

Axing the good life

The latest state agency about to feel the bite of the federal ax is the State Dept. of Roads. For once, the cut doesn't involve money. At issue are 28 signs along I-80 that say "Nebraska, the Good Life," aimed at convincing outstate and "just passing through" motorists that Nebraska does have something to offer in the way of tourism.

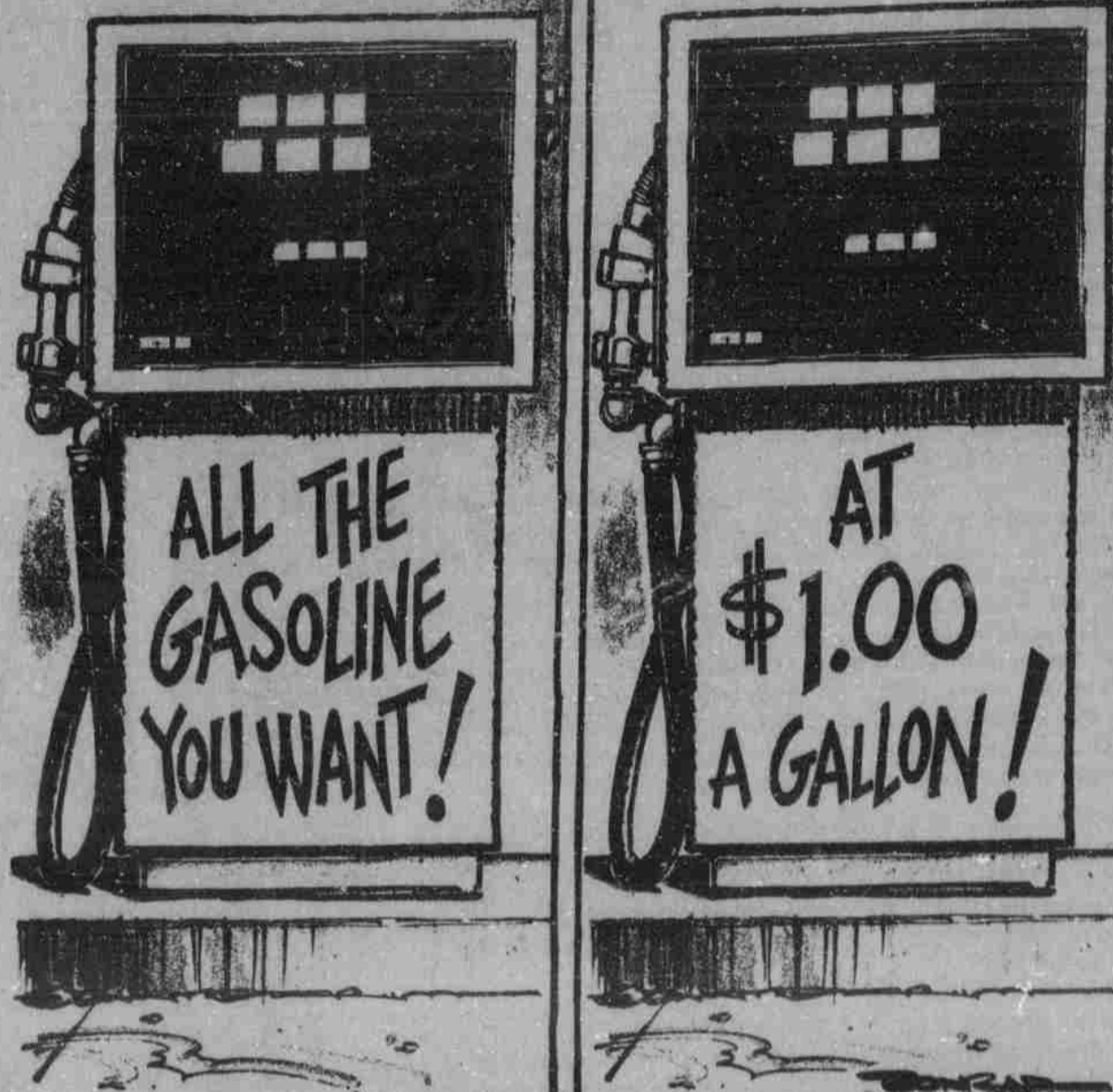
It's ironic that the person wielding the federal ax is Norbert T. Tiemann, a former small town bank president who eventually ended up in and out of the Nebraska executive mansion just south of the Capitol, which one of the signs advertises.

A few months after Nebraska voters denied him a second gubernatorial term, President Nixon appointed Tiemann as federal highway administrator. Tiemann has given the state two options: It must dismantle the signs or transplant them at least 660 feet beyond the road. A move, however, would be useless. At that distance the lettering would be too miniscule to read.

Tiemann's reasoning in this order is off base. When the tourist information signs were set up in 1972, so were signs alerting motorists to the time and frequency that radio stations would broadcast information about road and weather conditions. When the National Advisory Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices recommended that both the "Good Life" and radio signs be removed, Tiemann overruled it in favor of the radio signs. They can stay, he said, but the tourism signs must go.

Tiemann's directive is inconsistent, and it's good that the Roads Dept. is both fighting it and seeking to make the signs, which are simple in design and match other interstate information guideposts, part of a national program. In a state such as Nebraska, without multimillion dollar budgets to finance promotion of tourist attractions that are, frankly, limited, the signs provide a much needed service. Nebraskans should petition Tiemann to reconsider his order.

Mary Voboril



First, the good news...then the bad news.

ASUN's structure compounds its woes

Well today's the big day. ASUN election results are undoubtedly printed somewhere else in this paper. I don't know what they are yet, but it doesn't matter. I've seen races for dogcatcher with more interest.

Part of the trouble is our herd instinct. ASUN is out of style. It isn't cool to wrestle with significant details. Better to hang around the fountain and hope for streakers. All together, now... "Mooooo".

But lately we notice more and more that ASUN lacks real power. There is a repetition of issues, a lack of new ideas, a scarcity of leadership, and an even greater shortage of followers.

I could make a case for the inherent ineptitude of the student leadership, but it would get me into much trouble and miss the boat, besides. Rather, much of our government's worthlessness can be blamed on its structure. Whether or not the ASUN constitutional revision passed, its structure can and should be changed.

Unless you are in the College of Architecture, which only has one senator, it is not possible to identify who represents you. In fact, no one does.

The senate ought to be rearranged so that each senator has a definite constituency. With 35 senators, that works out to about 500 people per representative—not an unmanageable ratio. It will probably be objected that there are technical problems involved, but surely between all the brainpower around here and the University's computers something can be worked out.

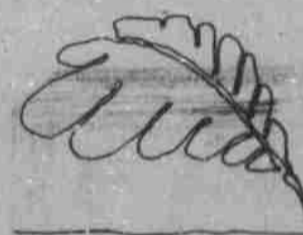
Another weakness in the present system is that ASUN ignores the other important student organizations—the Residence Hall Assoc., and the Nebraska Union, and so on—unless they happen to blunder into each other and start a squabble. Allowing representatives of those organizations to sit and speak in the senate, without a vote, could save trouble.

One of the strangest problems ASUN has is its anonymity. Neither the people involved or the issues they present are very visible, although they are sometimes important and often interesting to an informed public.

The situation is complicated by the monopoly held by ASUN executives over visible positions. Since they both lead the senate and act as executives, there isn't much room for anyone else. Often, the next most influential person in the public view, is the senate's speaker pro tem. To give the senate a chance to go its own way, the executives should not be a part of it. The senate should have a structure and leadership of its own.

If a means could be found to persuade the University administration to loosen up a trifle on its insistence on administrative control, so as to permit ASUN some room for creativity, it ought to come back to life. For all the discussion on that pointless amendment, little has been said about precisely what reforms are needed. It's time we started thinking.

mary cannon
cannon law



to the editor

Hope sings

Dear editor,

Tuesday night Abel-Sandoz Residence Halls were victimized by the growing number of Christian proselytizers. They came in the form of a singing group, "The Hope," and played in the snack bar. They came for the sole purpose of proselytization.

They used the facilities of the residence halls with the full knowledge and permission of the Complex Program Director (CPD). They started off with testimonials and prayers. Being on state property, they violated University and state policy in doing so. I live in Abel Hall, and I feel it is my right to live where I want without having Christianity or any other doctrine pushed on me or anyone else.

The basic Christian philosophy is that of universal conversion, and many people here are evidence of that. It is my sincere hope that these organizations responsible for the programs restrict their activities in the residence halls to posters for activities outside the halls and go about their way without treading on my freedom or others. The residence halls are for students to live in, not to be preached to in. If they want to do it, let them do it elsewhere besides my home.

I hope that in the future these programs are more carefully considered by the CPD's and program chairmen with consideration given to the rights of all students before anything resembling this occurs in a residence hall again. I would like to see the individual's right to freedom of religion without outside interference be resurrected and live again here.

Joe Eisenberg

Spittoon solution

Dear editor,

If you have been in the Nebraska Union lately, you have surely noticed that the condition of the carpet is growing worse. At times, it approaches the absolute slimy. We could be more lurid. To prevent this decadent decay and to obfuscate this offensive crisis, we offer thy only mature solution. Spittoons, tastefully designed, of course, must be placed at convenient locations throughout the Union, such as in front of those unredeemable doors which we can't use because of the energy crisis. We must expect expectation.

Huck P. Tooley

Sunrise story

Dear editor,

I appreciate the coverage given Sunrise Communications in regard to our radio station project, through both the front page story and the editorial (Daily Nebraskan, March 6). However, I would like to point out an error in the reporting. It is Tom Headley, and not myself, who works with Ron Kurtenbach at the Lincoln Gazette.

Tom Gedwillo