

# Exon opposes large tuition increase, sees more state funding to NU next year

By Gov. J.J. Exon

The Daily Nebraskan has taken a laudable step in extending lines of communication between statehouse and campus by offering me the opportunity to be a guest editorialist on the subject of state support to the University of Nebraska system, your newspaper distinguishes itself, not by what may be written here, but by affording a forum for discussion of public issues.

## guest opinion

State support for the University is indeed a worthy issue. The University this year will spend about \$51 million of state tax funds, or about one-fifth of the state's total. This is an increase of almost 8 per cent over last year. It is safe to assume that further increases will be approved next year even though enrollments have stabilized and credit hours taught are being reduced.

When viewing the costs and needs of post-secondary education, we must also take into account the state colleges, the junior colleges and the vocational colleges. Priorities then become a matter of judgment for the Legislature, as they are the only body who can authorize appropriations to meet any of Nebraska's needs.

The University then is not an institution separate from the other institutions of the state. The University is an agency and instrument of the people of the state of Nebraska, just as are the State Depts. of Welfare, Roads, Education, and any of about 75 other state agencies. The destiny of a public university, in a democratic society, is, and must always be, the will of the citizens of the state. The University, however worthy, cannot be considered a separate body appealing for funds as in a fund drive; it must take its place alongside the other agencies of the state, posing its priorities to the Legislature.

In post-secondary education, the service-delivery point is basically the classroom or laboratory, where instructor teaches student. Will more funds really improve instruction and academic standards, or will large percentages go for self-generated non-student needs? The measure of



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our public agencies must always be taken at the service-delivery point, never judged by the size of the payrolls, by our square feet of steel and glass, or by our acres of asphalt. In my estimation, improvement of faculty and academic standards should always rank highest in the minds of those who manage the University.

There is room for discussion and differences of opinions. I do not agree with a recent Carnegie Commission report recommending substantial increases in tuition, especially from the large middle class citizens who

now pay most of the taxes to support our post-secondary institutions.

Spiraling costs of education are meeting stiff resistance all across our land. More and more money for fewer and fewer students does not necessarily assure better quality education at any level.

Budgeting for post-secondary education in Nebraska is so complex, that I am sure these brief remarks are not adequate to the task. But despite any errors of emphasis or omission, I am committed, as your governor, to see that the University of Nebraska meets the needs of our citizens.

## to the editor



Letters appear in the Daily Nebraskan at the editor's discretion. A letter's appearance is judged on its timeliness, originality, coherence and interest. All letters must be accompanied by the writer's true name, but may be submitted for publication under a pen name or initials. Use of such letters will be determined by the editor. Brevity is encouraged. All letters are subject to condensation and editing. Send letters to Editor, Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union.

Dear editor,

I wonder how many of your readers realize the possible implications of American involvement on the Israeli side in the latest Middle East war?

The Israeli offensive now being mounted against Cairo and Damascus is only possible because of American supplied Phantom jets, tanks, missiles, and other war material. Should the Israelis succumb to the natural temptation to "bomb the Arabs back into the Stone Age," the Arabs, not illogically, might do anything to strike back at the United States for their disgrace. Obviously, the Arabs could only harm this country in one way—deprive it of oil.

Last some readers doubt that the Arabs could be so incredibly stupid as to play this card, bring the United States to a halt, and almost certainly invite American-Israeli seizure of Arab oil lands, two facts should be recalled. During the Six Day War of 1967, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Iraq and other Arab oil countries stopped the flow of oil to the U.S. It was reported that pro-American King Faisal of Saudi Arabia warned the U.S. of a similar permanent move—this time, should the U.S. enable the Israelis to impose a Carthaginian peace on the Middle East.

The consequences of an American take over of Arab oil-producing regions would be catastrophic. American soldiers would find themselves fighting a guerrilla war to end all guerrilla wars in the deserts of the Middle East against millions of Arabs fighting to the death.

Since the embargo would only affect the U.S., no other nation would support our actions. Our involvement in Vietnam would seem like a lark compared to such a Middle East involvement.

John T. Marrone

Dear editor,

I agree completely with the "concerned Husker" (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 10). As one of the 14 puns who tried out for the Yell Squad, I saw everything that went on during tryouts. For one thing, none of the cheers used couldn't be used in public—not because they would offend anyone, but because they were just plain stupid.

As for learning to lift the girls, I see no reason for it. The Yell Squad doesn't do it anyway. Oh

yes, once I saw a guy lift a girl during the Wisconsin game. I wonder if he did it thinking he could show up the Wisconsin squad.

During interviews there were suggestions to the effect of adding more men to the squad. The majority suggested one on one; one girl to one guy. But that change was not made.

It's still not too late. There are six more football games left, not to mention the basketball season. The squad could select more members if they wanted to.

Name withheld by request

Dear editor,

If Hitler had resigned Oct. 10, I somehow have the uneasy and frightening feeling that some persons, especially fellow political figures, would express "dismay" and "sadness" upon hearing the announcement. People seem to have forgotten that income tax evasion is what the Feds busted Al Capone with back in the days of Elliot Ness.

Agnew's resignation should demonstrate that America doesn't need a military coup to replace a corrupt and inefficient leader. We should be glad that time has now been given to us to answer the problem of whether impeachment necessarily must precede indictment. Thus Congress should act without delay to provide the solution with the appropriate constitutional amendments.

Jim Balters

Dear editor,

I thought the Farah pants story (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 8) was poor. Virtually all the information came from Paul Hartman, a Farah sales representative, who was quoted unquestioningly, as if he were a neutral source.

The Lincoln Gazette is an avowedly partisan newspaper. The people who write about the Farah situation are involved in it, and make no bones about describing their involvement.

Perhaps I am mistaken, but I had thought that the Daily Nebraskan attempted objectivity in its news columns. If, on the other hand, you want to present Willie Farah's position alone, please label it as such.

Why don't you do a feature or an editorial on the subject? The story said: "The Gazette reported that the workers are paid \$1.80 to \$2.25 an hour, pay that the Gazette called very low wages for factory work." Isn't this low pay for any kind of work? The fact that it is the pay scale for most UNL students doesn't make it any higher relative to the cost of living in the U.S. in 1973.

Students hope to be on the other side of the fence economically in a few years. If this makes them callous to the situation of people for whom working in a pants factory is a permanent job, they are failing to educate themselves.

June Levine

P.S. Tim Anderson's editorial about the new "type of symposium that pleases everyone" was excellent. The chilling effect of the regents' and administration's

attitude towards the conferences in past years which interested students needs to be further explored in your paper.

Dear editor,

We wish to thank the Daily Nebraskan staff for its excellent coverage of the symposium on Argentine-U.S. relations during the 60s. At the same time we wish to respond to Tim Anderson's editorial (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 8).

As we all attended the conference, but also attended the participants, drove them to and from the Kellogg Center to the Nebraska Union each day, and in many informal situations became acquainted firsthand with their ideas and opinions, we feel qualified to comment upon that editorial.

First of all, there seems to be some confusion about the nature of a "symposium." The main objective of such gatherings is not to duplicate the experience and knowledge offered at a university. Neither is it to provide entertainment (i.e. dirty films) nor a forum for political action (i.e. a call to overthrow the U.S. government). Rather, a symposium is intended to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ideas between the participants and other interested persons. That includes students, faculty, townspeople, and regents.

Second, the symposium was arranged and financially supported, for the most part, by the Argentine Embassy.

The most knowledgeable persons on Argentine matters—residents in the U.S.—attended. Many of the participants commented that never before has a group of this kind met in the U.S.

Third, international politics comprised less than one fourth of the symposium's program. Art, music, literature, economics, and history also received attention.

Fourth, the list of foreign speakers was curtailed because many of the Argentine participants were unable to attend. Those present who did come from a Spanish-speaking background demonstrated a command of English unmatched by many native speakers.

For these reasons we think that the symposium on Argentine-U.S. relations was a suitable and valuable supplement to the curricular and extracurricular experiences commonly associated with—indeed, necessary to—a university.

Mary Ann Holland  
 Sandi Moody  
 Mary Mussman  
 Mary Powlesland  
 Janet Anderson  
 Connie Jones  
 Pat Keller  
 Bev Brigham  
 Holly Moore