

Editorial

University will not benefit from appointment of regents

Sen. Karen Kilgarin should do Nebraska's educational community a favor and abandon her plan to bring NU under the control of the Legislature.

The Omaha senator has introduced LR225CA which calls for making the NU Board of Regents an appointed body as well as bringing it under legislative authority.

As if that is not enough, then Senator Vard Johnson of Omaha has a second proposal. LR238 would also eliminate the NU Board of Regents and the State College Board of Trustees, and place NU and the state's public colleges under absolute legislative control.

Kilgarin's first proposal is undesirable, but Johnson's is not even realistic. By having control over state appropriations, the Legislature already has plenty of say in how NU operates. To think that it could be in charge of the daily operation of the university is frightening.

Kilgarin argues that the Legislature should oversee NU because the senators are "obviously closer to the people" than the regents.

But considering its record, one has to question how in touch the Legisla-

ture is with the people it serves.

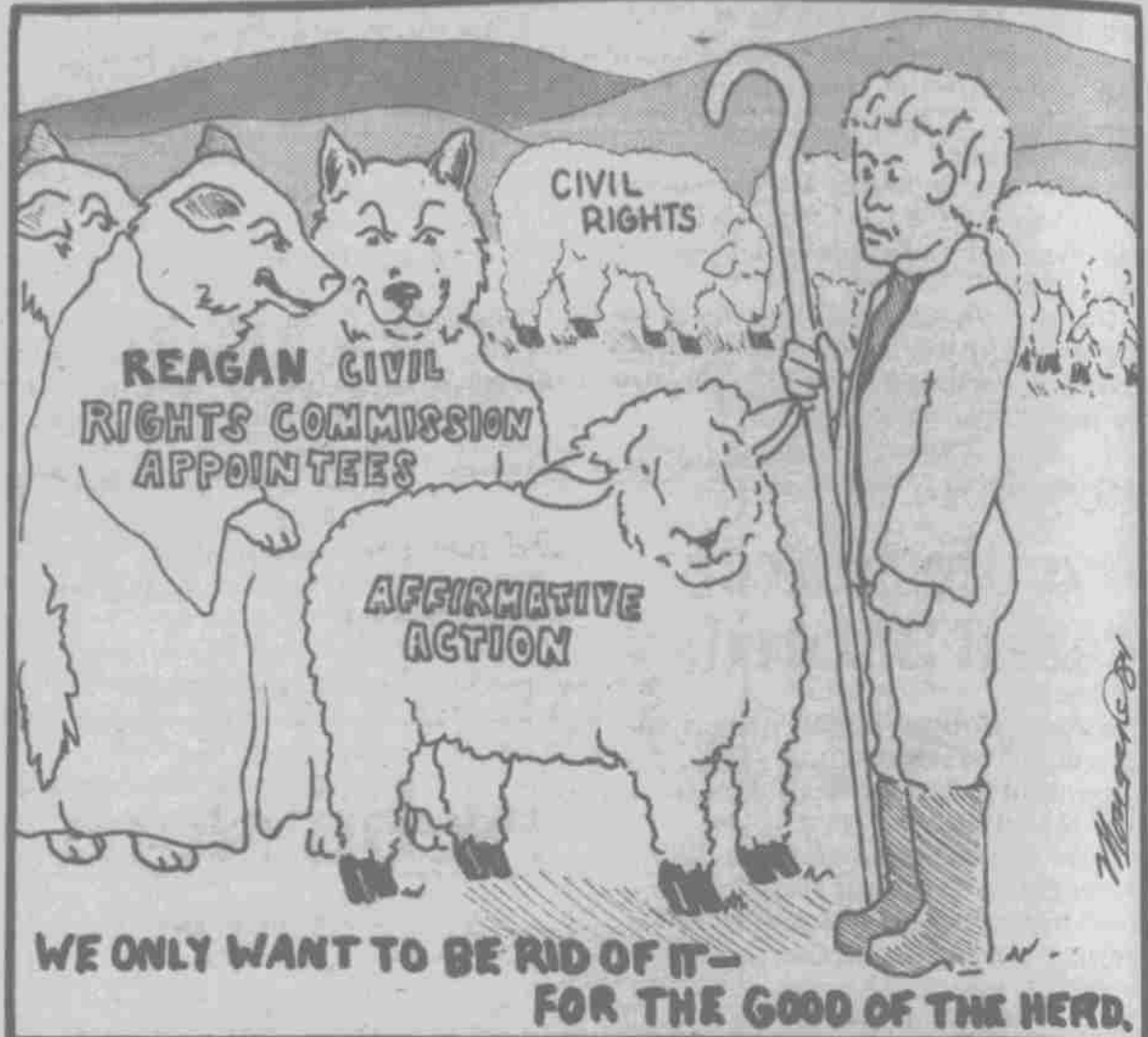
The voters have repeatedly turned down amendments which would raise legislative salaries from their current \$400 per month. That seems to be one good reflection of how most Nebraskans view their senators.

More importantly, the Legislature's record clearly has been one of ineffectiveness. This is the same elected body, for example, that spent several days debating what logo to put on Nebraska's new license plates ... and came up with nothing.

While the new license plate logo isn't one of the great issues facing Nebraska, it is an example of the indecision that occurs at the Capitol.

It's no secret that NU is not one of the great educational institutions of the world. But considering the resources available, it seems fair to say that the quality of education at the three NU campuses is at least average.

No one has really offered any evidence that legislative control would improve the quality of education. Until such evidence is offered, the system should remain as it is and the Legislature should get on with the business of running state government.



Obsession with victory makes us fear failure

Success has been dead-bolted into our heads. From the "coffee achiever" faces flashed our optical nerves during prime-time viewing to "dress for success" workshops taking place through-

failure phobia at its peak.

How many students have registered for a class, attended long enough to read the syllabus and dropped because they were afraid to bomb the course?

How many times do we not voice our opinion because we're afraid of being in the minority or avoid facing problems that may have a negative effect on us?

All of us have insecurities and are afraid that somehow we just won't measure up. But to stifle those insecurities or vulnerabilities is to deny a part of who we are. Avoiding possible painful situations is a cop out on who we can be.

Conquering the rear or losing is "easier said than done," however. The phobia is a pre-Darwinistic thread in our society. Some people, though, haven't been bothered by this fear in their struggle to win.

Mark Twain describes such a person and addresses failure phobia in his autobiography. Twain writes about a relative who favored land investments:

"There's millions in it — millions!" It is true that he always said that about everything — and was always mistaken too, but this time he was right; which shows that a man who goes around with a prophecy-gun ought never to get discouraged. If he will keep up his heart and fire at everything he sees he is bound to hit something by and by."



Kema Soderberg

out the country, the message is locked in. Whatever the game, winning is the key and everyone has a magic solution for doing it.

Along with our obsession with winning, we Americans carry a fear of losing. Someone once told me that winning isn't everything, but losing is nothing. Though I'm sure they were joking, the words ring true. We can successfully deal with winning, but we find it difficult to be successful losers.

Nobody wants to find their name in the roster of *The world's most successful losers*. Because of this, some people blame others for their failure, find outside reasons for their failure or avoid situations that can result in failure.

I'm sure most of us have blamed our friend or even invented a friend rather than face mom's wrath about a broken vase. Some of us may have even feigned injury to cover our mistake. Although I wouldn't say these are healthy ways of dealing with losing, I think avoiding high risk situations is worse. This is

Student input encouraged during budget reallocation

Hard times may indeed be getting tougher at UNL as Chris Welsch stated in his editorial (Daily Nebraskan, Jan. 16), but they may not be. I feel it is very important for students

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to realize exactly what the reallocation-reduction process means to them.

Chris said: "The cuts mean reductions in staff, probably will cause larger classes and may mean some students will have to postpone taking some courses."

Actually the "cuts" are reductions which were made internally here at UNL for the purpose of improving the overall quality of the institution.

All money which is taken out of a budget during the reduction-reallocation process will be put back into a high-priority area. So the actual effect is that there will probably be smaller classes, and students now postponing classes may be able to get into additional sections with funds freed by the reallo-

cation process.

Additionally, there is no basis for the comment that "When professors quit, the classes they taught probably will be combined with others. Students will be paying more for less." Although some lines will remain vacant, as instructors retire additional personnel will be hired in high-priority areas, as well as just replacing the lost faculty members.

Student input is still needed. ASUN held an open forum for students, and the Academic Planning Committee received student testimony, but there is one more step. If you disagree with any of the proposed reductions, contact Regents Chairman Ed Schwartzkopf in Lincoln, student Regent Matt Wallace in the ASUN office, or plan on attending the open hearing by the regents in February. As an individual, you can have influence. Together we can make a difference.

Kevin Goldstein
junior
business

Editor's Note: Goldstein was the student representative on the Academic Planning Committee. He also is a former ASUN senator.

Media under Reagan finds it's a dog's life

Although Ronald Reagan almost certainly, and probably sincerely, would say that he has been badly treated by the press (for example, necessitating James Watt's resignation for bigotry and insolence)



Eric Peterson

a strong case can be made that the Reagan administration has handled the news media like it was his trained dog.

American soldiers remain in Lebanon for reasons no one has even brought forward, let alone justified; the TV commentators point this out infrequently, and in the mildest tones. The news media treats the administration's abstract and oppressive rationale for its Central American policies as given and assumed truth.

After the press blackout of the Grenada invasion — the first in American history — the outcry over censorship was muted. *Newsweek* castigated a photographer for not following the rules the Army laid

out for press coverage, and published an appalling article on the invasion in its Nov. 7 issue, which lauded Reagan for asserting his power as sort of a way of making up for the sabotage bombing in Beirut two days earlier. "It was a week of tragedy and triumph," *Newsweek* intoned.

Whatever lies the administration dished out, the main body of reporters lapped up like happy pups. It turned out that the "appeal" of five Caribbean countries for U.S. intervention was made only at American request; that American medical students were endangered not by the recent coup in Grenada but by the invasion itself; that the dreaded airstrip

extension which the Cubans were building was a commercial project approved by the World Bank and not a military stab in America's back; that reports of huge Cuban contingents and mass graves and ammunition stores were simply lies and quite literal fabrications of the State Department.

George Will, whose conservatism has become extreme since the last presidential election, and since he has had Reagan and his wife twice to dinner, wrote in the celebratory Nov. 7 *Newsweek* that "U.S. soldiers' bootprints on Grenada's soil have

done more than the MX will do to make U.S. power credible and peace secure." What followed was a predictable justification of big sticks and shouted threats, but it was surprising and distressing to see Will acquiesce in the press blackout, asserting that "journalists have earned a certain coolness from officials making life-and-death decisions."

In fact, Will finds any war coverage likely to lead to sissy pacifism. "It shapes, and I suspect is sometimes intentionally used to shape, the political climate: it promotes national flinching," he said.

One of the worst things of a war-mongering atmosphere is how it dulls the intelligence and coarsens the sensibilities of people like Will, people who should know better.

The supine American press has not only allowed but furthered the impression that the Grenada shootout was Reagan's big victory. That is certainly how Reagan himself views what he called a "rescue mission;" at a speech for Medal of Honor recipients, Reagan affected a bully boy swagger.

"Our days of weakness are over," he said. "Our military forces are back on their feet and standing tall."

Where next?