

to the editor



Lost spirits

Dear editor,

After reading the "Yell Squad blames fans for no cheers" letter (*Daily Nebraskan*, Oct. 24), I felt a comment was necessary.

I agree that the Yell Squad does not possess mystical power over the fans' emotions, but I do know they're responsible for at least getting the fans keyed up for the game. I disagree that the fan has lost his spirit and pep of previous years. Nebraska games are always sold out and this is a good indication of enthusiasm.

The article sounded like it expressed only the views of the two male squad members mentioned in it, not the entire squad. The tone was defensive and one of the members making excuses for their poorly executed jobs. After observing them at our Kansas homecoming game, I'm sure last spring's tryouts were biased.

Being a former male member of the Yell Squad, I also have to disagree with their wanting a smaller squad, especially for men. I know that one guy to one gal would have been much more effective in executing yells when I was on the squad and is needed more so now. If fans are losing interest in yells, a much larger, equally represented male and female yell squad is what Nebraska needs to revive lost spirit.

I think the three male members of the squad want to share the spotlight with no one. I know this is unfair and undemocratic, especially when as many as 14 guys try out and only two or three are selected. If more guys want to cheer for UNL, let them.

The article also said that the squad's small size was designed so "attention could be attracted on fewer subjects...our system is much more effective." I think the system is ineffective and the subjects they concentrate on must be few because they hardly do anything.

It's unfortunate that the squad hasn't realized this need for more members. Hopefully, they will soon. No one wants to see the squad end—instead we want to see an increase in members and a better job done.

I feel everything mentioned above is important and deserves thought and some real action—not just words.

A Fullerton Football Fan

Clean sweep

Dear editor,

Wait a minute. The story concerning my janitor job doesn't tell all.

It was obviously written with the preconceived notion of portraying the lazy janitor stereotype just screwing around.

It's grossly unfair. I'll admit to the events described, such as playing cards, jamming and sleeping, but they were certainly played up.

What we do is work. As in any job, we have official coffee breaks and a lunch hour. Instead of sitting and vegetating, we do what suits our fancy.

With rare exception, University janitors work hard performing a service for students, faculty and staff for which we receive little or no appreciation and this sort of recognition.

Thanks a bunch.

Joyce Felton

Superstar unknown

Dear editor,

The *Daily Nebraskan* is certainly to be commended for its expose of the quackery in the University's clean-up department (*Daily Nebraskan*, Oct. 26).

However, the article lacks any consideration of the real responsibilities imposed upon the custodians.

The definition of "custodian" is "one who has custody of." A custodian has the responsibility for



the care and safety of everything in the assigned area. Besides, the workload of cleaning is unbearably heavy, so a thorough job of cleaning and maintenance would require a round-the-clock work crew and more hours than one custodian could put into an area. All that work must be done if a custodian is to keep his job. Yet the pay for a custodian is not even at the minimum of \$7,600 a year required for a family of four. The pay is nonexistent compared to middle class income.

That responsibility makes the custodian the front-line personnel of campus security, and the security officers expect and encourage that responsibility.

A custodian is expected to be a Johnny Rodgers superstar and an Atlas on a 90-lb. weakling's pay.

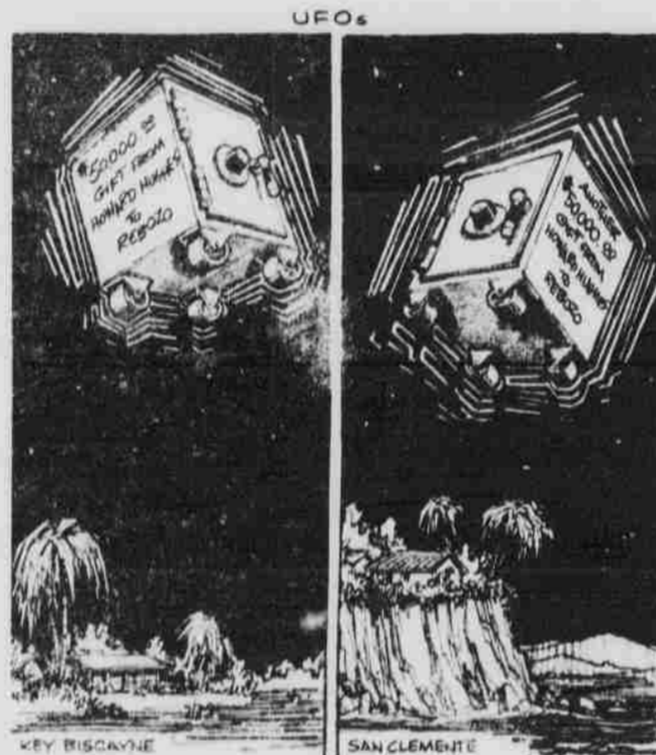
In addition to being a security guard and a heavy lifter, the custodian is expected to return lost items to the lost and found department, to know how to fight fires, to have basic knowledge of electrical equipment, to be able to change lights in all fixtures (not really an easy job), and to have enough knowledge and engineering skill to be able to spot trouble areas and get them corrected.

The job load is fantastic but the pay is too low to allow a person to adequately concentrate on the job to be done. It is no wonder that some treat the job as a joke, but it is a wonder that anyone would take it seriously.

As an additional job, a custodian, especially a conscientious one, is a conservationist and ecologist by putting used newsprint into the collection barrel and by keeping a clean, natural environment.

Laymen must give more recognition and honor to the dedicated workers who are conscientious custodians.

Marlin Pals





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