

Editorial

Input will soothe impact of budget cuts

No doubt about it. The NU Board of Regents and administrators of the three NU campuses have a tough job ahead of them.

The regents' reallocation plan for the 1984-85 means some programs will be reduced or eliminated at each campus and no matter which ones get cut, you can bet there will be some unhappy people.

That is to be expected. Nobody wants to see their area of study eliminated. But in order to minimize the negative impact of the reallocation program, it is essential that faculty and students have an active part in the decision-making process.

UNL administrators have indicated the campus community will be involved. It was announced at a Friday press conference that the Academic Planning Committee will have public hearings on the matter Nov. 5 through 11 before Chancellor Martin Massengale draws up UNL's final recommendations and presents them to the regents Dec. 10.

But Massengale and others who will make the decisions must remember that involving students and faculty members in the process means more than just giving them the chance to speak at a hearing. It means listening to them and taking their suggestions

seriously.

A recent telephone poll conducted by the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors proves UNL's track record in this area hasn't been too good.

Of the faculty members questioned, 70 percent said they are dissatisfied with the faculty's influence on salary and budgetary matters at UNL.

But here is a chance for the administrators of UNL and of the entire NU system to make amends with the campus community by allowing faculty and students to play a major role in determining the future scope of the university.

The controversial nature of the reallocation plan makes it tempting to bypass all the arguments and make the decisions with minimal outside input.

That temptation must be avoided. The decisions to be made simply are too vital to be made by only a few people.

If students and faculty members are allowed to play a major role in the whole process, you can bet the decisions will be better and more acceptable to the campus community.

That would make the impact of this program a whole lot more bearable for all of us.

'Ring-around-collar' spotlights the need for social change

Some years ago, a new social disease came down upon the necks of Americans quite unexpectedly. The dread disease was called Ring Around the Collar and it turned into an epidemic. The chief carriers were men, but for many years the chief sufferers were women.

Week in week out, we watched a series of American housewives humbled and humiliated on national television when someone spied the telltale



Ellen Goodman

symptoms inside their husband's shirt. While the wife cringed in horror, a chorus of nagging little nits sang accusingly, "Ring around the collar, ring around the collar."

At some point, during the height of hysteria over RAC, a contrary theory began to develop in certain women's-movement circles. The theory was that "the revolution will be here the moment that woman turns to her husband and asks him why he doesn't wash his neck."

Well, the revolution isn't exactly here. But for many months I have been keeping track of the evolution. I've been trying to figure out what, if anything, the social change in this classic TV ad means.

As they might put it on the cover of a thesis: Whither Are We Being Wisk-ed?

The three ads that I have tracked so far are what the advertising people call pool-outs. They take a basic ad strategy — someone has a problem and then gets help from the product — and come up with a number of variations on that theme.

The first of them might loosely be called the Jewish Mother routine in which nosy mom plays a surprise visit to her son's new apartment and spots his RAC. The second of them is the Working Wife scenario in which wifey returns from a business trip to a hubby-produced dinner only to notice that in her absence he developed . . . RAC. The third one is the Older Friend bit in which a married woman checks on an unmarried woman she's fixing up with a blind date and spies . . . RAC.

Somewhere in this three-act theater of the absurd are signs of progress. The Gilt Chorus is gone. Manufacturers no longer expect wives to recoil with shame, guilt and an immediate trip to the supermarket over the state of hubby's collar.

The fact that these ads run on day-time soap operas, as well as prime-time movies, suggests that women who work in and out of the home have become equally guilt-free. Their egos are no longer on the line, not even on the laundry line.

The ad people have also noticed that it isn't just wives and mothers who do the wash anymore. Why, single people, young people, all God's people got dirty clothes. So far, so good.

But there are an awful lot of lingering stains from the past that cast a gray sickness over this message. Today's wives may not be the only laborers, but they are still the experts. They are the repositories for all the deep mysteries of household technology.

Consider the two most frequent of these ads. In the first, sonny only does his laundry after he moves away from home. When mommy drops by, she immediately points out the signs of incompetence on his collar. In the other, hubby only washes his shirts if wifey is away. When she comes home from her business trip, she too feels compelled to point out his failure.

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UNL FACULTY and STUDENTS Present "ANATOMY OF AN ADMINISTRATOR"

HEARING (selective)
OBSTRUCTION PREVENTS PASSAGE OF INFORMATION TO BRAIN

EYESIGHT (poor)
HAS DIFFICULTY SEEING THE OBVIOUS

SPEECH (CONFUSING)
FLOWS EASILY FROM BOTH SIDES OF MOUTH

SMELL (KEEN)
CAN SNIFF OUT UNNECESSARY PROGRAMS
*EXAMPLE: ENGLISH DEPT.

It's not like this in the 'real world'

If you have your entire life mapped out and are in total control of yourself, you probably don't need to read this.

Otherwise, it might be a good idea to remember that you're living in a separate world here, to which nothing will ever compare.

You're enjoying the absence of responsibility that goes along with being a student.

But it's not like that everywhere, this extenuation of youth.



Bill Allen

All this will mean nothing to many of you, because this continuation is merely that, and the business of trying to assimilate any other value system hasn't occurred to you yet, and perhaps never will to many of you.

Examples: Many of you have the resourcefulness to say that you're all for women's rights and that they should be treated equal and should get equal pay, etc.

But, men and women, is this perception important when the "real" world dictates that reports of wife beating are on the increase in all walks of society, including yours.

And in the real world a similarly qualified woman still only makes 69 percent of what a man makes.

Even I was shocked the other day when a woman in one of my classes confided that a professor wasn't listening to her and she felt it was "because I'm a woman."

So maybe we're just a masked, caged form of the "real" world where they tantalizingly let us think, only under given circumstances, and perfectly harmlessly, after all.

Many of you that sit next to a black in class feel proud of yourselves for accepting the fact that he or she has a "right" to be there. You might even be "liberal" enough to talk to this person like you do to your "friends."

And you feel good about yourself for being able to do that.

The distinction being that your feelings aren't as important as the feeling of going through life everyday surrounded by people whom you feel hate you just because you're black.

We all read the current statistics and don't comprehend them. They say that alcoholism is rapidly increasing in our age group, but that doesn't really apply to us.

Oh, sure, it might apply a little bit to our friend who missed a chemistry exam because he partied a little too much last night. But not to us, no way, uh uh.

But to you, those three examples are trivial now when faced with the all-important task of getting a job.

You want to finish school and get that job with IBM, and live in the suburbs with a spouse and kids and dog, and drive the station wagon to church on Sunday and visit the folks later on or at least reach out and touch them via Ma Bell.

Will you still turn up the collar on your button-down shirt then?

Will you put the kids to sleep and then invite your friends over to play quarters?

Will you be satisfied with that one man or woman you've decided to spend the rest of your life with, even though there were so many others before?

Will you not be like mom or dad no matter how many times you look in the mirror and see that you are?

Will all you women that learned in college that alcoholism is rapidly increasing among your sex be able to resist the temptation to use it as a crutch to handle the pressures of a job, or the pressures of the PTA, or the pressures of sitting alone at home with no one to turn to except yourself and all those things you dreamed in college . . . then?

You haven't had to think of those things because you're not part of the "real" world that includes the 150 million adults that aren't students.

And maybe you'll be lucky and never have to think about anything at all.

Maybe someone will take care of you like someone always has before and the "real" world will only be what it always has been before.

It probably won't work out that way though. Will you still turn up the collar on your button-down shirt then?