

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Student rights

Students pay tuition at UNL, so it follows that as consumers of University services they are entitled to some rights. Correct? Wrong.

In many instances the student's role as a consumer in the education market is ignored. Students have little self-determination or input in many aspects of the University that vitally affect them. When University officials turn down some student proposal for change they often justify their action by saying the state's taxpayers wouldn't like the change and after all the University does belong to the taxpayers.

But they forget the University also belongs to the students.

While the taxpayer should have a definite say in how the University is run, it does not follow that the student should always be sacrificed to the taxpayer. The student should have a large role in the decision making process of the University since tuition covers from 30 to 35 per cent of the cost of his education and the primary reason for the University's existence is to educate students.

Some examples in which the student's role as a consumer is ignored:

Residence hall students have little self-determination over their living environment despite the fact that residence halls operate on money collected for room and board and receive no tax support. The Board of Regents has been blind to this fact and has repeatedly vetoed liberalized coed visitation proposals.

The student in the classroom is often treated like a second-class citizen, not as a paying customer. The student usually has no say in how the class is run and is expected to attend every class session. In addition, there is a deadline after which time a course can not be dropped.

Some will argue that the student, as a consumer, is not forced to attend this university. But does this fact give the University the right to act arbitrarily once the student signs on the dotted line?

Consumer protection is becoming a necessity in this complex world of ours. It's time that students challenge University officials as angry consumers and not just as dissatisfied students.

Death's omen

It is always sad to see a newspaper die as happened recently when *Courier II*, a campus weekly, announced it was ceasing publication for financial reasons. The *Courier* always made interesting reading and served a definite purpose in providing a different viewpoint than other campus publications.

At a time when *The Daily Nebraskan's* use of student fees is under attack, the *Courier's* death is significant since the weekly was a financially independent operation.

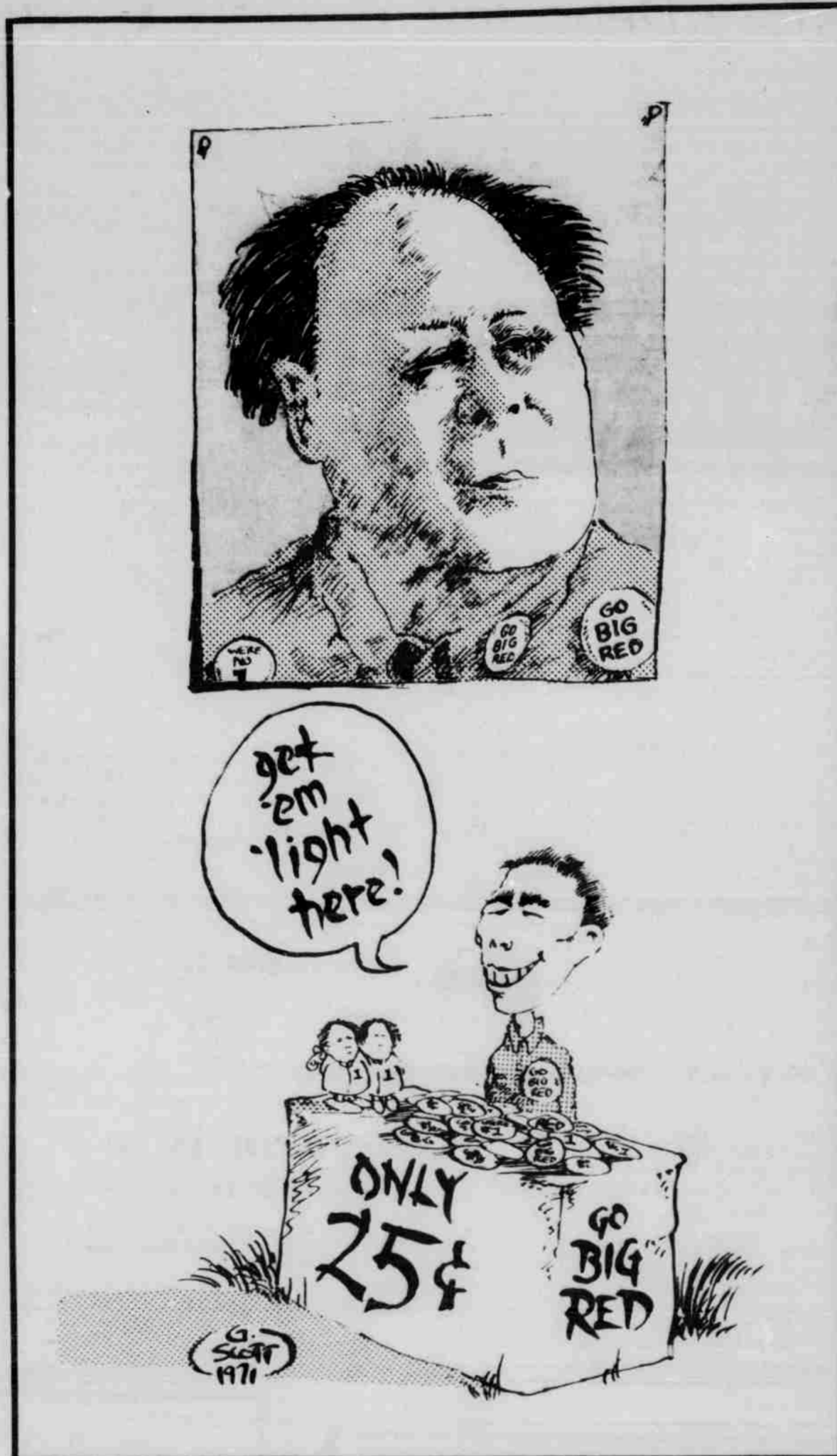
Many people have argued that students should not be forced to subscribe to *The Daily Nebraskan* and that the newspaper should become financially independent. The use of mandatory student fees for the newspaper is now being challenged in Lancaster District Court.

In response to these attacks the University's Publications Committee, which acts as publisher of *The Daily Nebraskan*, is currently studying the feasibility of making the newspaper independent.

Financial independence is a good goal to try to achieve for *The Daily Nebraskan*. However, as the experience of the *Courier* shows, the road to financial independence for a campus newspaper is a rocky one.

Gary Seacrest.

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Goodbye, pill: tomorrow's contraceptives

by M. J. Wilson
(Newsweek Feature Service)

It was just 10 years ago that birth-control pills were first introduced to the American market and declared the ultimate in contraception. They were supposed to be easy to use, reliable and completely safe.

But it was only a few months before the Pill was discovered to have some critical flaws: it was easy to forget to take, occasionally unreliable and definitely unsafe for certain women.

So for a decade, drug firms and the government have been spending millions of dollars on a research campaign to find an alternative to the Pill and its equally dubious counterpart, the intra-uterine device (IUD).

Now, scientists say, it appears that just such a breakthrough may be right on the horizon. In fact, so many new contraceptive techniques are being tested on humans that many scientists are predicting that at least a couple of brand new, safe, reliable and easy-to-use devices will be marketed within a year.

The one closest to final success is another pill, known informally as the "mini-pill." Like current pills, it must be taken every day. The difference is that the mini-pill does not affect ovulation. Rather, it seems to change the makeup of the mucus in the

cervix so as to stop sperm from entering the uterus. So far, doctors have found in the mini-pill none of the damaging side effects that have plagued users of the Pill.

Other promising newcomers involve drugs, hormones, rings, tubes and plugs—all of which prevent conception in a variety of ways. Some kill sperm, some prevent fertilized eggs from fastening themselves to the wall of the uterus and some even act as quick and painless abortive agents.

For instance, two new techniques may end the danger of a woman forgetting to take her pill. In one, a tube of Silastic plastic is implanted under the skin of the forearm. It contains the synthetic contraceptive hormone progestin which constantly seeps in the bloodstream at the proper rate and lasts for a year.

The other features a ring full of progestin that is placed in the vagina and is removed every month to permit a regular period.

There is also a new kind of IUD called a "copper T"; the properties of the copper prevent conception for reasons researchers are unable to explain, as yet. And there is also a new drug that brings on a menstrual period every month, even if the woman has become pregnant, so any fertilized eggs have no chance of staying attached to the uterus.



bill smitherman

The only way is up

After numerous protests and arguments the University seems to be taking at least tentative steps toward solving the problems created by the lack of married student housing at UNL.

With only 57 units of married student housing UNL finishes a poor eighth in the Big Eight. The nearest contender for the dubious honor of having the smallest number of married student units is the University of Kansas with 300. But, even though a 1968 report here recommended a minimum of 400 units for married students at UNL, the University has consistently ignored the problem.

In the meantime, UNL's 4,000 married students have had to find some place to live. They have naturally gravitated to lower income housing and helped to create an extremely tight low-income housing market in Lincoln, causing rents to spiral out of the reach of many low income people.

In the past the University has encouraged those students who qualify to take advantage of the low income housing provided by the Lincoln

Housing Authority (LHA). Over 40 per cent of the LHA units are now rented to students.

It is evident that there is a problem and it is encouraging to see the University begin to realize it.

At the last Board of Regents meeting Regent Robert Prokop of Wilber introduced a resolution calling for the University to discourage students from living in Lincoln's low income housing. It also called for a study of UNL's married student housing needs and the possibilities for obtaining more units.

However, Prokop withdrew his resolution after it was announced by administration officials that a study of the housing problem was already under way.

The study will consider the present and future needs of married students at UNL, according to administration sources. The study is also considering the financial problems involved in obtaining more married student housing.

It was also announced that the University is removing references to LHA housing from the literature it

sends to prospective students. This will presumably discourage some students from renting LHA units.

There are bound to be many objections if the University sets out to obtain more married student housing. If a significant number of students are taken from the Lincoln housing market the availability of low-income housing will be greater and rents will probably go down. This is not to the advantage of the property owner and there will doubtless be objections from the city's propertied people.

But the University should not bow to pressures and help to exploit low income people by subsidizing high rents. The University has a social responsibility which extends to all citizens of the state. Low income people are just as important as land owners and real estate brokers.

We now have cause to hope that the attitude of the University has really changed and that positive progress will soon be made in the housing area. It is the utmost importance that this much needed beginning not turn out to be a false start.

LETTERS TO THE NEBRASKAN

Brevity in letters is requested and the Daily Nebraskan reserves the right to condense letters. All letters must be accompanied by writer's true name and may be submitted for publication under a pen name or initials. However, letters will be printed under a pen name or initials at the editor's discretion.

Dear editor,
 As I was having my car filled with gas and minding my own business the other day, a voice called from behind my station wagon. "You're for McGovern, eh?" After wondering for a split second if the young businessman addressing me was some sort of Orwellian "Thought Police" agent, I realized he was referring to the sticker on my bumper. I braced myself for a hail of invective and asinine questions as he walked over, but found to my surprise that he was full of praise for the Senator.

It seems that more and more people—like this "Tiemann Republican" at the filling station—are beginning to appreciate George McGovern's "one issue" candidacy. That issue is much broader and more fundamental than ending the Indochina war and taking care of our crying domestic needs. Embodied in it are the need for honesty, straightforwardness and positive action in the highest office of this nation.

Think about it. McGovern is trying to get elected without indebting

himself politically to big business; without wooing the Dixie vote; without playing up to the paranoia of the Pentagon and the American Legion; and without making meaningless homilies to the type of "law and order" that involves redirecting law enforcement away from eliminating crime and towards suppressing dissent.

We've been calling for a candidate like George McGovern for a long time. Let's get him elected.

Andy Cunningham

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