



THE

AFCON

SENTINEL



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A Quarterly of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska

June 19, 2009

AFCON OFFICERS

Dwayne Ball
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Peggy Adair
Legislative Liaison

Robert Brooke
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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—Dwayne Ball

Student Expression

One of our major activities this year is to educate the public regarding a student expression bill to be introduced in the legislature early in 2010, if all goes well.

What do we mean by “student expression?” Students, it seems, sometimes want to give plays in which the “N-word” figures as a moral parable. They want to report, in the school newspaper, on what student life is really like, rather than a sanitized version preferred by the adult world. They’d like to read and discuss books in class that have some immediacy to their own lives and dilemmas, even when those books offend some adults.

High school teachers of journalism, English, theater, and other subjects stand behind the students, often, I suspect, with their hearts in their mouths after making the assignment, or hearing what the students want to do. But they see the necessity of people who will be voting citizens in a year or two to deal with the real issues of the adult world.

Enlightened high school principals stand behind those teachers and see those things published, performed, or discussed, because they also see the necessity of young people dealing with adult issues in a safe space before those issues are thrust upon them as participating citizens.

But, at times, administrators are not so enlightened, or feel the pressure of school boards and parents pressing down upon them. The U.S. Supreme Court Hazelwood decision of 1988 gives those administrators the privilege

of prior censorship of any expression that is part of the school curriculum. Needless to say, most important school activities that prepare youth for citizenship are part of the curriculum. At present, only state laws can counteract the right of principals and administrators to engage in prior censorship and even retaliate against teachers who stand up for student expression.

This attitude on the part of administrators has always puzzled me, in principle. In practice, I understand it: upset too many parents and you lose your job as a principal. In principle, though, why not fight for the rights of students to express themselves in controversial ways? Isn’t that good pedagogy? Won’t they learn from it? All of the excuses in principle amount to, “It upsets people to hear those things.” Well, isn’t our civic life full of people being upset by what they hear? Why is someone’s offensiveness* a reason to deny students their opportunity to explore ideas?

I urge you to educate yourself about the Student Expression bill, which is on the AFCON web site, currently at www.afconebr.org. As you will see, it protects not only the students’ rights to controversial expression, but also the teachers and administrators from retaliation when they support the students.

It is always a little scary to think of 16-year-olds dealing with some of the ugly issues of the adult world. But, as anyone who knows some 16-year-olds is aware, they are already dealing with issues the adult world might like to protect them from. Let’s let them become adults in a safe space and time.

*a word coined by Berke Breathed, the author and artist of “Bloom County” and other strips.

Upcoming Events

AFCON Board Meetings, July 11, September 12, October 10, 2009.
Loren Eiseley Library, 1530 Superior, Lincoln, Nebraska; 10 AM

Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings—Karen Buckley

March 14, 2009—

Present: Peggy Adair, Dwayne Ball, Tom Black, Miles Bryant, Karen Buckley, Nancy Comer, Bob Haller, Mark Karpf, Clark Kolterman, Cathi McMurtry, Dave Moshman, Susan Oles, Linda Parker, Doug Paterson, Mary Reiman, Rod Wagner

Minutes: The minutes of the Feb. 14 meeting were approved upon a motion by Moshman and a second by Black.

Treasurer's Report: AFCON's treasury has a balance of \$2002.63, as of Feb. 13, 2009. AFCON has 30 paid and two guest individual members and seven paid and two in-kind organization members current with dues. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

President's Report: Ball has sent information to the Ewen Center. Its director has promised to send a small donation to AFCON.

Newsletter: The latest issue of the Sentinel has been published in print and online. The deadline for the June 19 issue is May 25.

Membership Reports: Wagner remarked that planning is underway for the Nebraska Center for the Book's festival to be held in November.

Comer said that she and Adair will be doing a presentation on the Student Expression Bill at the Nebraska Reading Council's summer conference.

Kolterman said that the Nebraska English Language Arts Council will hold its annual conference Oct. 3, in conjunction with the Plum Creek Literacy Festival.

Old Business: Parker is exploring how to archive AFCON web information online. The Nebraska Historical Society is remodeling at present, but she feels AFCON needs to set dates for submitting archival materials to the society.

New Business: Kolterman noted that the National Teachers of English Council gives an academic freedom award to a person from each state and a national academic freedom award. NE/LAC traditionally looks to AFCON for suggestions and/or endorsements. This year NE/LAC has nominated Cathi McMurtry for the Nebraska award and Peggy Adair for the national award. Upon a motion by Paterson and a second by Moshman, AFCON voted to endorse both nominees.

Members also discussed LB674 which Adair noted was not a priority bill. Ball had sent an e-mail alert about looking at this bill and Comer brought Journal Star stories and an op ed piece, written by Jack

Gould of Common Cause. This bill will be discussed at the April agenda, to give members an opportunity to learn more about it.

Discussion was then held on the student expression bill, including how member organizations could promote the bill and how to contact other organizations who might support such a bill. Supporting groups should be identified by May and groups should be organized by fall.

Upon a motion by Kolterman and a second by Haller, members voted to purchase an ad in the program for the annual meeting of ACLU Nebraska.

April 11, 2009—

Present: Peggy Adair, Dwayne Ball, Robert Brooke, Karen Buckley, Bob Haller, Cathi McMurtry, Dave Moshman, Laurie Lee, Linda Parker, Doug Paterson, Rod Wagner, Guest: Mark Vasina

Minutes: The minutes of the March 14 meeting were approved upon a motion by Moshman and a second by Haller.

Treasurer's Report: AFCON's treasury has a balance of \$1891.68, as of April 10. AFCON has 31 paid and two guest individual members and seven paid and two in-kind organization members current with dues. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

President's Report: Ball introduced Mark Vasina, treasurer and a past president of Nebraskans for Peace, who has made the documentary, "The Battle for Whiteclay," Vasina and Frank LaMere, a Winnebago activist featured in the film, were invited to screenings at the Western Nebraska Community College's three campuses. The administration rescinded the invitation, but later "reinvited" them, following the controversy that arose from the cancellation of the screening. Moshman moved, and Patterson seconded, a letter be written to the board president regarding this incident and questioning if, indeed, all materials were reviewed by administration, as suggested in the college's press release announcing that the film would be shown, after all. Moshman volunteered to write the letter. The motion passed.

Newsletter: The deadline for the June 19 issue is May 25.

Policy Coordinator: Moshman informed the group he had been asked to testify as an expert witness by the United Federation of Teachers (New York), in a case when a school board, invoking Hazelwood, had banned teachers from wearing political buttons. The union wants a distinction between elementary and secondary students, recognizing that secondary students could

make the distinction that political buttons worn by teacher's was not indoctrination.

Legislative Report: Adair said that LB 674, regarding internal audits, has made it to the floor but would most likely be carried over to the next Unicameral session. The Nebraska Press Association continues to oppose the bill.

Membership Reports: Parker said that Karen Drevo of the NLA's Intellectual Freedom committee indicated that NLA could donate \$50 towards a speaker's fee.

NEMA and the Nebraska Center for the Book have upcoming board meetings

Paterson commented on the community's reaction to the Omaha Community Playhouse's decision to fire the artistic staff and to have the Board of Directors choose the theatre's offerings. He noted that cut-backs in funding have Nebraska Shakespeare Festival organizers making similar cuts.

Adair has been invited to be a presenter at the NLA/NEMA convention this fall.

Moshman said that UNL's Bill Ayers committee will not release its report until the beginning of fall semester

Lee said that the UNL Faculty Senate was considering passing a resolution supporting the UNMC resolution advocating no change in the stem cell policy.

Old Business: Brooke said that he plans to have AFCON's new website launched in May.

Parker suggested that AFCON members look at www.archive.org before the next meeting. AFCON could request its website be archived there at no cost. Archive.org would save multiple versions.

New Business: Parker has been planning for the annual AFCON members meeting this fall and is asking for groups to co-sponsor Bill Ayers's visit, should that transpire. Nebraska Humanities Council has provided grants for speakers, so that might be a source of funding.

Haller said that Elena Dodd, in her role as Eleanor Roosevelt, will be giving a presentation as part of the observance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 25 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Lincoln. Sponsors include the Lancaster County Democratic Party and the Nebraska Humanities Council. Haller moved that AFCON be a co-sponsor of the event and contribute \$25 towards the event. The motion was seconded by Paterson and approved by the board.

(See **Minutes**, page 3)

Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings (Continued from Page 2)

Ball then directed attention on how to provide public education on the proposed Student Expression Bill. Board Member Mark Karpf has contacted Omaha Public Schools administration. Nancy Comer said that the Nebraska State Reading Association will not endorse the bill, nor oppose its passage. Adair, who continues to speak to various groups in Nebraska, begins with the importance of civic education and then addresses how Student Expression should be an integral part of civic education.

AFCON is seeking organizational support of the student expression bill, including statements of support.

May 9, 2009—

Present: Dwayne Ball, Robert Brooke, Karen Buckley, Nancy Comer, Bob Haller, Mark Karpf, Cathi McMurtry, Dave Moshman, Laurie Lee, Susan Oles, Doug Pater-son, Rod Wagner.

Minutes: The minutes of the April 11 meeting were approved upon a motion by Brooke and a second by Haller.

Treasurer's Report: AFCON's treas-

ury has a balance of \$2096.84, as of May 8. AFCON has 33 paid and two guest individual members and 11 paid and two in-kind organization members current with dues. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

President's Report: Ball noted that Moshman had written a letter on Mark Vasina's behalf but needed some details for clarity. Vasina has not yet responded to the e-mail with questions, so the letter is being held for a response. Haller remarked that he had been in touch with Vasina and the event, which included showing the documentary on White Clay went well.

Newsletter: The deadline for the June 19 issue is May 25.

Legislative Report: Adair sent a note requesting that members e-mail stories demonstrating the need for passing a student expression bill.

Membership Reports: Karpf reported that the Nebraska High School Press Association would be meeting Monday and the student expression bill would be an agenda item.

Brooke said for NELAC that the next

issue of the English Journal would focus on academic freedom.

Buckley said that the next issue of NEMA would contain an article on the student expression bill and board members will discuss the bill at their July meeting.

Comer said that Adair will attend the summer meeting of the Nebraska Reading Council to discuss the student expression bill.

Lee noted that the UNL Faculty Senate is considering sponsoring a conference on academic freedom.

Wagner said that the student expression bill would be discussed at the quarterly meeting of the Center for the Book on May 16.

Old Business: Haller said that the Eleanor Roosevelt event went well April 25. AFCON was a cosponsor of the event.

Discussion then turned to the annual meeting, with Bill Ayers as the featured speaker. Questions were raised concerning a site, whether to have a meal as is the usual custom, what expenses might be incurred and additional sources of funding.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

By Robert Haller

The Convention can be seen at <http://www.unicef.org/crc/>. The Articles constitute a statement of what I take to be the principles upon which AFCON acts. If this country ever ratified the Convention, AFCON could disband: since this document would be legally binding, what else would we need?

Article 12

1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.
2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings af-

fecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.

Article 13

1. The child shall have the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice.
2. The exercise of this right may be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary:
 - (a) For respect of the rights or reputations of others; or
 - (b) For the protection of national security or of public order (ordre pub-

lic), or of public health or morals.

Article 14

1. States Parties shall respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
2. States Parties shall respect the rights and duties of the parents and, when applicable, legal guardians, to provide direction to the child in the exercise of his or her right in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child.
3. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals, or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.

(See **Rights of the Child** on Page 4)

(Rights of the Child)

Article 15

1. States Parties recognize the rights of the child to freedom of association and to freedom of peaceful assembly.
2. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of these rights other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (*ordre public*), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

Article 16

1. No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation.
2. The child has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 28

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular:
 - (a) Make primary education compulsory and available free to all;
 - (b) Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child, and take appropriate measures such as the introduction of free education and offering financial assistance in case of need;
 - (c) Make higher education ac-

cessible to all on the basis of capacity by every appropriate means;

- (d) Make educational and vocational information and guidance available and accessible to all children;
- (e) Take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and in conformity with the present Convention.

3. States Parties shall promote and encourage international cooperation in matters relating to education, in particular with a view to contributing to the elimination of ignorance and illiteracy throughout the world and facilitating access to scientific and technical knowledge and modern teaching methods. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

Article 29

1. States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to:

- (a) The development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential;
- (b) The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;
- (c) The development of respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may originate, and for civilizations different from his or her own;

- (d) The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;

- (e) The development of respect for the natural environment.

2. No part of the present article or article 28 shall be construed so as to interfere with the liberty of individuals and bodies to establish and direct educational institutions, subject always to the observance of the principle set forth in paragraph 1 of the present article and to the requirements that the education given in such institutions shall conform to such minimum standards as may be laid down by the State.

Article 30

In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practise his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language.

Article 31

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS

By Dwayne Ball

As always, my sources are the Chronicle of Higher Education, denoted as CHE, and the newsletters of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, denoted as FIRE, or other sources as noted.

FREE SPEECH ON CAMPUS

If you want them to speak, you have to pay. The University of Colorado at Boulder (CU-Boulder) threatened to charge Students for True Academic Freedom over \$2,000 for security for a speech program given by controversial professors Ward Churchill and Bill Ayers on March 5. Potentially hostile audience reaction was cited as the reason by CU-Boulder authorities. The students went to FIRE, who wrote to CU-Boulder authorities and cited the U.S. Supreme Court case *Forsyth County v. Nationalist Movement* (1992), in which the majority opinion stated, "Listeners' reaction to speech is not a content-neutral basis for regulation. ... Speech cannot be financially burdened, any more than it can be punished or banned, simply because it might offend a hostile mob." CU-Boulder reversed itself and decided that the cost of protecting free speech should be borne by the university. (FIRE Newsletter of April 20, 2009)

Don't like the paper? Suppress it! Steal it! The University of Massachusetts at Amherst (UMA) had a conservative campus publication called *The Minuteman*, which in one of its issues mocked a student government official named Vanessa Snow. Films recorded by students shows Ms. Snow and others grabbing hundreds of copies of the *Minuteman*

out of the hands of students distributing them, in one case while a campus policeman looks on and does nothing. The student government also passed a resolution demanding an apology by the paper for its mockery of Ms. Snow or it would face de-certification as a student organization. UMA officials, having dealt with FIRE before on similar issues, presumably knew what would happen if they allowed the student government resolution to go into effect, and exercised their veto power. (FIRE Newsletter of April 23, 2009)

FACULTY EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

You have academic freedom unless it costs us money. Dr. Ivor van Heerden, an untenured faculty member at Louisiana State University (LSU) and associate director of LSU's Hurricane Center, is going to lose his job. This may or may not be retaliation for his frequent and vociferous criticism of the US Army Corps of Engineers, who were responsible for some of New Orleans' hurricane levee defenses. Dr. van Heerden even published a book describing what went wrong in the flooding of New Orleans – highly critical of the Corps. Two interesting facts: an LSU official told van Heerden in 2005 that his criticism was going to cost the university federal grant money and told him to stop, and van Heerden's firing coincides with the approaching testimony he will give in a case related to the failure of New Orleans' levees. Van Heerden does not leave LSU until late next year, but his firing was announced over a year in advance, perhaps to discredit his testimony. Van Heerden, being untenured and working under

periodic contracts, has few legal options. (New York Times April 17, 2009)

Discrimination settlement. The U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission announced, simultaneously, a suit against and a settlement with Benedict College, an historically black college, for discriminating against white instructors. Three white art instructors who were denied contract renewal will be paid \$55,000 each by the college, which denies it discriminated on the basis of race. (CHE April 8, 2009)

Be involved in diversity – or else! The faculty of Virginia Tech's College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences decided to require their faculty to document their involvement in diversity initiatives for their annual reviews. Insufficient diversity involvement in their teaching, research, and development would result in lower merit raises and damage a faculty member's chances for promotion and tenure. The policy defines "diversity" as "the desirability and value of many kinds of individual differences while at the same time acknowledging and respecting that socially constructed differences based on certain characteristics exist within systems of power that create and sustain inequality, hierarchy, and privilege." If one were being acerbic, one might just call that the usual academic left-wing tripe, but be that as it may, at Va. Tech., you are going to have to salute it anyway or pay the consequences. FIRE wrote the president of Va. Tech. protesting this denial of academic freedom to the faculty, and the administration has agreed to review the rules. (FIRE Newsletter of April 6, 2009)

AFCON SPEAKER'S BUREAU (As of December 2007)

Peggy Adair: "Banned Books, Black Armbands, and School Prayer: The Evolution of Children's First Amendment Rights in America"
padair@tconl.com

Dwayne Ball: "Threats to Academic Freedom at Universities"
adball@neb.rr.com

Bob Haller: "Civics Education and the Practice of Freedom" and "How Books Can Harm You: Lessons from the Censors"
rhaller1@unl.edu

David Moshman: "Principles of Academic Freedom"
dmoshman1@unl.edu

John Bender and David Moshman: "Student Freedom of Expression/Student Rights"
jbender1@unl.edu
dmoshman1@unl.edu

Laurie Thomas Lee: "Implications of the USA Patriot Act"
llee1@unl.edu

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.AFCONebr.org>

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

FOR SALE BY AFCON

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

Note cards with a Paul Fell design with the wording "When all Books are Banned, see the Book— \$1.00;" \$1.50 each or a packet of four for \$5.00. Packaging and postage: \$0.75 per packet.

Reader's Theatre Script (a booklet,) entitled TANGLED ISSUE: Student Freedom of Expression. \$10.00 buys the booklet and production rights, including rights to copy. Packaging and postage: \$3.00.

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 **September 18, 2009**, issue is **August 31, 2009**.

Send to Tom Black, editor, 610 West Park, West Point, NE 68788 or wpc6296@cableone.net

Parental Rights Versus a Child's Free Expression:

The U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child

By Bob Haller

An article in the *Lincoln Journal Star* (4/30/09) concerning the opposition to the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (which the United States and Somalia alone among the members of the United Nations have not ratified) made me curious about this document and about how a Convention so widely supported could, as the opponents were quoted as claiming, undermine parental rights.

The answer to this question has a direct interest for members of AFCON: the Convention so favors the AFCON agenda that we could hardly improve on it; and it is precisely those provisions which so upset its opponents, who call themselves defenders of parental rights.

Here is John Rosemond (a commentator on child-raising whose column appears frequently in the *Lincoln Journal Star*) quoted from the *Washington Times* April 19, 2009, as recovered (4/30/09) from the web site <parentalrights.org>:

Other articles [of the Convention] however, extend to children such rights as "freedom of association" (Article 15) and "freedom of expression" (Article 13). The latter is written to include the "freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or in any other media of the child's choice." It is pertinent to note that "child" is defined as anyone younger than 18. One can assume, therefore, that these rights activate at birth. Yes, the freedoms in question are subject to limitation, but not at the discretion of parents...nowhere in the document is their authority recognized....

I had to blink a couple of times reading this statement: how does someone

come to believe that making available to a child every bit of information and all ideas and allowing full expression in all media and forms, undermine parental authority?

Struggling to answer this question, I looked closely at Article 13, and saw clearly that it was directed against authoritarian governments and religions supported by these regimes who might censor and prosecute treasonous and heretical thought and attempt to keep from children ideas and information which might undermine respect for authority, ideological or theological. We live in a country where censorship and the prosecution of heterodoxy is expressly forbidden. So opponents of intellectual freedom for children must invoke parental rights.

About parental rights let me observe two important points.

First, nowhere in the U.S. Constitution or in legal doctrine is parental authority invoked as able to take the place of disabled state authority and legitimately limit the constitutional rights of a child.

Second, the Convention and the American legal tradition both recognize a legitimate right of parents in the direction of a child's education and development.

Home schooling, an alternative religious school system and teaching, which recognizes cultural traditions of indigenous peoples and religious bodies are recognized and supported in this country and by the Convention. Indeed, the Convention makes explicit the rationales, advantages, and limitations of these as alternatives to and features of public education.

And so I still wonder what Rosemond sees as the threat to parental authority in the unlimited freedom of a child to "seek, receive and impart"

ideas in all media. So here is what I have concluded.

What we have seen in AFCON is school administrators reacting to student freedom by censoring its expression and punishing the teachers and principals who allow that freedom. Their justification is preserving a favorable view of the schools in the community. In response we invoke the First Amendment and the principles of academic freedom, seeing in these actions a manifestation of misguided ideas about religious, moral and political limitations on intellectual pursuits.

But what is really happening, I think, is that these administrators represent the unspoken resentment of parents who believe their authority to be undermined.

The parents of the student "offenders" are of course usually behind their offspring 100%, and the teachers and advisors who get punished have the support of these parents as well. The administrators are thus really acting on behalf of those other parents, who scarcely know that they fear free thought and free expression in their children as a breach of parental authority.

Members of AFCON and readers of the *Sentinel* probably already had drawn this conclusion, and I am sure I had understood it before. When I taught a course called "Banned Books" I never got students who supported limitations on student freedom. But the course was primarily concerned these days (all other kinds of censorship having been thrown out by the courts) with the challenges from parents. We still look at cases which cannot be traced back to a threat to parental authority. But that threat is probably the ultimate source of our difficulty to make our program prevail.

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 (\$120) entitles the organization to one seat on the AFCON Board, one vote in the election of officers and at the annual meeting, eligibility for office and chairing standing committees, 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 (\$15) 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**