesis for not adhering to academic standards with a section with profane language criticizing university officials.

\*\*One university required incoming students to read a list of books before enrolling. Many of the books had been banned from students' high school classes.

Kubicek brought samples of the AFCON packets to be distributed during Banned Book Week at A Novel Idea Bookstore in Lincoln. Laurie Lee and McMurtry will staff the table.

Dwayne Ball recommended AFCON no longer participate in UN-L's Big Red Day. Results of the AFCON promotion activities proved disappointing.

Beckstead asked for nominations for the Academic Freedom Award by the October meeting and for ideas about the Annual Meeting set for November 23. Lee suggested "patriotism vs. freedom" as the topic for the annual meeting.

Lee, Ball, and Moshman were appointed to a nominating committee to develop a slate of AFCON officer candidates by the October meeting. Ball plans to focus on recruiting more faculty senates for AFCON membership.

**October 12, 2002**—The Board approved the September secretary's minutes and the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$1313.70.

Beckstead reported that an Iowa high school yearbook was returned to the publisher to remove two pages about drugs, despite statutory protection for student freedom of expression in that state. The Board also discussed an anti-bullying proposal before the State Board of Education that would threaten

student freedom of expression. The State Board acknowledged administrative concerns about local autonomy and did not act on the proposal.

Moshman reported that the UNL student government, over intense opposition, approved a bylaw that mandates recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance at student senate meetings. If the bylaw requires individual senators to participate, it would be a violation of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *West Virginia v. Barnette* (1943.)

Moshman reported on a letter distributed by University of Nebraska Regents candidate Tony Ojeda denouncing the university as anti-God, anti-church, and anti-family. Ojeda and a challenger in another Regents race oppose fetal tissue research. If both challenges win the margin of support for the academic freedom of UNMC researchers would drop to 5-3. The Regents received the AFCON Academic Freedom Award for its unanimous support of fetal tissue research in 2000,

Though few Banned Book Society packets were distributed during Banned Book Week, Kubicek received Board praise for his preparation of them.

McMurtry and Krutz moved to donate \$25 to the annual Lincoln Harvest of Books.

In discussing preparations for the AFCON Annual Meeting November 23, the Board agreed to give Academic Freedom Awards to Nancy Duncan for her portrayal of Baba Yaga and who, in all of her presentations, opens minds, encourages thinking, and supports intellectual growth and freedom and to Chris Gallagher, Kim Larson, and Suzanne Ratzlaff, co-chairs of the P-16 Task Force that is trying to maintain local control over academic assessment in Nebraska in the face of federal demands for uniformity.

Moshman, on behalf of the nominating committee, presented the slate for AFCON officers to serve in 2003: secretary, Dave Kubicek; treasurer, Cathi McMurtry; president-elect, Peggy Adair.

(Continued to page 3.)

## President's Message—Linda Beckstead

(Continued from page 1.)

from their high school newspaper in 1997. Eventually, after a nine-month battle, a compromise was reached. I was able to keep my job as adviser, and my students earned the right to publish the stories. In addition, our principal became an advocate of the journalism program and has been reliably supportive ever since.

I joined AFCON soon after and have learned about local and nationwide struggles to retain the academic freedoms that I have sometimes taken for granted.

Members of the AFCON Board are among a select group that I hold in deep respect for their mission to represent those who seek help in securing academic freedom. AFCON members speak on behalf of students, teachers, library patrons, community members; those of voting age, and those whose votes don't yet count. Ultimately, AFCON gives voice to those who may need a chorus to be heard.

For myself, the years during which I have been a member of

AFCON, and this last year as president, have been ones of personal growth and reflection. Because of AFCON, I've widened my perspective to see the range of areas in which censorship and the restraint of academic freedom may hinder intellectual advancement. In the forthcoming year, it remains my goal to assist others who may need an advocate while ultimately relying on the members of AFCON for their continued wisdom.

## AFCON Minutes—

(Continued from page 2.)

**November 9, 2002**— The Board accepted the October minutes and the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$1,536.28.

Mel Krutz reported on sales of AFCON merchandise at the Nebraska Writers Guild meeting and the Nebraska Library Association conference.

Beckstead gave an update on the Lewis Central High School debate, sharing a commentary from the *Omaha World-Herald* by Michael J. Krainak. The school returned yearbooks to have a controversial story about student drug use replaced with a generic look back on the year.

Lee reported that the Wilson-Ojeda contest for Regent was too close to call.

Adair said all legislative bills started last year are dead and will not be held over to next session.

Moshman reported on three policy issues:

\*\*A student in a family science course at UNL contacted the ACLU and complained the religious nature

of the class was inappropriate for a public university. She said she feels like she is back in Catholic school. Tim Butz, ACLU director, said it was an ACLU case. Moshman shared examples. Adair said the course seems to be the teacher's opinion, not based on fact. Moshman said he would get a copy of the syllabus, after which he will informally talk to the faculty member.

\*\*Lincoln City Libraries decided not to put Internet filters on computers in any library, but they banned anyone under the age of 17 from Internet access unless they are married or a parent comes to the library to sign a form in the presence of a librarian. ACLU is checking this Internet Safety Policy which is contrary to the policy of the American Library Association. AFCON has sent a letter to Library Director Carol Connor about discrimination against minors. The ACLU would need a plaintiff to make it a viable First Amendment case. Moshman said that the ideal plaintiff would be a gay or pregnant teenager who did not have any other Internet access.

\*\*A petition was circulated to presidents and chancellors of colleges and universities in the U.S. Some refused to sign, including Harvey Perlman, chancellor of UNL. Many who didn't sign cited the reason that the petition wasn't balanced. In other matters, two Jewish students brought a lawsuit to prevent a pro-Palestinian conference at the University of Michigan, but the lawsuit didn't succeed and the conference took place. Moshman reported on a pro-Israel Web site that contained dossiers based on student complaints of professors who allegedly made anti-Semitic comments. The dossier section was removed, but the site still contains questionable allegations.

The Board continued discussion of plans for the November 23 Annual Meeting.

Voting for AFCON officers for 2003 will be conducted by mail.

Discussion was tabled to the next meeting on plans for an AFCON presentation for the Nebraska Reading Association Conference early next year.

**University Report**—Dwayne Ball

Mercer College, Macon, Georgia: The president (R. Kirby Godsey) of little Baptist-sponsored Mercer College wrote a book and a pamphlet some years ago arguing that the faculty of a church-sponsored university should have academic freedom, "a commitment to free and open inquiry," and "uncompromised pursuit of the truth." Yet, he prohibited psychology professor Frances Dane from doing his research last year. Dr. Dane wanted to distribute a survey to Mercer students asking about sex practices among students. The president wrote to Dane: "No one is questioning your right to conduct scientific investigation in your field of study....When the proposed research involves our own students as subjects, however, other equally important values, such as the equitable distribution of the risks and benefits of the research, must be considered." One of the risks undoubtedly was to Mr. Godsey's job, according to some of the faculty who now feel that academic freedom is questionable at Mercer. Professor Dane is leaving for more hospitable climes and a doubling of his salary at Saginaw Valley State College. (*Chronicle of Higher Education*, August 2, 2002)

University of Georgia, Athens: An administrator in the office of the Dean of Students e-mailed all the campus fraternities and sororities to caution them that the state flag of Georgia, which contains the Confederate stars and bars, should not be placed in any locations where it could be seen from outside their houses. When questioned, he said that doing so would "violate the diversity plan" of the University of Georgia. The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education was

alerted and asked for clarification from the university president's office. Realizing its mistake, the university apologized and reaffirmed the rights of everyone on campus to free expression. F.I.R.E. director Thor Halvorssen wrote, "Universities should be centers of free expression and equal rights.....In fact, fraternity students, unpopular in the eyes of administrators, very frequently find their rights deliberately disregarded. In a free society, individuals who find fraternities or their protected expressions and behaviors offensive always have the weapons of persuasion, moral witness, or cold contempt. They should not have the power to call upon the selective and heavy hand of coercive authority and censorship." (*F.I.R.E. newsletter* Oct. 15, 2002)

Washington University, St. Louis, MO: A group of law students formed an organization called Law Students Pro-Life (LSPL) and petitioned the Student Bar Association for recognition as an official campus organization. This would have allowed them funding, office space, and other privileges. They were denied, on rather strange grounds. The SBA, in a September 9 memo of this year, referred to the "narrowness" of the LSPL: they opposed abortion but did not also oppose the death penalty, you see. It must be self-evident that the two positions are irrevocably linked in legal minds, because when the LSPL petitioned again, they were refused again without a justification. A furor followed, involving the ACLU, F.I.R.E., a national petition drive, and considerable negative publicity for the university. The SBA backed down and approved the LSPL as an official campus organization in mid-October. (*F.I.R.E. newsletter*, Oct. 15, 2002)

**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 book with rights to duplicate the script and produce the play. Packaging and postage: \$2.00 each.

## AFCON SPEAKER'S BUREAU (As of December 2001)

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

Linda Beckstead: "Freedom of Student Press Issues"  
611 North 42nd Street, Omaha, NE 68131  
BecksteadL@aol.com

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

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

David Moshman: "Principles of Academic Freedom" and "Student Rights"  
1901 Pepper Ave., Lincoln, NE 68502  
dmoshman1@unl.edu

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

### ADDRESS FOR THE AFCON WEB SITE

<http://www.NebrWesleyan.edu/offices/library/Afcon>

**Check it out and learn Who We Are and about Our Activities; read our Constitution; learn how to Join Us; see the where and when of our Meetings; meet our Members and Officers; Study our Publications, Principles, and Statements**

### The Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska held its Annual Meeting , November 23

After the presentation of Academic Freedom Awards to Nancy Duncan and to the codirectors of P-16: Chris Gallagher, Kim Larson, and Suzanne Ratzlaff. (See page 6 for the speeches.) ...and... After the Panel Discussion on Patriotism vs. Freedom (How has Academic Freedom been affected since 9-11?) with Ron Raikes, Senator Nebraska Legislature, District 25, Rod Wagner, Director, Nebraska Library Commission, and Shama Ali, International Student and Scholar Advisor, International Affairs, UNL. (See

page 7 for a summary.) the REAL highlight of the program was the performances of Louise and Beatrice Duncan in accepting the Award for their grandmother, Nancy.

Weezie: Our grandmother, Nancy Duncan

Bea: (We call her Maga.)

Weezie: Begged us to come today and thank you for giving her a Freedom Award.

Bea: Yeah, she says, 'Thank you very much.'

Weezie: She also asked us to tell you that the tongue is always enemy to the neck... (pause)

Bea: But the tongue is also the muscle that connects the brain to the heart.

Weezie: She also wanted to encourage you in your good work.

Bea: True! ...she said she has always been a chicken ... (pause)

Weezie: But courage is knowing you are a chicken.

Bea: And doing it anyway. (Both cluck)

### 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 in Nebraska or editorial comments for inclusion in this newsletter and/or announcements of organizational meetings for the UPCOMING EVENTS column.

Due date for submissions to the **March 22**, 2003, issue is **February 24**, 2003.

## 2002 ACADEMIC FREEDOM AWARDS

Presented at the AFCON Annual Meeting, Lincoln, Nebraska, November 23, 2002

AFCON is pleased to present an Academic Freedom Award to **Nancy Duncan**, who, in her work and in her life (which probably are the same thing) consistently opens minds, encourages thinking, and generates intellectual growth and intellectual freedom.

She does this continually as an Artistic Director/ Producer/ Performer of Story Performances; as an adjunct instructor at several colleges in Nebraska and other places; as a professional storyteller including giving presentations, most recently at workshops at UNMC, at the College of St. Mary Breast Cancer Symposium, at Alegent Health, at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, at Chadron State College performing arts series, at BryanLGH Breast Cancer Luncheon in Lincoln; as guest storyteller at festivals, symposiums, and conferences in Nebraska and all over America; in residency fellowships; in Nebraska, area, and national touring programs; as Executive Director of Emmy Guilford Children's Theater, Omaha from 1976 - 1986; as Associate Director of the Omaha Community Playhouse from 1973-1976; as teacher of "storytelling to teachers and kids in workshops, courses, and performance, sometimes becoming the storytelling chicken, or Baba Yaga, the Russian storytelling witch," and in so much more!

But mostly, she says, she is just herself. That self has received awards in the humanities, in community, in the arts, in leadership, in storytelling, in the Democratic party as the 1984 Women's Woman of the Year in Arts, and even the award of Admiralship in the Nebraska Navy.

We are pleased to add the AFCON Academic Freedom Award to this list, for in each of her involvements she consistently personifies and models what intellectual freedom means, is, and does, and its foundational necessity and value, to citizens, children and adults alike, in a free society.

That we are privileged to be presenting the award to her beautiful granddaughters, Louise and Beatrice in her stead, is an added affirmation of how important it is to her and to us that all of our children and grandchildren and all future generations live in an intellectually free America.  
(See page 5.)

You may find Nancy Duncan's favorite stories on her website in the form of audio tapes and CDs for your enjoyment or as gifts to keep the stories going. That website is [www.storygalore.com](http://www.storygalore.com) - a site worth going to just to enjoy for itself as well.

—Mel Krutz

The Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska presents Academic Freedom Awards to the three codirectors of the P-16 Task Force for their enhancement of teacher freedom and their encouragement of local learning and of assessment strategies which give greater weight to teaching and learning than to evaluation. While other states administer standardized tests to all students at the grade levels mandated by federal law, Nebraska assessment is school-based and features local input and locally-relevant materials. Thanks to the careful and rigorous work of the P-16 Task Force, Nebraska students are tested for their knowledge of texts and practices learned from curricula developed by their own teachers in alignment with state-based specifications. Such a policy frees teachers and students to study materials and pursue intellectual challenges which promote the full participation in open inquiry that we call academic freedom. The three codirectors of this effort have many accomplishments and distinctions:

β **Chris Gallagher** got his B.A from Merrimack College in 1991 and his Ph.D. from State University of New York at Albany in 1998 with a dissertation which received the James Berlin Outstanding Dissertation award from the Conference on College Composition and Communication. He has been Assistant Professor of English at UNL since 1998 where he is currently the Harold and Esther Edgerton Assistant Professor and where he received an Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award this year.

β **Kim Larson** received her BS from UNL in Elementary Education in 1980 and her Masters Degree in Curriculum with a minor in English in 1999. She was a teacher at Ruth Hill and Everett Schools in Lincoln for some 20 years, when she was also for some time the Associate Coordinator of the Nebraska Writing Project. She has been the Coordinator of reading and writing in the Nebraska Department of Education for two and a half years.

β **Suzanne Ratzlaff** is a 4th grade teacher at Heartland Schools where she has been for 26 years. She received her B.A. in 1973 from California State University at Fresno and her M.A. in Education from UNL in 1981. She received a Local Legacies Award for a student-researched and written play on the Blizzard of 1888, archived in the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Her class of 4th graders created a Native American "Web of Life," which received the 1994 Peter Kiewit Excellence in Education Award. She has worked with the School at the Center and is a member of the Henderson Tourism Committee. The Nebraska Department of Education selected her as the 2003 Teacher of the Year.

—Robert Haller

**A WELL-INTENTIONED ATTEMPT TO SUMMARIZE THE PANEL DISCUSSION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING,  
Laurie Thomas Lee, Moderating**

After Laurie Lee, AFCON President-Elect, introduced the topic.... RAIKES: We need to look at the point of what can happen if we allow government and religion to mix. At the state level it can be public dollars in private schools and banning of fetal tissue research. On the federal level it is faith-based initiatives.

Our military machine, although powerful, seems ineffective at accomplishing its military goal but is effective in restricting personal freedom. Since 9-11 they have set out to destroy terrorists with military might. Since we didn't get Osama Bin Laden, we'll invade Iraq--what if we don't get Saddam? We're overly optimistic about what we can achieve with the military. The alternate ways of solving our problems may be more effective, but they may not appear becoming of a superpower.

Our political leaders are intent on success without pain. Our public policy leaves no room for criticism of political leaders. On one hand we don't want to pay for military might although we put great faith in it. On the other hand the public seems to have great mistrust of the government or of political figures.

We have resurrected the bill in Nebraska that requires teaching Americanism in the schools, mandating how it will be done and where and by whom. Various interest groups periodically want to impose their views on others.

LEE to Rod Wagner: What has been the USA Patriotism Act's effect on librarians and the surveillance on library patrons?

WAGNER: Broad and lengthy legislation amends over a dozen federal laws on money laundering, immigration, and surveillance. The sweeping new changes have eliminated many of the checks and balances protecting individual freedoms. There is a strong competition between personal liberties and law enforcement needs. How do libraries fit into this? Shortly after the 9-11 attacks the FBI began searching for activity of terrorists. They found some evidence in Florida libraries of activities of terror-

ists. Public libraries are places of information and communication and vast sharing of information. We have long had Public Record laws to protect individuals but which give law enforcement access to public records when necessary; however, the new law gives them much broader power. Nebraska has \$1.5 million from Bill Gates for computers. The libraries have heavy computer use. In some places there is such heavy use they have sign-in sheets of waiting users. These lists help access who uses the computers, what they search for, and when certain information is searched for. Why do libraries need to turn over these lists? Why do they keep them in the first place after their day's use is over?

LEE to Shama Ali: What effect has the Patriotism Act had on the university?

ALI: We are seeing similar things at the university. There have been a few works set up for surveillance of international students—a tracking system to monitor their internet use and to collect information on them. SIVA was set up to track students who come in (For example one student came and registered, but never attended any classes.) The USA Patriotism Act has only accelerated putting that into place. This has frightened students and affected their ability to speak out; they fear deportation. FIRBA now requires institutions to furnish information on students without any consent—or even knowledge--of the people being monitored.

Also, President Bush said he would be restricting what areas foreign students may come from and what areas they may study. With this, international students may go elsewhere to study. This will be a loss to the United States and to Nebraska. These students bring in cultural diversity and also bring in billions of dollars to the U.S. They bring in \$67 million to Nebraska alone.

QUESTIONS:

DWAYNE BALL to Raikes & Ali: We may end up with an Iraqi war that is par-

allel to Viet Nam. The United States tends to be against war, and people outside the government generally show intolerance toward both sides. What will happen this time?

ALI: I hope it is not a repeat of the sizeable intolerance on both sides in both places.

RAIKES: Listen to talk radio. The talk of war came at the time of the stock market fall, corporation shenanigans, and no capture of Bin Laden. Now that things are a little better, there is a drop in war interest today.

BALL: Will the state university stand up for people trying to speak for peace?

HERMAN: Even with tenure on campus, will professors lose chances of tenure or tenure itself?

RAIKES: The situation is aggravated by the state's budget system and need to cut. If people don't want cut, they will keep their mouths shut and department heads will keep their people under control.

BOB HALLER: After 9-11 Bush said to fly the airlines and to be patriotic by spending. Why in the past election was there no mention of being patriotic by sacrificing? No sense of sacrifice as in previous wars?

RAIKES: Politicians are afraid to be leaders. They see where the crowd is going and get out in front.

HERMAN: Won't term limits take care of that?

RAIKES: Yes, but now fewer than half face not having a next term. In two years there will be a significant majority who will know they have no next term. Will this change their courage to speak out? There is not much evidence that this will happen.

—Cathi McMurtry

# AFCON

515 North Thomas Avenue  
Oakland, NE 68045.

Mailing  
Address  
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## ACADEMIC FREEDOM COALITION OF NEBRASKA

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### 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, and eligibility for office and chairing standing committees and 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**